

Sew Young, Sew Fun Kids Club

Sew You, Sew Fun Backpack

by Marie Duncan, Education Creative Coordinator

Be you, be one of a kind! Let's design your own backpack! Start by picking out your favorite fabrics! For the back pack itself, it needs to be a sturdy fabric like corduroy or denim. For the pockets, you can use any fun cotton fabrics you like! We used the Sew You, Sew Fun fabrics from RJR to coordinate with the corduroy. They are part of a collection designed to be used together, so coordinating the fabrics was easy!

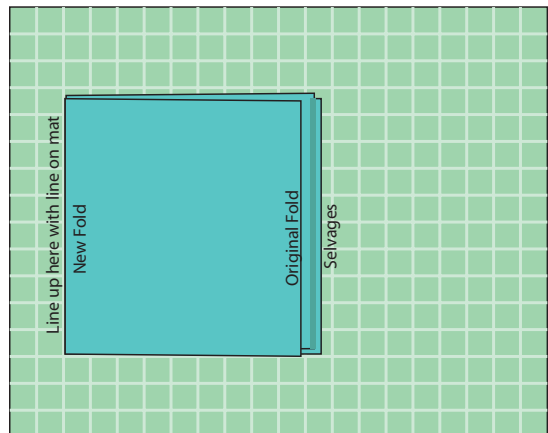
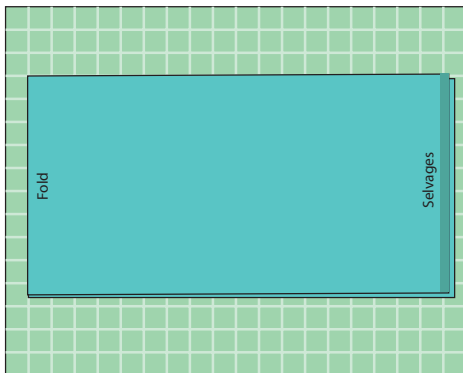
Sewing Supplies:

- 1/2 yard Cotton Corduroy
- 1/2 yard Striped Cotton for Lining
- 1/3 yard Each of Two Coordinating Prints for Pocket
- Rotary Cutting Mat, Cutter and Board
- Sewing Thread
- 1/4" wide Steam-A-Seam
- One 2" and One 3" strips of Velcro
- One Sheet Steam-A-Seam 2
- Approximately 5 buttons (one for each free form flower)
- One Package Strap Adjusters

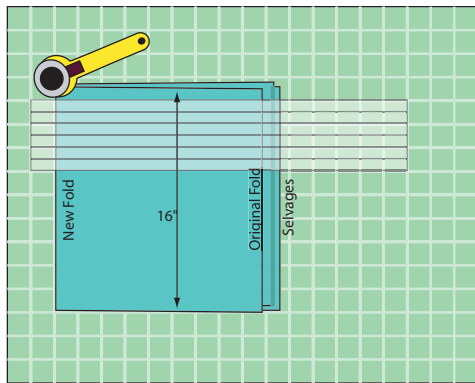


Cut:

1. Cut the corduroy and the striped lining fabric into pieces 16" x 40". Right now, your fabric is 18" x approximately 44". The easiest way to cut it is to put it on your cutting mat folded the way it comes off the bolt.
2. Fold the fabric again, bringing the fold to the selvages. You now have four layers. Line up the fold along one of the lines on your cutting mat.



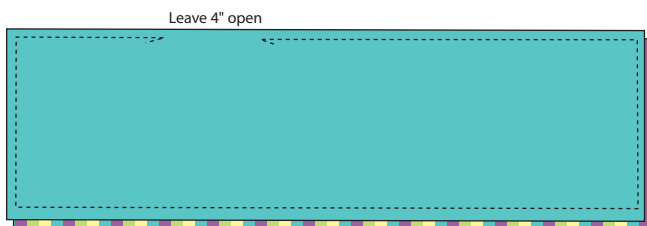
- Place your ruler with one edge along the lines on the board, and cut off the fabric along the ruler. Then repeat for the other edge so the piece measures 16".



