

# Creative Fabrica

Embroidery Design  
Sewing Information

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# Tiny Camper Zipper Bag In the Hoop Design from Sher's Creative Space

This bag is done completely in the hoop. The only part that will need stitched (or fused closed with seam tape) is the opening in the lining where you turn the bag right side out. ITH zipper bags can be a little tricky, so I suggest that you read my important notes at the beginning of the pattern, take your time, and always check to make sure the fabric under your hoop remains where it is supposed to be.

If you've never made one before, don't worry, I will guide you through the entire process!



Thank you for your purchase, and feel free to email me with any questions or comments. I also love to see pictures of the finished projects! [sheryl@sherscreativespace.com](mailto:sheryl@sherscreativespace.com)

**If you change the size or density of the original design, you could alter the final result.**



### PLEASE READ THESE IMPORTANT NOTES FIRST

- Keep pins away from the stitching lines. It is also important that the points come back up through the top, and do not pin from the back. Any metal on the underside of the hoop can scratch your machine.
- Jump stitches can be trimmed whenever you want. I like to trim them during stitching breaks, especially if they will be in the way of future stitching.
- You will notice on my photos that I use a much longer zipper. This is only because I like to order them in bulk, and when I order them at 14 inches, I can use them for about anything I want. You will cut it down anyway.
- Your placement stitches can be any color because they won't show. The thread for your final two stitchings, and the stitchings that secures the zipper in place, should match the color of your bag fabric. As for the bobbin thread, I use either white or black, depending on how light or dark the fabric is.
- Place tape so you won't be stitching through it. It can gum up your needle and break the thread.
- All my zipper bags are made the same way, so the applique design on these images may not match your applique, but the steps are exactly the same. Don't worry because I give you step by step instructions for the applique design you have chosen.
- **SUPER IMPORTANT:** You will not remove the project from the hoop until you are completely finished with the stitching. You will remove the hoop from the machine several times, but the fabric and stabilizer remain in the hoop.

### DESIGN SIZE & INFO

**Stitches:** 12,750  
**Height:** 6.78 in  
**Width:** 4.84 in  
**Colors:** 6  
**Stops:** 16

### FINISHED PROJECT SIZE:

6 1/2 X 4 1/2 inches

### HELPFUL PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS



See how close I cut to the stitching.



When doing the decorative stitching, constantly check to make sure the lining fabric stays away from your stitching. It should be flipped up and out of the way.

## Supplies for the zipper bag:

Exterior bag fabric, one each:

9 x 7 inches  
9 x 5 inches  
9 x 3 inches

Lining fabric, one each:

9 x 7 inches  
9 x 5 inches  
9 x 3 inches

100% cotton batting, one each:

8 x 6 inches  
8 x 4 inches  
8 x 2 inches

Small fabric scraps for appliques

**Note about batting:** 100% cotton batting was used in the sample, but you could substitute a light color of felt, or sew-in fleece.

**Embroidery machine with a 5 x 7 inch hoop**

Stabilizer (see notes below)  
9 inch or larger nylon zipper (**NOT METAL**)  
Polyester embroidery thread  
Size 11 embroidery needle  
3 inch piece of ribbon (5/8 or 3/4 inch wide), optional  
Tear away stabilizer, optional, see note below  
Scotch tape or painter's tape

General sewing and embroidery supplies such as scissors, pins, ruler

**Note about stabilizers:** Use whatever you are comfortable with. I like the Sulky Cut Away, while others like using a Water Soluble Stabilizer (fabric type, not the plastic film type). This type makes it easier to get the stabilizer from the zipper when you get to the end of the project.

**As for the optional tear away stabilizer,** this only if you are using a polyester batting instead of cotton batting, felt, or sew-in fleece. *Do not use it for the foundation of this project.*

## Instructions for making the bag:

### STEP 1:

- Place the cut away or WSS stabilizer in your hoop.
- Take the hoop to the machine and stitch out the first step, which is the placement stitches for your zipper.
- Remove hoop from machine and center zipper between those two lines. The zipper will be right side facing up, and the pull at the left. Tape the upper edge to secure.
- See red notes at the right.

Stitch directly on cut away or WSS stabilizer. These will be the placement stitches for the zipper. Don't worry about the thread color for this, it will never show.

