

## Cactus Backpack

Show off some funky fabric with our fun-loving Cactus Backpack. This slim-line bag is convenient for casual everyday use, rather than as a load-everything-in-and-go bulky backpack. Featuring a zippered top and adjustable webbing straps, this fully lined backpack has a touch of bling for fun too.



This backpack measures 10½ inches wide x 15½ inches high and is 6 inches deep.

### **You Will Need:**

½ metre/yard of outer fabric (we used a light-weight canvas)

½ metre/yard fabric for lining

½ metre/yard medium-weight fusible interfacing

½ metre/yard light-weight fusible pellon

Piece template plastic measuring 7 x 11 inches for strengthening the base

2 metres/ 2¼ yards webbing for straps. We used cotton webbing that was ¾ inch wide.

1 x 18 inch chunky jacket zip. This style of zipper has an end that opens and does up again easily.

1 x "D" Ring with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch inner diameter

1 x lobster claw style clasp

2 x webbing sliders for the adjustable backpack straps

You will find a jeans needle helpful, as some of this is bulky

### Notes:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, interfacing and pellon as required. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of all pieces, and fuse the pellon to the back of that, on the bag outer pieces.

### Construction:



Start by inserting the zip.

Lay one outer panel face up on a flat surface and place the zipper on top, face down. Line up both the short end and the long side edge with the raw edges of that panel.

Then place a lining panel on top, face down and pin the three layers together.

Using your zipper foot, sew to insert the zipper.



Flip the lining over, and topstitch along that seam to keep the layers neatly together.

Now repeat to insert the other half of the zip between the remaining outer and lining panels. Sew, flip and topstitch.



Your inserted zip with the lining panels secured behind the bag outer panels.



Now flip the panels over so both lining panels are to the left, and both outer panels are to the right, with right sides together. The zip is in the middle.

With the zipper closed, you need to sew up the side closest to the zipper pull. Start at the bottom edge of the lining and sew right up to the bottom edge of the outer panels. Sew slowly over, or skip over the zip if it is too bulky.



When you have sewn that seam, open the zipper right up and separate the ends so the bag panels can lay flat as shown.

Put aside for now.



Next, prepare the handle.

Using your iron, fold the handle strip in half lengthways and press a crease down the middle. Open out and fold in each side to meet that crease and press. Re-fold so the handle has four thicknesses of fabric, and topstitch around all sides.



Fold under and press a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance around all four sides of the back patch.



Tuck the ends of the handle under the top edge of the back patch and pin so they are  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in from each top corner.



Now prepare all the webbing pieces.

Cut two 24 inch lengths for the straps with the sliders. Loop through about an inch and a half through the top bar of the slider and using matching thread, sew the end to the strap to secure the slider in place. Make 2.

Cut one 5 inch length of webbing and loop one end about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch through the lobster clasp, and sew to secure.

Cut the remainder of the webbing into two equal lengths for the bottom straps.

Fold over one end on each strip about a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and sew to secure.



Pin the raw edged end of each of the two straps with sliders attached on the back patch as well, as pictured. The straps can be positioned midway between the handle and the edge of the back patch.

NOTE – Make sure the WRONG side of the slider strap is facing up when you do this.



With the backpack body opened up (lining opened out of the way), position the back patch so it is centred over the seam on the bag outer panels and about 2 inches down from the zip at the top. Pin in place and topstitch to secure.

Do the zip halfway up, then fold over the lining and outer with right sides together again, so you can sew up the other long side to form the bag body.

NOTE – Leave most of the middle of the lining part unsewn, to turn the bag through later.

Trim the excess zipper end and turn right sides out.



Use the template to cut two outer fabric pieces to make the tab for the bag front.

Fold up and press a ½ inch seam allowance across the wide top, then the two sides, as shown.

Trim the corners as required.



With right sides together, sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam across the bottom edges of the pieces.

Thread on the “D” Ring.



Fold the pieces together and topstitch down both sides towards the “D” Ring.



The zip on this bag opens straight at the top of the bag, but the zipper end is angled downwards to clip on to the lobster clasp in the middle of the front.

Flatten the end of the zip (trimmed end) as pictured, and slip on the tab piece with the “D” Ring attached.

Take it slow, and topstitch across the top, making sure to secure both sides.



With right side up, pin the lobster clasp webbing strip to the centre seam on the bag outer front and sew in place with a scant seam.



Thread the raw edge ends of the bottom webbing straps through the sliders as shown.

Pin the raw edge ends to the bag outer so they are 3 inches away from the centre back seam, and sew in place with a scant seam.

Open the zipper and turn the bag inside out to insert the bases.



Lay the un-interfaced lining base on the wrong side of the bag outer base and sew a scant seam down the sides to hold them together. Tuck in one end of the lining as shown. This forms a pocket to hold the template plastic.

With right sides together, pin the base to the bag outer and sew.

Trim the template plastic to fit, and insert it into the pocket.

Pin and insert the lining base in exactly the same way.

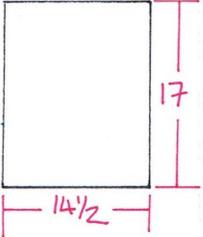
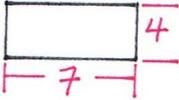
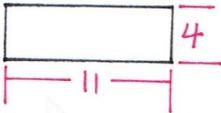
Turn the bag right sides out through the gap left in the lining side.

Tuck in the seam allowances at the gap and topstitch closed.

Push the lining into the bag outer to finish.



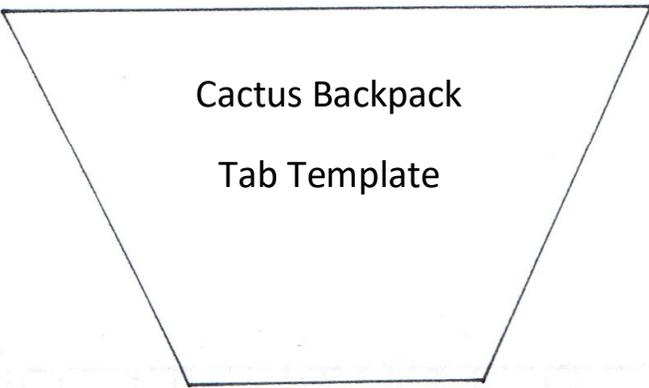
## Cactus Backpack Cutting Guide

		<p>Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram.</p> <p><b>* Please note – all measurements are in inches.</b></p>
	<p>Side</p>	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric          Cut 2 lining          Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing (for lining)          Cut 2 pellon</p>
	<p>Base Template</p>	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric          Cut 2 lining          Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing          Cut 1 pellon          Cut 1 template plastic</p> <p><b>NOTE – CUT ON FOLD</b></p>
	<p>Back Patch</p>	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric          Cut 1 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Handle</p>	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric          Cut 1 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Tab Template</p>	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric</p>



Cactus Backpack  
Base Template  
CUT ON FOLD

CUT ON FOLD



Cactus Backpack  
Tab Template