Gracie Handbag

Gracie has vintage charm and the glamour of a slouchy film star. Lined, 6 inside pockets and flap closure.
Fabric:
Cover - Outer Panels:
  Cut two at 7” x 26”
Cover - Center Panel:
  Cut one at 5” x 22”
Bag Lining:
  This will be cut later in the project.
Inside Pocket Panel:
  Cut one at 11 1/2” x 30”
Handles:
  Cut two at 6” x 26”
Flap Closure:
  Cut one at 3 1/2” x 11 1/2” (Cut from leftover Bag Lining or Interior Pocket fabric).
Battling:
  Bag - Cut one approx. 20” x 30”
  Flap - Cut one at 4” x 7”
Velcro:
  Cut one at 1 1/2”

Recommendations:
Use a 1/4” seam allowance for all construction unless otherwise noted. Use a walking foot or even feed foot on your sewing machine, and increase your stitch length when sewing through a number of layers in this project. Use an iron on a steam setting for pressing bulky parts of the project.

Gracie Construction Tip:
Use the following ‘Fold and Press’ method to make many of the steps in this pattern easier. ‘Fold and Press’ simply means to fold a piece of fabric in half, matching the edges, and press the fold. The pressed fold is the center. Fold and press once to find the center of an edge. Fold and press twice, creating a big ‘+’ in the middle and fold marks on all four edges, to find the center of the piece and the edges. Use these edge folds and center ‘+’ marks to match pieces together. Many of the photos show these folds. This is referred to as ‘Fold and press once’ or ‘Fold and press twice’ where used in the pattern.

Step 1: Cover Panels and Inside Pocket Panel

Cover Panels
Inside Pocket Panel
Topstitch short edges

Cover Panels: Fold and press once to find the center of the long edges of each of the three cover panels. See ‘Tip’ above. Match centers of long edges, with right sides together, and sew the three cover panels together. Remember, the center panel is shorter than the outer panels. Press seam allowances toward the center panel. The cover should be 26” long by approximately 18” wide. Measure the width of your cover and make a note of it. Fold and press twice to find the center. Set aside for later use - it’s ready to go!

Inside Pocket Panel: Fold and press once to find center of the long edges. Open flat, right side up. Match short edges to the center fold as shown above. Keep right sides together. The short edges don’t need to meet each other or overlap at the center fold. Close enough is good enough. Keep the pocket panel folded like this and stitch along both long edges through all layers. Trim corner seam allowances and turn right sides out through the opening where the two short edges meet. Press.

Both sides should have fabric right sides out. The side with the opening is the wrong side of the pocket panel. Topstitch as shown along the two short edges to the left and right above. Fold and press twice to find the center.
**Step 2: Assemble the Layers of the Bag**

The long edges of the project will end up being the side edges of the bag. The short edges will end up being the top edges of the bag.

**Bag Lining**

Cut a piece of lining fabric the same overall size as the cover assembly. This should be approximately 18" x 26" - check your notes for the size of you cover. Fold and press twice to find the center.

Layer the lining fabric, right side up, on top of the 20" x 30" piece of batting. Center the pocket, right side up, on top of the lining, matching the fold marks. Orient long edges to long edges, short to short. Make sure the opening of the pocket panel is toward the lining fabric.

Note: The pocket panel should be centered, measure to make sure and adjust if needed.

This is a good time to put a walking foot or even feed foot on your sewing machine. Measure 10 1/2" from the short sides of the lining toward the center of the pocket and stitch through all layers as shown. The area between these two lines (approx. 5") will end up being the bottom of the bag and we'll refer to them later in the pattern. Let’s call these two lines the "Bottom Stitching Lines" (BSL). Then stitch from the BSL to the ends of the pocket along the edges as shown.

If you haven’t already done so, fold and press the cover assembly twice to find the center. Layer the cover assembly, right side down, on top of the pocket, lining and batting. Match fold marks and edges on all sides and pin all layers. The lining fabric is supposed to show near the center panel.

Start toward the center of one of the long edges of the cover and stitch around all edges, through all layers, leaving an opening of 4-5" at the center of a long edge. Follow the edges of the cover, not the lining. Make sure to reinforce your stitching at the 'inner corners' where shown above at the center cover panel. Trim away all extra batting and the extra lining fabric near the center cover panel. Trim corner seam allowances.

