



<http://sewingclasses.patternreview.com>

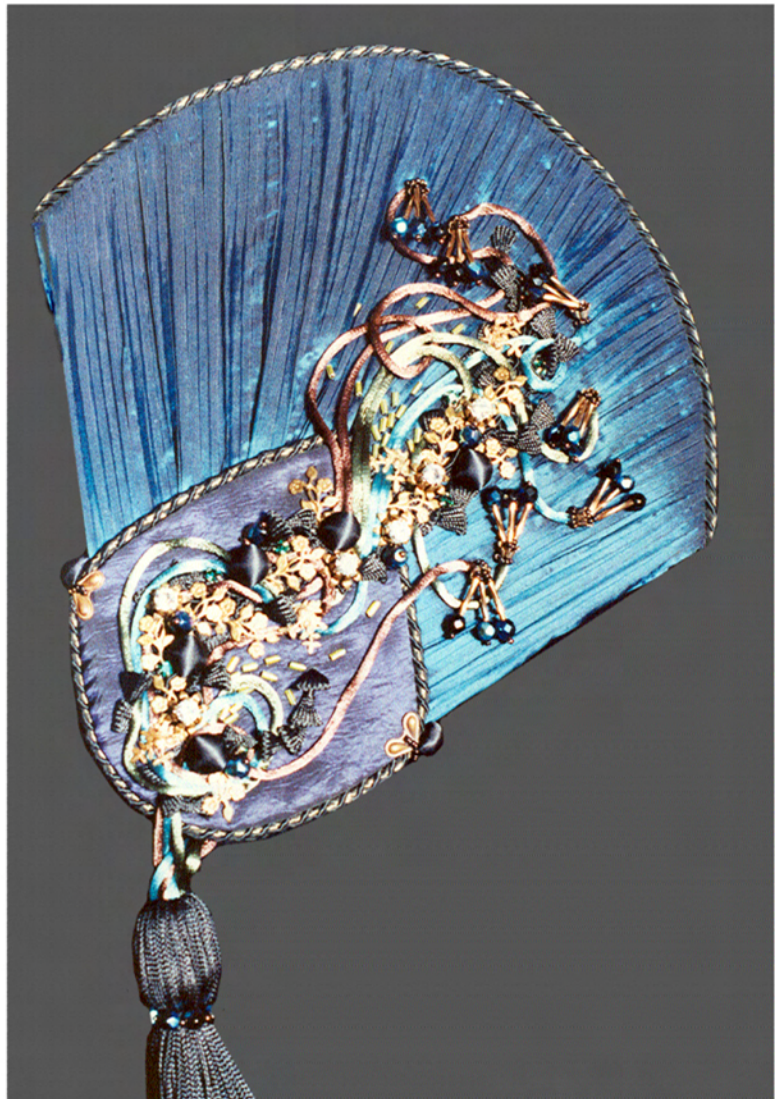
I came up with this technique of construction for this particular piece. I wanted to make a fan-shaped bag, that would be rigid like a fan but also function as an evening bag.

Since this piece is entirely rigid, there was no way to sew the piece right-sides-together, and turn. So, I developed this construction to solve that problem.

From there, I wanted bags that weren't flat, but had some three-dimensional shape, and also envelope-style bags. So this lesson will cover the construction as it developed for me, from the simple to the complex.

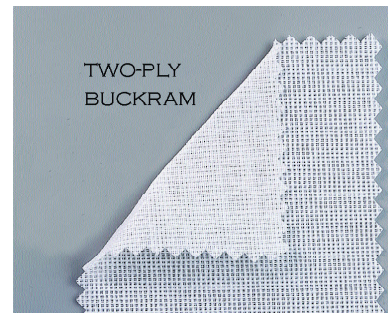
We will proceed by first discussing materials and tools. Drafting the patterns is next, followed by my method of making and using piping.

Then, a step-by-step demonstration of the construction follows. We will start with the flat, then what I call "bombè", then envelope with gusset.



TWO-PLY BUCKRAM:

This is the foundation of the hand-bag. It comes in black and white, and is two layers of buckram fused together. Greenberg and Hammer in New York carries this.

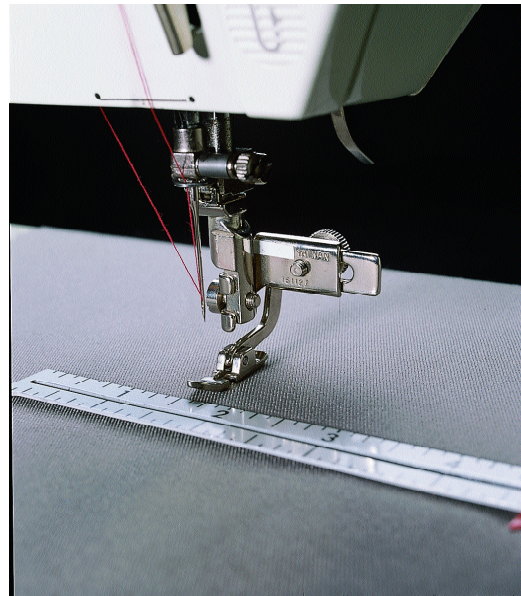


TOOLS:

GENERIC ADJUSTABLE ZIPPER

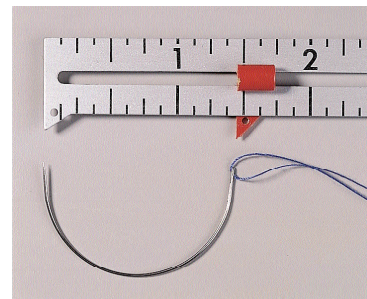
FOOT: This foot in particular is the Singer foot, but they are also made by other manufacturers. This is the foot I will be using when I fill the piping, and install the piping.

