

Class supply list for the **Junior Billie Bag**

Montavilla Sewing Center in Lake Oswego

Fall 2023

Instructor: Dawn White

First class: Friday, October 6, 2 – 6 pm
Second class: Friday, October 20, 2 – 6 pm
Third class: Friday, November 3, 2 – 6 pm

Back by popular demand! I'm delighted to be teaching the junior-sized version of the Billie Bag, Billie Mahorney's original design.

Billie, who taught her design for 20+ years before moving to Idaho in 2009, called her quilter's tote "The Take It All with You Bag" but every quilter who has ever made one simply calls it "my Billie Bag."

The original bag measured 21" x 21" x 7½". The Junior – 14" wide, 17" high, 7½" deep – is large enough for all the essentials, including a 6" x 24" acrylic ruler, thanks to the 7½" depth of the side panels.

Your bag is unique for two reasons: 1) you put whatever designs you want on the front and back, and 2) you customize the inside pockets to hold the tools you use most often.

Skill level: intermediate to advanced

There is no pattern for this bag. You'll receive a handout ("Advance Cutting and Sewing Instructions") before the first class with directions for making the front and back panels and cutting the lining and base pockets for the front and back panels. You'll receive the full set of instructions at the first class.

In class we'll examine a Junior Billie Bag deconstructed. You'll be able to see the individual components and understand exactly how the bag goes together. We'll also talk about how to measure for those custom pockets.

This bag is a great scrap buster as it calls for several different fabrics in modest amounts. Because each quilter will be using a variety of fabrics, it's impossible to provide a specific list of fabric amounts. However, you'll need fabrics for these elements:

- *Front and back panels:* (2) blocks that measure 12½" square unfinished plus sashing strips on all four sides of the blocks. Medium to dark fabric recommended for the strips. If not using 12" blocks: designs of your own choosing that will result in (2) quilted panels trimmed to 14½" x 17½" after quilting.
- *Side panels and bottom:* Dark fabric recommended – your bag may be sitting on the floor.
- *Scrap lining for front and back panels:* (2) pieces of scrap fabric that will be hidden when the bag is completed.
- *Lining:* four inside walls of the bag.
- *Base pockets:* attached to the four inside walls of the bag.
- *Inside pockets:* one or two (or more?) pockets on each of the four walls, customized by and for you. Attached to the base pockets.
- *Outside pockets (optional):* one or more pockets on the outside of each side panel.
- *Handles:* two long and two short handles for comfort and flexibility. The bag can be worn over the shoulder or carried by hand, like a satchel. Each set of handles is made with two fabrics.
- *Binding:* ⅓ yd. Dark fabric recommended.



In addition to fabrics, you'll need the following supplies:

- Medium-weight batting: enough to cut (2) 17" x 20" rectangles, (2) 10" x 27" rectangles, (2) 2" x WOF strips, and (2) 1½" x 22" strips
- Velcro (sew-in, NOT fusible): ¾ yard of ¾" wide; color should blend with lining fabric
- Fusible web: Heat-n-Bond Ultra Hold or Heavy Duty (17" wide): 1 yd. Sold in packages or by the yard at many fabric stores, including Montavilla. Please do not use another product.
- Light to medium-weight fusible interfacing (20" wide): ½ yd
- Basting glue stick
- press cloth or piece of muslin at least 18" square
- ¼" wide Steam-a-Seam-2 (NOT Lite)
- Acid-free foam core, 3/16" or 3/8" thick, available at craft stores or art supply and frame shops. Enough to cut two pieces 13 ½" x 14" and one piece 7" x 14"
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What to do before the first class

- Make and quilt the front and back panels
- Cut fabric and batting for long and short handles
- Cut fabric for base pockets and lining of front/back panels

What to bring to the first class

- Completed front and back panels; advance cutting; all remaining fabrics you are considering
- Sewing machine with *new* needle (80/12 sharp or jeans needle recommended), walking foot, ¼" foot, quilting foot. If you plan to do decorative stitching across the top of the pockets, bring appropriate machine feet and colors of thread.
- Standard sewing supplies (scissors, straight pins, measuring tape, marking pens, seam ripper, etc.)
- Rotary cutting equipment – large mat (24" x 36" recommended), 45mm or 60mm rotary cutter with *new* blade, and rulers large and small (my favorites are 6" x 24" and 4" x 14")
- 2" long flower head pins
- Wonder Clips (smaller size recommended)
- Optional: iron and portable ironing surface

In addition, bring some sewing supplies that you know you'll want to carry in your Junior Billie Bag: e.g., favorite rulers, rotary cutter, small cutting mat, quilt books. You'll be able to try them out in the two Junior Billie Bags I will have on hand to help you decide on pocket sizes. If you like the way my pockets are arranged, you can use my measurements.

Questions? Text or call me at 503-522-7681 or email me at dawnwhitepdx@gmail.com