

I ♥ Cuddle

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SUPPLIES

- ½ yard of Shannon Cuddle Fabric
- ½ yard faux leather (for tote bottom and straps)
- 29" of Pellon Easy Knit fusible interfacing
- ¾ yard of cotton quilting-weight fabric (for lining)
- ½ yard of Headline/Scrimback Sew Foam
- 6" x 10" scrap of vinyl flooring
- 4 purse feet
- 14/90 Schmetz Leather Needle
- 14/90 Universal Needle
- Walking Foot

THE CUDDLE TRAVEL TOTE

Read more from Ms.Elaineous at www.mselaineous.com.

Final size: 12 ½" x 10" x 6"

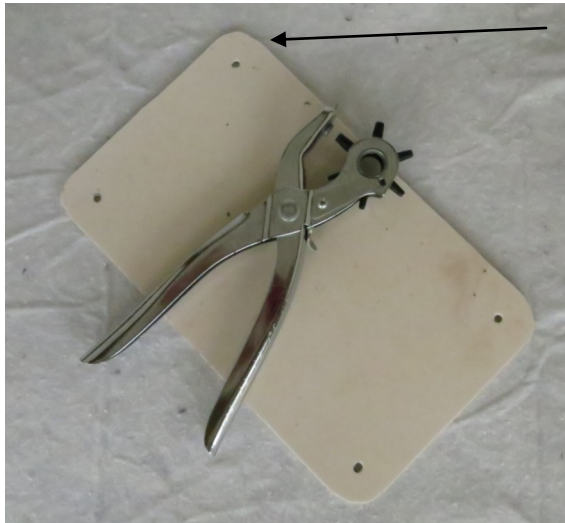
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Project Tips:

Stabilizing with Interfacing:

Cuddle is stretchy, so to minimize the stretch and make it easier to sew, you'll be adding interfacing. The interfacing is also stretchy. When you fuse the interfacing to the back of the Cuddle, the stretch will be perpendicular to each other—which will stabilize the stretch in the Cuddle! YAY!



Adding some Oomph to the Bottom:

I don't like saggy bottoms (in purses or in pants), so I add vinyl flooring. I also added little feet to this bag to reduce wear and tear on the faux leather. Once you cut your vinyl flooring to size, you'll round the corners as shown.

To add the feet, you'll have to poke holes in the vinyl—about a ½" in from the sides. I used a leather punch to do it.

Working with Faux Leather:

