

Flower Messenger Bag

Our oh-so-funky Flower Messenger Bag is one we know you're going to Love! Featuring a large bright applied flower on the front flap, the flap also sports a shaped lower edge around the flower outline. With a fun bright lining, and plenty of zips and pockets and a fully adjustable strap, this bag is guaranteed perfect for fun loving girls of all ages!



Bag Dimensions are 15 inches wide x 12 inches high, and 2½ inches deep.

You Will Need:

1¼ metres (1¼ yards) fabric for the outer bag. (We used a mid-weight woven brown canvas fabric.)

1 metre (1¼ yards) plain bright pink fabric for the lining, and front flap detail

Small amounts of plain maroon, bright orange, red and lime green fabrics for the flower applique and matching threads for machine applique.

1 metre (1¼ yards) fusible light-weight pellon / batting

2 metres (2 yards) fusible medium-weight interfacing

1 x 10 inch zip in a colour to match the bag outer

1 x 8 inch zip in a colour to match the lining

Piece template plastic measuring at least 2½ x 15 inches

2 x rectangular 'rings' with 1½ inch diameter

1 x rectangular tri-glide / slider for adjustable strap with 1½ inch diameter

Length of poly boning at least 13 inches long. (If using a lighter-weight fabric for the bag outer, you may choose to add poly boning strips down each of the four side seams too help the bag keep its upright shape. In this case, you will need 1 ¼ - ½ yards of boning.)

Small amount of fusible webbing for applique (and you may find a applique mat useful too.)

Bag Construction:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a ¼ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, and using the template provided, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, pellon and interfacing. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of all pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. Fuse the pellon on top of the interfacing for the bag outer sides and gusset also. Leave the front flap aside until pieced and appliqued.

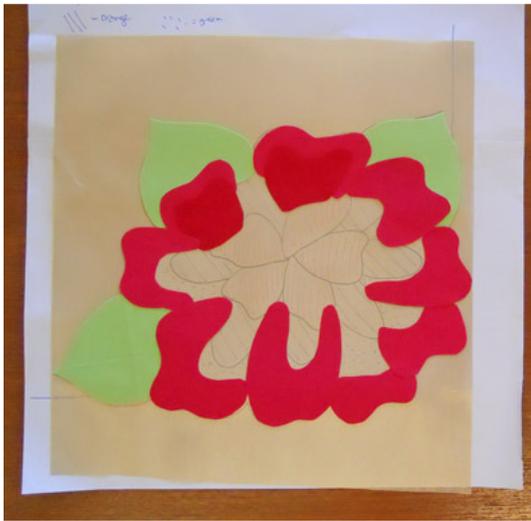
Flap:



First prepare the front flap for the applique.

Fold the contrast strip in half with right sides together and press. As shown, sew the strip to the left hand bottom edge of the outer fabric flap, and bring the end down slightly so the raw edge disappears into the seam.

Now with right sides together, sew the flap strip to the lower edge of the outer fabric flap as shown.



Using the applique template provided and the fusible webbing, trace off each flower petal / leaf, taking note of which pieces overlap or underlap others.

(You may find it easier to use a heat-resistant mat to assemble your applique on first.)

Position the leaves, then work your way inwards with the rows of petals.



When the pieces are all laid correctly, press to fuse them together as shown.



Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of the flap outer and lining pieces.

Lift the applique off your mat and position it on the lower right hand corner of the bag outer front flap as shown.

It will be in from each of the side and lower edges, and the leaf should overlap and hide the end of the sewn in contrast strip.



Using matching thread, machine satin stitch around each of the pieces of the flower applique.

Fuse the pellon to the wrong side of the outer front flap piece.

Next, trim the lower edge as shown around the flower shape. Make sure to leave at least a ½ inch of the outer brown flap fabric around the flower.

Trim the right side in a straight line up from the top of the leaf, and trim the bottom in a straight line parallel with the contrast strip as shown.

Finally, use the rounded corner template to shape the curve on the left hand lower corner.



Lay the flap lining on a table with right side facing up. Lay the outer front flap piece on top, with right side down. Use the top and left hand edges to align the two panels and pin together.

Using a ¼ inch seam allowance, sew the panels together down both sides and across the bottom and around the flower shape.

