

How To Line A Crochet Or Knitted Bag

A Sewing Tutorial by Silvi Veale

This is a tutorial to help you make a lining for a crochet or knitted bag which you have made ready to line.

You will be making a double lining with an inside pocket.

You will need:

- 2 Different fabrics – one to display inside the bag and one to face the outside of the bag. Fabric size will depend upon size of bag, but as a rough estimate, half a meter of each fabric should be plenty.
- Dressmaking scissors.
- Pins.
- Sewing needle.
- Sewing thread to match both bag and lining material if possible (if in doubt, and the fabric is light, use white thread).
- Sewing machine, or you may chose to sew the seams by hand.

Notes:

2 fabrics are recommended because you may wish to have a colourful fabric for the lining which you see inside the bag (fabric 1), which will work great, but you also need a lining to face outwards which may be seen a little through the crochet pattern – in this case the more subtle the design of the outer fabric (fabric 2) the better.

Sewing:

If you don't have access to a sewing machine and/or wish to handsew the lining, I recommend using backstitch to stitch the seams (to prevent the thread pulling and bunching the seams). You will all need to handsew the lining to the top of the bag because machine stitching direct to crochet can damage the crochet stitches.

Step 1:

Place completed bag on your chosen lining material, leaving room to have an allowance for seams and hem.

Pin in place.



Step 2:

Cut your first piece of lining (fabric 1) by cutting the material all around the outside of the bag, leaving around 2.5cms (1 inch) for seam allowances.

**Step 3:**

Using your first cut piece of fabric 1 as a pattern template, place it on the same fabric 1, pin it and cut around it, making another piece the same as the first.



Step 4:

Now take the same fabric 1 and cut a rectangle shape – this will make the bag's inside 'pocket'. Size depends upon size of the bag. I recommend cutting a piece of around 18cms (7 inches) by 15 cms (6 inches) for a pocket for an average sized shoulder bag.

**Step 5:**

Now we need to prepare the second fabric (fabric 2).

Using again the first piece you cut and used as a pattern template, pin it to the second fabric and cut around to make exactly the same shape piece from fabric 2.



Step 6:

Do this twice so you have 2 bag-sized (+ seam allowance) pieces of the first fabric (fabric 1) and 2 bag-sized (+ seam allowance) pieces of the second fabric (fabric 2) and all pieces are the same size.

**Step 7:**

Now you need to cut the inside facing of the pocket, so place your pocket piece of fabric 1 on the 2nd fabric (fabric 2), pin and cut around to make a piece the same size.

So you will have 2 same-size pieces of fabric for the pocket:

One piece in fabric 1.

One piece in fabric 2.



Step 8:

Take the 2 pieces of 'pocket' and pin them together with right sides facing (so that wrong sides face outwards).

Then, hand or machine sew along **3** of the edges, leaving the 'top' side open.

Cut thread and finish off.

**Step 9:**

Turn 'pocket' through the opening in the top edge so that right sides now face outwards.

Push into the corners so that they are not 'tucked in'.

Iron flat if the material is at all creased.

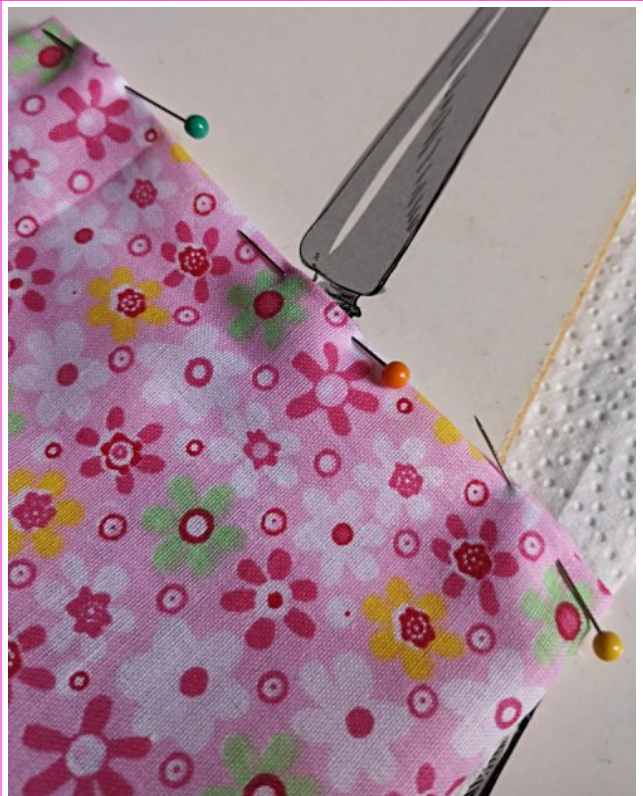


Step 10:

Now you have turned the pocket to right side outwards, you need to close the top edge. Turn the rough edges in by about 1.5 cms on each side of the top edge. This makes 2 folded edges which you then need to pin together. This can be a bit 'fiddly' so you can iron the edges down before you pin if you prefer.

