



# America Sews

## with Sue Hausmann®

### 2904 Couture Techniques for Purses With Linda McGehee

Guest Linda McGehee representing The Warm Company brought a variety of her famous bags to share with America Sews viewers. Then she showed how to create several styles of bags. Linda's new book Zip Couture, Chic Bags with Easy Zipper Applications features bags with loads of design details created with zippers, piping, bindings, fleece, webbing and more. Linda's book is available where sewing books are sold or from [www.ghees.com](http://www.ghees.com).



Sue Hausmann and Linda McGehee



#### Sewing Supplies:

- Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machine
- Husqvarna Viking Huskylock Serger
- Warm Fusible Fleece
- Warm Steam a Seam 2
- Warm Steam a Seam 2 roll of 1/4" wide
- Inspira size 90 Denim Needle
- Sewing Thread
- Husqvarna Viking Edge/Joining Foot #412796845
- Husqvarna Viking Piping Foot #411851045
- Husqvarna Viking Single Welt Foot #412627045
- Husqvarna Viking Edge Stitching Foot #412796745
- Pattern in Zip Couture Book
- Fabric for outside of purse, pocket and handle
- Fabric for lining
- Strip of belting web for handle
- Colored zippers

Most of her bags start with fabric, then add Warm Company Fusible Fleece for body. The Warm Company Fusible Fleece is compact, and good to use in a bag. Batting is more often used in garments or quilts because it is less dense and does not give a “stiff” look to the garment or quilt. The stiffer look is what you want for a bag. Another advantage of Warm Cotton Batting in garments is that it is cooler to wear and has a lighter hand. The Warm Company makes the right batting for every project including the new Warm and Safe a fire retardant batting. Go to the Warm website for more information [www.warmcompany.com](http://www.warmcompany.com)

## Linda's Zip Couture Bags

Cut out the purse, lining and fleece following instructions in Linda's book. Place the Warm Company Fusible Fleece on the wrong side of the purse fabric and place a press cloth over the top and fuse in place using steam. Linda had an example with fabric and fleece but with muslin on the back of the fleece. You can fuse another layer of fabric to the wrong side of the fabric/front/fleece with Steam A Seam 2. Simply place Steam A Seam 2 on the wrong side of the lining and fuse it to the back of the fleece. Linda wanted a pretty lining so she fused fabric to the back of the quilted fabric.

Once Linda had the Warm Company Fusible Fleece on the back of the purse fabric, she placed the lining wrong side down on the fleece and threaded her Huskylock serger for 4 thread serging and stitched around edges of the bag. This quick way of lining means the bag is lined before the bag is constructed. Often Linda likes to quilt her fabrics on a studio quilting frame for unique original looks.



Linda demonstrated how to take two separating zippers of different colors, unzip them and then zip the side of one color onto a different color to create a two different color of zipper for added design detail.

Because the zippers are usually longer than the bag opening, there will be pieces of zipper cut off after the zipper is inserted. Linda's tip is to save all leftover pieces of zipper to use as trims, especially around the pockets. They are stitched on in the same way you stitch piping to an edge. Stitch the zipper to the pocket edge first with the teeth to the inside. Linda often combines two colors of zipper together as “zipper piping” stitching one next to the other before turning to the wrong side.



Once the “zipper piping” is stitched to the edge of the pocket, press the seam allowance to the wrong side and place a strip of 1/4” wide Steam-A-Seam 2 on the seam allowance. Remove the paper from the Steam-A-Seam 2 strip and fuse the pocket to fuse onto the bag. This will hold the pocket in place for topstitching. Be sure to place the pocket high enough on the bag front so that it will not end up in the bottom of the bag.

Put in an Inspira size 90 Denim Needle and thread with sewing thread top and bobbin. Snap on the Edge/Joining Foot, select straight stitch and adjust the needle position to stitch near the edge of the pocket. Topstitch the pocket to the bag.

Linda often uses piping for finishing edges and in seams for design detail.



When plaid or striped fabric strips are cut on the bias, the bias strips lend a nice accent. Once the strips of fabric are cut, snap on the piping foot with a groove on the underside that is approximately the size of your cord. Wrap the fabric around the cord and stitch with center needle position to cover the cord and create piping. The Warm Windows cording comes in a 1mm and 2mm size and works well for bags.



Linda showed a great technique to eliminate the bulk at the top of the pocket or the top of the bag where the piping ends. Stitch the piping onto the bag then at each end pull the cord out of the piping and trim the cord so that there is no cord in the last 1/2" or so. This makes it easy to turn the ends of the piping under for finishing without bulk.

Another great technique for bag handles is to purchase web belting and stitch a strip of the bag fabric to the web for a sturdy coordinating bag handle. Linda cut the fabric 2" wide and used a new tool that automatically turns the edges of the fabric as it feeds through the tool. A bias binder is attached to the tool and feeds the fabric with the edges under as it is pulled across a heated surface that presses the raw edges of the strip to the wrong side. Simply place a strip of the 1/2" wide paper backed Steam-A-Seam 2 on the wrong side of the fabric strip. Press with a dry iron, remove paper and fuse the fabric strip to the webbing. Then snap on your Edge Stitching Foot to topstitch it to the webbing along the edges.



Linda brought instructions for her Basic Clutch Bag for America Sews viewers. Linda includes complete instructions for several sizes of this bag and many technique tips for making it in her Zip Couture Bags book.