Trim away excess lining, clip curves as needed and turn right sides out. Press and topstitch around the edges.

Handle:

Next prepare the strap. Using your iron, fold up and press the seam allowances down the length of the strap piece on both edges.

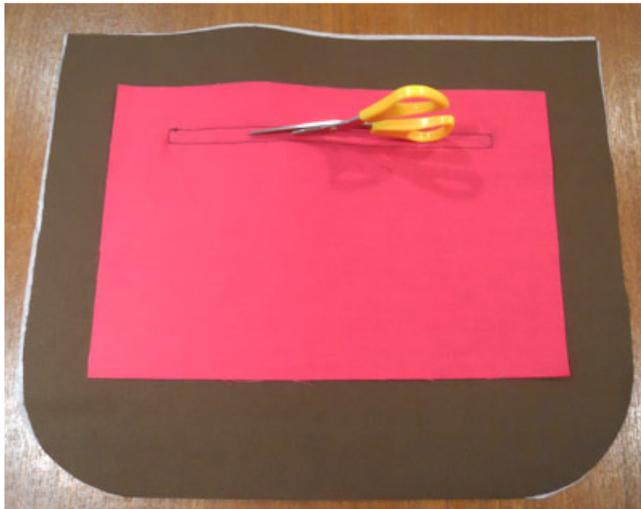
Fold in half lengthways with right sides together and sew across both of the short ends. Clip corners and turn so that the right sides face out. Tuck in the seam allowances and fold and pin the strap

together down its length. Topstitch closed. Topstitch down the other side of the handle and across both ends as well. Put aside.

Press up the seam allowances on both tabs too, and fold in half across the $3\frac{3}{4}$ inch width. Tuck in the seam allowances so that each tab is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide x 3 inches long and topstitch down both sides. Loop a tab through one of the rectangular 'rings' and stitch both ends together with a scant seam. Repeat for the remaining tab and put aside.

Bag Outer:

Before you can assemble this bag, you need to insert the zip for the pocket on the back panel of the messenger bag.



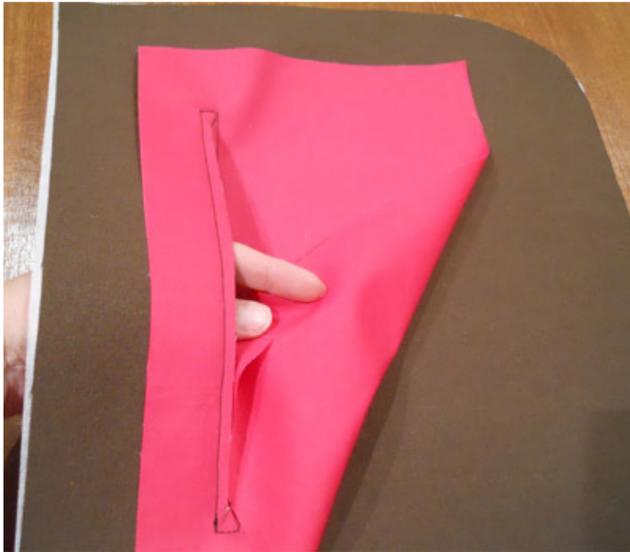
To start, mark and make a hole for the zip. To do this, use a fabric marking pen or lead pencil on the wrong side of the back pocket piece and draw a rectangle $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1cm) high as shown. This rectangle needs to be drawn $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (3cm) down from the top of your pocket piece.

Then draw a centre line along the rectangle, with a 'V' shape at each end as shown.

Position the pocket piece on the bag back panel with right sides together, centred and approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches down from the top panel raw edge.

Sew the pocket to the back panel along the marked outside lines of the rectangle.

Taking care not to cut the stitching, then cut along the marked centre line and along the 'V' shapes to the corners of the rectangle.



Pull the pocket piece through the hole to the wrong side of the bag panel and carefully press seams on both sides to flatten.

With right sides facing up, then position the zip carefully under the hole, (so that the zip is also facing up), and pin in place. Using your zipper foot, topstitch around all four edges of the rectangular hole to secure the zip in position.