**Step 11:**

Continue to pin all along the top edge until the whole top has rough edges turned inside and the folded edges are completely pinned together.



Step 12:

Machine or hand sew all along the top edge as close as you can get to the edge while catching both sides together.

**Step 13:**

Now pin your 'pocket' to one of the 2 pieces of fabric 2.

Pin pocket to right side of the fabric.
(this will ensure that the pocket will be fixed to the right side of fabric which will be on the inside of the bag when completed).

I recommend having the pocket at least 10cms (4 inches) below the top edge of the *finished* bag and in the centre of the bag. So this will mean that, with seam allowance, you need the pocket about 13 cms (5 inches) down from the top edge.

Place pocket with machined (or handsewn) edge facing towards what will be the top of the bag.

Pin pocket: down right side, along bottom and up left side, leaving the side with the machined/sewn top edge unpinned (this will make the top of the pocket).



Step 14:

Machine or hand sew all around the 3 edges where the pins were placed (leaving the top edge open).

(Picture looks as if the pocket has been sewn all around, but it hasn't been. It looks like this in the picture because the top edge was sewn when both pieces of material were sewn together).

You now have a wide pocket on one of your cut pieces of fabric 1.

**Step 15:**

Next, machine or hand sew a line down the pocket about one third of the way in from the left side edge.

This makes a pocket with one small compartment and one larger compartment.



Step 16:

You are now going to sew the main lining together.

Taking your two pieces of fabric 1, place them with right sides facing (this will mean that one of those sides will have the pocket on the inside).

NOTE:

Make sure that the piece of fabric 1 with pocket attached has the pocket opening facing upwards towards what will be the top edge of the bag.

Pin pieces together down the right edge, along the bottom edge, and up the left edge.

Then sew all around the 3 sides where you have placed the pins (allowing seam allowance of around 1.5 to 2cms).

**Step 17:**

Next, take the 2 ready cut pieces of the fabric 2. Pin them together, around the 3 edges, right sides facing.

Then machine or hand sew all around the three edges as before (down right side, along bottom, up left side), again leaving a seam allowance of around 1.5 to 2cms.



Step 18:

You now have two linings – one in fabric 1 and one in fabric 2.

Leave the lining made with fabric 1 with right sides facing inwards.

Take the lining made with the fabric 2 and turn it so that right sides are facing outwards.

Push at inside corners of fabric 2 lining a little to make sure they are not tucked up.

Press both linings with a warm iron if required.

So to repeat - your 2 linings are as follows:

The inner lining is made with the fabric 1 and has right sides facing inwards.

The outer lining is made with the fabric 2 and has been turned so that right sides face outwards.

**Step 19:**

Place the inner lining (made with fabric 1) inside the outer lining (made with fabric 2).

Match up side seams and push down in bottom corners so that they fit well together.

Both linings should be exactly the same height so top edges will meet.

You should now be able to see the almost finished structure:

Inner lining with pocket showing.

Outer lining which will face outwards.



Step 20:

Pin top edges of the 2 linings together and then hand or machine sew all around, about 1.5 to 2 cms from the top edge.

**Step 21:**

Now place the lining structure inside the bag.

Push the lining down inside so that it fits snugly at the bottom and corners.

Make sure that if you have a different front and back of the bag, that the pocket part of the lining is across the back of the bag.

You may find that the lining appears to be a little wider than the bag. This is okay, because crochet and knitted bags give a little and the lining being a small amount larger means that it won't pull against the bag when the bag is filled with items.

You will also be able to ease the lining a little to fit the bag, so don't worry too much about it :)

Then see how much lining you have left at the top of the bag.

You will need around 3-4cms for the hem (because it will be turned twice).

If you have a little more than that (after ensuring that the lining fits all the way into the bag), you will need to turn it over a little more when hemming.



Step 22:

Now remove lining from the bag and you are ready do the top hem.

Turn the first hem over onto the **outside**. (That means that you will be folding the first hem onto fabric 2).

