



**BUSTLE & SEW**  
LOVE TO SEW AND SEW WITH LOVE



## *Mother's Dorothy Bag*

I was delighted to be asked to take part in Susie Watson's series of Mother's Day Makes, and sent some of their lovely fabric to play with. This bag is the result.



# Mother's Dorothy Bag

I'm not entirely certain where the term "Dorothy Bag" originated, but I have always loved the rounded plumpness of these little drawstring bags.

This version, created with Susie Watson fabrics, features an embroidered applique love heart and cute little pompom trim around the top. It would make a great Mothers Day gift - or why not make two and keep one for yourself?

Finished bag has 5 ½" diameter base and measures 8 ½" tall (approx)

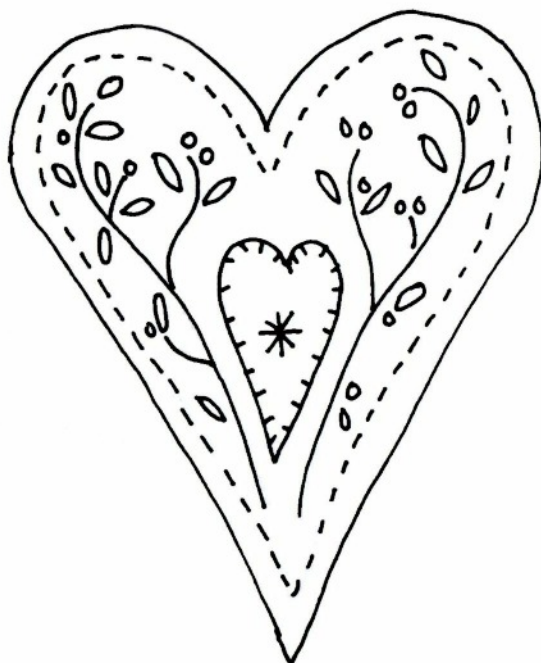


## Materials

- 1 FQ or less of main body fabric
- 1 FQ or less of lining fabric
- 10 cm square striped fabric for bottom heart
- 10 cm square plain fabric for main heart
- Stranded cotton embroidery floss in a light colour
- 50 cm pompom trim (optional)
- 1 m 30 cm cream or white thin cord or ribbon
- Temporary fabric marker pen
- Pinking shears (optional but nice)

*Note: Seam allowance is 1 cm throughout*





## Method

- Transfer the heart design above to the centre of your 10 cm square of plain fabric. Embroider using two strands of your light coloured floss. The centre heart is worked in blanket stitch, the stems in stem stitch, leaves in straight stitch and buds in French knots. The design is surrounded by a running stitch heart.
- When your embroidery is complete press lightly on the reverse being careful not to flatten your stitches, then cut out the heart shape along the outer solid line. Pinking shears give a nice effect and help prevent fraying if you have them.
- Now, using the heart template as a guide, cut out a second heart from the striped fabric. Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  cm all the way round so your stripey heart is just a little larger than your embroidered heart.
- From exterior fabric cut a rectangle of material 43 cm x 22 cm and a circle 15 cm in diameter. (Note as I was using Susie's linen mix for the bag exterior I decided to use her firmer cotton fabric for the base as the linen distorted quite easily and I was worried about stretching my circular base out of shape as I stitched)
- From lining fabric cut a rectangle of fabric 43 cm x 23 cm and a circle 15 cm in diameter.
- Fold your exterior rectangle in half widthways and press with your fingers to mark the centre point. Position your stripey heart on this centre line with the bottom tip of the heart 4 cm up from the bottom edge of the fabric. Place your embroidered heart on top of the stripey heart and pin or tack in place. Machine stitch around the edges of both hearts to secure them to the main fabric (1)
- With your temporary fabric marker pen draw two parallel lines 1 cm apart and the top one 5 cm down from the top edge of the exterior fabric. Mark positions of buttonholes for the cord - 4" either side of the centre of your fabric. (2)
- Stitch buttonholes - you may want to reinforce with a small piece of fabric or interfacing behind your exterior fabric before you stitch - I did this as my fabric was quite loosely woven and I was a bit worried that otherwise it might easily tear. Cut buttonholes open when stitching is complete.
- If using pompom trim stitch into place around top edge of exterior fabric with the pompoms

1



2



3



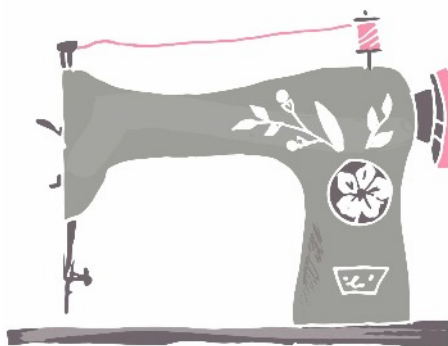
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facing downwards. Stitch as close as possible to the actual edge of the fabric. (3)

- Join two short edges of exterior fabric. Pin base into place and stitch. Use plenty of pins - or even tack - the circle may otherwise stretch and/or distort as you sew. Clip fabric around curves (4)
- Turn 1 cm fabric to the inside around the top so the bobbles are now facing upwards and press.
- Assemble the interior in the same way.
- Press all seams. Place your interior inside exterior with wrong sides together. (4) Because you cut the interior 1 cm taller than the exterior you'll see a nice border of stripey fabric behind your pompoms.
- Pin or tack, then topstitch around top edge to hold lining in place (if you want your bag to have a firm base you could insert a cardboard or plastic circle between bag exterior and lining before you topstitch the pieces together).

- Machine stitch all the way around the bag along the two parallel lines you drew earlier, through both layers to form the channel for the cord.
- Erase marker lines.
- Cut cord into two equal halves and thread through channel, starting and finish
- Trim the cord to desired length, knot and fray the ends to form a tassel.
- Your bag is now finished.





# BUSTLE & SEW

LOVE TO SEW AND SEW WITH LOVE

Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you can keep up to date with all the latest news from Devon where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).



**PS** If you love stitching, then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's delivered by email to your in-box each month and is crammed full of ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more to inspire you. Your family and friends will soon be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations. To learn more please visit the [Bustle & Sew website](#).

*Helen xx*



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