- Then unfold the fabric and cut off the selvages so the piece is 16" x 40".
- Repeat the same steps for the 1/2 yard of lining fabric.
- Cut pocket pieces from the coordinating prints. From each fabric, cut one piece 10" x 7" and one for the flap 10" x 4".

Sew:

- Select Straight Stitch. Place the corduroy and lining right sides together, and sew all the way around leaving a 5" opening. Line up the edge of the fabric with the edge of the foot. Your seam allowance will be about 3/8". For this project, it doesn't have to be exact. Be sure to back tack when you start and when you finish. We are going to turn our piece right side out through the opening.



- Trim the corners diagonally, close to the stitching. Turn right side out and press.

Make the Pockets:

- Place the pocket pieces right sides together. Sew around them as you did before, leaving a 4" opening to turn. Repeat for the smaller flap pieces.

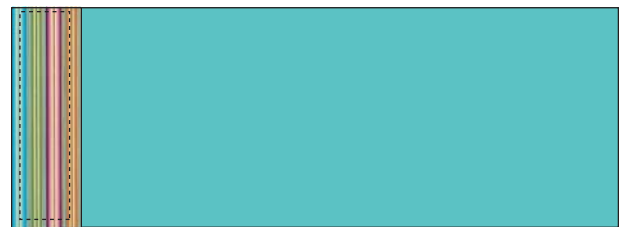
- Trim the corners, and turn the pocket and flap right side out. Press.



- Steam-A-Seam is a paper backed fusible web. It comes in sheets or in narrow rolls. To close our openings, we want to use the 1/4" wide Steam-A-Seam. Cut a strip the same size as the opening. At the ironing board, place the strip inside the opening with the paper side up. Press lightly with a dry iron (no steam). Remove the paper. Put the two fabric edges together, and press with steam. The opening is now fused closed. Repeat on the bag piece, the pocket and the flap.

Finish the Back Pack:

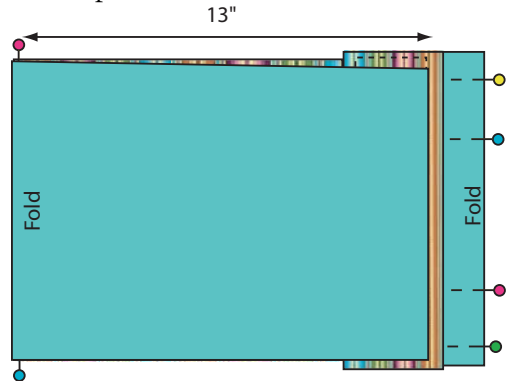
- On one end of your bag, fold the print lining to



the corduroy side 3". Stitch around the print as shown.

- This is the flap. Fold it over 6" towards the lining and pin.

- Fold up the other end 13".
- Place a pin at each end of the fold at the

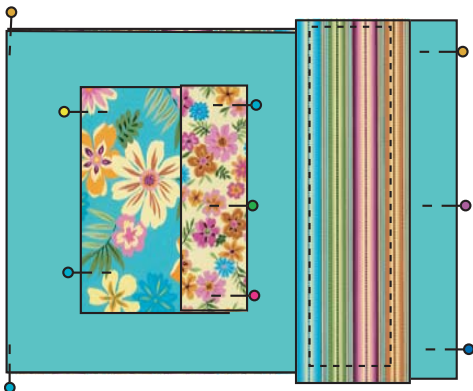


bottom.

- Stitch one piece of the 2" long Velcro on the wrong side of the flap and the other piece on the right side of the pocket. Place the flap and the pocket so that they overlap about 2 1/2", and mark the placement of the Velcro.



- Then sew on the Velcro. We used one print for the outside of the pocket and the other print for the outside of the flap. You could have them match if you would like to.
- Bring the flap to the outside of your backpack. Place your pocket on your backpack, centered from side to side and top to bottom as shown. Pin through the top layer only.

