

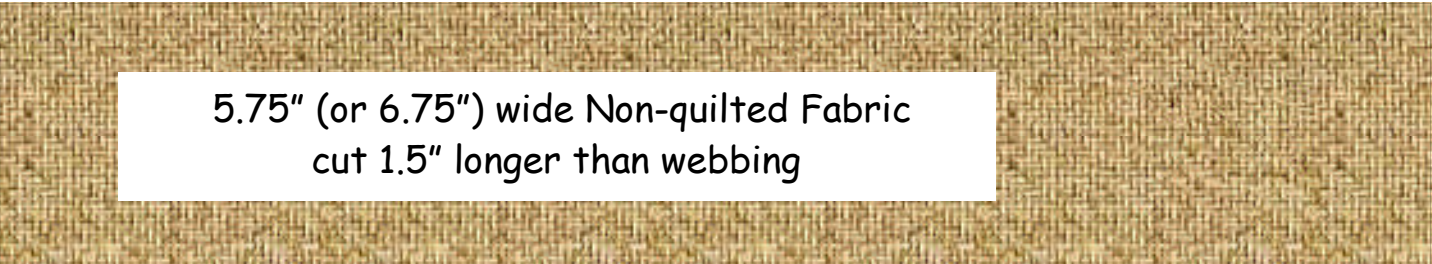
EASY PADDED STRAP FOR PURSES, BAGS, ETC

Not so long ago, I was making a bag from pre-quilted fabric. The instructions called for using pre-quilted fabric for the shoulder strap, too, but when I tried sewing through all those layers (it was a hefty pre-quilted fabric), it was frustrating, and where the seams were, it was almost impossible. And while I liked the quilted fabric for the main part of the purse, I did not care for the puffy quilted strap, so I came up with this easy alternative (my sewing machine is thanking me already). This option makes a strap that is beefy, but not puffy, so it goes well with both quilted bags and non-quilted bags. It has a cotton webbing strap for its core. It is soft, flexible and compact, with enough edge definition to be easy to work with and comfortable to use. Here's what I did (Be sure to read the instructions before starting in case you want to make changes. Also, due to variations in webbing thicknesses and fabric thicknesses, it is a good idea to make a small test strap before cutting your actual pieces):

1. Gather your materials:



1" (or 1.25") wide Cotton Webbing



5.75" (or 6.75") wide Non-quilted Fabric
cut 1.5" longer than webbing

2. Fold and press the fabric strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together:



Fold

3. Baste webbing to fabric:

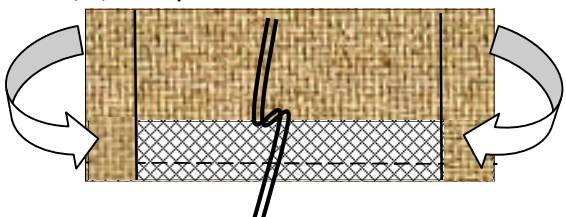


Fold

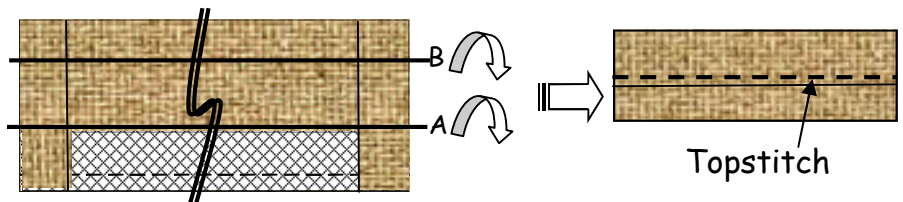
3/4"

1/4"

4. Fold fabric short ends*:



5. Fold fabric long edges at A, then B, and topstitch:



*If your strap ends will be covered by another project element, you may choose to reduce bulk by trimming fabric short ends even with webbing short ends instead of folding short ends.

Step 3 picture of the fabric and cotton webbing that I used instead of a quilted fabric handle on a quilted purse. Sorry I do not have a picture of the whole purse—it has been delivered to its buyer.



Navy purse with batting layer, but not quilted. Padded strap works great!



Sage purse with NO batting layer—padded strap still works great and does not seem too bulky.



See more patterns and notions at www.sewtogether.net

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