



KOALA BAG INSTRUCTIONS



We created a simple, lined box corner bag, and used our 5x7 Large Koala Applique

Finished Size – Height 10 inches/ Width at top 14

Depth 4 inches

I made the Koala Applique first, then made the bag to fit.

You could use just about any Large Animal Design in place of the Koala – [click here to read our blog](#)

ADAPTING BAG SIZE TO SIZE OF ANIMAL APPLIQUE

The 5x7 Koala measures 7.9 by 8.5 inches (8 by 9 inches)
I added 1 inch to the top and bottom, so wanted a bag height of 10 inches, from that I decided on a bottom bag width of 12 inches
As I wanted Boxed corners, I added 2 inches to bottom, and 2 inches each side, plus 1 inch seam allowances

This gave me a cutting size of Height 13 inches/Width 15 inches

You can adapt these instructions for any height/width you require.

MATERIALS

½ inch seam allowances used unless stated

Bag Front and Back	1 piece each 13 by 15 inches
Lining Front and Back	1 piece each 13 by 15 inches
Pellon/Batting/Wadding ** optional	Two 20 by 5 inch pieces
Handles **	Two 20 by 5 inch pieces
Felt/non-fraying Fabric for Bag Flap	1 piece 9 by 6 inches <i>Piece to fit Applique head plus 1 inch either side</i>
Extension Flap	Scraps/see detail below
Small piece of ribbon for button	

STEP ONE - EMBROIDERY



Stitch one full animal design as pictured, **plus** one head as per Design instructions

Step Two - Bag Front

Iron or pin your pellow/batting/wadding to the back of your fabric front and back.



We added a 8x12 inch stipple to our bag front (I was testing the design) – you can leave the bag front piece plain, or quilt with your machine

[Click here to view how to cross-hatch your bag front](#)

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Step Three - Attach Applique to Bag Front



Place, pin, then stitch the Animal to the Bag Front

I placed the Koala 1.5 inches from top, then centred width wise



Not sure how to attach your design?

[Click here to watch us attach the Koala to the bag front](#)

Step Four – Handles

Take your 20 by 5 inch strip and fold in 1/2 inch towards centre on each side and press.

Fold in half again to give a 20 by 2.5 inch strip.

Top stitch down both sides.



Step Five - Make an extension Flap



To make your head into a functioning Bag Closure, you need to add an extension flap to the top of your head, and a button closure at the bottom

To do this, we add a backing to your embroidered head - this will also give the flap more strength and body

We used felt as our backing fabric - you could use any non-freying fabric

If you are using this idea for a different animal, you could be very creative – you can see how Pauline left out the Giraffe 'horns?' when she stitched her head to the flap – you could do similar with the Unicorn horn



You can make the flap as simple or fancy as you wish - I was lazy, and made my extension flap the same as my bag handles - *in hindsight, I would have made the flap wider.*

The length of my extension flap was 5 inches

To make a wider flap,

- Decide on the finished width size you would like
- Double it and add 1 inch
 - ie 4 inch wide flap - width to cut is 9 inches
- Length - this will depend on how far down you have placed your animal on your bag front
 - measure the distance, and add 2 inches

Step Six - Align Bag Flap

This is the critical step - **you need to align for the design you have chosen**, not the centre of the animal head. (some heads are on an angle)



To make sure you add the flap in the right place so the head matches exactly, place your 'head' on top of your Koala on the Bag front, then visually place your extension flap and button closure.



Keeping the flap and closure in place, pin onto your backing fabric (felt)

As before, stitch the Head to the felt piece



Cut away excess felt as close as possible to the edge

Step Six - Align to Bag Back

When you stitch your bag together, the flap is stitched from the Back, so it flips over the front



From the Bag Front, as pictured, place your head exactly on **top of your stitched Koala.**

Mark the top edge of the extension flap, and use pins to mark the sides

As pictured, line up your Bag Back, so the flap is centred on the back in the same place as the front - the flap is facing inwards to the bag back and you have matched the top edge exactly. (doesn't show in photo)
Pin securely in place



Step Eight – Attach Handles

I attached the handles after I had stitched the side seams (which you can do) but it is easier, if you place and pin your bag handles at this point.

