

WEB EXTRA



Be kind to the environment and make this bag for casual use at the weekend or to store the eco soft drape throw featured in the November 2011 issue of Sewing World magazine. Fleece is a lovely fabric to work with and it's warm, light and easy to sew but this bamboo viscose is also environmentally friendly and a fabulous fabric for bags, blankets and throws. Fleece does not fray so it's really easy to work with and comes in generous widths.

eco soft fleece bag

Make this eco-friendly super soft bag with splashes of autumnal appliqué to store your soft drape throw or use for shopping on winter weekends

BY ISABEL MANSON

Steps to sew

Appliquing

Cut out appliqués to match bag and apply to the front and back pieces following the manufacturers instructions for Bondaweb/ Applikay.

Bag and lining

1. Right sides together, pin and stitch bag around three sides, leaving top open.
2. Turn the bag inside out and fold the sides to make a triangle at the bottom. Machine stitch across about 5cm (2") from the point and cut off 2.5cm (1") from the point and neaten the raw edge.
3. Repeat for the lining and place lining inside bag.

Ribbon trim

4. Lay the ribbon or bias binding around the top of the bag and pin in place. Turn to the right side and 'stitch in the ditch' using a decorative stitch.

Handles

5. Take the rectangle lining pieces and overlock or hem along one long edge and the two short ends. Fold raw edges to the centre making sure that the finished edge covers the first edge. Using a decorative or zigzag stitch down each side of handle.

Repeat the process with a slightly narrower piece of the appliqué fabric and stitch down the centre of the handles for added decoration.

6. Pin the handles to the inside of the front and back of the bag approx 5cm (2") from the sides and stitch in place.
7. Add a dangly embellishment by stitching two leaves together and sew on a narrow ribbon or contrasting cord and attach to the handle.

Tip:
Machine stitch the ends in a square then a cross in the centre to secure and add extra strength.

Materials

- 2 x 40cm (16") square of fleece
- 2 x 40cm (16") square of cream or contrasting lining
- Scraps of printed cotton for appliqués to match the throw
- 2 x 56cm x 10cm (22 x 4") rectangles of cotton fabric and lining for handles
- Applikay or Bondaweb
- 80cm (32") contrasting bias binding or satin ribbon



If you would like the instructions to make the throw, please call Traplet Customer Services on tel: 01684 588599 to get your copy of the November 2011 issue.

Stockist Information

Bamboo viscose fleece is ideal to make a soft drape throw and matching bag. This eco fleece was supplied by Hemp Fabric UK and priced at £25 per metre. To purchase, visit www.Hempfabric.co.uk or tel: 01271 314812.

The fabrics used for the appliques in this project came from the 'Four All Seasons' collection by Makower Fabrics, tel 01491 579727, email: info@makoweruk.com or visit their website: www.makoweruk.com. Makower fabrics are available from craft fabric stockists nationally