

Quilted Mini Zip Pouch

An illustrated sewing tutorial with a vertical front zipper and a clip-on handle.



Make a lined, tapered pouch that stands on a flat base. Small-scale prints and light quilting create the cheerful look of the reference bags. A short loop holds a swivel clasp for keys or a larger tote.

Finished size: approximately 12 cm wide × 11.8 cm high × 8 cm deep at the base (4.7 × 4.7 × 3.1 in). Top depth: 4 cm (1.6 in). Handle adds about 6 cm (2.4 in).

Skill level: confident beginner / intermediate. You will sew a zipper and inset corners. This is a newly drafted interpretation of the reference silhouette, not a verified reproduction of its original pattern. The instructions and final-page template belong together; a scrap-fabric sample is recommended before cutting special fabric.



Materials & sewing setup

Read all steps before cutting. Centimeters are the master measurements.

Fabric: 30 × 110 cm (12 × 44 in) quilting cotton for the outside; the same amount of lightweight cotton for the lining. Allow more for directional prints or pattern matching. Use thin batting, approximately 30 × 90 cm (12 × 36 in).

Hardware: one 20 cm (8 in) nylon-coil zipper or a longer nylon zipper that can be shortened; one swivel clasp with a 1.5 cm (5/8 in) attachment opening. Use matching polyester thread.

Tools: sewing machine, zipper foot, optional walking foot, 80/12 or 90/14 needle, ruler, washable marker, rotary cutter and mat or fabric scissors, clips, iron and blunt turning tool.

Construction method: quilt the outer fabric, thin batting and lining together. Assemble these lined panels as single units, with the outer faces together. The inside seam allowances are finished with a close zigzag or overlock stitch. There is no separate lining bag or turning gap.

Seam allowance: 1 cm (about 3/8 in) on all structural seams. Sew the marked seam lines, especially at the trapezoid corners. Use a 2.5 mm stitch for seams and a 3 mm stitch for quilting/topstitching. Backstitch at each seam end.

Words used in this guide: RS = right side, the printed outer face. WS = wrong side. Baste = temporary long stitches. Topstitch = stitching visible on the outside. Staystitch = a short securing line near the edge.

Before you begin: prewash and press cotton if the finished pouch will be washed. Follow the batting care instructions. Test your thread tension on a three-layer scrap and confirm that the zipper slides freely.



Cut first, quilt, then trim

All final cut sizes below include the 1 cm seam allowance. Do not add it twice.

Piece	Oversize blanks*	Final size / quantity
Front zipper halves	9 × 16 cm, two sets	Assemble, then trim to 14 × 14 cm
Back panel	16 × 16 cm, one set	14 × 14 cm, one
Base panel	16 × 12 cm, one set	14 × 10 cm, one
Top panel	16 × 8 cm, one set	14 × 6 cm, one
Side panels	13 × 16 cm, two sets	Use final-page template, two
Handle strip	Outer cotton only	6 × 16 cm, one

*One set means one outer cotton, one thin batting and one lining blank at the stated size. Oversize blanks allow for quilting shrinkage. Cut the handle separately; it has no batting.

Inch reference: 14 cm = 5.51 in; 10 cm = 3.94 in; 6 cm = 2.36 in; 16 cm = 6.30 in. Use the centimeter ruler to avoid accumulating rounding errors.

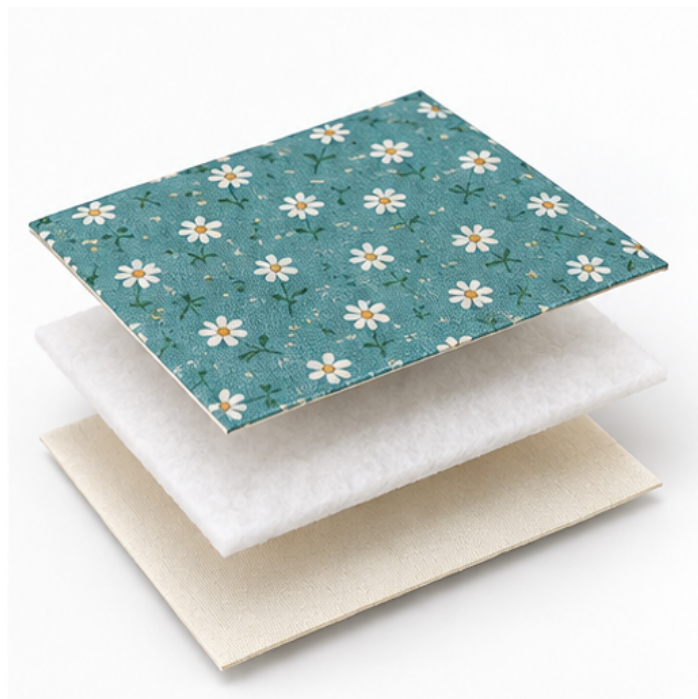
Mark every rectangle: draw seam lines 1 cm inside each cut edge on the lining side. Their intersections are your start/stop points. Mark the center of each edge. Front and back seam-line size is 12 × 12 cm; base is 12 × 8 cm; top is 12 × 4 cm.