## Linda's Basic Clutch Bag

### Sewing Supplies:

- Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machine
- Husqvarna Viking Huskylock Serger
- Double-faced quilted fabric approximately 14"x 18"
- Coordinating Bias Fabric 3" x 30"
- 14" separating zipper
- Inspira size 90 Denim Needle
- Sewing Thread
- Husqvarna Viking Clear Piping Foot #413097145
- Colored zipper at least 14" long

1. Serge all four sides of the double-faced quilted fabric, preferably with a 4 thread machine. Determine the lining side and outside of fabric.

2. With wrong side of zipper placed on right side of lining, position zipper along the 14" edge with the retainer box 3/4 inch from cut edge of side seam. The zipper should end or curve off into the seam allowance at this same distance on the opposite side seam. The zipper tape should line up at 1/4 inch from the top, the edge of serging. Using stitch length of 3, stitch on edge of zipper tape.

**Tip**—Use the needle in the center or slight left position so that the presser foot aligns with zipper teeth. The needle position depends upon the width of zipper tape.

3. Repeat this instruction for the other edge of the zipper so that the fabric forms a tube with the zipper as the seam.

### Make the Square Bottom

1. Fold fabric in half, right sides together so that the zipper edges are matching. Mark fold line at the bottom of the bag with a pin. Place a pin 1 inch away from the fold on each side of the center bottom.

2. Tuck fold into side seam to form the square bottom. This is similar to an inverted pleat. Beginning at the bottom, stitch from this double fold to the top zipper serged edge of the bag using a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch seam allowance. This slightly wider seam allowance insures that the serged edge does not show on the outside of the bag. Repeat this same stitching on the other side of the bag.

Tip—It is acceptable to make the tuck larger or smaller depending upon the size of the bag and the desired width for the bottom of the bag. The bottom of the bag becomes twice the width of this measurement. A 1 inch tuck makes a 2 inch bottom. A  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch tuck makes a 3 inch bottom.

### Attach the Bias Binding

1. Measure the opening of the bag from one seam to the other seam. Double this amount to determine the opening size. Cut a 3" wide strip of bias binding this length—it includes the seam allowance. Stitch the ends to form a cylinder. Fold binding in half lengthwise, cut edge to cut edge, wrong sides together and press.

2. Divide the binding cylinder into fourths. Match these quarter marks of the binding to the quarter marks of the bag with the binding on the outside of the bag. Stitch these together at  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch so that the first zipper stitching is covered by the binding.

3. Pull the binding towards the inside and fold it over the cut edges to encase the cut edges. Stitch in the ditch, edgestitch, or hand stitch to hold the binding in place.

[www.ghees.com](http://www.ghees.com)

Thanks to our Underwriter:



## 2904 Quick Project Fabulous Fabric Tray with Lynne Brown

Lynne Brown from Coats and Clark joined Sue to demonstrate how to make fabric trays or baskets. They are easy to make and a great way to use up extra pieces of fabric.



Sue Hausmann and Lynne Brown

### Sewing Supplies:

- Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machine
- Coats and Clark Multi-Color All Purpose Thread
- Coats and Clark Metallic Thread
- Husqvarna Viking Edge Stitching Foot
- Fun Fabric—2 different colors or prints one for inside and one for outside
- Warm Fusible Fleece
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ "- $3\frac{3}{8}$ " wide Grosgrain Ribbon
- Ruler
- Fabric Marking Pen

1. Determine the length and width of the base of your tray then add 4 1/2" to both the length and the width for sides that will be 2" high and a 1/4" seam allowance. Cut that size square or rectangle of two fabrics and the fusible fleece.
2. Select fun fabrics and Coats and Clark All Purpose Multi-Color Thread or Metallic Thread and Grosgrain Ribbon in colors to coordinate with your fabric. A home decorator weight fabric works well, and two coordinating prints make the inside and outside different. Fuse fleece to the wrong side of one piece.
3. Use Coats and Clark All Purpose Thread to wind a matching or contrasting bobbin thread. You want to use a coordinating color bobbin thread because your stitching will show on both sides.
4. Cut pieces of ribbon –2 for each direction cutting each piece 12" longer than the square or rectangle so you have ends to tie to form the shape of the tray.
5. Pin the fabric squares or rectangles pieces right sides together. Snap on the Edge Stitching Foot and select a center needle straight stitch A2 to sew all the way around leaving an opening to turn the piece right side out. Lynn uses Coats and Clark Multi-Color All Purpose

- Thread for this construction step as well as for the next step, the decorative stitching.
6. Sew, turn the piece right side out, press then snap on your Edge Stitching Foot, select a right needle straight stitch A3 and topstitch around the edge with the flange/ guide on the foot at the edge of the fabric.
  7. Use your fabric marking pen to mark a line 2" in from each outer edge.
  8. Pin the ribbon along the marked lines leaving 6" extending at each edge.
  9. Snap on your Clear B Foot and select a favorite decorative stitch. It is fun to select a decorative stitch that compliments or mimics the design in your fabric. Use Coats and Clark Multi-Color All Purpose Thread on the top and the bobbin or for even more decorative options, thread with Coats and Clark Metallic Thread to stitch the ribbon to the square/rectangle through all thicknesses.
  10. Bring the ribbons together and tie into a bow at the corners to form the tray shape. Make these insulated trays to fit your rectangular and square casserole dishes for a beautiful table setting or a wonderful hostess gift.



Thanks to the Underwriter  
of our Quick Project:



Coats & Clark

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