(Note – the zip is slightly longer than the hole, so you will need to centre the zip and trim the ends after sewing in place.)

To finish the pocket, turn the panel over so that the wrong side is facing up, and lay the remaining fabric pocket piece face down on top of the first pocket piece. Pin all edges together and carefully sew all sides of the pocket together, taking care not to catch the bag panel as you go.

To prepare the gusset, pin the template plastic pocket strip centred on the wrong side of the outer gusset strip. Sew to the gusset strip with a scant seam down each side. This forms a ‘pocket’ for the template plastic base stiffener to fit into.

If you haven’t already trimmed the corners of the Front and Back panels, use the rounded corner template to shape the curved lower corners of the outer fabric and lining fabric front and back panels.

With right sides together, pin the gusset strip to the sides and bottom of the front bag panel, ensuring the base pocket is in the centre of the panel. The gusset strip is longer than the satchel sides, so that you have plenty to allow for a better fit. Pin it so that an even amount is left over at each end. (The easiest way to do this is to start from the centre of the panel and the gusset strip and work your way out.)

Sew the strip to the bag front panel, then repeat to attach the back panel to the gusset strip also. Pin well first and make sure your panels are lined up evenly together, and that they start and finish at the same point on the gusset as the front side does at the top. Sew together.

Turn the bag right sides out and topstitch each side – down the side seam, across the bottom and back up the other side. Trim the excess from the gusset strip on each side, so it is level with the front and back panels of the bag. Trim the template plastic to fit and insert into the base pocket. (It will curve up each side slightly.)



With right sides together, sew the flap to the top of the back panel, so it can flip over the top of the bag. As shown above, sew a length of the poly boning on the seam allowance of this seam too. A wide zig zag stitch is best. Make sure the length of boning is a couple of inches shorter than the seam so it stays away from the side seams. (If using a lighter-weight fabric, you may choose to add this boning down each of the side seam lengths also.)



Also sew the handle in place. First sew the two tabs to either side of the gusset strip as shown. Match raw edges and sew with a scant seam. Now thread one end of the strap up and over the centre bar of the slider. Bring it down about 2 inches and sew the end to the strap to secure the slider. As shown, then thread the other end through the rectangular 'ring' on one of the tabs, back up through the slider, and over the middle bar and down through the other side before looping up through the last tab and folding up another 2 inches. Sew the second end to secure.

Lining:

The lining for this bag is a 'drop in' style, where you complete the lining bag, and hand or machine sew it in place to finish. The lining has another zippered pocket on the back, and a large cell phone/keys pocket on the front.

The zippered pocket is inserted in exactly the same way as you did for the back of the bag outer. Position the inner zip pocket piece on the back lining panel, with right sides together, centred and 2 ½ inches from the top edge. Mark a rectangle 7 inches long and insert the zip as before. Sew the second pocket piece to the first to finish the pocket and back lining panel.

The front panel has a pocket added also. With right sides together, sew up the sides and across the top of the two inner front pocket pieces. Clip corners and turn right sides out. Press and press under the bottom seam allowance before topstitching the top edge.

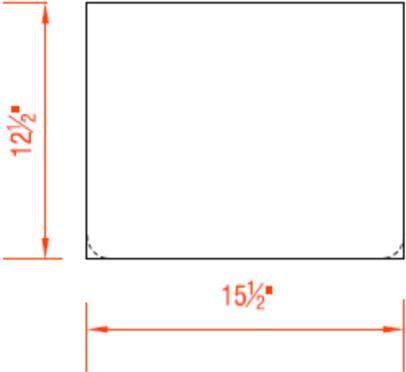
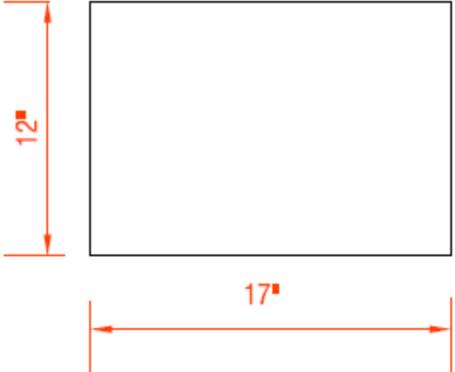
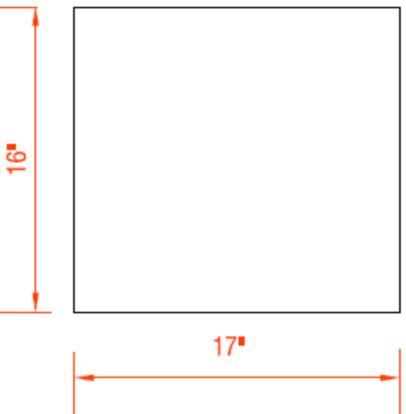
Place on the front lining panel, centred and 3 inches down from the top edge. Pin well and topstitch down both sides and across the bottom edge to secure in place. To make a separate cell phone pocket, measure in 3½ inches from one side and sew a parallel line of stitching down through the pocket to divide it into two smaller pockets.