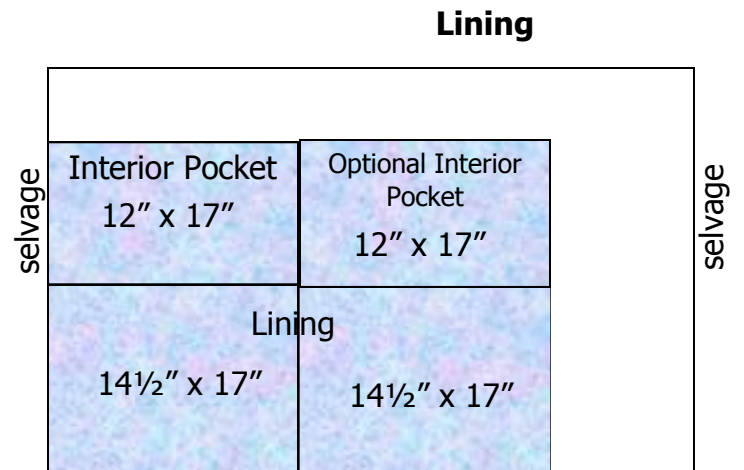
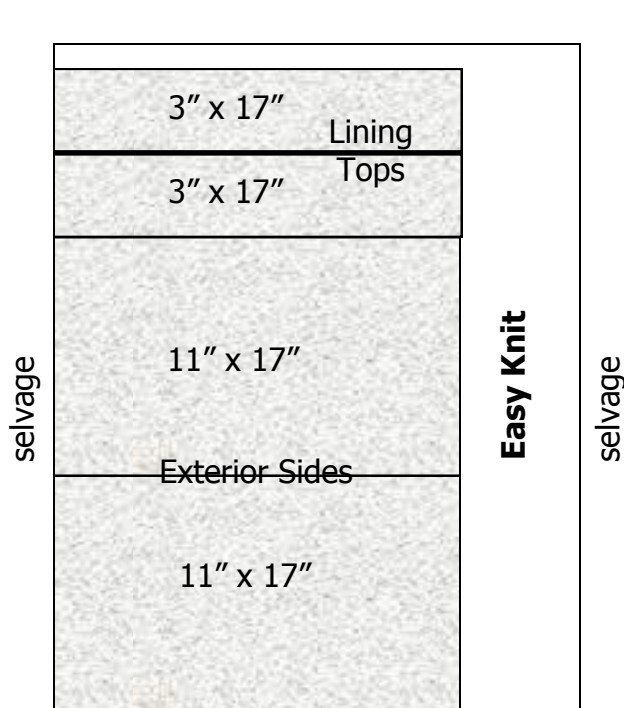
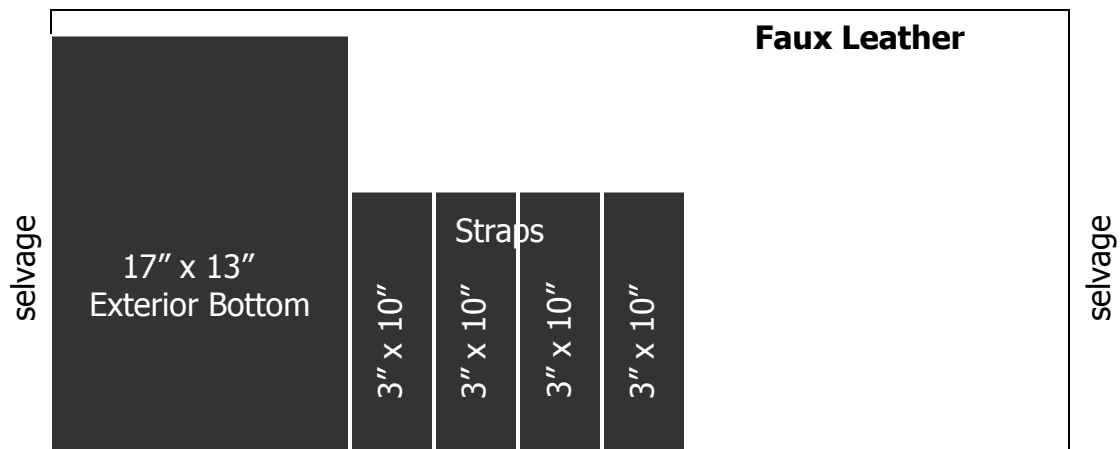
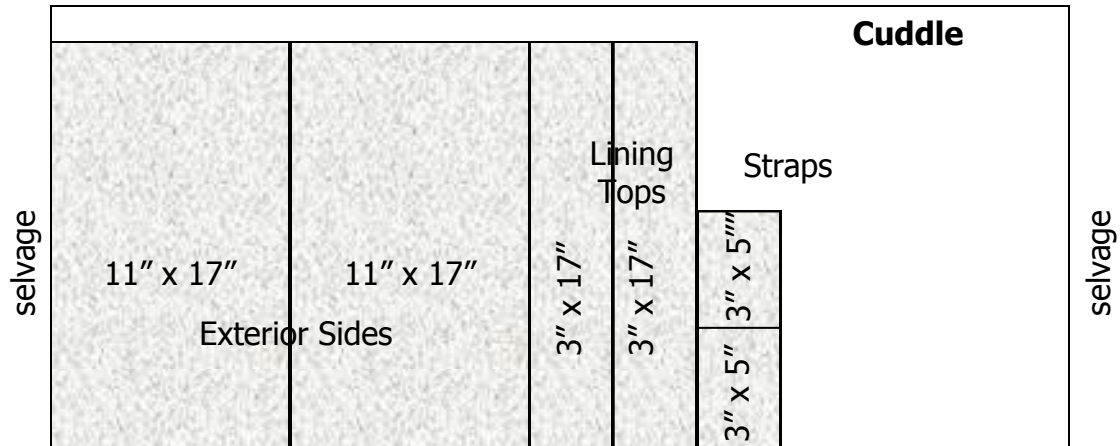
1. Use a 14/90 Leather Needle. It's designed to go through the fabric with ease.
2. Don't pin—the holes will show! I used clips, clothespins, whatever...
3. Spray baste—when I sewed the straps together, I sprayed some quilt basting spray on the back of the strap so when I folded it over, it stuck and didn't slide around.
4. Use a walking foot—same goes for Cuddle.
5. You can't really mark on faux leather, so when I made the straps, I marked on the back and followed those lines (see page 8). I used a Sharpie.
6. Lengthen your stitches to about 4mm.
7. Play around—sometimes it's easier to sew with the leather on top and sometimes it isn't.

