

This article details how I reassembled the pocketbook I upcycled for Mom.

You've all heard the phrase about the best laid plans, right? Well, it applies to many of my projects. What I have in mind when first starting out doesn't always become the end result. Usually, this is because I find that either my original design won't work or I find something even better along the way. That's part of what I love about making my own designs.

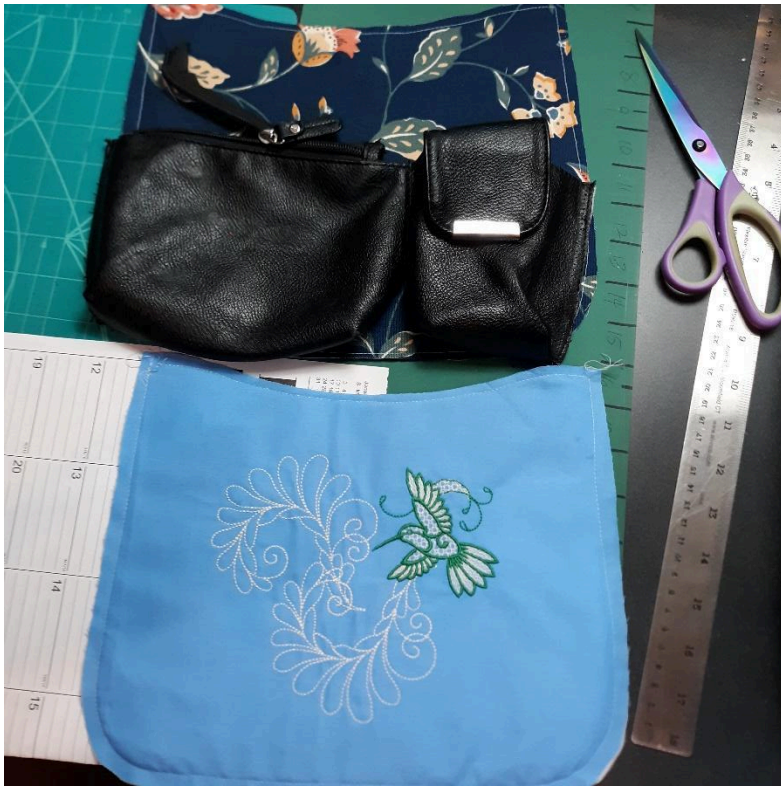


My original design was a light blue with the darker flower print mixed in.

Then as I was pulling the original pocketbook apart, I thought I would reuse some of the original pieces – which are black. Putting it together on the work bench, I decided I do not like it. While I do love patchwork, this was feeling more like a Frankenstein bag. Too much jumble pushed together.



I decided this wasn't going to work together. The light blue panel was feeling like it was an afterthought instead of the beginning point.



## So what to do now?

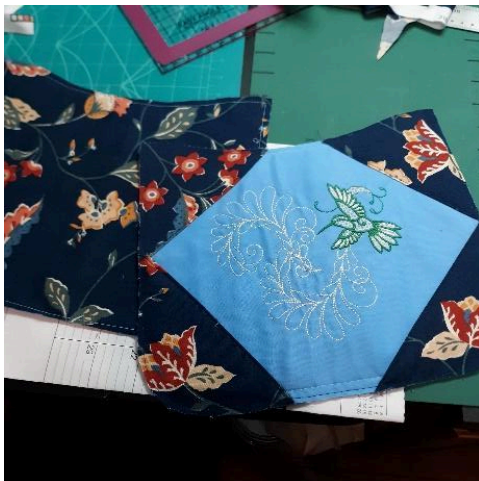
I want to keep the hummingbird panel, but I don't want the bag to be all done in the light blue.

Basically because the fabric is thinner than I'd like to use for the whole bag and a light material will get dirtier quicker than darker. I'm worried that the new owner will use it only as an occasional bag instead of everyday use.

And I really do like the print material. It's heavier fabric, is pretty and will hide everyday wear much better.

But since I already started assembling the front and back panels, and they are glued and sewn, I need a plan.

After playing around with the fabrics and original bag pieces together to see what would look best, I came up with this for the back panel.



Now the back panel can still be the embroidered design *and* not look like an afterthought to the rest of the bag.



For the front pockets, I decided I didn't like the look of the black on the front panel.



To me this feels like taking a shortcut – as if I didn't really want to work on this project. I can't do work that makes me feel that way!

So, I have decided to cover the black with more of the printed fabric.



Notice that I also put the upper zipper in. I used a bit of light blue bias tape to outline the zipper area (and block some of the black).



This picture shows the zipper a little better. After I installed the zipper, I added the pocket behind it.

