MADDALENA’S RETAINER BAG

Supplies:

11/4 yards bag fabric (canvas, tapestry, upholstery, etc - heavy weight)

11/4 yards lining fabric (heavy to medium weight)

1 piece of interlining (buckram, plastic canvas) 6” by 15” for bag bottom

11/4 yards of quilt binding or extra wide bias tape to cover raw edges of bag bottom (optional)

Instructions

Bag: cut 2 of outer fabric, 2 of lining

Bottom: Cut 1 of outer fabric, 1 of lining and 1 of interlining

Pockets: cut 2 (pocket 1) for water bottles, 2 for misc pockets (pocket 2) of lining fabric

Water Bottle Pockets

1. For each pocket, fold over a quarter inch one of the narrower ends twice, press and sew. This is the top of the pocket.
2. Fold over the other 3 sides once and press.
3. Make box pleat on the bottom edge of the pocket.
4. Pin pocket to the right sides of bag lining. Sew.

Bag & Lining

1. Sew the top of shoulder strap of bag together. Press.
2. Sew the top of shoulder strap of lining together. Press.
3. Put bag and lining right sides together. Sew the long curved edges of strap together.
4. Trim seams, turn bag right side out by pulling through the strap. Press.
5. Open bag and lining out, putting right sides of bag together and right sides of lining together, matching seam. Sew.

Miscellaneous Pockets

1. Fold one of the longer edges of pocket twice. Press. Sew.
2. Fold other 3 sides of pocket once, press.
3. Center pockets carefully over the seam on right side of lining. Being careful to not catch bag, sew onto lining. These pockets are for notepads, pens, aspirin, etc. so you can stitch some dividers to create separate areas for these items.

Bag Bottom

1. Line up raw edges on bottom of bag, trim and baste.
2. Sandwich bag bottoms of outer fabric, interlining and lining together so that the right sides are facing out. Baste
3. Pin bag and bottom right sides together. Stitch. Trim excess away. If desired, cover raw edges with quilt binding or wide bias tape. Or serge edges.

Finishing

1. Top stitch along outside edge of bag a half inch from edge to strengthen the strap.
2. At this point you can add whatever bells and whistles you might like to personalize your bag. A D-ring with a clip sewn to the inside of the bag is handy for holding your car keys so they don’t get lost, or a narrow ribbon with folding scissors sewn to the side is good.

Notes:

Pocket 1 is the water bottle pocket. It measures 10” x 12”, and after the pleat is added for fullness, it measures 8” x 12”.

Bottom is a narrow oval 5” wide and 14” long.

Bag is 18” wide, a total of 40” tall with strap, but body of bag is 13” tall.

If you find yourself with questions, please email me at [ladymaddy@gmail.com](mailto:ladymaddy@gmail.com).

