

ARTFUL fabric pouches

by Candice Phelan

In the Fall 2023 issue of *QUILTING ARTS MAGAZINE*, Candice shared her method of creating quilted fabric on a longarm machine using colorful scraps of leftover fibers. She provided these serger instructions for turning her unique fabric into charming pouches, suitable for gifting.

The Editorial Team

MATERIALS

- Quilted fabric, 14" x 20"
- Polyester 22" zipper (not nylon or metal)
- Ribbon for tab, 6"
- Seam sealant (I use Dritz® Fray Check™.)

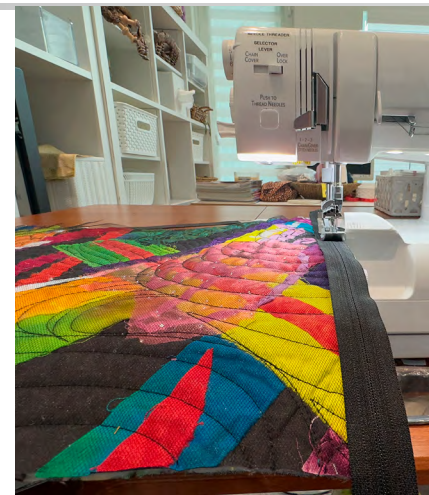


figure 1

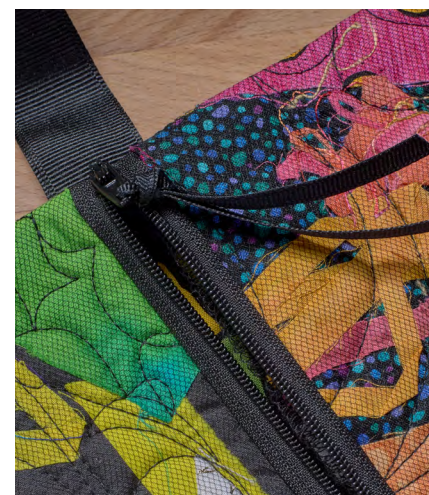


figure 2



figure 3

DIRECTIONS

Make the pouch

This project, a 13" x 10" zippered pouch, is just one of many items you can create with your new fabric. The pouch was inspired by a cosmetic bag design in *READY, SET, SERGE* by Georgie Melot.

NOTE: I used a serger to create my pouch, reflected in the steps below. Serger settings: Piping or cording foot, 3mm stitch length, M or 1/4" stitch width.

1. Cut a 14" x 20" rectangle from your newly created fabric.
2. Right sides together and centered, serge one side of a closed polyester zipper at least 22" long to the 14" side of the rectangle. Don't stitch close to the zipper teeth. (figure 1)
3. Bring the sewn side with the closed zipper to the other 14" side and mark the zipper tape where the fabric lines up.
4. Unzip and serge the zipper and fabric, right sides together, lining up the marks on the zipper tape. The fabric will now be a continuous rectangular 'tube' with the lining side facing out.
5. Flatten the 'tube' so the raw edges are touching; adjust it so the zipper is approximately 3" from the top.
6. To create a tab, pin or tape a folded 6" ribbon loop between the connected end of the zipper (with

the zipper stop) and the right side of the fabric; with the loop facing into the bag and extra ribbon ends extending past the raw edge of the rectangle. (figure 2)

7. Using a shorter stitch length, serge the side of the pouch from top to bottom without cutting any fabric off.

TIP: You can lower a serger's presser foot pressure and serge through lots of layers if you feed the already-cut edge so the knife doesn't have to cut very thick fabric.

8. With the zipper side still facing up, rotate the pouch with the zipper now on the lower side of the pouch and still facing up, and importantly, **move the zipper slide to the middle of the pouch**. Hold or tape the two open ends of the zipper together and serge that side from bottom to top. (figure 3) Use seam sealant to secure the four corner threads and trim, leaving a 1/4" thread tail on each corner.
9. Turn the pouch right-side out, push out the corners, and press with steam. Admire your unique zippered pouch and imagine what else you could make with your own one-of-a-kind fabric.

Whether you incorporate your custom fabric into a pouch or other project, we can't wait to see what you create from your scraps! ✨