The corner seam allowance where the outer and inner panels are sewn together needs to be snipped so the bag can lay flat when turned right sides out. Use a sharp pair of scissors and snip right up to the stitching line. Do not break the stitching. If you do, re-stitch it. Optional: Before snipping, zig zag the seam allowance for reinforcement. Make sure to zig zag only the seam allowance.

Trim all corners.

Zig Zag if you like.
**STEP 3: QUILTING AND VELCRO**

Some simple topstitching through all layers is the only quilting necessary to hold the layers of the bag together.

From the lining side of the bag, stitch on top of the Bottom Stitching Lines, through all layers of the bag. Make sure all layers of the bag are smooth. Start and stop about an inch or so from each edge. The area near the edge of the bag will be concealed in the bottom of the bag later in the project.

From the cover side of the bag we need to stitch four lines, each in the shape of a big ‘L’, through all layers. Make sure all layers, including the pocket on the lining side, are smooth and flat for this step. These stitchings serve several purposes. They will quilt the bag, be decorative topstitchings for the cover and will divide the pocket panel into six pockets.

Follow the numbers above to make two ‘L’s at a time: (1) To stitch an ‘L’, start at the edge of the bag and topstitch along the short end of the outer cover panel, leave your needle in the down position at the corner, raise your presser foot and (2) turn the bag to continue stitching on the outer cover panel along the seam between the cover panels. Stitch right up to the ‘Bottom Stitching Line’. (3) Raise the presser foot and needle, slide the bag to the next ‘Bottom Stitching Line’ and start sewing again to make the next ‘L’, (4) turning at the corner. Do this as shown above to make 4 ‘L’s.

**Velcro:**
Center the rough half of the Velcro 1 1/2" from the edge of the center cover panel. Orient the Velcro so the long edge is parallel with the edge of the bag to the left as shown. Stitch in place - a zig zag stitch around the edge of the Velcro is great for this.

Trim the layer of batting from the seam allowance at the opening as shown. Turn the bag right side out through the opening and press. Tuck in the seam allowance from the opening and stitch closed. This doesn’t have to be pretty, it will be hidden in the final construction.
**Step 4: Make and Attach the Flap**

The flap offers a wonderful opportunity for embellishment. The flap is shown with a rectangular shape. If you like, consider rounding the corners of the flap or trimming the end to a point as variations. If you are going to play with different shapes, make the flap longer than called for and then trim the finished flap to the length needed. This will ensure that the flap is long enough to cover the Velcro on the bag. Consider adding buttons, beads, tassels and more to dress-up the flap a bit.

Fold and press once to find the center of the long edge of the flap fabric. Place the flap fabric, right side up, on top of the batting, matching the fold line to the edge of the batting. The batting is under half the fabric and will stick out on three sides. Center the soft half of the Velcro 1/2" from the fold, centered from side to side and stitch in place through all layers. Orient the Velcro with the short edge toward the fold in the fabric.

Stitch around finished edges.

Trim away the extra batting, turn right sides out and press. Topstitch along the three finished edges of the flap.

Center the flap on the center cover panel 1 3/4" from the edge of the center cover panel. Make sure the flap is Velcro side up with the Velcro to the left and the raw edge of the flap to the right as shown above. Notice that the Velcro is not oriented the same way on the flap and the bag. This will ensure that the two halves of Velcro will touch more easily in use. Topstitch across the open edge of the flap through all layers.

Fold the fabric in half, right sides together, covering the Velcro, and match all the raw edges of the fabric. Keep folded and stitch the long edges of fabric through all layers. (In this photo you can see the dark Velcro between the layers of fabric).

The flap should look like this from the side with the Velcro.

Flip the flap over to conceal the raw edge, press, and topstitch across the flap to secure.
**STEP 5: MAKE AND ATTACH THE HANDLES**

Make each of the two handles the same way following the directions below. The handles were cut longer than you probably need them. You'll have a chance to trim them to the perfect length for you in this step.

Make two handles. Fold and press once to find the center of short edge of the handle fabric. Fold with wrong sides together.

Fold both long edges in to meet the center fold and press.

Keep the handle folded. Topstitch along both long edges. A good handle length is 20-26". To cut to desired length, pin the handles to the bag where shown below. Grab both handles and sling them over your shoulder and see if they need to be trimmed. If so, trim to desired length then continue with the directions.

After folding both long edges to the center, fold in half again at the original fold. This should resemble double-fold bias tape and should be approximately 1 1/2" wide.

5" Mark Stitch Mark 5"

After trimming to desired length, fold the handles in half again and press. The fabric layers between the two stitching lines are going to buckle a bit and will prevent the handle from laying flat. Should measure approx 3/4" wide.