Side-panel geometry: the two sloping seam edges are each 12 cm long and match the front/back. Bottom seam = 8 cm; top seam = 4 cm; vertical height = 11.83 cm. Transfer all four corner dots from the final-page template. Match seam-line lengths, not raw-edge lengths.



Build the fabric panels

Light quilting supports the pouch without making the corners bulky.



1. Stack the layers.

Put lining RS down, batting in the middle, and outer cotton RS up. The fabric wrong sides face the batting. Smooth without stretching and baste or use a light fabric-safe adhesive.

2. Quilt gently.

Stitch parallel lines 2-3 cm (3/4-1 1/4 in) apart. Work from the center outward. Keep each sandwich flat. A walking foot helps feed the layers evenly.

3. Press and trim. Let panels cool flat. Cut the back, top and base to the final sizes on page 3. Cut two side panels with the final-page template, keeping its grain arrow parallel to the fabric selvage. Keep the front halves oversize until the zipper is fitted.

4. Secure the edges. Staystitch 4 mm from the raw edges of the shaped panels. Transfer the seam lines and corner dots to the lining with a removable marker. Do not cut notches into the structural seam lines.

Optional patchwork: piece small cotton scraps into a fabric sheet before layering. Press those seams open, then cut the oversize blanks from your sheet. Keep thick seam intersections away from the zipper folds and the four side-panel corners.

Quality check: each trimmed rectangle must be square. Both side panels must match when stacked. If quilting shrinks a blank too much, make a replacement rather than stretching it into shape.



Install the vertical zipper

Make one complete front panel before joining it to the bag.



5. Fold the front edges.

On one long edge of each quilted front half, remove batting from the outermost 1 cm only. Fold that 1 cm edge toward the lining and press. The folded edges will sit beside the zipper coil.

6. Position and sew.

Place the closed zipper face up. Place the two folded panels RS up over its tapes, leaving a 6 mm gap centered over the coil. Baste, then topstitch 2-3 mm from each fold with a zipper foot. Keep fabric clear of the slider.

7. Square the front. With the zipper closed and perfectly centered, trim the complete assembly to 14 × 14 cm. Keep 7 cm on either side of the zipper centerline. Mark the outer 1 cm structural seam lines on the lining. The zipper runs from the top edge to the bottom edge.

8. Make safe stops before trimming zipper ends. Mark 1.5 cm from both the top and bottom raw edges. Place the slider between these marks. Hand-sew several strong bar tacks over the coil at each mark, then test them. Trim excess zipper tape flush with the panel. Never let the slider escape.

9. Finish the inside tapes. Trim fraying fabric edges without cutting the zipper tape. Zigzag the exposed tape edges to the folded allowances where needed, keeping all stitches well away from the teeth. The lining is already attached to the front fabric.

Check before assembly: the panel is 14 × 14 cm; the zipper is straight; the opening between stops is about 11 cm. Open and close it several times. Use a nylon coil only, and turn the machine handwheel slowly when crossing its ends.



Join the main panels

Work with outer fabric faces together and lining facing outward.



10. Sew the handle.

Fold the 6 × 16 cm cotton strip in half lengthwise and press. Open it; fold both long edges to the center, then fold in half again. It is now 1.5 cm wide. Topstitch both long edges.

11. Add the clasp.

Thread the strip through the clasp opening. Fold to form a loop and align the two raw ends. Baste them together. Center them on the back panel top edge, RS to RS, with the loop pointing down over the back panel.

12. Join back to top. Place the top panel on the back, RS together, trapping the handle ends in the seam. Match their 14 cm raw edges. Sew between the marked corner dots, using the 1 cm seam line. Reinforce the handle area with a second line inside the seam allowance.

13. Build a strip. Sew one 14 cm base edge to the bottom of the back. Sew the other 14 cm base edge to the bottom of the zipper front. The panels now form a strip: TOP - BACK - BASE - FRONT. At every joint, start and stop at the dots, leaving the outer 1 cm unsewn.

14. Close the ring. Open the zipper halfway now. Join the front top edge to the free 14 cm top-panel edge, again dot to dot. Keep the handle clear. You now have a four-panel ring with its two side openings still unfilled.

Before adding sides: finish the joined seam allowances with zigzag or overlock stitches. Keep the loose corner allowances free; do not stitch them together beyond the dots. Press gently without flattening the batting.

Insert the sides & turn

The side panels create the tapered shape. Take one seam at a time.



15. Match the first side. With the body inside out, place one trapezoid side RS against the body. Its 8 cm bottom seam matches the base, its 4 cm top seam matches the top, and its two 12 cm sloping seams match front and back. Clip the corner dots together first.

16. Sew four separate seams. Sew bottom dot to dot; backstitch. Reposition the next panel and sew one sloping edge, then the top and the other sloping edge. Keep adjoining panels and loose allowances out of the needle path. Do not force a single sharp pivot through all layers.