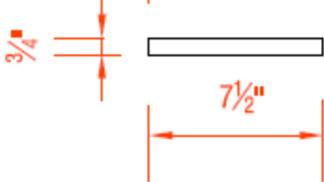
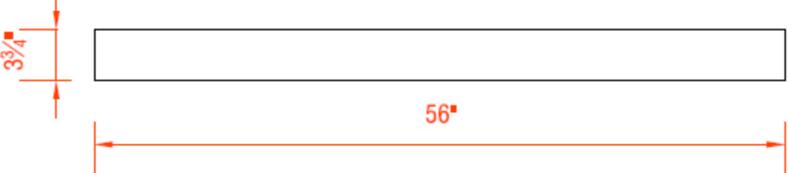
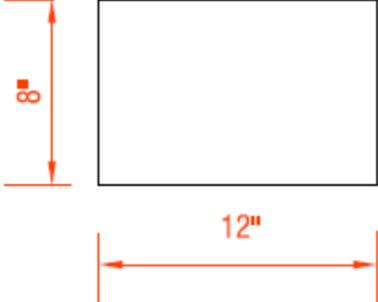
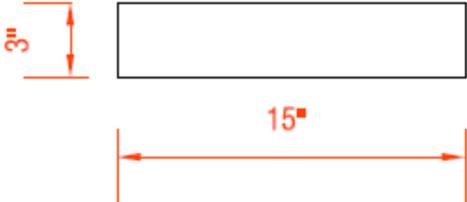
Then, as you did for the bag outer, sew the gusset to both front and back lining sides. Trim excess fabric from the gusset ends.

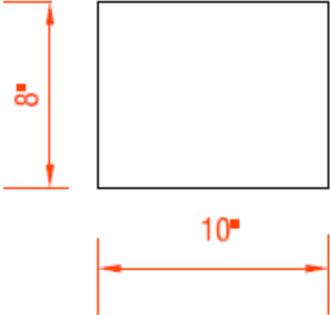
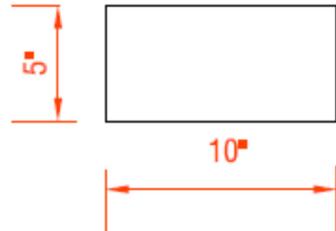
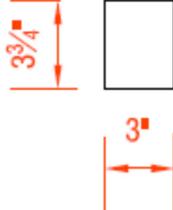
Sit the lining into the bag outer with the zippered pocket towards the back. Tuck under the top seam allowances on the bag outer and lining and pin together well. Using a matching thread, hand or machine sew the lining in place around the top to finish.



