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“Sewing a Fabric Tri-Glide for an Adjustable Bag Handle”

Description: This pattern was designed for sewing a Fabric Tri-Glide on an Adjustable Bag Handle. Metal components are usually used to make a bag handle adjust from short to long. In the event a metal Tri-Glide can not be purchased or if metal is not wanted on a bag, this pattern will provide an alternative. The fabric Tri-Glide design also incorporates enough fabric to act like tabs to assist in moving the adjusting handle.



Standard Metal Tri-Glide



Alternative Fabric Tri-Glide

Materials needed:

1—4” X 4” piece outer fabric

1—4” X 4” piece inner stabilizing fabric. The example uses washable felt—(This piece will later be cut down to

3 - 1/4 “ x 1 - 1/2 “)

Matching Thread

Sewing machine

Ironing surface and Iron

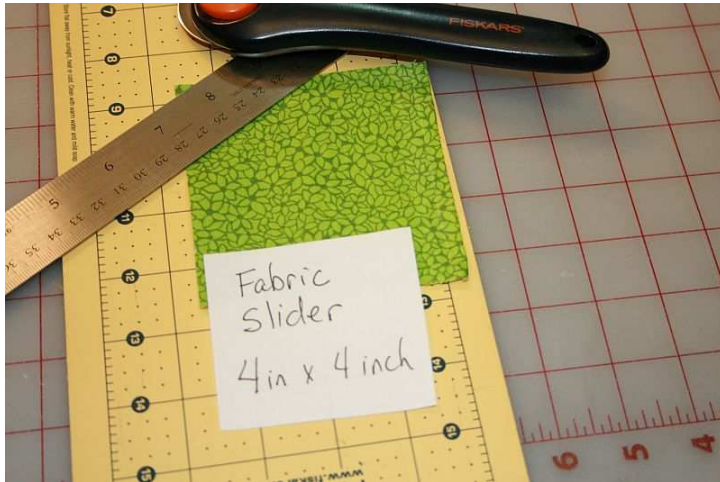
Tape measure or ruler and fabric pencil or pen

Fabric Shears and Small Scissors

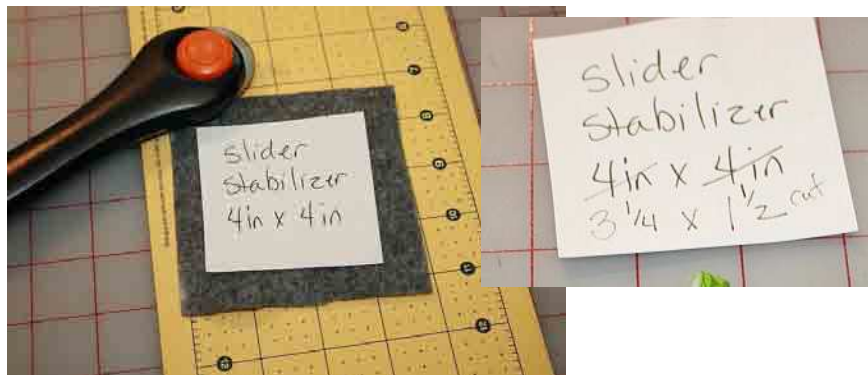
Completed fabric handle, completed bag and additional scraps to make loops to attach to bag project.

NOTE* Our finished fabric handle measures one inch wide. For different sizes adjustments will be needed.*





Wash and dry your fabric per the recommended material settings. Iron it on low. Cut the outer fabric 4 inches by 4 inches. Our finished fabric handle is one inch wide. If you are using a wider handle, you will need to adjust the size of this fabric to accommodate the finished handle sliding into the Tri-Glide



To make cutting easier we started with a 4"x4" piece of stabilizer but later in the project it will be cut down to 3 1/4 inches X 1 1/2 inches.

NOTE* If you are sure of your cutting skills go ahead and cut it down now.

If not wait until that step.*

Take your outer fabric to the ironing board and fold each raw edge inward 1/4 inch. Iron a crisp edge all the way around



Now that you have your outer fabric folded with nice edges, you can see that the stabilizer will need to fit inside right in the middle. Your goal is to have enough room to place the stabilizer and fold over the sides meeting a nice seam in the middle. It should fit precisely. If not you may need to adjust slightly.



Once all adjustments are made, slide the stabilizer fabric inside the folded edges.

Then fold each side toward the center and pin in preparation to sew.

At this point you should be ready to sew the Tri-Glide





Carefully sew along the edge of a “short” side.
Remove pins as you go.

Then sew the other “short” side



Now securely holding the fabric seam and working carefully, sew each middle seam. Your goal is to have the two edges meet in the middle with no gap.