Actually, the zipper should have been done before the lower pockets, but I almost forgot about it entirely. Luckily, I remembered the zipper after I added the first – and smaller – lower pocket. I'm not sure if I would have been able to put the zipper and pocket in if I waited until after both lower pockets to be added. There's not much room to work on the upper zipper.

## Adding the sides and bottom section

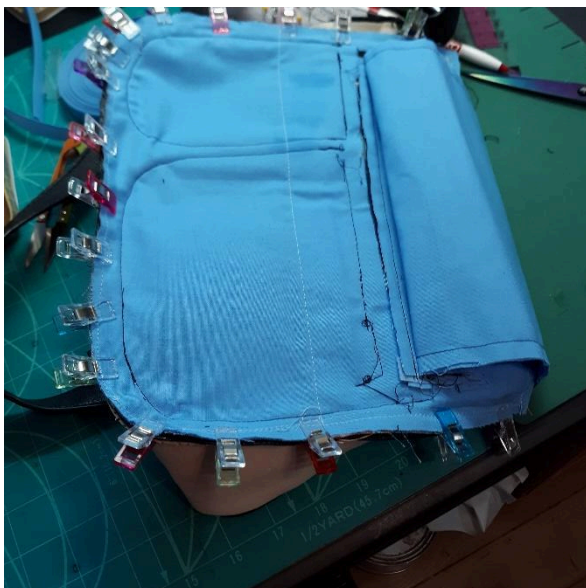
Now, both front and back panels are finished and it's time to add the piece that goes all around these panels – sides and bottom.

I did choose to reuse these pieces from the original bag without adding any fabric to them. I think it will be just enough black, so the black zippers do not look like castoff pieces.

If you remember, the bottom and side pieces were left together as a single piece with the straps attached when I was disassembling the original bag. The plan was to use this on the new bag as a single piece also. I wanted to reuse them just as they are because the bottom is extra rigid (I wasn't sure how I'd do that) and the sides were already lined with the thin foam and the straps were fully and firmly attached – with rivets – to the sides. This is a time saver and I am extremely happy that these pieces had little to no wear on them.



This is the point where I am very happy to have sewing clips handy – pinning the sides to the front and back would not be feasible. The materials are too thick and the vinyl of the original bag doesn't pin well. Plus, why put extra holes in the materials if I can avoid it?



Surprisingly, this was not as difficult to sew as I expected it to be.

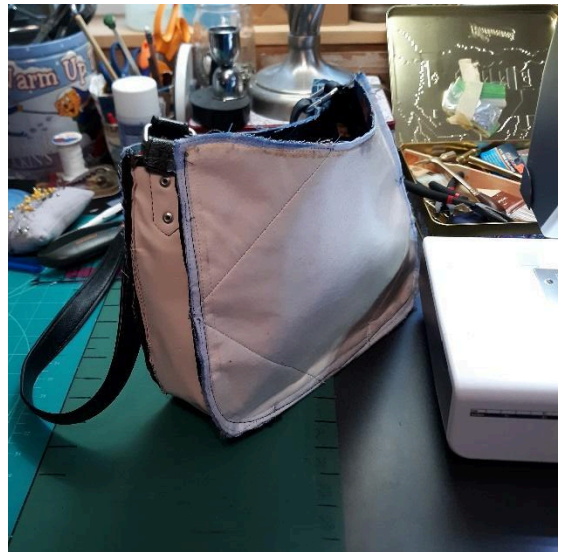




This is what it looked like after sewing the first panel onto the sides and bottom piece. I'm starting to love the look of this bag. (I'm wishing I had more of this fabric too!)

And then the second panel was added....

This is the inside of the second panel after attaching it.



Turned the bag right-side out and now it's starting to look like a pocketbook again!



## Almost finished!

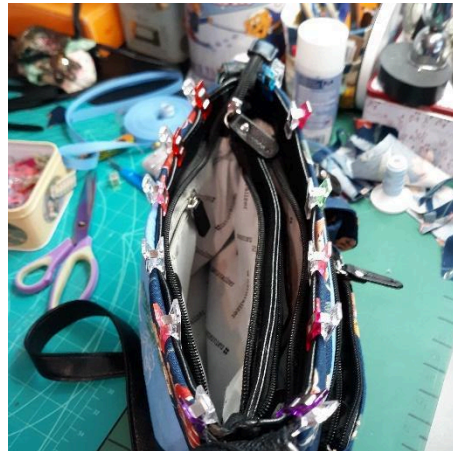
Now, to add in the lining section that I saved from the original bag.

And once again, I am so very happy that this section is reusable. It would have taken many hours to recreate this section – which I would be happy to do, but I'm glad those hours can be spent on the next project.



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Clips, Clips, Clips! I love these clips! 😊



## And voila!

The bag is finished and looks awesome! Mom is going to love this – I hope 😊





Side by side comparison of the original and final bags.

AND -- Mom loved the bag!