Then make two marks across the handle 5" from each raw end. Stitch through all layers between the two marks. To hide this stitching a bit, stitch on top of the topstitching along the long edges.

Open the 5" at the ends and press. Each handle should look like this. The handles are finished except for the raw edges at each end. Each handle has a right side and a wrong side. The right side is the side with the folded edge between the 5" marks.

Match raw edges to topstitching.

Pin the handles in place, wrong side up, on the cover side of the bag. Match the ends of the handles to the topstitching "L"s along the outer panels, near the corners as shown.

Your handles will be bent like this, wrong side up, when attached to the bag.
Fold the bag in half, cover side together, matching top and side edges. Stitch side seams. Use a seam allowance wider than 1/4", but less than 1/2" wide. This will be wide enough to stitch next to the bulkiest part of these layers rather than through them. Stitch the side seams from the top edge to the bottom fold and reinforce at the top.

Slip the bag on to the end of an ironing board and press both of the side seams open. Doing so will force the bottom of the bag to a point at the end of the side seam as shown. Keep that point and take the bag off of the end of the ironing board.

Place the bag on top of the board and press both of these points flat. The stitching lines across these points are the "Bottom Stitching Lines" from earlier in the pattern that define the bottom of the bag.

Stitch across these corner points on top of the "Bottom Stitching Lines." Be sure to backstitch at the beginning, end and the seam allowance at the side seam.

Tuck corner point.

This is a view of the lining and pocket side of the bag. The pocket panel crosses the bottom of the bag making a 'sleeve' between the pocket fabric and lining fabric. Take a moment to tuck the side seam points in to the sleeve.

You can also use this sleeve to hide a sturdy base for the bag. As an option, Bag-E-Bottoms Size A (item #500) is available where you purchased this pattern. The base is a flat piece of 1/8" clear acrylic, 4"x11" with rounded corners and was custom sized for this design.

Or you can make a base for your bag. A piece of template plastic or cross stitch plastic works well.
Stitch across the raw edges of the handles through all layers. Try not to stitch off of the handle and onto the cover of the bag.

Flip handles to conceal raw edges and press. Stitch again across the handles and align this stitching with the topstitched "L"s along this part of the bag in order to make it less obvious. Backstitch at both ends of the stitching for reinforcement.
Finishing Touches:

Turn the bag cover-side out. The top edge of the bag at the side seam allowances could use a little reinforcing. Topstitch on top of the stitching 'L' line at the top edge of the bag at the side seam and backstitch to make the seam allowance lay flat.

Add a button or other decorative embellishments to the flap.

To finish, press the bottom edges of the bag for a clean crisp look.

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#118 Gracie Handbag

Gracie has vintage charm and the glamour of a silent film star. This elegant little handbag is just the right size to hold all of your essentials.

Gracie is fully lined with six inside pockets and has a flap closure secured by Velcro.

Use the optional 'Bag-E-Bottoms Size A' to give Gracie a nice sturdy bottom. Just slide this custom cut piece of acrylic into the pocket at the bottom of the lining when the bag is finished.

Special Note: This project is not appropriate for directional prints because the fabric wraps around the bag from the front, across the bottom, up the other side.

Basic quilting and sewing skills required.

Size: 15"W x 10"H

SUPPLIES: Fabric yardage is based on 40" width from the bolt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cover Fabrics: Select two fabrics.</th>
<th>(Remember: Not appropriate for directional prints).</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outer Panels and Handles - 7/8 yd</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Center Panel - 1/4 yd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bag Lining - 2/3 yd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inside Pocket - 1/2 yd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flap Closure - You'll need one piece cut at 3 1/2&quot; x 11 1/2&quot;. You'll have enough fabric leftover from the bag lining or inside pocket fabrics to use as the closure fabric - OR - select an additional fabric for this part of the project. Keep this in mind when selecting those fabrics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batting: Use a low loft batting that can be quilted up to 8&quot; apart. You'll need one piece approximately 20&quot; x 30&quot; - AND - one piece 4&quot; x 7&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional: Bag-E-Bottoms Size 'A' (item LGD500) - Give your bag a nice sturdy base with this 1/8&quot; acrylic base custom cut to fit the inside bottom of this design.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 1/2&quot; piece of Velcro for flap closure.</td>
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<td>One button for flap closure - 1 1/8&quot; to 1 1/4&quot; is a good size.</td>
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<td>A walking foot or even feed foot is highly recommended.</td>
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