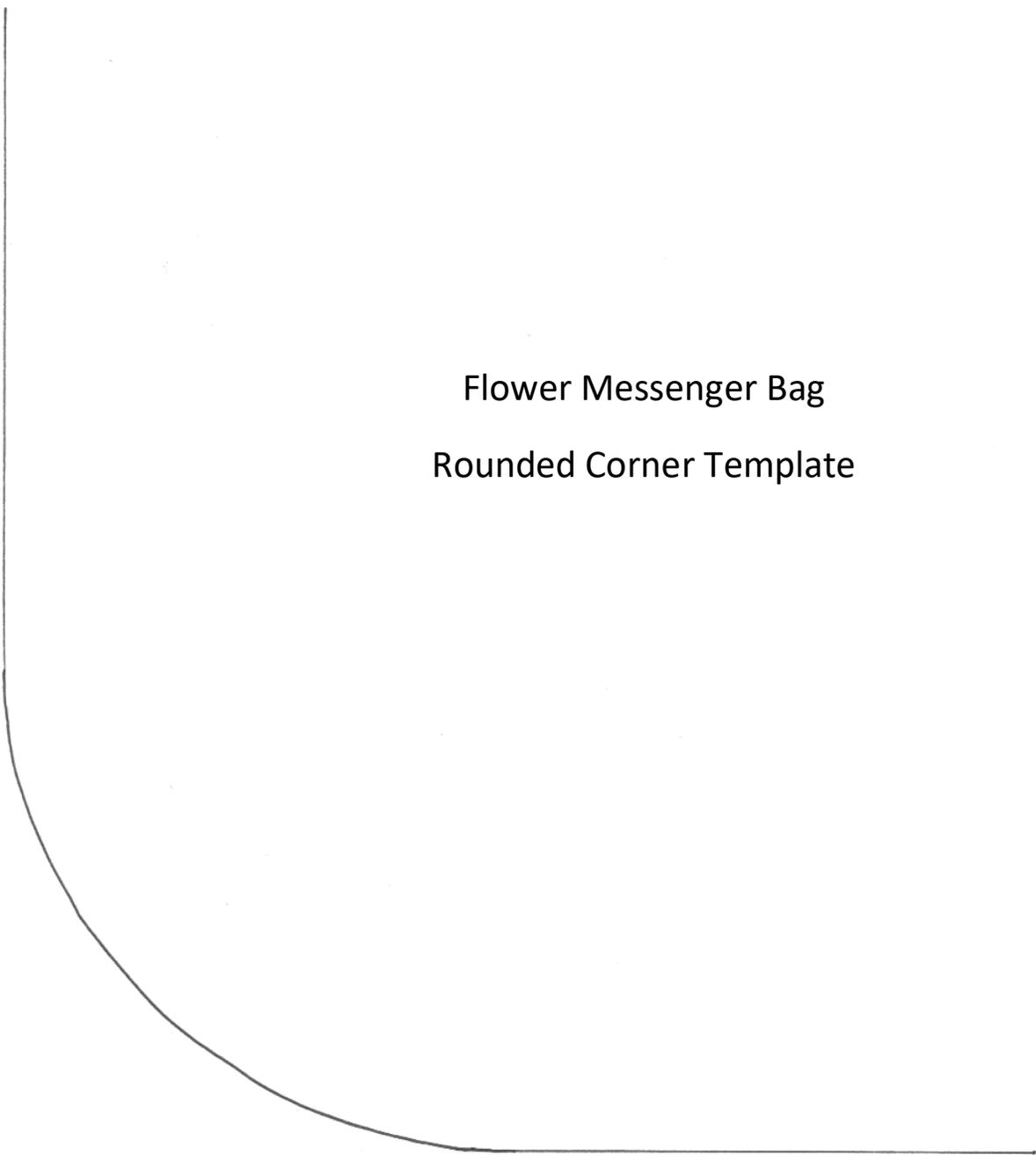
Flower Messenger Bag Cutting Guide

		<p>Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram.</p> <p>* Please note – all measurements are in inches.</p>
<p>FRONT / BACK</p>		<p>Cut 2 outer fabric Cut 4 medium-weight interfacing Cut 2 pellaon Cut 2 lining</p> <p>(Use Rounded Corner Template to shape bottom corner curves.)</p>
<p>FLAP</p>		<p>Cut 1 outer fabric</p>
<p>FLAP LINING</p>		<p>Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing Cut 1 pellaon Cut 1 lining</p>

<p>FLAP STRIP</p> 	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric</p>
<p>CONTRAST STRIP</p> 	<p>Cut 1 (pink) lining</p>
<p>GUSSET STRIP</p> 	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric Cut 1 lining Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing Cut 1 pellon</p>
<p>STRAP</p> 	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric Cut 1 medium-weight interfacing Cut 1 pellon</p>
<p>BACK POCKET</p> 	<p>Cut 2 lining</p>
<p>TEMPLATE PLASTIC POCKET</p> 	<p>Cut 1 lining</p>

