

# we all *sew*

made to create **BERNINA**<sup>®</sup>



*created by Stacy Schlyer*

## Billboard Messenger Bag

### materials and tools

- Recycled billboard material (or 1½ yards of sturdy fabric)
- 1¾ yards of fabric for lining
- 1½ yards of 1½"-wide webbing
- Two 1½" D-rings
- Coordinating threads
- Scissors and/or rotary cutter & mat
- Water-soluble marking pen or tailor's chalk
- Ruler

Looking for a sturdy way to tote your books around town? This messenger bag fits the bill! It's roomy enough to hold your belongings, even when you're carrying a heavy load. The secret? Recycled billboard material!



### step one

Cut the following from the billboard material:

- Three 16" x 19" rectangles (bag front, back, and flap\*)
- Two 4" x 16" rectangles (bag sides)
- One 4" x 19" rectangle (bag bottom)
- Two 6" x 8" rectangles (tabs)

Cut the following from the lining fabric:

- Four 16" x 19" rectangles (bag front, back, flap\*, and pocket)
- Two 4" x 16" rectangles (bag sides)
- One 4" x 19" rectangle (bag bottom)

\*If desired, create a curved flap edge by tracing around a lid or plate on the two corners of the long edge of the flap piece.



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### tips for sewing billboard material

- Use a large sewing machine needle to help keep your needles from breaking. Those for denim or leather work best.
- Increase your stitch length. If the stitches are too small they will shred the material.
- Do not iron directly on the billboard material, as it will melt. It's best to either finger press or use a press cloth and the synthetic setting on your iron.
- If you find that the material doesn't move easily through your sewing machine, try using a presser foot with a non-stick coating.
- Pinning through the billboard material leaves permanent holes — use binder or paper clips instead. If pinning is necessary, be sure to keep the pins within the seam allowances.

### step two

With wrong sides together, fold one 16" x 19" lining rectangle in half to create an 8" x 19" rectangle. Press. Edgestitch  $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the finished, pressed edge.



### step three

Place the folded rectangle along the bottom edge of one lining piece, right sides together. Baste along the raw edges.



### step four

Fold the lining in half lengthwise; find the center and make a crease. Stitch along this crease, creating two divided pocket sections. Set the lining piece with the pocket aside.



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### step five

With short ends together, stitch the side lining sections to each end of the bottom lining strip.

Starting with the upper corner, sew side strip to one lining panel, pivoting at the corners. To pivot: stitch until you reach the seam of the side strip, move the needle down into the fabric, lift presser foot, and turn the strip. Lower the presser foot and continue sewing.

Clip the corners.

### step six

Repeat steps two through six for the second 16" x 19" lining panel.



### step seven

Repeat steps five and six for the exterior panels, side, and bottom strips.

Since the billboard material is quite a bit thicker than cotton fabric. You may find it necessary to clip the material at the seam edges when attaching the sides to the main panels. To do this, when it is time to pivot, keep the needle down, lift up the presser foot, clip the panel at a 45° angle to the needle, then turn the panel and side/bottom strip and continue sewing.



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### step eight

To create the bag flap, place the lining and exterior flap pieces right sides together, then sew around the three sides of the panels.

Trim the seam allowances to reduce bulk.



### step nine

Turn the flap right side out and press. If desired, topstitch around the three finished edges of the flap panel.



### step ten

With exterior fabrics right sides together, baste the flap to the back side of the messenger bag.

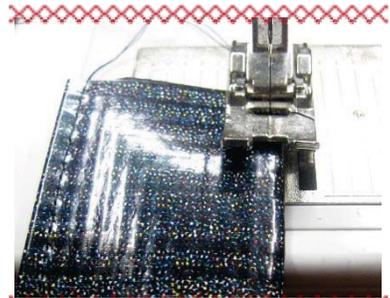


### step eleven

Fold one tab rectangle in half lengthwise. Open up the fold and bring the raw edges in to the center to meet the fold. Fold again, creating a rectangle with two finished edges.

Edgestitch along each long side of the tab.

Repeat for the second tab rectangle.



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### step twelve

Slip a D-ring through one tab and fold the tab in half. Center the tab on the exterior side panel, matching the raw edges, and baste it in place.

Repeat for the second tab.



### step thirteen

Insert the bag exterior into the bag lining, right sides together, matching the seams and raw edges.

Stitch around the bag, leaving a 6"-wide opening for turning. (If using sturdy fabric rather than billboard material, the opening doesn't need to be this large.)



### step fourteen

Pull the bag right side out through the opening. Press.

Edgestitch around the bag, making sure to keep the flap and tabs away from the stitching. The edgestitching will close the opening in the lining and bag.



### step fifteen

Insert the webbing through the D-ring. Fold back 1" and stitch in place.

Repeat for the second D-ring.

