

From a Plastic Mesh Bag to a Functional Boxed Bag in under 30 Minutes and under \$1.00

Flat mesh envelopes are useful for organization of supplies, games, documents, and patterns but by boxing the corners you increase the volume of the envelope. A bag with 2 boxed corners can stand on your table and hold threads, scissors, bobbins and even your rotary cutter with extra blades. Add 4 boxed corners and you quickly create a very functional container that you can tailor to your needs by changing the size of the boxed corners. The benefits of using the easily accessible plastic mesh envelopes as your material instead of clear vinyl comes down to cost, product durability, and the fact that material is easy to stitch. Unlike clear vinyl, you don't have to use a Teflon foot or sew over tissue paper since your feed dogs easily manage the plastic. Additionally, you can remove stitches without being concerned about creating a perforation line or noticeable holes. After making a few bags out of this plastic mesh you can feel confident at trying your hand using the beautiful vinyl prints available at shops such as Sew Hippie or Sallie Tomato.

Basic Supplies:

- Mesh envelope with a top zipper (suggest using an A4 letter size which is 9"x13" or larger for your first project)
- Scissors for cutting the plastic.
- Thread
- Sharp Needle for your machine
- Ruler at least a 6.5" square
- 1" wide Webbing (cotton or nylon)
- Fabric Scraps if you want to embellish your bag and handle.
- Seam Ripper
- Purple Thang (or something similar)
- Plastic Binding Clips

Basic Steps:

All measurements refer to the use of a standard A4 envelope with dimensions of approximately 9"x 13.5". Make one this size and you can then easily create ones with different sized envelopes,

1. With a sharp seam ripper open both side seams. Remove the zipper pull and open the envelope so that you have a rectangle. Run your fingernail or your Purple Thang along the sides if the edges are folded. The rectangle will be 18" x 14".
2. Fold the two edges with the zipper (dashed line in diagram) to the middle point. The rectangle formed will now be 9" x 14' again but the zipper is now in the middle of the bag. Mark the midpoint for reference.
3. Now you get to decide the shape of your bag. The size you cut the corners will determine the final dimensions of the bag.



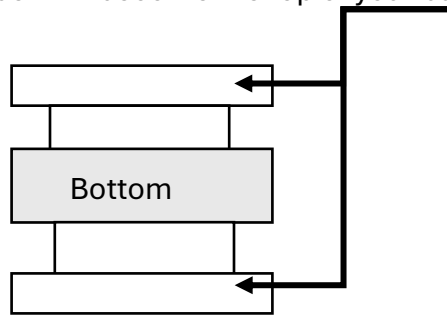
A general rule to remember is "Little Square = Long Bag and Big Square = Boxy Bag." A 1"

square will give you a 2" depth, a 1.5" results in a 3" depth, a 2" square will be 4" and so on. There are many ways to cut out the corners but if you are a beginning bag maker I suggest cutting a square of your desired size out of paper. Place the square along the bottom edge of the bag and 1/4" in from the




side (this allows for your seam allowance of 1/4") and trace around the square. Do this on all 4 corners. Cut out the square with scissors.

- Next you get to be creative and customize your bag. Open up the rectangle and add fabric or trims to create a one of a kind bag. The rectangle is now a very odd shape. The rectangles next to the zipper will become the top of your bag.



The area below that with the notch cut out will become the sides and the larger rectangle (shaded in diagram) in the center will form the bottom of the bag.

- The next step is the most difficult for new bag makers. After you have added your creative touches it is time to put the zipper pull back on your zipper. With the teeth facing up slide the left side of the zipper pull onto the first couple of teeth then at a slight angle slide the right side of the zipper tape onto the pull. Wiggle the pull down onto the zipper, hold the zipper tape with your right hand and tug the pull down along the zipper with your left hand. There are YouTube videos which demonstrate how to add the pulls that might be easier to follow. Check out Sallie Tomato or Sew Hippie for their techniques. After you have the pull on zip it almost closed and carefully turn the bag wrong side out.
- Fold the bag so that the middle of the zipper matches the midpoint of the bottom section. You will now sew the sides together using a 1/4 " seam this seam will form the ends of your bag. 
- Measure the length of the seam you just sewed and cut your webbing into 2 pieces the length of the seam plus 1/2 ". Embellish the webbing if desired. Baste the webbing handle in place by sliding it over the seam sewed in step 6 with the wrong side of your webbing handle over the right side of the seam. Clip or baste along the raw edge
- The final step is the magic of this bag. Expand one corner by pinching it open. Refold this corner matching the side seam you sewed in step 6 to the center bottom mark. Stitch the seam closed. Repeat on all 4 corners. Turn your bag right side out and finger press the edges. Step back and enjoy your finished bag.

Helpful sites to visit

<https://www.applegreencottage.com/how-to-put-a-slider-on-a-zipper/>

<https://blog.wawak.com/post/how-to-replace-a-zipper-pull>

about my Boxed Corner Template Ruler <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItUlfZYrlp0&t=536s>

and a simple beginner video for a similar pattern Jan's videos are great

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo1Bqrga1Sk><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo1Bqrga1Sk>