<p>INNER ZIP POCKET</p>		<p>Cut 2 lining</p>
<p>INNER FRONT POCKET</p>		<p>Cut 2 lining Cut 1 medium-weight interfacing</p>
<p>TAB</p>		<p>Cut 2 outer fabric Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing</p>

Flower Messenger Bag
Rounded Corner Template

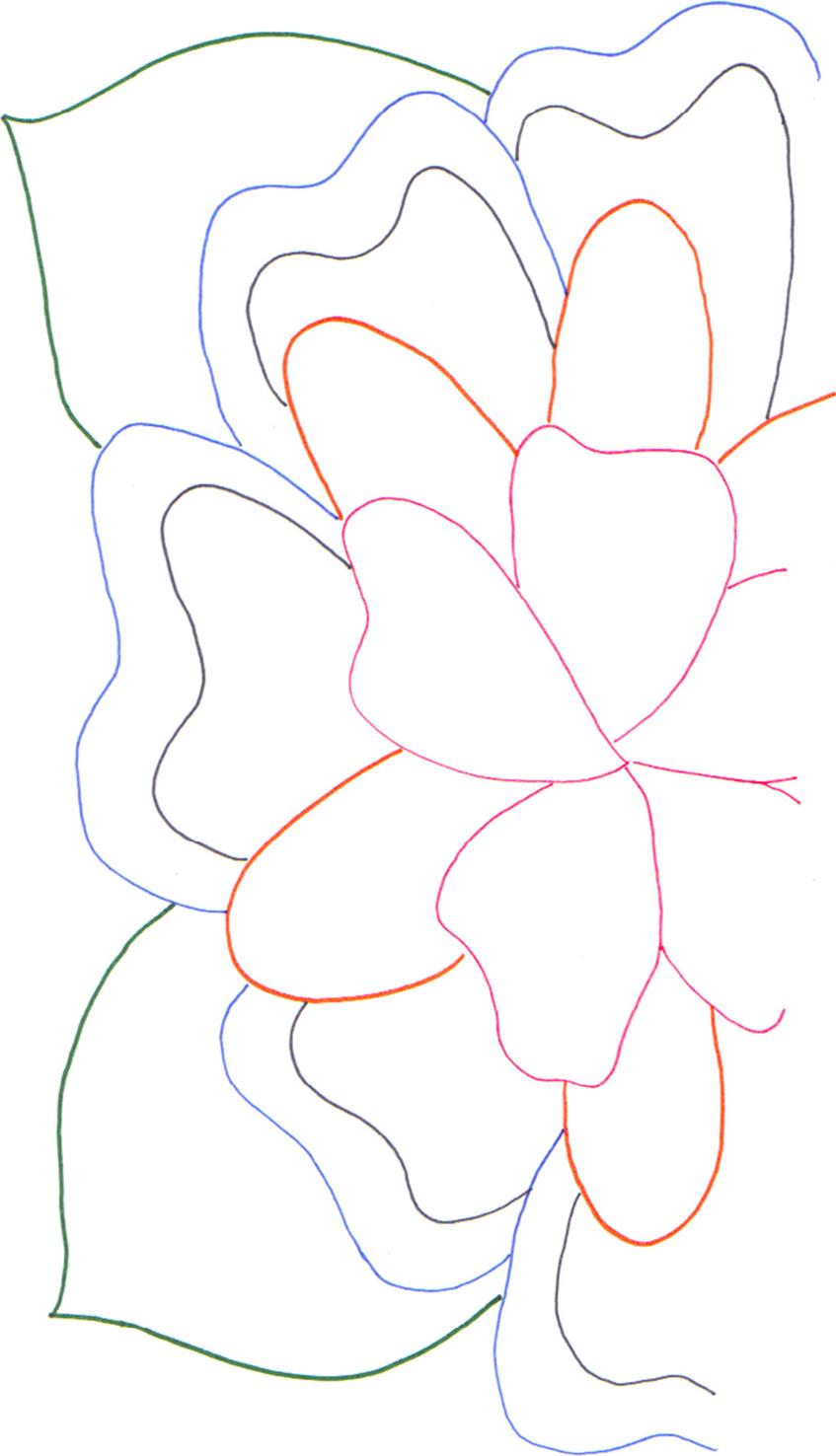