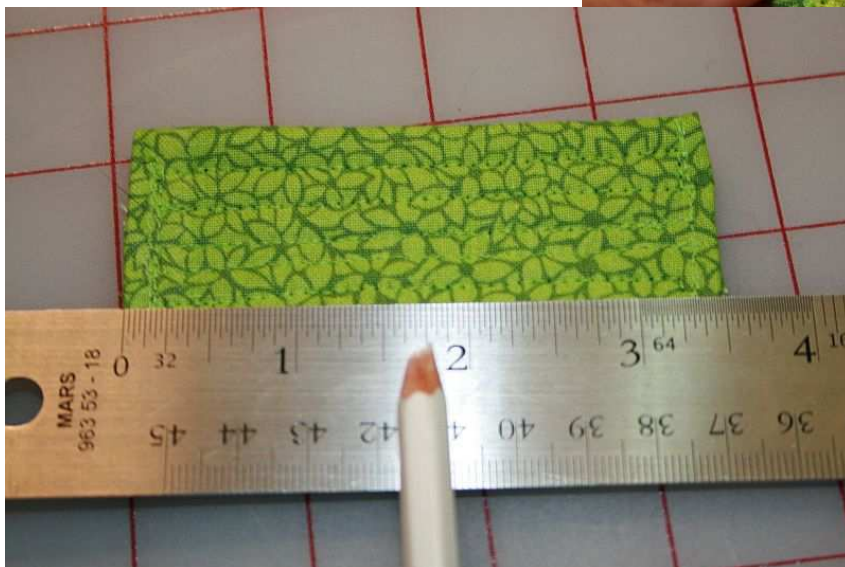
The middle seams are complete.





To give your Tri-Glide the strength and structure it will need vertical seams will be sewn along the entire surface. These can be done every 1/4 inch.

Completed vertical stitches



You are at the point where you will measure the middle of the fabric surface and then the placement of the two entry points where your handle will be. Find the center and place a mark.





Place your two outer marks to show where your seams for the two entry points will be sewn.

To ensure a good fit, lay your fabric handle on top of the Tri-Glide. This will give you an idea of how large the entry points will need to be. Your vertical lines may also help with this as you can use them as a reference point.



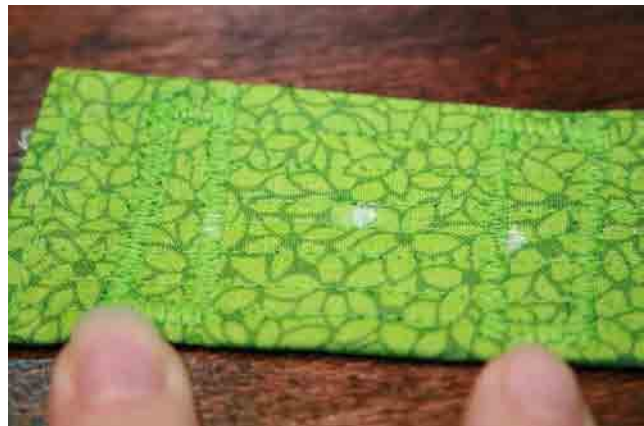
You will set your machine to a Zig Zag stitch. We used a medium width short stitch. This will be just like creating a button hole except it will have a wider center. Using your first mark and your reference point for the length, sew your first side going as far to the other edge as needed.





After sewing the first side stop with your needle in the down position and rotate the fabric. You will sew a short seam, rotate again and continue to create a rectangle.

Both rectangle entry points are sewn



Using the small scissors, cut out the center of the rectangles being careful not to cut into your seams.





Your piece will look something like this. Don't be concerned if there are rough edges showing now. Once your fabric handle is inserted, you will not see them.

Slide your fabric handle into the Tri-Glide to ensure it fits and that it can slide back and forth.



If it is a little tight do not adjust it until you have looped the end around into it a second time. The fabric will stretch slightly.





Fold the fabric handle under one end like the picture and sew a seam. This will be one side of the adjusting handle.

This shows that end folded under and sewn.



Now you will take the free end that is not sewn and loop it back through the Tri-Glide just like the first time in the same direction. In essence you will have "two" layers of fabric going through the entry points.

This shows the two layers of fabric and the free end being pulled through the Tri-Glide





A fully adjustable bag handle

To attach it to your bag, you can create two small fabric loops. This picture shows the free end pulled through the loop and turned under then sewn to attach.



This is the adjustable end where the loop is passed through and sewn to the bag.





Our completed bag with adjustable handle attached.



Fabric Tri-Glide



Enjoy!