

Van Go Designs' Lined 5x7 Gear Bag Tutorial

Supplies:

Vinyl or waterproof canvas for exterior

Cotton for interior

Zipper tape or a 9" zipper or larger

Vinyl, Paracord, or ribbon for a tab

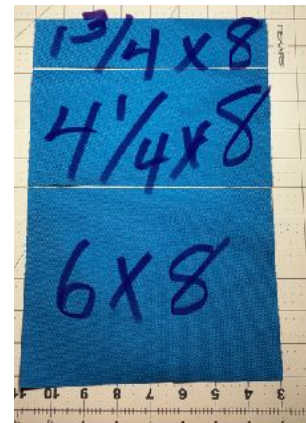
Cut away stabilizer

Tape, such as masking tape, medical tape, painter's tape etc.

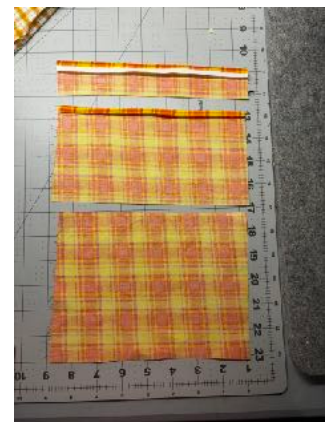
Prep your materials.

Cut out two pieces of exterior material, 6x8.

Take one of the 6x8 pieces, cut 1 3/4" off one of the pieces to prep the top and bottom front pieces.



Cut the interior fabric in the same manner, EXCEPT, cut one of the 6x8 pieces into 2" and 4". Take the two smaller pieces and iron a small seam allowance by folding and ironing a long edge on each.



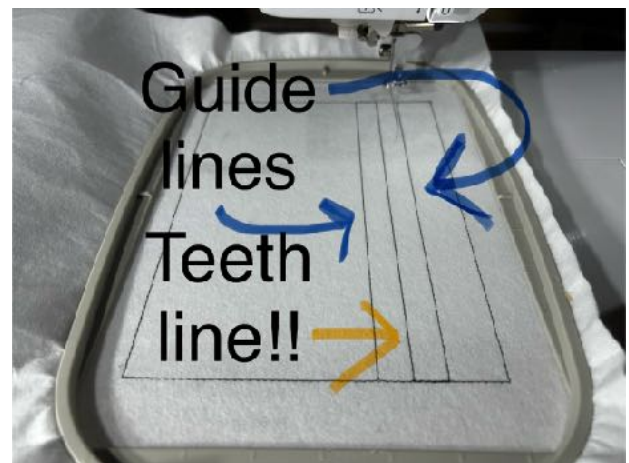
Hoop your cut away stabilizer.



Run **step 1**, placement for outline of the bag and three zipper placement lines.



Of the three zipper placement lines, the middle one is most important. Your zipper teeth should be directly on top of the middle zipper placement lines.



Tape your zipper accordingly. Depending on the zipper, your tape may or may not cover the two outer placement lines. Those are just a guide.



I use a light source to see if my zipper lines up well. You can also see if your zipper edges are straight compared to the two guide lines.



Put your hoop back on your machine.

Run step 2, tackdown of the top part of the zipper tape.



Run step 3, tackdown for the bottom part of the zipper tape.



*Step 2 & 3 are separate steps so you can see if your zipper is in perfect position. If it isn't, it's easier to remove stitches of one takedown rather than for two.

Place your 1 3/4" exterior piece on top portion of the zipper tape leaving 1/32 of an inch space between the zipper and the edge of your fabric.

Hindsight, I'd have turned the edge of my wpc under to hid the raw edge. WPC doesn't fray, but it can get wisps.

Try to keep the tape out of the stitch area. If you happened to catch it, remove it before continuing.

Run step 4, tackdown for the top material

Then tape your 4 1/4" piece below the zipper teeth.



Run Step 5, tackdown for the bottom material at the zipper.

Then, tape the bottom of the bottom front piece down to secure. Make sure it is flat and smooth.



Run Step 6, tackdown for the bottom of the front bottom piece to prepare it for stitching the design.



Run your design steps.
For this bag, it's Steps 7 & 8.



The next four steps are for tabs. The first two are for the left side tab and next two are for right side tab. You can choose which side you'd like your tab on IF you would like to add one. If not, skip steps 9-12.

LEFT side tab.

Run Step 9, left side tab placement.
Skip if you want a right side tab or no tab at all.



Place your tab, Paracord or ribbon with the edge of the tab so it's ends hang over the raw edge of the bag.

Run Step 10, left side tackdown.
Skip this step if you want a right side tab or no tab at all.



Right side tab steps 11 & 12.

They run the same as 9 & 10 above but on the right side.

Skip these steps if you don't want a right side tab or no tab at all.

Run Step 9, placement for right side tab.

Run Step 10, tackdown for right side tab.

Once the design is completed, take the hoop off your machine so you can work on the backside of the hoop.