Working with Cuddle:

Go to <http://www.shannonfabrics.com> for tips and trick when sewing Cuddle.

Working with Headliner/Scrimback Sew Foam:

Headliner/Scrimback Sew foam is a great, lightweight interfacing. It's the foam that is in the ceiling of your car—it's about ¼" thick and has foam on one side and lightweight covering on the other side. I wrote about it here—<http://mselaineousteachessewing.blogspot.com/2012/07/my-new-favorite-interfacing.html>



ADDITIONAL:

- Cut headliner/scrimback sew foam 17" x 33"
- Cut piece of vinyl flooring (for tote bottom) 6" x 10"

Cuddle Travel Tote

All seams are 1/2" unless noted. **RST**= Right Sides Together **WST**= Wrong Sides Together



CUT FABRIC AND INTERFACING:

Follow directions found on page 3.

Fuse interfacing to wrong side of CUDDLE following manufacturer's directions.

MAKE EXTERIOR:

- ❑ With RST, sew exterior Cuddle to faux leather along each of the 17" sides. You might find it easier to sew with the leather on top. The final piece should be 33" x 17"
- ❑ Place foam interfacing with the foam side up. Place the exterior right side up on top of the foam. It should "stick" to the foam. If it doesn't, spray the foam with some quilt basting spray. Pin in place (do not pin the faux leather!).
- ❑ Carefully baste exterior to foam along the entire outer edge as shown.
- ❑ Place exterior right side up. Center vinyl flooring on faux leather as shown.
- ❑ Transfer hole/foot placement on vinyl flooring to faux leather. Set vinyl aside.
- ❑ Using an awl or sharp scissors, carefully cut/poke the small holes for feet.
- ❑ Set vinyl flooring aside...don't put it in yet!

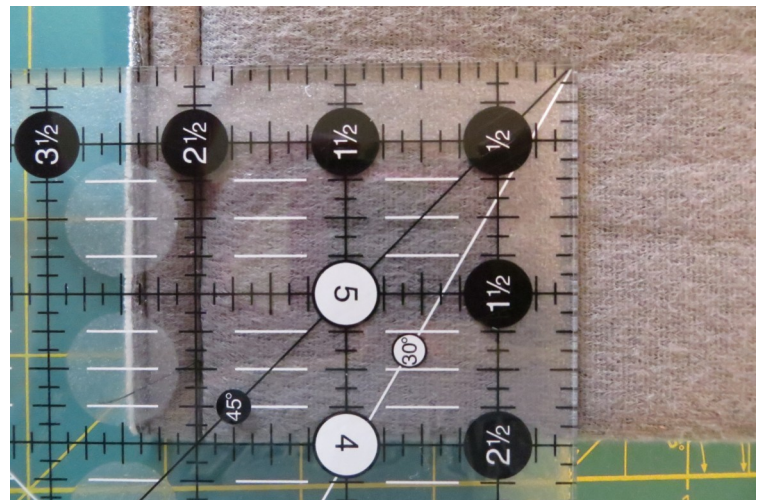
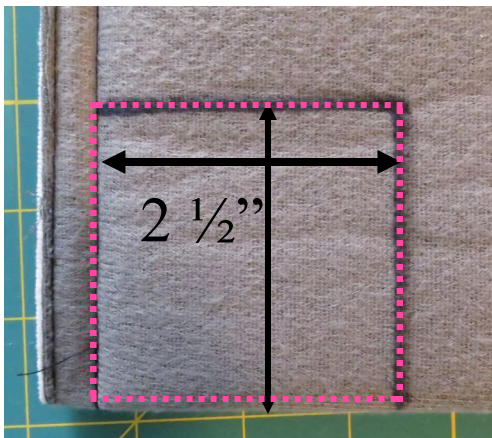


- Place exterior right sides together as shown. Pin sides to sides on the CUDDLE only—don't pin the faux leather!
- Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam sew along the two sides.



