

# HOW TO MAKE A WALKER BAG

Aloha Sewing Friends!

Thank you for your interest in making a walker bag! Here are written instructions to complement our video tutorial. Mahalo to Yasmine Lindskog and Mary Nowakowski for writing and editing the instructions. *We highly recommend that you watch the video as well as use these instructions.* If you have any suggestions on how to make the written instructions more clear, please send a kindly worded email to thesewinghui@gmail.com.

You can find the video here - https://www.thesewinghui.com/walkerandwheelchairbags

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# Chapters in the Video

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- 16:55 Assembling all the elements together
- 17:00 Assembling the pocket
- 23:57 Assembling all of the straps
- 26:00 Sewing the bag together
- 28:33 Adding the lining to the bag
- 37:07 Adding the velcro and label

# Patterns - 4 pieces

- 1) Walker Bag Large piece (x3) 27" x 15"
  - a) Cut 1 Fabric
  - b) Cut 1 Lining
  - c) Cut 1 Batting
- 2) Pocket 15" x 15"
  - a) Cut 1 Fabric
  - b) Cut 1 Lining
- 3) Wheelchair Strap 3" x 15"
  - a) Cut 2 Fabric
- 4) Walker Straps 4" x 12.5"
  - a) Cut 4 Fabric

# Directions

# **Step 1: Cut Fabric Pieces**

Cut all your fabric pieces for the walker strap, wheelchair strap, walker bag, and pocket.

If you are using fabric that has a **one way design**, such as a print that has a specific "top and bottom" direction, you will need to cut the large piece (27" x 15") or the pocket piece (15" x 15") differently. Cut two pieces instead of one, adding  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowances to both pieces. Make sure that each of these pieces has a "top". They will be sewn together along the "bottom" of the print with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance. This will ensure that the print will be facing in the "top" position on both sides of the bag.

## Step 2: Sew Walker Strap

- 1. Take two pieces of the walker strap and place the right sides together. Sew around three sides (the two long sides and one short side) with a ½ inch seam allowance, leaving one short side open.
- 2. Trim the corners to remove excess fabric, then press the seams open to create sharp edges.
- 3. Turn the strap inside out, carefully poking out the corners. Press the strap so the edges are aligned.
- 4. Topstitch around the three sewn sides with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance.

## Step 3: Sew Wheelchair Strap

- 1. Fold the wheelchair strap piece in half length-wise, right sides together, and sew along the long side with a 1/4 inch seam allowance, creating a tube.
- 2. Press the seam open.
- 3. Attach a safety pin to one end of the tube, then pull the fabric through until it's fully turned.
- 4. Press the strap, ensuring the seam is at the center back.
- 5. Topstitch along the sides with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance.

#### Step 4: Sew Pocket

- 1. Place the pocket pieces right sides together and sew a ½ inch seam along two opposite sides.
- 2. Use a sleeve board to open the seams and press them flat.
- 3. Turn the pocket right-side out and press, ensuring the lining edges are tucked in.
- 4. Topstitch the side seams with a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch seam allowance.

## Step 5: Quilt the Walker Bag

- 1. Take the walker bag layer and the batting layer, and place them on top of each other, with the walker bag layer face up.
- 2. Using a 3-inch ruler, draw diagonal lines on the fabric.
- 3. Sew along the lines to quilt the two layers together.

## Step 6: Sew Lining

 Take the lining piece and fold it in half crosswise. Sew a ½ inch seam along one side. Sew a ½ inch seam along the other side, but stop halfway to leave an opening from the fold up. It is important to leave this opening, as it will be used in a future step.

# **Assemble All Prepped Pieces**

You should now have: 2 walker straps, 2 wheelchair straps, the quilted bag, the pocket and the lining.

## Step 7: Attach the Pocket

- 1. Center the pocket on top of the quilted bag. Both the right side of the pocket and the right side of the bag should be visible.
- 2. In order to help make sure it is centered, fold the quilted bag in half crosswise and make a notch at the fold to mark the center of the sides. Fold the pocket in half crosswise, and make a notch at the fold to mark the center of the sides.
- 3. Line up the notches of the bag and the pocket and pin or clip in place.
- 4. Fold the bag in half crosswise to ensure proper alignment of the sides of the pocket.
- 5. Open up the bag and sew down the two sides of the pocket to attach it to the bag.

## **Step 8: Create Pocket Sections**

- 1. Draw a line from along the center fold of the pocket, from notch to notch.
- 2. Sew along the line through all layers.
- 3. Draw a line that divides the large pocket into two even sections.
- 4. Sew along the line through all layers.

# Step 9: Attach the Straps

- 1. Pin or clip the two walker straps and two wheelchair straps to the bag.
- 2. Sew each strap on with a 1/4 inch seam allowance.

# Step 10: Assemble the Bag

- 1. Fold the bag in half, careful to match up the sides of the pockets, and pin or clip the sides together.
- 2. Sew the sides together with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance.
- 3. Turn the bag right-side out, poking out the corners.

# Step 11: Attach the Lining

- 1. Tuck the straps into the pockets.
- 2. Place the bag inside the lining, right sides together, and align the side seams. Pin or clip the seams to hold them in place.
- 3. Pin or clip the top edge of the lining to the top edge of the bag.
- 4. Sew around the top edge with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance.
- 5. Pull the bag through the opening in the corner of the lining. This is the opening that was created at **Step 7 #5**.
- 6. Once the bag has been pulled through the opening, stitch the opening closed by turning the seam allowances in with your hands and stitch close to the opening.
- 7. Tuck the lining into the bag.

# **Step 12: Final Touches**

- 1. Press the top edge of the bag.
- 2. Topstitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch around the top edge.
- 3. Attach Velcro to the straps: one side of the Velcro to the strap edge, and the other to the top edge of the bag (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the top).
- 4. Sew around the edges of the Velcro to secure it.

## Step 13: Add the Label

- 1. Place the label in the center front of the bag and heat-set it with stitch-witchery or double-sided fusible.
- 2. Sew close around the edges of the label to attach it.

#### Voilà! Your bag is ready to go!