

An Unlined Version

I recommend lining the bag, if possible. It takes very little additional fabric, makes the bag stronger, and gives it a much more finished look inside and out. If you simply must make an unlined bag, however, here's the procedure.

Lay one body piece right-side up. Position the ends of your strap three-quarters of an inch from either end of the top edge of that piece. Put the flap, right-side down, on top of that, so that the edges of all three are aligned. Pin the pieces together, through all layers, and then stitch along the common edge, leaving a half-inch seam allowance, starting half an inch from one side of the flap and stopping half an inch from the other.

Run the fabric through the machine again, adding a second row of stitches just to the edge-side of the first. Trim the seam allowances of the body piece and the ends of the strap down to a third of their original depth. Fold the edge of the seam allowance on the flap down to meet the others, and press. Fold the flap seam allowance down again, so all raw edges are enclosed, and stitch through all three layers just above the first fold. (Hand-stitch here, if you don't want any machine stitching to show.) Press the seam allowances down, toward the body piece.

Place the two body pieces wrong-sides-together and pin. Stitch down one side, across the bottom, and up the other side, leaving a quarter-inch seam allowance. Take care not to stitch into the strap or flap. Clip the corners and trim the seam allowances as close to the stitches as you can get without cutting into them. Turn the bag wrong-side-out and press the seams flat. Stitch the body pieces together again, down one side, across the bottom, and up the other side, leaving a quarter-inch seam allowance. Take care not to stitch into the strap or flap. Turn the bag right-side-out and press the seams flat.

Fold the edges of the flap in (wrong sides together) by a quarter inch, press, and fold them in again by the same amount. The zig-zagged edges should be completely enclosed. Use an invisible hem stitch to secure the fold.

Add tassels or pom-poms, if you like, using the images from the Maceijowski bible as a placement guide.