We placed the handles 4 inches from each side (front and back)

In otherwords – ignore the photo below, and pin your handles in place as per Cathy’s photo

I leave the handles and extension flap pinned only, and stitch them when we join the bag. If you are worried about them shifting out of line, then stitch them down within your 1/2 inch seam allowance – ie 1/4 inch from top



I pinched Cathy's photo from her book [bag tutorial](#) which shows how your handles are placed on bag front and back

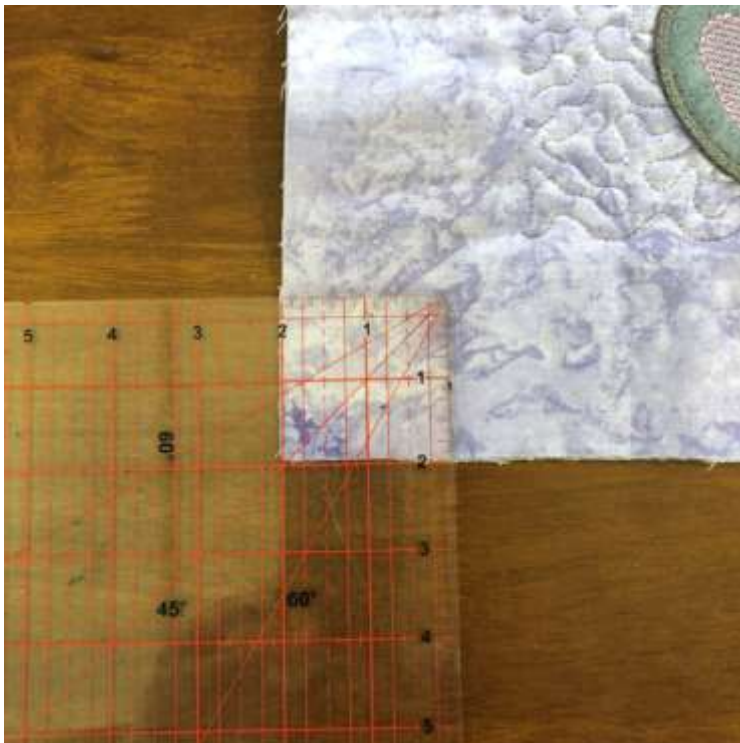
Step Nine – Make Boxed Corners



On all Four pieces

- Bag Front
- Bag Back
- Lining Front
- Lining Back

Place wrong sides together



Measure, then cut in a 2 inch square from both sides, on ALL 4 pieces



Complete for Front/Back pieces and Lining Pieces



Place, and pin right-sides of fabric together, and stitch the side seams

On Front/Back piece, stitch the bottom seam fully

On Lining piece, leave a gap in the bottom seam so you can turn the bag later

Our photo shows the Lining



Twist the bottom seams, match the side seams, and press, to make a flat seam as pictured

Stitch 1/2 seam

Do this on both corners of front/back, and Lining pieces



You now have boxed corners

Step Ten – Attach Lining to Bag



Insert Lining into the Bag piece as pictured – right-sides of fabric together



Pin then sew around the top – ½ inch seam



Turn bag to the right side thru the gap in the lining



Hand or machine stitch the gap in lining shut



Fold in Lining and press bag

Optional – Top stitch around top of bag

Add a button to complete the bag closure

As I've previously stated the idea for this bag came from Pauline, who created this truly awesome Giraffe Bag

THANKS SO MUCH FOR SHARING
PAULINE

I had so many queries on how Pauline made it, so I put together these instructions



I can't wait to see your completed bags – please send us your photos, or better yet, join our [Kreative Kiwi Group](#) to share your photos and join in the discussions.

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