



# How to Sew a Nappy Bag

Each B4VK Nappy Bag made is sent out to very young children in foster care or emergency accommodation. They are filled with nappies, age and gender appropriate clothing, a cuddle toy and other items. If you would like to help make these bags please follow the instructions below.



These bags need to be durable for their purpose, so use strong utility fabrics, such as canvas, drills or denim. But that doesn't mean they have to be boring! Contrasting cotton fabrics that you may have lying around can be used for the front, inside and bottle pockets.

Now, get ready to sew some gorgeous nappy bags!

# Materials Needed

- \* Durable fabric plain or pattern
- \* Contrasting cotton fabric, plain or pattern for the pockets
- \* Thread
- \* Quilters Wadding or Interfacing for bag straps
- \* Rotary cutter or scissors, ruler, and cutting mat
- \* Pins
- \* Velcro
- \* Zip- 40 cm
- \* Sewing machine
- \*  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam is allowed for seams

## 1. Cutting and Sewing Fabric for the Base of the Bag

Cut 45" x 19.5 " (114.3 cm x 49.5 cm) out of durable fabric and fold in half so it measures 22.5" x 19.5 " (57 cm x 49.5 cm).

Once fabric is cut out sew one of the shortest sides of the fabric together.

Next, lay down your fabric flat and pin the corner 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches (6.35cm) from the point and stitch to make a base for the bag.

2<sup>nd</sup> side is stitched after pockets have been attached.

See photo for example of measurement.



## 2. Cutting and Sewing Fabric for the Bottle Pocket

Cut out from contrast material 5 " × 7 " (12.7 cm × 17.8 cm) for the bottle pocket. Hem across one short end and thread elastic through. Gently gather elastic and stitch ends. Turn under other 3 unhemmed edges to Bottle pocket with the elastic at the top.

## 3. Attaching the Bottle Pocket to the Bag

Stitch pocket to the end side of bag and add a small pleat at the bottom of the pocket so it will make a bottle fit nicely. Backstitch each seam at the top to secure. See photo below for example.



## 4. Cutting and Sewing Fabric for the Front Pocket

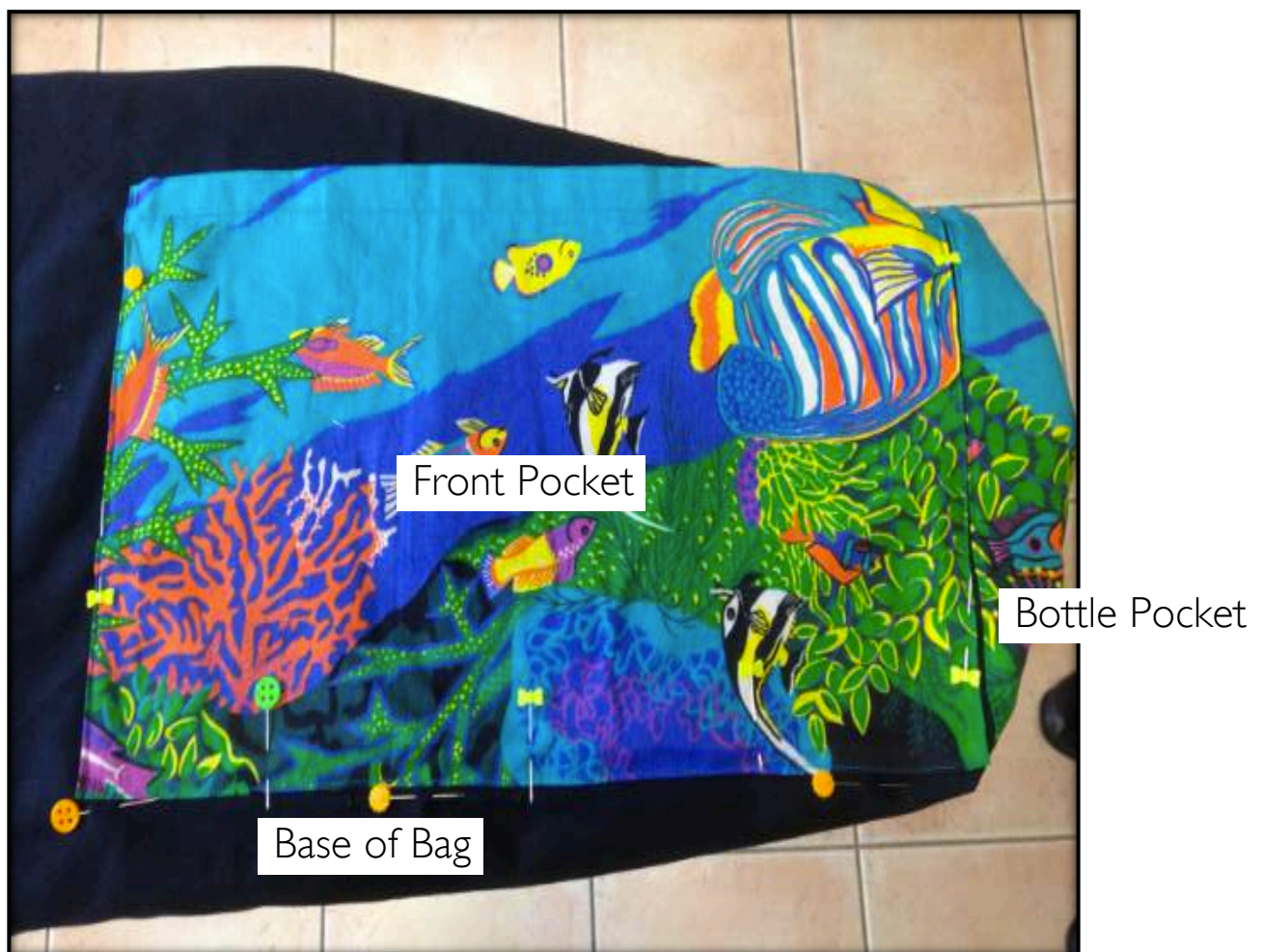
Cut out from contrast material 10 " × 7 " (25.4 cm × 17.78 cm) for the front pocket.