DO NOT REMOVE THE BAG FROM THE HOOP. YOU'RE ONLY TAKING THE HOOP OFF YOUR MACHINE.



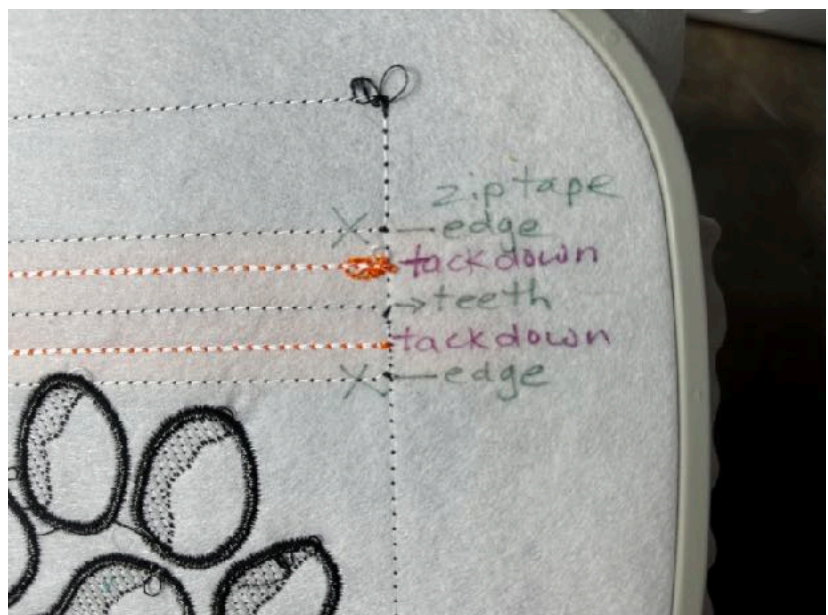
Turn your hoop over. Notice all the different lines. I've labeled them for you.

The zipper tape edge is not needed now.

The tackdown lines are very important.

The teeth line is very important.

You will be covering both tackdown lines and NOT the teeth line.



Cover the top tackdown line with your 2" piece. The edge with the folded seam allowance will cover the top tackdown line.

DO NOT get the edge of the fabric too close to the TEETH line. (I moved my fabric away more after this picture was taken.) You just want the tackdown line to just be covered by a little bit.

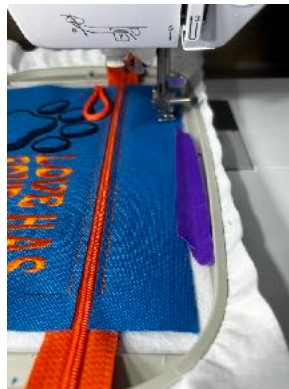


Tape it in place well! Try to keep the tape out of the stitch area.

Put your hoop back on your machine.



Run Step 13, the tackdown for the top lining.



Remove your hoop from your machine. Turn your hoop over once again. Cover the bottom tackdown line with your 4" piece of fabric. The folded side covers the tackdown line.



Just cover the tackdown line. Do not get too close to the zipper teeth line or your zipper will not open smoothly. Tape well.



Run Step 14, bottom lining tackdown.



Take your 6x8 exterior piece and place it over the front of your bag, RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER.



Run Step 15, exterior back panel tackdown.



Remove the hoop from the machine again.
TURN YOUR HOOP OVER to the backside to
finish the lining.

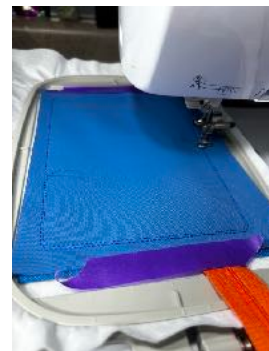
Take your 6x8 lining piece, and tape it down
really well, RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER.



Tape all four sides to avoid shifting or an edge
curling. I have one side left to tape in the pic.



Return the hoop to your machine and
Run step 16, tackdown of the lining with a
turning hole.



My fingers are showing you where the
opening is for turning. Notice the second
row of stitches isn't between my fingers.



Using a very sharp pair of scissors, begin cutting the bag out.

Three important cutting tips:

1. Leave the zipper and the tab's raw edges longer, a half inch. Clipping them too close will weaken their purpose.
2. Cut the corners on an angle

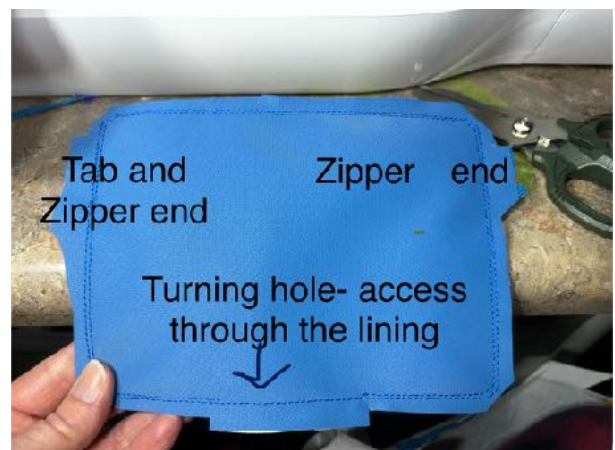


3. When you get to the area where the stitches stopped for the turning hole, leave extra material there too. (You can trim just the **exterior** material at the opening straight across as the opening is for the lining material only.)
This makes sealing the turning hole much easier.

