

Pandas Messenger Bag



Bag measures about 14" tall and 13" wide

Elizabeth's Studio LLC

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Bag design by Deborah G. Stanley

Fabric: *Pandas by Howard Robinson for Elizabeth's Studio LLC*

1329 Black (pandas)—1 yard

1330 Green (bamboo)—1 1/3 yard

Foam Interfacing—(such as Bosal InRForm or by Annies Soft and Stable)—(2) 18"x 19-1/2" and (1) 7-1/2" x 11"

Hardware for closures—sample used (2) small parachute clips and (1) push lock

Cutting Instructions:

1329 Black (pandas): Cut (1) 18" x Width of Fabric (WOF), cross cut into (2) 18" high x 19-1/2" wide sections. From remaining fabric, cut (1) 7-1/2" high x 11" wide front flap and (1) 6" high x 10" wide inside pocket.

1330 Green (bamboo): Cut (1) 18" x WOF strip, cross cut into (2) 18" x 19-1/2" lining pieces. From remaining fabric, cut (1) 7-1/2" high x 11" wide front flap lining and (1) 6" high x 10" wide inside pocket lining. Cut (4) 2" x WOF strips for back straps. Cut (1) 2"x WOF strip for side cinch straps, cross cut this strip into (2) 2" x 8" strips and (2) 2" x 4" strips.

CONSTRUCTING MESSENGER BAG:

Front: Layer 18" x 19-1/2" **1329 Black (pandas)** with matching foam interfacing. Quilt as desired (sample used a large loose grid). Mark and cut away a 2-1/2" square in each bottom corner, taking care that the pandas are correctly oriented (heads up) and corners are cut from 19-1/2" side.



Back: Repeat with second 18" x 19-1/2" **1329 Black (pandas)** and foam interfacing section.

Quilt as desired. Mark and cut away 2-1/2" squares from bottom corners, again being sure that the pandas are correctly oriented.

Then: measure and cut away a triangle from each side as shown (1" above cutaway square and 3" from top corner).



Preparing Cinch straps:

Fold **1330 Green (bamboo)** 2"x 8" strip in half lengthwise. Sew 1/4" seam along end and one long side, turn and press. Topstitch 1/8" from sewn and folded edges.  Repeat with remaining 8" and 4" cinch straps.

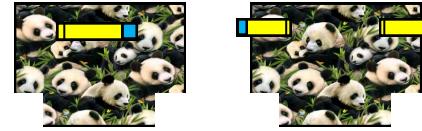
Preparing Back Straps:

Fold **1330 Green (bamboo)** 2-1/2" x WOF strips in half crosswise. Sew 1/4" seam along long edges. Turn and press. Top stitch 1/8" from edges. Repeat for remaining (3) back straps. Trim so all 4 are the same length (should be about 21").

Front Flap:

Layer 7-1/2" x 11" **1329 Black (pandas)** with foam interfacing and quilt loosely. Sew right sides together with **1330 Green (bamboo)** 7-1/2" x 11" lining along 3 sides, leaving top edge (panda heads up) open. Trim corners, turn. Top stitch 1/8" from sewn edges. 

Add Cinch Straps to Bag Front:

Thread one short (4") cinch strap through female end of parachute clip. Aligning ends, sew in place on bag front 6-1/2" from side edge and 2-1/2" from top edge, with parachute clips facing center of bag. Once sewn in place, flip the parachute clip toward the side and top stitch again 3/8" away from sewn line, encasing the raw edges. Repeat for remaining short cinch strap. 

Final Preparation of Bag Back:

Add back straps to bottom:

Mark center of bottom edge. Align two of the 2" back straps together at the bottom, matching raw edges. Pin in place. Baste 1/8" from raw edges. Sew a line across the straps 2-3/4" from bottom. 

Add long cinch straps:

Pin 8" cinch straps in place 2-1/2" from top of bag back, matching raw edges.

Completing Outer Bag:

Sew 1/4" seam along bottom edge. Be sure all fabric edges are caught in seam. Trim to 1/8" to reduce bulk.

Sew 1/4" side seams, matching top and bottom and easing the back to match the front. Trim to 1/8" to reduce bulk. Pull edges of corner cutaway square apart and match side seam to bottom seam. Sew 1/4" seam across to form boxed corner and trim.

Turn right side out. Add remaining parachute clips to long cinch straps and test to be sure hardware lines up correctly.

Add Back Straps to Bag:

Pin remaining back straps in place on right side of bag. Outside edge of straps should be 1-1/2" from sides aligning raw edge with top edge. Pin flap in place over straps, right (panda) sides together, centering along top edge of bag back. Baste in place 1/8" from top edge.

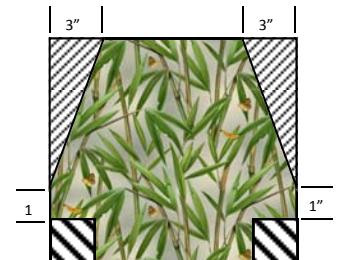
Lining:

19-1/2" edge



Front: Mark and cut away a 2-1/2" square in each bottom corner of 18"x 19-1/2" **1330 Green (bamboo)** section, taking care that the rectangle is oriented correctly. Squares are cut from the bottom 19-1/2" edge.

Back: Repeat with second 18" x 19-1/2" **1330 Green (bamboo)** section. Mark and cut away 2-1/2" squares from bottom corners, again being sure that the 18" edge is on the side. Then: measure and cut away a triangle from each side as shown (1" above cutaway square and 3" from top corner).



Pocket:

Sew **1329 Black (pandas)** and **1330 Green (bamboo)** pieces together, leaving 3" opening along bottom edge for turning. Pandas should be heads up. Turn right side out, press. Pin in place on right side of bag back lining, 2-1/2" from top and centered side to side. Stitch 1/8" from short side and bottom edges, leaving top of pocket open.

Completing Lining:

Match lining pieces right sides together, sew bottom seam, leaving 6" turning opening in center. Match side seams and sew together, easing front and back together. Matching bottom and side seams, sew across cutaway squares to form boxed corners.

COMPLETING BAG:

Slip outer bag inside completed lining (right sides should be together on the inside). Be sure the flap and bag straps are tucked inside. Sew 1/4" seam all around the top edge. Use the free arm of the machine if you have one.

Use the opening left in the lining to turn the bag. Hand or machine stitch the lining closed. Top stitch 1/2" around the top of the bag, being sure not to catch the straps or flap in the stitching.

Follow manufacturer's directions to insert the push clasp hardware.