- Cut a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" from each bottom corner. **Please note** the placement of the ruler! The fold is at the bottom and the side seam is to the left.

NOTE: The opening of the square is actually $2\frac{1}{2}$ " - but because of the seam, it measures 3" along one side!



- With RST, fold opening as shown to create boxed bottom.
- Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, sew along the edge of the opening.
- Repeat for other side.
- Turn right side out! Your exterior is done!



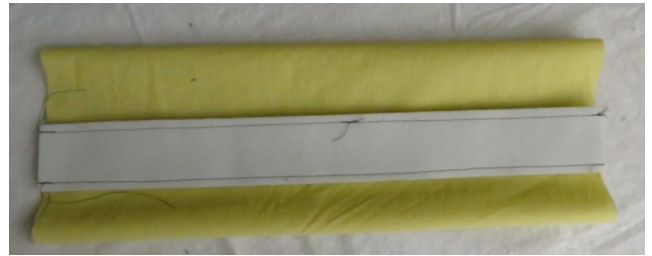
MAKE LINING:

- With RST, sew Cuddle lining top to cotton lining along the 17" side. Repeat for other side.
- You will end up with two pieces as shown. Set aside.



Make Pocket:

- With RST, using a 1/4" seam, sew pocket to faux leather pocket top along one 17" side.
- With RST, using a 1/4" seam, sew the other side of the pocket to the faux leather.
- You have created a tube as shown.



- Turn tube right side out.



- Fold pocket in half with about 3/4" of faux leather showing on the top (each side). Pin in place as shown.



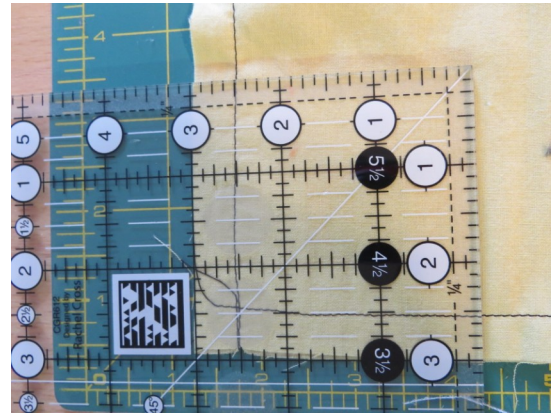
- Top stitch along the edge of the faux leather as shown.



- ❑ Place one side of lining right side up. Place the pocket on top as shown. There should be about 1" between the faux leather pocket top and the bottom of the Cuddle lining top.
- ❑ Sew pocket to lining along outer edge of pocket.
- ❑ Sew pocket dividers as shown.
- ❑ If you made a pocket for the other side of the lining, repeat the process.

Sew Lining Together:

- ❑ Place two lining pieces RST and, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, sew along the two sides.
- ❑ Sew along the bottom, leaving about a 7" opening.
- ❑ Cut a 3" square out of the bottom of each corner as shown.

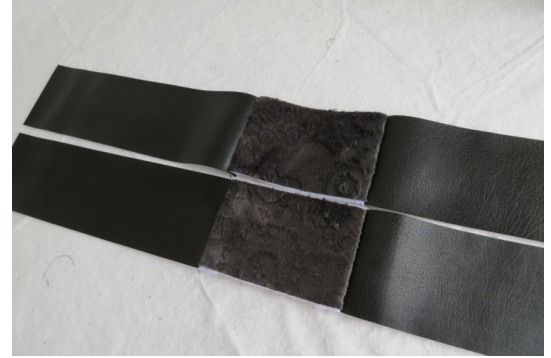


- ❑ Box each bottom corner (like you did for the exterior) as shown.
- ❑ Keep wrong side out and set aside.

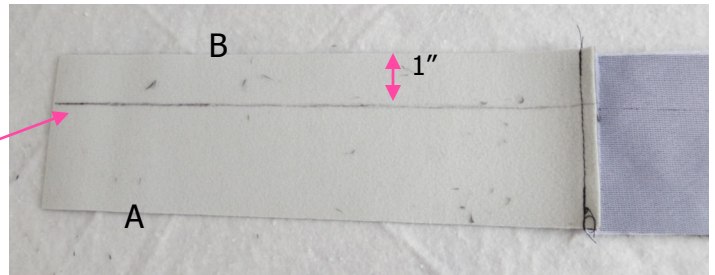


MAKE STRAPS:

- With RST, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, sew the faux leather to the Cuddle along the 3" edge. Repeat for other side.
- Repeat for other strap. You should have two straps as shown.



