Noriko Handbag

This delicate bag, both graceful and whimsical, provides wonderful opportunities to showcase your favorite fabric. Size approximately 6" x 9" x 6"
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Noriko Handbag

By Joan Hawley, Lazy Girl Designs

Noriko, as her name suggests, is a 'child of principle' or, in our case, a bag of principle. Noriko uses the principle of a single pattern piece for all sides of the bag. This lightweight bag, both graceful and whimsical, provides wonderful opportunities to showcase your favorite fabric.

One pattern piece makes each of the four panels of this unique teardrop bag. The gentle curve at the base of the bag offers a stable base and a graceful silhouette when full. The two side panels can be tucked in toward the center of the bag when not in use, allowing the bag to close flat for storage or safe keeping. We have matched our beautiful fabrics with ribbon, beads and a button to finish the look.

Note: This design does not use batting or interfacing. Two layers of fabric create a graceful bag with a beautiful drape and femininity.

Supplies:
1/2 yard (min 40-45" width) cover fabric
1/3 yard (min 40-45" width) lining fabric
One 1" button for front closure
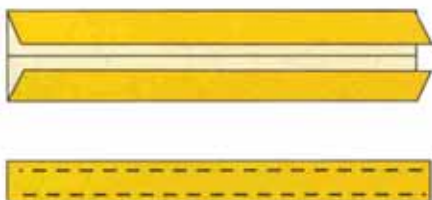1/4 yard of ribbon (1/4" or 3/8" width) for button loop

Optional Tassel:
One yard of 1/8" wide ribbon or other fiber
6 decorative beads or buttons

Cutting and Notes:
- Use a 1/4" seam allowance for all piecing.
- Pattern piece on page 4 is full-sized.
- Use the pattern to cut four each from the cover fabric and the lining fabric. Two pieces of each fabric will be the front and back panels of the bag, and two pieces will be the side panels.
- Cut two handle pieces at 2" x 15".

Handles
1.   Make two handles: Fold each handle in half with wrong sides together, match long edges and press the fold. Open the strip, match the the long edges to the center fold line, and press. Re-fold on the original fold. Press once again for a finished width of approximately 1/2". Topstitch through all layers, close to each edge for a clean, finished look. Trim both edges of your handles for a final length of approximately 14".

Make 2 Handles

Cover and Lining
2.   Layer two cover pieces right sides together, matching all edges, pin one side edge and stitch. Make two. Repeat for the lining pieces. You should have four pairs.

Make 4 pairs
(2 Cover units and 2 Lining units)

3.   Press the seam allowances in one direction for the cover and in the other direction for the lining. To press the curved part of the seams, fold the layered pairs so the wrong sides of the fabrics are together, concealing the seam allowance. Reach between the layers and run your finger, or a point turner, along the seam to gently push it all the way out.
4.   Have one cover pair right side out and the other one wrong side out. Hold one pair upside down by the point at the bottom. Separate the layers with your other hand and it should look a little like a hood from a hooded sweatshirt. Hold the other cover pair the same way, and then gently tuck one inside the other, with right sides together. Match the seam at the point and pin. Then match the rest of the raw side edges and pin. Leave the top edges alone.
5.   Stitch along one side edge from the top edge toward the point at the bottom and stop with your needle in the down position at the end of one side. The needle should be in the stitching line of the first side seam, at the bottom point. Lift the presser foot, pivot to align for the final side seam, lower the presser foot and stitch. Press the new seam allowances.

6. Do the same for the lining pairs. To turn the bag right side out later in the project, leave a 3" opening where shown on the pattern piece for the final seam on the lining only. After pressing the new seam allowances, trim away a bit of the seam allowance on the lining to reduce bulk in the finished project.