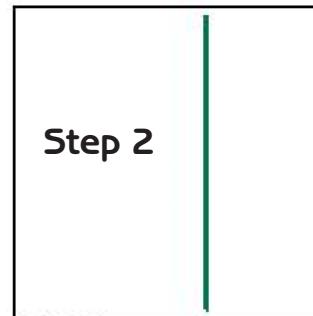


Step 1

## STEP 2:

- Take the 9 x 5 inch piece of exterior bag fabric, and place it along the bottom long edge of the zipper, and secure with tape. Right side facing down.
- Carefully flip the hoop over and repeat this step on the back of the hoop using the 9 x 5 inch piece of lining fabric. You may not be able to see the zipper on the back, so you will line it up with the bottom line of stitching.
- Take the hoop back to the machine and stitch the second step, which is the line that will stitch one edge of the zipper to the fabrics.

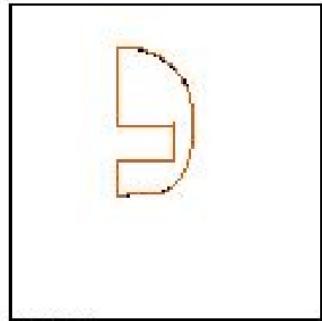
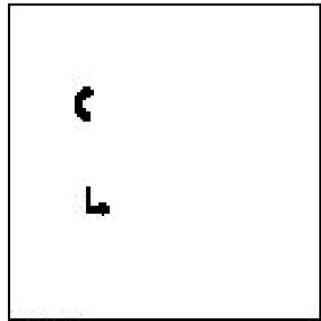
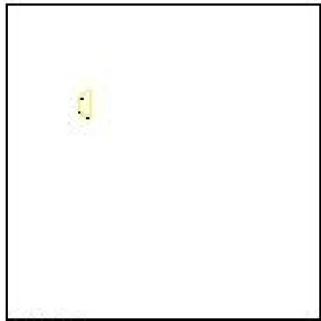
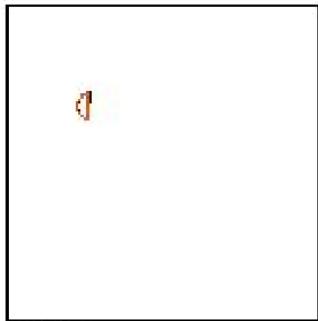
This line secures the bottom edge of your zipper to the fabric. You'll stitch the other side of the zipper later. Choose a thread that matches your exterior bag fabric.



- Remove the hoop from the machine, and remove the tape you used to hold the fabric down. Make sure the lining fabric on the back is up and out of the way.
- Take the 8 x 4 inch piece of batting and lay it so one of the long edges lines up against the line of stitching you just did.
- Pull the exterior bag fabric down over the batting nice and taut, not tight. Smooth down. Pin in place, keeping the pins far away from the stitching area. Remember to keep that lining fabric up and away from the stitching area. You can tape it to the hoop if you are worried about it getting in the way.



Now the fun begins! You can start the decorative stitching at the bottom part of your bag! Follow the color map below. These are my color choices, feel free to substitute fabric and thread colors of your choice.



### STEP 3:

This is the placement stitch for the tire. After you stitch this step, place your fabric (that you want for your tire), completely covering these stitches.

### STEP 4:

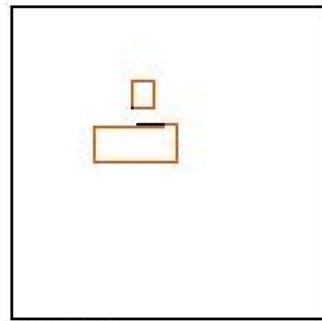
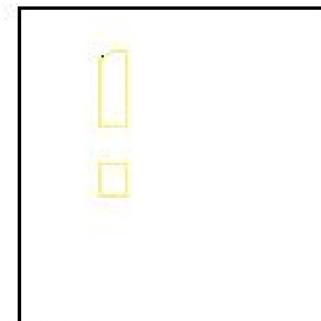
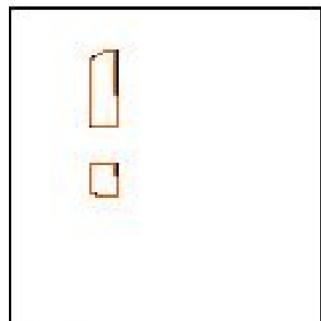
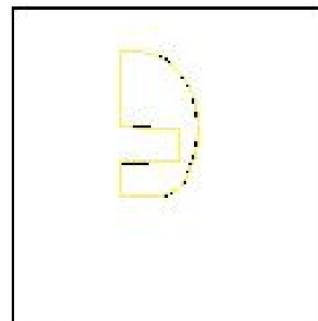
This is the tack down stitch that will hold the tire fabric in place. After it's stitched, remove the hoop from the machine and very carefully cut the excess fabric away, very close to the line of stitching. Then return hoop to machine.