- On the back of each strap, make one mark that is 1" in from the long edge and runs the entire length of the strap—as shown.



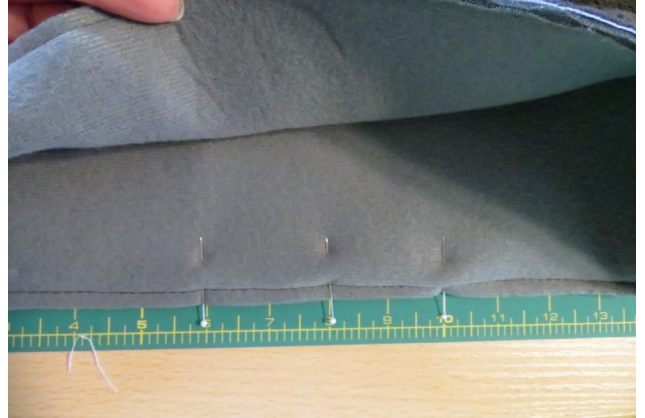
- Place strap wrong side up. Fold edge "A" so it touches the line that you just drew.
- Increase your stitch length to about 4 mm. Sew along the edge of "A" as shown. I used the markings on my walking foot and moved the needle over a few clicks.
- Repeat for other strap.



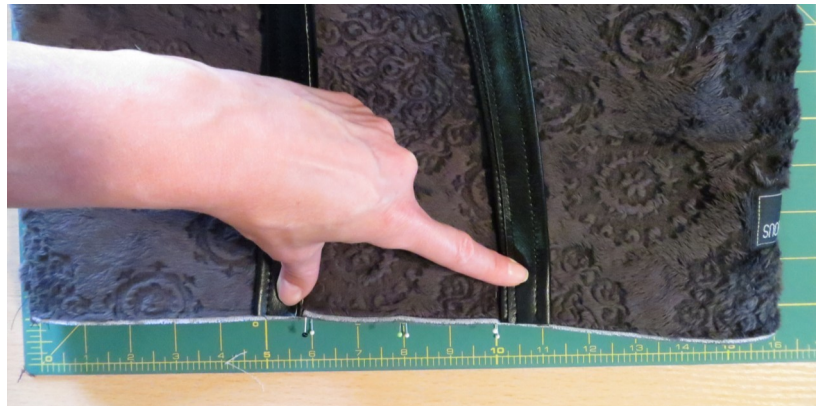
- Next take edge "B" and fold it so that it is on top of what you just sewed.
- Sew along edge "B" as shown.
- Repeat for other strap.
- When you look at the "right side" of the strap, the stitching will be uneven. I went back and topstitched along the strap, parallel to my original stitches to even things up. I ended up with FOUR rows of stitches.



- On the exterior, mark the placement of the straps. To do this, find the middle (8") and mark with a pin as shown. Then place a pin at 6" and 10" as shown.
- Repeat for other side.



- Place the straps on the exterior as shown. You won't be able to pin them! Just use your pins as a guide!
- Baste the straps to the exterior.



SEW TOGETHER!

- Insert the exterior (right side out) inside the lining (wrong side out). This should be RST.
- Match up the side seams and line up along top edge. Pin together.
- Using a 1/2" seam, sew lining to exterior along the top.



NOTE: start at one of the side seams and sew around to the other side seam. When you reach the other side seam, it should line up. If the exterior seems too big, take the tote out of your machine and turn it so the exterior is on the outside and the lining is on the inside. That will usually do the trick! Finish sewing.

- Turn right side out through the hole in the bottom of the lining.

- Top stitch two rows of parallel stitches along the top of the bag. It might help to increase your stitch length to 4 mm and use a larger needle.
- Slip vinyl flooring through hole in bottom of lining. Poke feet in the holes in the bottom of the tote and through the holes in the vinyl flooring tote base.
- Sew hole in lining closed!
- CELEBRATE!!