Tip: use clips as a visual clue not to cut the opening too close.



Here are the three areas where it helps to leave a bigger seam allowance when cutting.



Now it's time to turn the bag through the turning hole to get the bag inside out. You will end up turning it one more time after cutting the stabilizer away from the zipper tape area.



Next, locate the zipper area. With a small sharp pair of scissors, carefully snip into the stabilizer and cut along the top and bottom area. Move the lining seam allowance if needed.

IT IS OK and necessary to cut the zipper teeth placement line. It's not holding anything.



Take your time, cut slowly. You can see, I have the edge pushed back so I can cut closer and I'm cutting across the teeth placement line in this picture.



When finished cutting...

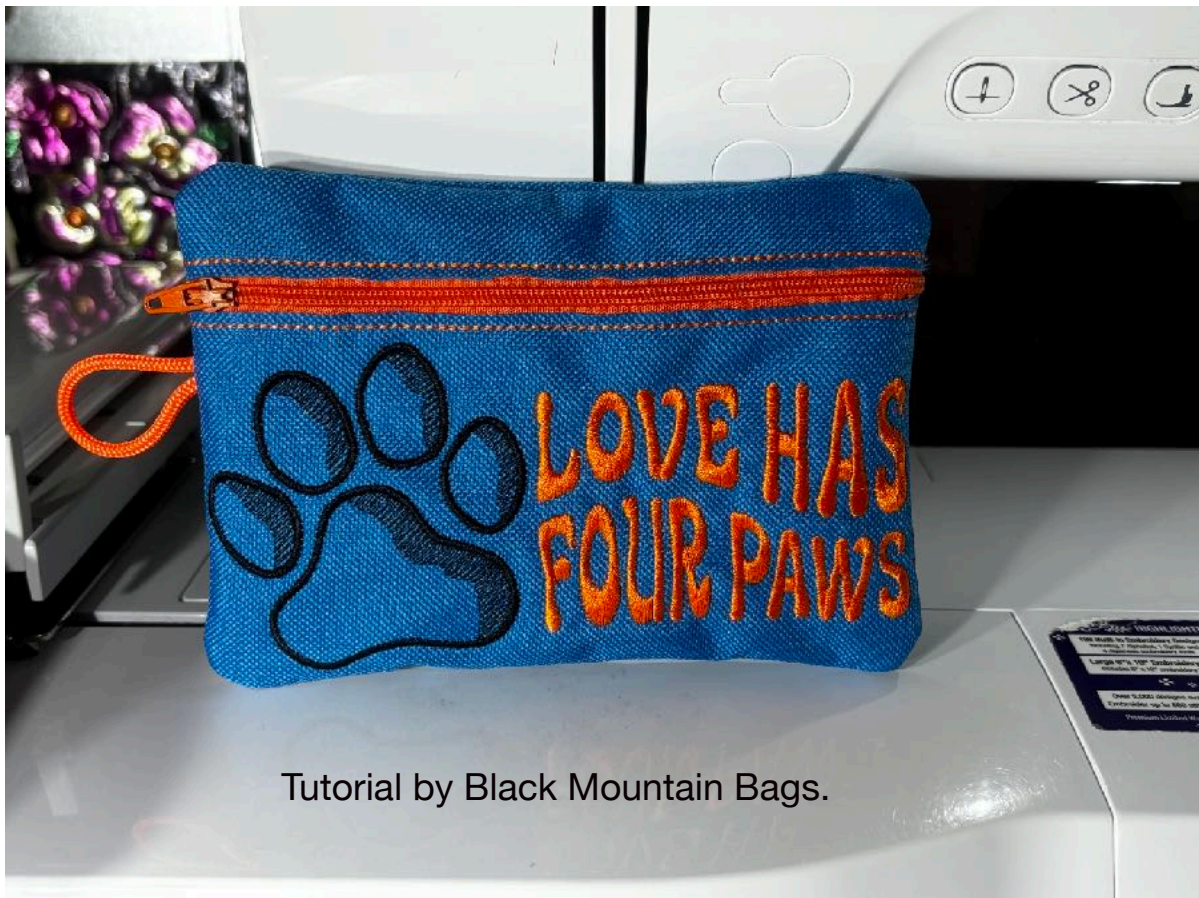


Open the zipper the rest of the way. Stick your fingers in the pouch and slide it open.

Turn the bag, right side out. Tuck the lining opening in and under and hand stitch closed or glue. (I hand stitch with the bag right side out and just push the opening up in order to hand stitch.)

Finished!

You can find the pattern [here](#)!



Tutorial by Black Mountain Bags.