

Oxford Quilters Guild - May Bag of the Month

There are so many bags; with so many uses....it is hard to choose which one to share with you each month. I could not however end this year of bags without sharing the ever-popular and versatile "Humbug Bag". This was a commercial pattern a few years ago but it has become so popular that there are dozens, if not hundreds of tutorials on how to make this. A perfect example of a pattern gone viral!



The original commercial pattern was made by McKenna Linn, and is still being sold online and in shops.

http://www.mckennalinn.com/humbug_bag.html From her website: **Humbug Bag**

The perfect creative canvas for learning and practicing embellishment and free-motion-quilting skills!

Humbug Bag is a twisted tote that makes a perfect "little something" gift--for teachers, grandkids, neighbors, babysitters, etc. The shape is based on a traditional 19th century English candy, from which the bag takes its name. These are exceptionally quick, easy, and fun to make (make one in less than an hour).

This is a terrific pattern for someone just learning to quilt... but great, too, for experienced quilters who just can't seem to find time to work on a "real" quilt but crave a quick quilting fix! This small project also makes a great canvas for embroiderers, beaders, and embellishers to practice their skills. See sidebar for some examples.

The pattern includes how-to instructions for machine quilting, for both machine-guided grids and free-motion stipling. Because of their small size, these are fantastic projects for someone just learning to quilt--it's not only easily maneuverable, but no great loss of time or materials if one doesn't turn out so well. According to a survey not long ago, machine quilting is one of the sewing public's top three sewing fears (right up there with making bound buttonholes and welt pockets). Humbug Bags are a great way to practice skills and gain confidence... and end up with useful bag rather than a throw-away sample.

Humbug Bags can also be made from unquilted fabric, of course, such as Cordura and leather.

And you get something extra with this pattern: A sheet of gift tags, ready to photocopy. Simply cut them apart and sign to give your gift a very professional polish.

Three sizes are included... but it's easy to adjust dimensions for your own purposes. See the beanbag chair at the end of the sidebar!

Humbug Bag Images

<http://binged.it/1Ze2A2e>

Humbug Bag Step-by-step Tutorial

<http://sewlittlefabric.blogspot.ca/2010/12/humbug-bag-how-to-insert-zipper.html> (Best Zipper tip!!!)

http://www.mooresew.com/pdf/blog_humbug_bag.pdf

<http://lydiastreasures.blogspot.ca/2012/04/humbug-bag-tutorial.html>

<http://resources.quiltwoman.com/blog/the-humble-humbug-bag/>

<http://packratwithaplan.blogspot.ca/2014/01/humbug-bag-tutorial.html>

Video Tutorial

<http://craftygemini.com/2015/04/how-to-make-triangle-zipper-pouches-video-tutorial.html>

<http://binged.it/1UzMukg>

<http://binged.it/1X94iDh>

My tips:

- ✓ For a great toiletries bag, make the handle long enough to hang over a door knob (great for traveling)
- ✓ For a stash bag in your purse: place a tab inside with a key ring to safely store a spare key.
- ✓ The shape makes an ideal bag to store your cords and mouse for your laptop
- ✓ The bag works whether you start with a square or a rectangular piece of fabric
- ✓ It is a great excuse to play with free motion quilting
- ✓ They are a great way to use up any size of fabric to store anything (coin purse, make-up bag, toiletries, shoe bag, knitting project bag, pencil case, sewing tools, little toys, doll and clothes, and so much more)
- ✓ The pattern makes a bag that is great for anyone, any age... from toddlers to nieces to teachers to girlfriends to men!!!
- ✓ ... and if nothing else... it is an excuse to buy another pretty FQ or two!!!