Once fabric is cut out hem top edge of pocket. Add 2 × 1-inch (2.5 cm) pieces of Velcro and space out evenly and stitch down. Attach matching pieces of Velcro to the stitched pieces to attach to bag panel for later.

## 5. Attaching the Front Pocket to the Nappy Bag

To locate the base of the nappy bag layout the panel on to a flat surface, top edge aligning. Fold up bottom edge and this will be the base for the bag, measuring about 5 inches deep.

For ease lay on an ironing board single layer and pin front pocket to base close to the bottle pocket. See photo below.



The base of the front pocket will be inline with the fold. Now attach the reserve pieces of Velcro to the body of the bag. The Velcro gives extra stability to the front pocket, preventing it from sagging.

## 6. Cutting and Sewing Fabric for the Small Inside Pocket for the Nappy Bag

Cut out from contrast material 11 " × 5½ " (29 × 14 cm) for the inside pocket.

Hem one short edge. Fold pocket over one inch down from other top edge and stitch down both sides. Over lock or zigzag for neatness and security. Turn to right side and top stitch leaving top edge not stitched.

Find the centre of the top edge and attach the small inside pocket to the **INSIDE OF THE BAG**.

This will be the **OPPOSITE SIDE** to the front pocket.



## 7. Cutting and Sewing Fabric for the Bag Straps

Cut 32 " × 3 ½ " ( 81 × 9 cm ) out of durable fabric and turn on edge over ¼ " along length of strap.

Fold into 3 and zigzag down length of fabric. If using lightweight fabric cut a strip of quilters wadding or interfacing about one inch wide and position into the middle. Walking foot and longer stitch length is easier to stitch or use 2 rows of straight stitch if you prefer to secure and finish straps.

## 8. Attaching the Bag Straps to the Nappy Bag

Lay your bag out on a flat surface or ironing board.

Pin straps to the **RIGHT SIDE OF BAG** making sure the straps align and attach straps by stitching them to reinforce them to the bag.

See photo for example.

Turn bag inside out.

Tuck handle straps inside main body.



## 9. Making the Zip Panel for the Nappy Bag Pocket

Place one piece of fabric 16 " x 3½" ( 40.5 x 9 cm) right side up.  
Pin a 40 cm zip to one 16-inch side (right side of zip facing right side of fabric)  
Pin and stitch close to teeth of zip using a zipper foot on your machine.  
It is easier to open zip a few inches to start sewing.

When you reach the zip pull area, lift your machine foot and move zip pull past where you are sewing and continue stitching. Turn panel over to the right side and top stitch bag panel.

Repeat with other zip panel (size 16 " x 3 ½ ") The teeth of the zip will be exposed, the same as a handbag would be. Small piece of co-ordinating ribbon can be added to zip pull. This makes it easier to undo.

Take the 2 pieces of zip panel fabric measuring 6 " x 2½ " (15 x 6 cm) each. Stitch each one to each end of zip panel (right sides facing).  
As before turn seam over and top stitch each end. Trim length of panel evenly to measure 17½ " (44.5 cm) in length.  
Now open your zip a few inches. This will be important to turn the nappy bag the right side out after inserting zip panel to nappy bag body.  
See photo below.



NOTE: Contrast thread is used only to show stitching for demonstration purposes. Use thread close to fabric colour for sewing the zip panel.

## 10. Inserting the Zip Panel for the Nappy Bag Pocket

NOTE: Open zip a few inches

Pin from the BAG SIDE as it is easier with the corner seams.

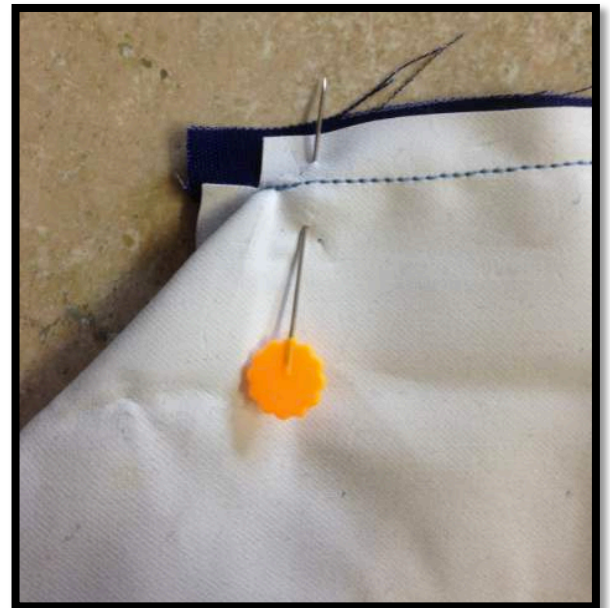
Centre end of zip panel over side seam of bag panel right sides facing. Pin centre and each end of zip panel. Snip about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (half a cm) into BAG PANEL ONLY at each end.

This will allow the bag panel to turn the corner and make a neat seam.

Repeat with other end of bag and zip panel.

Now evenly pin zip panel to rest of bag panel, easing it to fit but still pinning on the bag side.

Over lock or zigzag seam to prevent fraying. See photo below.



Hook your hand into zip area unzip and turn bag to right side and there you have completed a Nappy Bag for B4VK!!



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