7. With the cover right sides out, push the side panels in toward the center of the bag so the bag lays flat. The front and back panels should match at the edges and the two side panels should be folded in half, disappearing into the bag. Once all the layers are nicely arranged and laying flat, press the cover. Arrange the lining the same way, but keep the wrong sides out. Press down the middle of the lining to set the folds for the side panels.

Attach Handles

8. Match the raw edges of your handles to the top edge of the front and back cover pieces as shown. Be sure not to twist the handles. Stitch close to the top edge of the bag to secure.
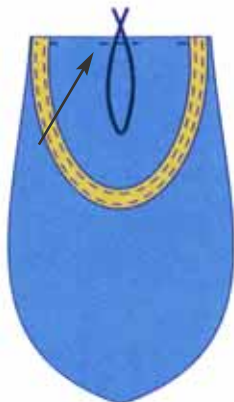

Front cover with handle:
Secure ends of handle to front cover piece.

Button Loop Closure

9. Fold the button loop ribbon in half, and make a mark 2 1/2" from the fold. Cross the tail of the ribbon at the 2 1/2" mark. Place the ribbon, right sides together with the back panel of the bag, placing the folded portion on the bag and the tails off the bag, matching the 2 1/2" mark at the top edge of the back panel. Stitch close to the top edge of the bag to secure.

Back cover with handle and ribbon closure.
Secure ends of handle and closure to back cover piece.

10. Place the cover inside the lining, right sides together. Be sure to tuck in the handles and the folded end of the ribbon between the cover and lining. Match the cover and lining at the top edges and all four sides seams. Remember, the side panels have a pressed fold down the center. Be sure the side panels are aligned before stitching.

11. Carefully stitch the top edge around the whole project, through all layers. Backstitch to secure at the handle ends and ribbon as you sew.

12. Press before turning: Grab the cover only, at the bottom points, and pull it out of the lining so that you can see the wrong sides of all fabrics. Gently finger press the seam allowance at the top edge of the bag toward the lining fabric.

13. Reach in through the opening at the side seam on the lining and turn the project right sides out.

14. Leave the opening open for now.

15. Tuck the lining into the cover so your project resembles the finished bag. Manage the new seam so it rests at the top edge of the bag. Carefully press just the top edge.
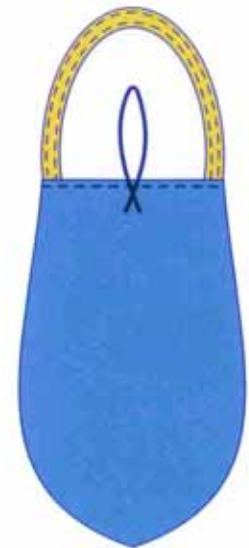
16. Topstitch around the top edge of the bag, through all layers. Use the same distance as you did for the handle topstitching.

17. Reach in through the lining opening and place a small scrap of fabric behind the cover where you will sew the button. The center of the button should be approximately 2" from the top edge of the bag. Stitch the button to the bag.

18. Add optional embellishments to the point of the bag at this time. See instructions for tassel below.

19. Pull the lining out of the bag enough to stitch the opening closed.

20. Arrange the lining and cover so their seams nestle into each other at the curves of the bag toward the bottom. Tuck the side panels in toward the center again and press one last time.
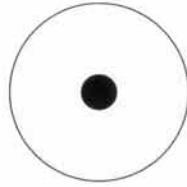

Topstitch top edge of bag: Stitch around top edge of bag.

Make a Tassel

Cut three 12" lengths of 1/8" ribbon. Hold all three pieces together and fold in half, matching ends. Tie a knot just below the fold to make a small loop. Feed each ribbon end through a bead and tie a knot near the end of the ribbon to secure. Trim the extra ribbon length for a clean edge. To attach to bag, feed needle and thread through the small loop above the knot and fold near the top. Do not puncture the ribbon with the needle.

Top edge of bag.

Button Placement

Noriko Handbag Pattern Piece
Cut 4 from *cover* fabric.
Cut 4 from *lining* fabric.