

# Bolster Bag Yarn Caddy Instructions

## & Simple Bolster Bag Variation

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Project difficulty: Medium / some experience required

### Materials List:

- bag body: ½ yard medium weight cloth (faux suede pictured). (Knit not suggested.)
- contrast trim (optional): ½ yard contrasting cloth or 2 yards of 3" wide heavy grosgrain ribbon or cotton placemat (pictured).
- Straps: 3 yards 1" wide cotton strapping (pictured).
- 2 identical 2 liter soda pop bottles about 13 ½" around. (Bag liners.)
- 1 – 12" zipper.
- ½ yard iron on polyester fleece
- 2-3 ounces polyester stuffing. (For yarn caddy version only.)
- 2- 1 1/8" Dritz Half-ball Dome covered button forms.
- Matching thread
- Matching embroidery floss, for hand gathering sides.

**Please note:** unless otherwise stated all seams are ½".

### Instructions:

#### Cutting Guidelines:



For Yarn Caddy bag liners:

- Cut a bottom from a pop bottle 6" from bottom. (It should be 6" high.)
- Cut a top from a pop bottle that measures 6" from base of cap. (Remove loose ring below cap.)



OR

For Simple Bolster Bag liners:



*(I used the graph paper to mark where to punch holes for stitching, but in the end I didn't need them, though it is an option.)*

- Cut two 6" bottom pieces of pop bottle as shown . (You will not need the cap end.)

Bag Body Pieces:

- Measure the circumference of the pop bottle. If it is 13.5 inches, like the ones pictured, cut two 9" x 15" pieces out of the cloth for the body. If it the measurement is different, cut cloth pieces 9" x bottle circumference + 1 1/2".
- Cut two pieces of fusible fleece that measure circumference X 7" . i.e., 7" x 13 1/2" . (as pictured example.)

Contrast bag trim and Handle Scrunchies (optional):

Bag trim:

- Cut 2 pieces of contrast cloth that are same length as zipper seam (15" pictured) and 4" wide. Or:
- Cut 2 pieces of 3" wide grosgrain ribbon that are same length as zipper seam.

Handle Scrunchies:

- Cut 2 pieces of contrast cloth or ribbon 3" x 7" .

Strapping for handles:

- Cut two lengths of strapping that are 43" each.

## Assembly Instructions:



**Important construction tip!** If the cloth you are using is prone to fray, narrowly overcast stitch and/or zigzag bag body pieces after cutting out. Your bag will take a lot more wear and tear if you do this.

- Center the iron-on fleece on wrong side of body pieces and fuse with iron according to package directions.
- With right sides together of the long edges of the bag body pieces, (i.e., 15"). Pin and sew center seam with a long basting stitch and press open seam.
- Center zipper on pressed seam and insert zipper according to package directions. Remove basting.

Make contrast cloth trim: (optional)

- For cloth contrast: Fold and press  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to wrong side of both sides of the length of each piece of contrast. (Trim will be 3" wide when folded under and pressed.)

### Apply Contrast Trim: (optional)



- On right side of cloth: Lay contrast trim (ribbon or cloth) parallel to and 1 inch away from center of zipper seam and narrowly sew along edge as pictured.
- Repeat on the other side of zipper seam.

### Make Handle Scrunchies: (optional)



- Narrowly hem (1/4" double fold) each 3" ends scrunchie piece.
- Fold scrunchie in half lengthwise, right side together and sew 1/2" seam.
- Trim seam and narrowly zigzag or overcast stitch length of seam.
- Turn right side out
- Repeat for second scrunchie.

Thread Handle scrunchies through strap pieces:



- Pin strap pieces together and thread scrunchies onto strap, one on each end.
- Leave at least 9 inches of strap tails below scrunchie.



FYI: Here is what bag body looks like with straps, but no contrast.

Add straps to bag body:



- Pin 7 ½" strapping to center of contrast cloth, 2 inches from zipper seam, as shown in picture above. Repeat for all for straps.
- There should be a ½" space between the straps at center as shown below.



- Stitch from bottom of straps close to strap edge and turn, sewing across strap and turn again sewing on strap edge back to bottom of strap. Repeat for all straps.
- Slide scrunchies into place a base of handles.

Bag bottom seam:



- With Right sides together (wrongside out) bring bottom seams of bag together, matching trim and straps and sew a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam the length of the bag, as pictured. (Be certain handles are tucked inside out of the way of the seam!)
- Trim seam to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and overcast/ zigzag along seam edge to reinforces seam.



- Turn right side out and admire your work so far. 😊

### Whipstitch Zipper Gap:

Depending on length of zipper and size of bag the gap at the top of the zipper may be an inch or more in length. While a small opening is necessary so that yarn will not get caught on zipper teeth, it should only be about ¼- ½” in size.

- Unzip and open bag. With needle and thread whipstitch opening closed to within ½ - ¼” of zipper teeth, as pictured.



Insert pop bottle bag liners:

- Slide a pop bottle liner into each side of bag opening with edges of liner rim just below zipper. Liners should fit quite snugly. See picture below.
- If the liners need reinforcement to stay in place, hot glue pop bottle liners in several places just below the rim to the iron-on fleece or alternatively, punch holes about every ½” and whipstitch to zipper edge. (The fit was so snug on the example that I didn't end up using glue or stitching.)



Gather and close bag ends

- Using a large embroidery needle and 6 strand embroidery floss, hand baste in stitches about every ¼” near edge of open bag end all the way around. Pull up tightly and knot to finish off. Hot glue stitching in place.
- For simple bolster only: Repeat hand basting as for other end. Hot glue stitching in place.
- For yarn caddy style only:
  - Use stuffing round neck of bottle opening to even out the shape to look like the other side.

- Hand baste around edge of bag end and pull basting up to fit snugly around bottom area of cap where ring used to be. Pull up tightly and knot to finish off. Hot glue stitching into place. See picture below:



Make and add decorative buttons:



- Remove shanks from metal button forms by snapping them out, or using wire snips.
- Make 2 cloth covered buttons according to package directions.

For Simple Bolster bag only: Hot glue buttons over gathered ends of the bag.

For Yarn caddy version only: Hot glue one button to the pop bottle cap. Glue the other button over the gathered end of the bag. After glue dries, replace cap on pop mouth.



Make decorative zipper pull:



- Cut 3, 7" lengths of 6 strand embroidery floss.
- Fold them in half and thread fold through top of zipper tab, making a loop.
- Pull the ends of the floss through loop and knot threads near end of tab.
- Trim threads evenly.

Your bag is complete. Enjoy! -- Laura Hickman

How to use the yarn caddy:

- Remove cap and stow in bag.
- Place the desired yarn in bag and thread it through the cap opening to begin work.
- To stow the work when not in use, unzip bag and place work inside along with needle(s) and laying yarn in open slit above zipper end.
- Close the bag and replace the cap gently over the yarn.

