

The Great British Sewing Bee-inspired bag

Materials list to bring on Monday, 21st October

- Quilting cotton 12" x 8½" + piece approx. 5" x 2½"
- Sewing machine, with walking foot if you have one
- White thread
- Thread to match cotton fabric
- Rotary cutter, mat, straight ruler
- Slivers/scrap from trimming quilt blocks
- Basic sewing kit
- Iron and ironing mat
- Pencil
- Broad paintbrush or sponge stick and container suitable for PVA glue
- Optional: 50cm gold or silver-coloured chain (DIY shops are an excellent cheap source; JB Mart in Malvern Link has a selection)

Experienced bag makers may wish to bring an additional piece of fabric and zip, suitable for an inside pocket.

Malvern Quilters will supply

- Outer fabric for bag (organza)
- Iron-on interfacing
- Additional slivers/scrap from trimming quilt blocks – for additional colours/fabric variety
- Magnetic fastener

Bag instructions

1. Interface

Measure the size of your foundation piece and apply medium-iron-on interfacing to one side.

2. Make scrap design

There are two ways to do this.

1. Use PVA glue to adhere scraps to the foundation fabric. This will hold the scraps in place, but the final result will be stiffer, unless you then soak the finished item. However, this will enable you to make a more detailed design.
2. Place scraps onto foundation fabric in a simple geometric design.

3. Apply organza

Cut organza to the approximate size of the foundation fabric, plus about 1" all the way around. Place the organza over the scraps and pin in place. Stitch the organza to the foundation fabric and scraps. An allover quilting pattern can be used, but you will be stitching through many layers of fabric. It is easier to use a grid pattern. A walking foot is useful, but not essential.

4. Bag strap tabs (optional)

If you want to add a chain (or other) strap to your bag, make tabs.

Take piece of fabric approx. 5" x 2 ½", fold in half lengthwise and press. Open out, press sides to the middle and press again. Topstitch along both long sides using a 3mm length stitch.

Cut in half widthways to give 2 x 2½" strips.

5. Determine bag size

Fold up approximately slightly more than 1/3 of bag. Crease as well as you can and mark with a pencil line.

Fold down approximately 1/3 to determine size of bag flap.

Pin optional tabs (approximately 1" long) to the right side of the bag, just below the bag flap foldline. Stitch tabs in place with ¼" seam allowance.

6. Bag lining

Stitch bag lining to front of bag body, leaving large openings at top and bottom of the bag.

7. Magnetic snap fastener

Determine centre of flap from the sides, and place snap approximately 2" from flap edge. Mark this point with a pencil.

The male part of the magnetic snap fastener is usually applied to the bag flap.

Attach female part of snap to body of bag.

Determine centre of flap from the sides, and place snap approximately 2" from flap edge. Mark this point with a pencil.

8. Completing bag

Using a ladder stitch, hand-stitch the top and bottom edges of the bag. Place sides together, fold down flap and use clips to hold in place. Ladder-stitch the edges of the bag together.

9. Carrying chain

Place one end of the chain through the tab by the flap. Stitch through the tab and chain. Repeat for the other side.

The Great British Sewing Bee bag pattern

The Great British Sewing Bee bag pattern - https://www.loveproductions.co.uk/sewing-patterns?fbclid=IwY2xjawGCBK1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHSJyxltHjcTsVIJ-4OZIKop93U01jovtiSND3YyEhBx2-s6SGmCG1ot8xg_aem_JWRrb5kJvWbTtGeYaTvziA