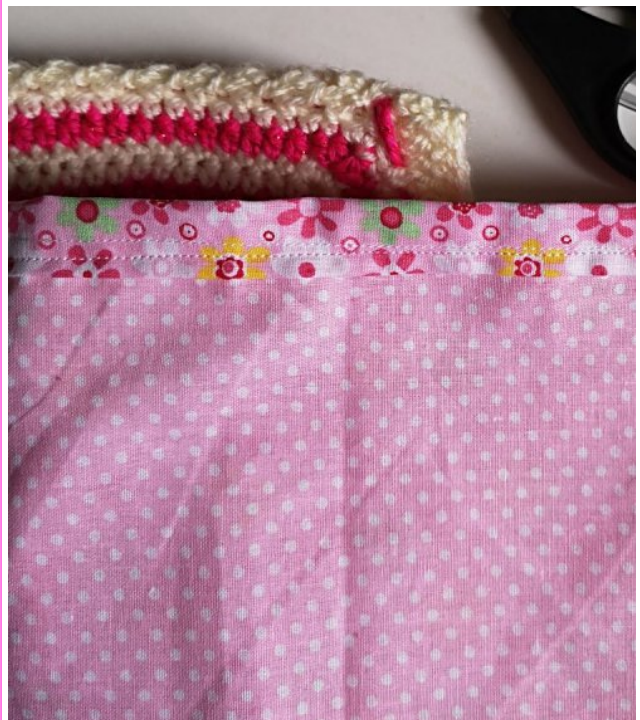
Pin all around and then hand or machine sew about 2cms from the top edge.

**Step 23:**

Fold top hem over on itself again (this will hide the rough edge) and pin.

At this point you may want to try the lining in the bag again, just to make sure that it will fit without an overlap – or isn't too short. Adjust if necessary by folding the hem down a little more or a little less.

Hand or machine sew again all around the hem, about 1.5 cms up from *hem* edge.



Step 24:

Next, place lining back into bag.

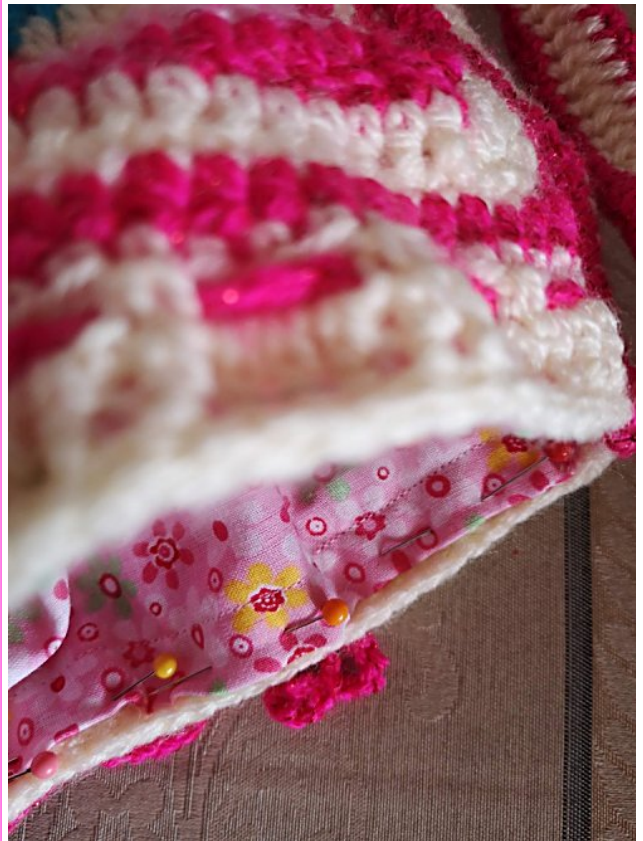
Fabric 1 with right side showing should be facing out into the inner bag.

Pocket should be along the back of the bag.

Fabric 2 right side should be facing outwards and (possibly) a little on view from outside the bag.

Lining should not overlap the top of the bag.

Pin lining on the inside top of the bag all around, just **below** the top edge of the bag.

**Step 25:**

Hand sew the top edge of the lining to the inside top edge of the bag.

You will need to pick up small amounts of yarn from each crochet (or knitted) stitch as you go. But try not to go all the way through the stitches.

Your hand stitching should not show on the outside of the bag.

Use thread which matches bag and lining fabric as much as possible and small stitches and an oversew stitch.



Step 26

You bag now has a lovely double lining and a nice roomy inside pocket.
Well done!



Step 27:

And here's the finished bag!

If you look closely, you can see that the outer lining fabric does show a little through where the crochet pattern has natural gaps, but the lining does not detract from the crochet pattern at all.

NOTES:

The crochet bag in the pictures was made using 2 of my **Flower Star Squares** and adding a couple of extra rows; squares were joined with a flat braid join; chain tie fastening added; plus a shoulder strap and tassels :)

If you like you can find my free **Flower Star Square pattern** here:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/the-flower-star-square>

And projects where I made the bag here:

<https://www.ravelry.com/projects/Silvi3/the-flower-star-square-3>

and here:

<https://www.ravelry.com/projects/Silvi3/the-flower-star-square-2>



This sewing tutorial has been made and tested by me, Silvi Veale. I hope you find it useful.

Please do not claim this tutorial or the pictures within, as your own. But do enjoy using it for all your crochet or knitted bags :)

For help contact me here: <https://www.elephantsundog.co.uk/> or on Ravelry - Silvi3