

# Bag Making

BY JANE H. HILLMAN

**B**AG making seems so difficult to most people. Many are able to embroider or weave beautiful bag materials, but few are able to make bags up properly. There are several general rules to follow that I think will be helpful.

First, I think nearly every bag needs an interlining, and some need two, besides the lining itself. The exception might be in a large knitting bag that one would like soft and crushable, and filled onto the top. Yet, I have sometimes interlined these if the outer material is soft or thin. It is surprising how much an interlining improves every bag. It gives it body and holds its shape so much better when in use.

The second thing to consider is an appropriate top and then to decide on the shape. Be sure to give the bag a good, balanced line and not have it too deep or too shallow. It is a good plan to cut a piece of unbleached muslin and try out the size first. This can afterwards be used for the interlining. When you are sure of size and shape cut the material and sew up the side seams.

Now comes the important part in bag making, the part which gives it that tailored look. Separate the seams and turn back against body of bag (as in Figure 1) and lightly blind-stitch or cat-stitch into place. Then press well. A sleeve board is excellent for this. Do not pull stitches too tight as they will show through after pressing. Turn down top and baste to desired shape. Next, cut the interlining  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch smaller than space to be covered and cat-stitch to edge of turned back side seams (Figure 2). By sewing to edge of seam you will leave a smooth side seam. You will have to

pull the interlining over to meet the seam edge, but when the bag is turned you will see how nicely this fits. The lining is also cut  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch smaller and sewed to side seam with a running stitch just enough to hold in place.

Now turn bag right side out and pin through linings along bottom, using small lace pins about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch long. These are very satisfactory to use as they do not leave marks. Put pins up sides and through center and pull lining up snugly so that there are no wrinkles, and finish top. Don't forget to put a pocket in every bag and add a small white kid or gold or silver envelope purse, which can be purchased for 10 cents and which adds much to the appearance and saleability of the bag.

The bag requiring two interlinings is the envelope type or one with a zipper top. This type bag should be stiffened first with a canvas-like material that has an adhesive side that can be pressed to wrong side of the material with a hot iron. This makes a lovely firm foundation. I like to put a thin interlining between this and the silk lining. Unbleached muslin makes an excellent interlining. You can get several grades, and it is very inexpensive. Some bags with metal tops are hard to line, but a curved surgical needle will help to make your stitches invisible.

Use a good quality of material for your lining. Only a small amount is required so why not have it pretty and of good quality. Rayon taffeta is firm and a very satisfactory material for linings. It comes 39 inches wide and cuts to good advantage.

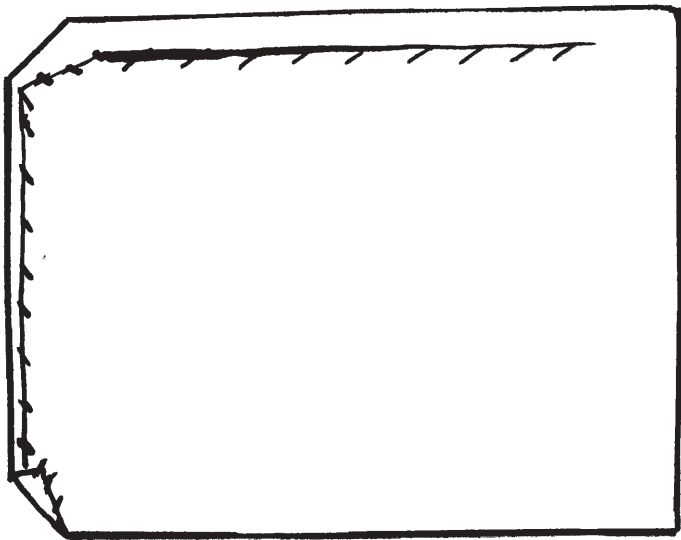


FIGURE 1

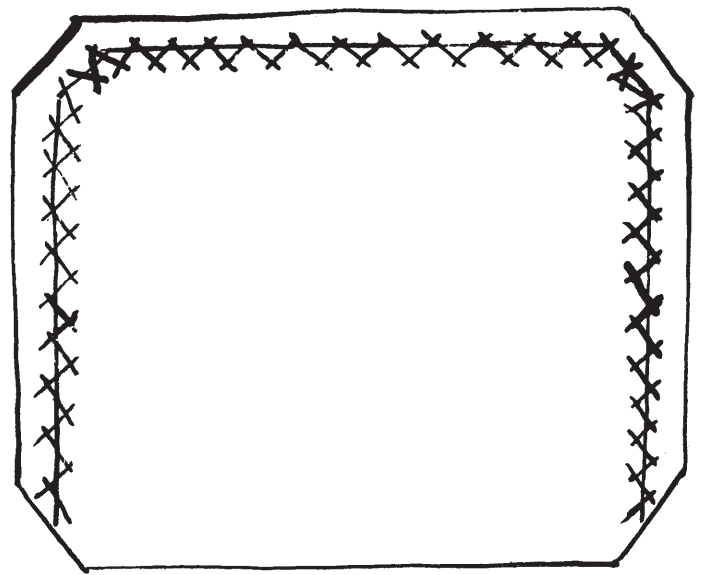


FIGURE 2