### STEP 5:

These stitches will create the tire and the hook-up.

### STEP 6:

This is the placement stitch for the upper part of the camper. After you stitch this step, place your fabric (that you want for your upper camper), completely covering these stitches.



### STEP 7:

This is the tack down stitch that will hold the upper camper fabric in place. After it's stitched, remove the hoop from the machine and very carefully cut the excess fabric away, very close to the line of stitching. Then return hoop to machine.

### STEP 8:

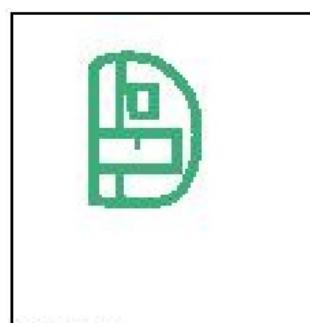
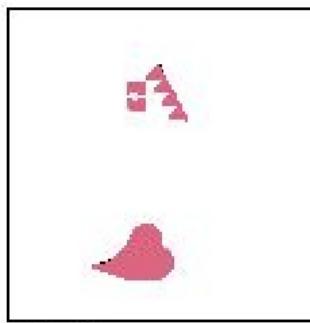
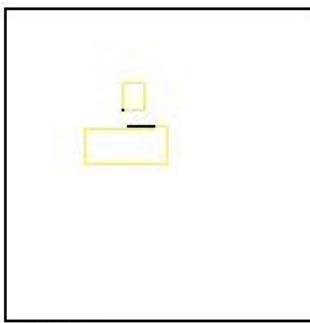
This is the placement stitch for the lower camper. After you stitch this step, place your fabric (that you want for your lower camper), completely covering these stitches.

### STEP 9:

This is the tack down stitch that will hold the lower camper fabric in place. After it's stitched, remove the hoop from the machine and very carefully cut the excess fabric away, very close to the line of stitching. You will have two sections. Then return hoop to machine.

### STEP 10:

This is the placement stitch for the door and window. After you stitch this step, place your fabric (that you want for your door and window), completely covering these stitches. You can place the fabrics side by side. Keep an eye on the stitching as it moves from one fabric to the other. You can gently hold it in place.



#### STEP 11:

This is the tack down stitch that will hold the window & door fabric in place. After it's stitched, remove the hoop from the machine and very carefully cut the excess fabric away, very close to the line of stitching. Then return hoop to machine.

#### STEP 12:

These stitches will create the curtains, banner, and heart.

#### STEP 13:

These stitches will create the outline around the camper, door, window, separation between lower and upper camper, and door handle.

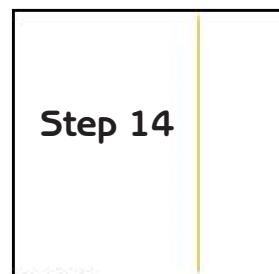
**Now that the decorative stitching is complete on the lower part of the bag, continue on:**

- Remove the hoop from the machine. Flip the hoop over so you are looking at the backside. Pull the bottom part of the lining down and pin or tape in place to keep it from moving. Pinning will secure it better, but be sure to insert your pins on the other side so you don't scratch your machine during stitching.