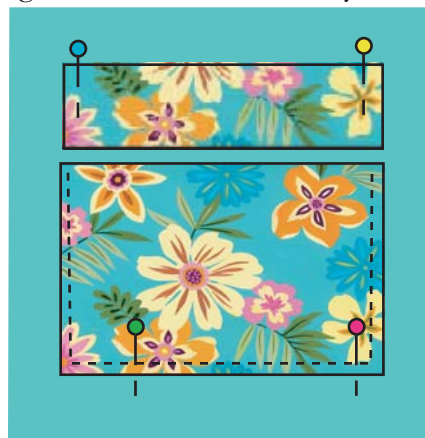


- Open out the backpack, and stitch the top of the pocket flap to the corduroy piece. Be sure you



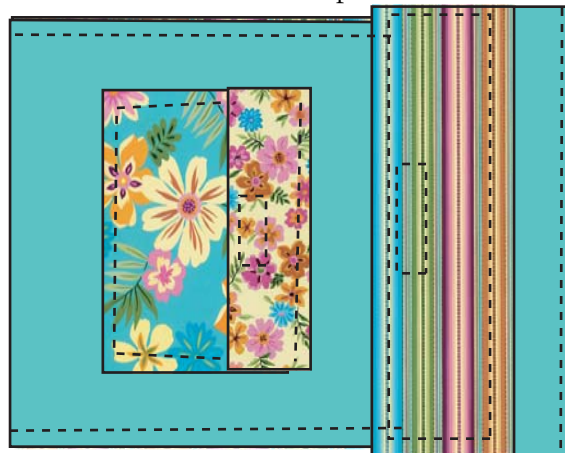
aren't stitching through the pocket itself.

- Fold the pocket flap up, and pin it out of the way. Stitch the sides and bottom of the pocket being sure to back tack securely at the top of the



pocket.

- Stitch Velcro to the upper flap of the back pack the same way you did to the pocket.
- With the lining sides together, stitch the side seams and across the top as shown.



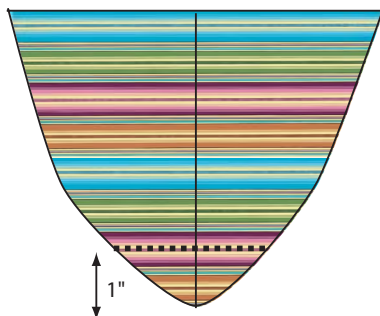


Decorate:

1. Now, let's decorate! Choose a print with large flowers. Using your sheet of Steam-A-Seam 2, remove the paper backing from one side. That will reveal a sticky surface. Stick it to the wrong side of the flower fabric. Press with a dry (no steam) iron.
2. Remove the remaining paper. Select a smaller print and stick the wrong side of the smaller print onto the sticky surface. Press with steam. What you just did was to make a "stiffer" double sided fabric, perfect to cut free form flowers from. Cut out some of the flowers.
3. Pin them in place on your backpack. We put a couple over each spot where we had sewn on the Velcro.
4. Place a button in the middle of the flower. Look in your Users Guide to find out how to sew on the button. Sew a button in the center of each flower.

Square the Bottom:

1. To square the bottom of your backpack, you need to turn it inside out.
2. Match the side seam to the bottom, and it will form a triangle. Measure up 1" and sew across as shown.



3. Turn your backpack right side out.

Attach the Straps:

1. To keep the ends of the straps from fraying, either run the end of the webbing through the flame on a candle, if it is synthetic like polyester, or zig zag over the ends. Cut the 2 yard piece in half. Cut a 6" piece off each of the 1 yard pieces. This will give you two 6" pieces and two 30" pieces. Finish all the ends.
2. Pin one end of each 30" strap in the center of the back of the backpack as shown. Stitch them in place, going over the lines where you topstitched. Stitch with a small zig zag stitch, going back and forth over it several times so it will be very sturdy.
3. Stitch the short ends on the bottom the same way.
4. Slide the strap adjusters on following package instructions, and attach the straps together.