17. Repeat and tidy. Fit the second side in the same way. Inspect all eight side corners for gaps or pleats. Zigzag or overlock the joined raw edges. Trim bulky allowance tips carefully, leaving at least 3 mm from stitches. Do not cut through structural seams.

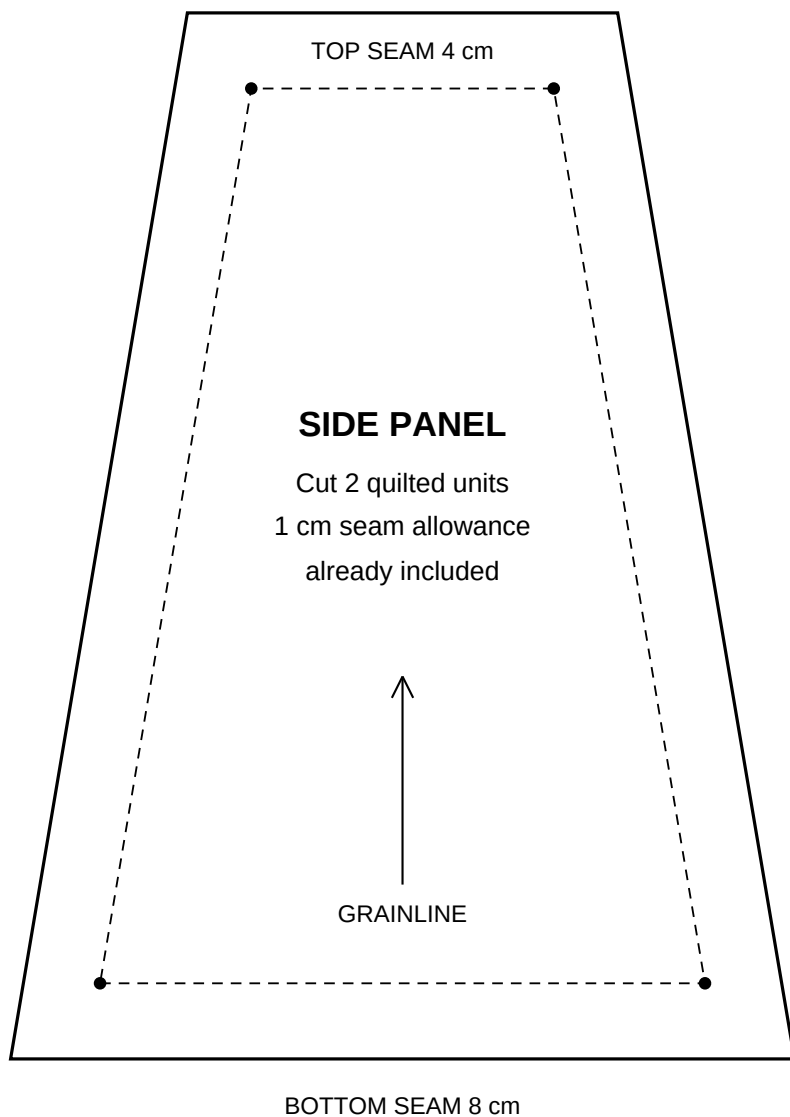
18. Turn and shape. Turn the bag through the open zipper. Ease corners out with a blunt tool. Finger-press the base and side seams. Test the zipper and gently pull the handle to check its reinforcement. Remove temporary marks as directed by their manufacturer.

Quick fixes: a twisted bag usually means mismatched corners; unpick and rematch dots. A stuck zipper needs more clearance from the folds. A collapsing bag needs lighter contents or firmer batting next time. Spot-clean, air-dry and avoid pressing the zipper or metal clasp. Illustrations are explanatory; follow the written measurements and template.



PRINTABLE PATTERN / A4 / ACTUAL SIZE

Print at 100% or Actual Size. Turn OFF Fit / Shrink. Check the 3 cm square before cutting. All seam allowances are included.



RECTANGLES

Ruler-cut; not drawn to scale.

Back: 14 × 14 cm, cut 1

Base: 14 × 10 cm, cut 1

Top: 14 × 6 cm, cut 1

Cut from quilted sandwiches.

Front: two oversize halves, 9 × 16 cm each. Fit zipper; trim the joined panel to 14 × 14 cm.

Handle: 6 × 16 cm, cut 1 cotton only.

KEY

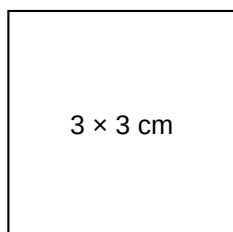
Solid line = cut

Dashed line = sew

Dots = start / stop

Both sloping seam edges measure 12 cm.

Template vertical seam height: 11.83 cm.



CHECK SCALE

The square must measure exactly 3 cm on each side. Reprint if it does not.

Cut out the side template on the solid outline. Transfer corner dots and dashed seam lines to the lining side. Use the cutting list on page 3 for oversize blanks.