Flower Messenger Bag

Flower Applique Template

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Green

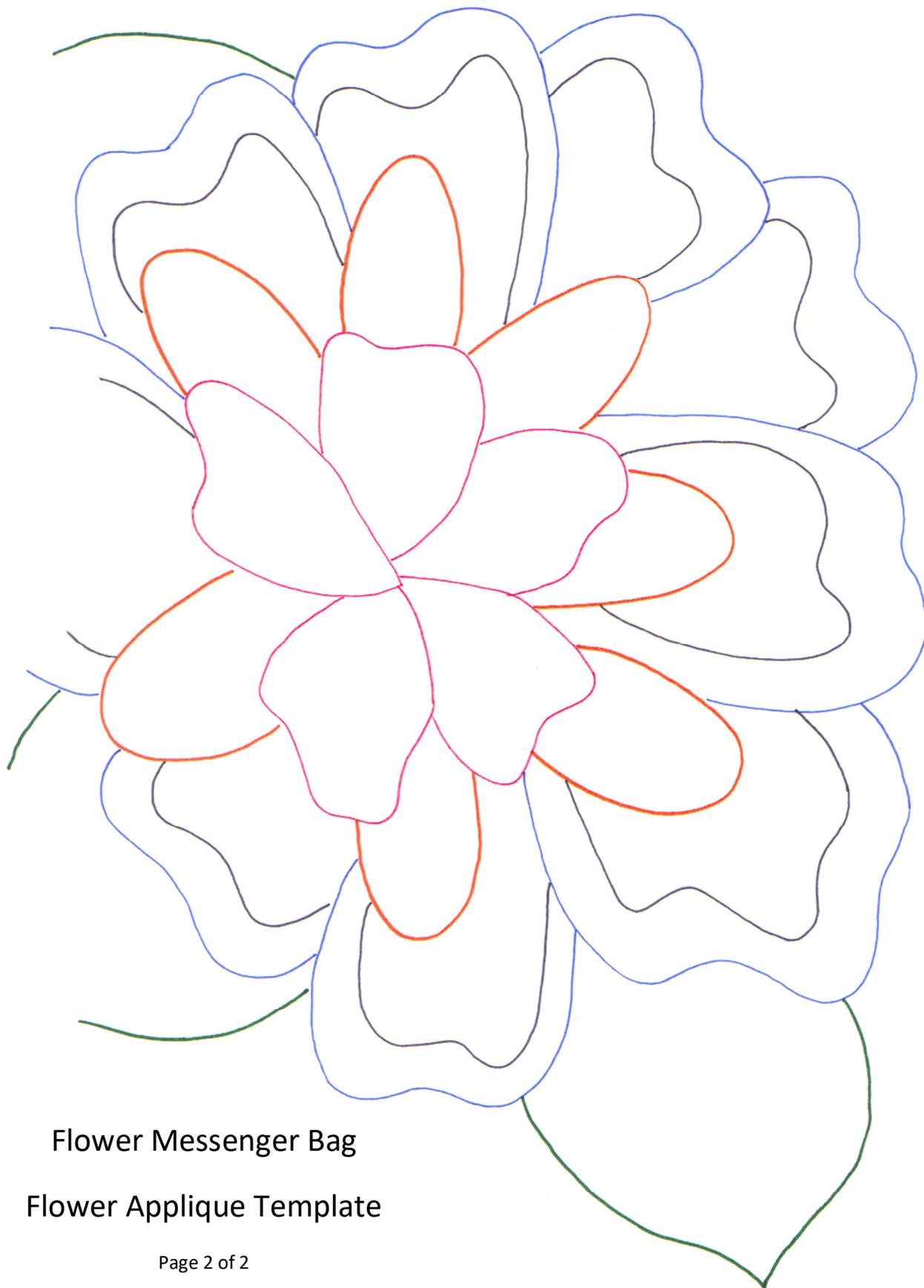
Pink

Red

Orange

Maroon





Flower Messenger Bag

Flower Applique Template

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