#### STEP 14:

- Flip the hoop back over so you are looking at the front. Remove the tape holding the zipper down. Place the 9 x 3 inch piece of fabric along the upper edge of the zipper. Tape in place. Flip the hoop over and repeat this step on the other side, using the 9 x 3 inch lining fabric. Since you can't see the zipper, you will line the fabric up along the remaining (upper) line of stitching. Both fabrics will have the right side facing down, and facing the lower part of the bag fabrics. Return hoop to the machine and stitch the line.

This is going to stitch the upper part of the bag's lining and exterior fabric to the zipper. This thread should match your exterior bag fabric.

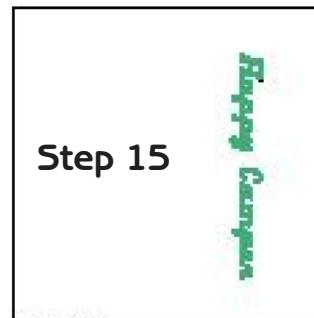


## STEP 15:

- Remove the hoop from your machine. Remove tape from both sides. Fold the lining fabric that you just stitched, down and out of the way. Tape in place so it doesn't move. In this step, you will only be stitching through the exterior fabric and the batting. Place the 8 x 2 inch piece of batting along that upper part just like you did for the lower front of the bag. The batting will be placed at the stitching line, then fold the fabric at the front of the bag up, and over the batting. Pin to secure. Go back to the machine and stitch the words or design that will be on the top. Remove the hoop from machine.

These stitches will create the words or other design on the upper half of the bag.

The upper part of your lining is folded down, and out of the way, right?



- Open zipper about 2/3rds of the way. **DO NOT FORGET THIS STEP!** Make sure the zipper pull is not too close to the stitching line. Fold the 3 inch piece of ribbon in half, place on the zipper, at the left side. The raw edges of the ribbon should be about 1/2 inch away from the raw edge of the fabric, while the fold of the ribbon should be toward the center of the bag. Tape to secure.



- Remove pins and tape. Lay the 9 x 7 inch piece of exterior bag fabric on the front of the hoop with the right side facing down. Place the batting on top of that. If you are using a polyester batting instead, you will want to use some tear away stabilizer on top of the batting, then tear away when you are finished stitching. This will prevent the loose fibers from getting hung up on your needle.
- Be sure that your fabric and batting are completely covering the stitching.



- At this point you are going to have to make sure that the lining fabric is positioned the same as the exterior fabric. The top portion should be pulled up, and the bottom portion should be pulled down. From the front of the hoop, pin all layers together. This photo is what your back will look like. Your zipper is hidden under that empty space between the fabrics!

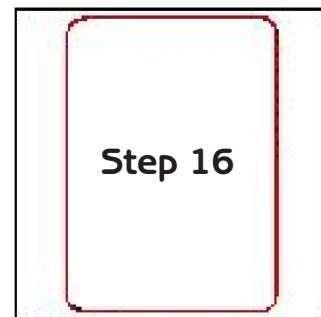


#### STEP 16:

- Take the hoop to machine and stitch out the next step. This will stitch all the way around your bag. Remove from machine, and remove pins.



This is going to stitch all the way around your bag. Remember to choose a color that matches your exterior bag fabric.



#### STEP 17:

- Flip hoop over so you are looking at the backside. Place the 9 x 7 inch piece of lining fabric, right side facing down, over the back. Again, making sure that you are covering the stitching. Secure in place with tape. Go back to the machine and stitch out your last step. This will stitch around the bag, leaving an opening to turn right side out.



You should still be using a thread that matches the exterior of your bag fabric. After you have stitched this last step, you can finally remove the project from the hoop!

## Step 17

- Cut all the way around the bag 1/4 inch away from the stitching. Turn right side out through the hole in the lining, and push out corners. Hand stitch or fuse the opening closed.
- Now cut away the strip of stabilizer that is over the zipper. Be very, very careful so you don't cut through your fabric. I find that the easiest way is to **carefully** glide a seam ripper along the edges.
- If you used WSS instead of cut away stabilizer, take a wet q-tip and dissolve the stabilizer that is covering the zipper.
- Once the stabilizer is removed, you can open the zipper the rest of the way and turn right side out through the zipper opening.



Remove any remaining jump stitches and straggles, give the bag a quick press and enjoy!

These little bags make such fun gifts. Once you've made your first one or two, you'll be whipping these things together in no time!