A word on the Singer foot—There is a spring installed on the screw that adjusts the foot. Remove it and throw it away, as it causes problems. If you leave the spring on, the screw will feel tightened, but it won't be—when you put the foot down, it will then slip forward just enough to break a needle.

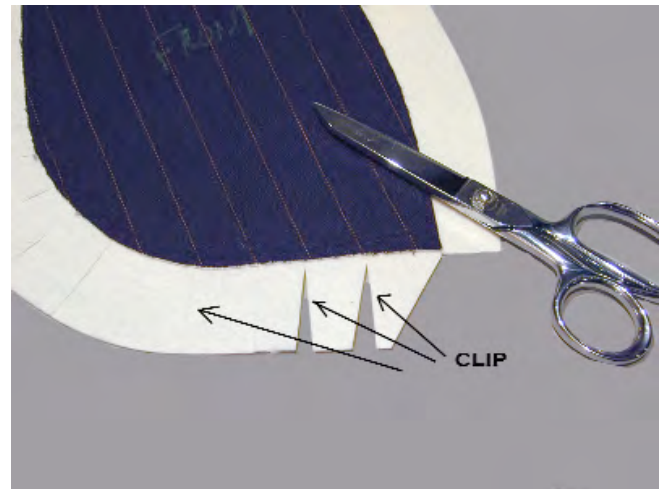


The advantage this foot has over the zipper foot designed for your machine is: The foot designed for your machine is designed so the needle can't be positioned outside the edge of the foot—you can do that (and will need to) with the generic foot.

CURVED NEEDLES: These needles look like the ones you get in the "repair pack" of needles. Although the ones in the repair pack will work here, these are finer than those and easier to sew with. You can get them from Laxis in Berkeley, California, and, I believe www.sewingplace.com carries them.

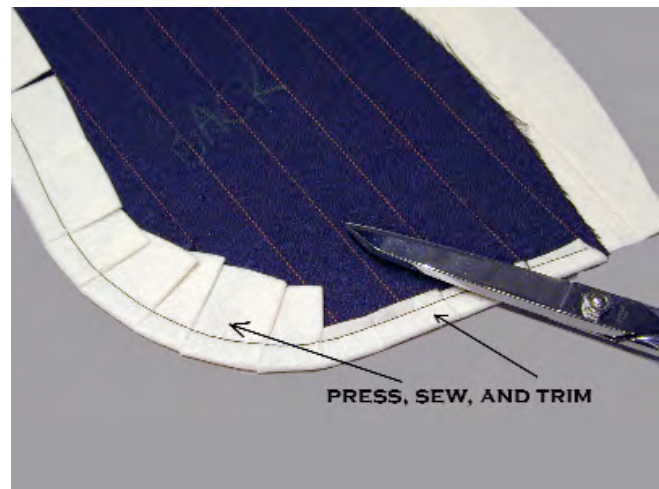


Now, clip the corners, and the curves.

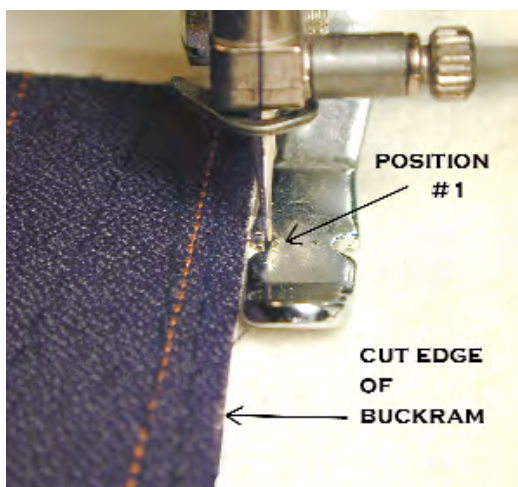
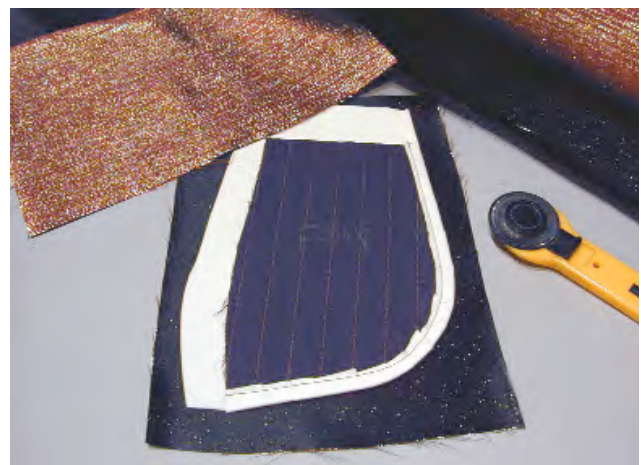


Press the felt over the edges of the buckram pieces, ONLY on the outside edges. We will treat the center seam later.

Machine sew about 1/4" (6mm) in from the edge. The center seam will be left to treat later.



Cut pieces of fashion fabric larger than you need—don't be stingy here. Lay them onto the felt side of the bag pieces.



For the center seams of the bag, sew with a machine stitch and the zipper foot in position #1, as shown on the left.