

# Canvas Messenger

by Gary Fletcher



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Flap Placement here

Velcro Loop Side Applied Here

Pattern: Canvas Tablet Messenger  
Piece: Front and Back  
Cut 2 on Fold Fashion Fabric  
Cut 2 on Fold Lining  
Cut 6 on Fold Lightweight Fusible Interfacing

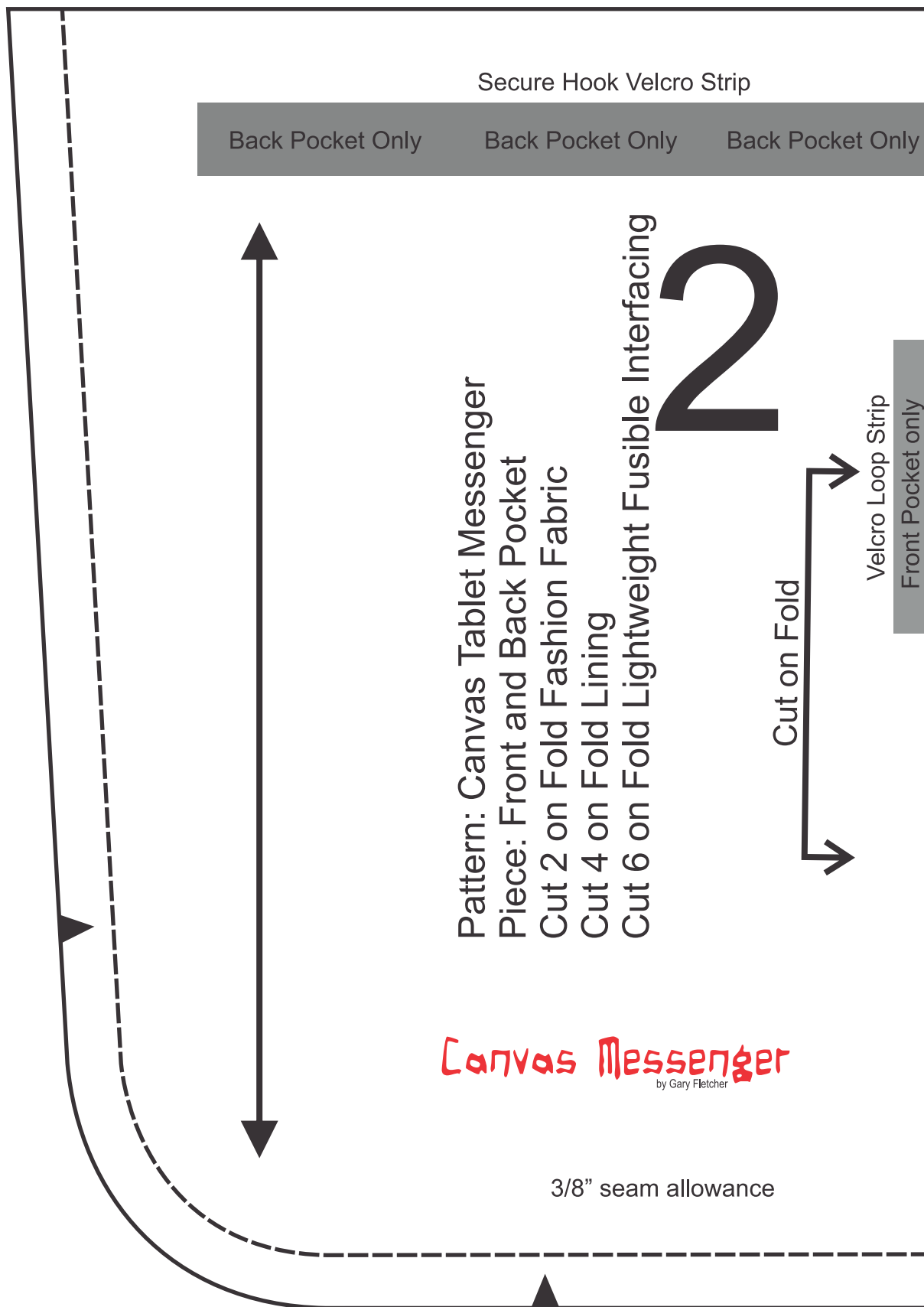
1

Cut on Fold

3/8" seam allowance

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Pattern: Canvas Tablet Messenger  
Piece: Messenger Flap  
Cut 2 on Fold Fashion Fabric  
Cut 4 on Fold Fusible Interfacing

# 3

Cut on Fold

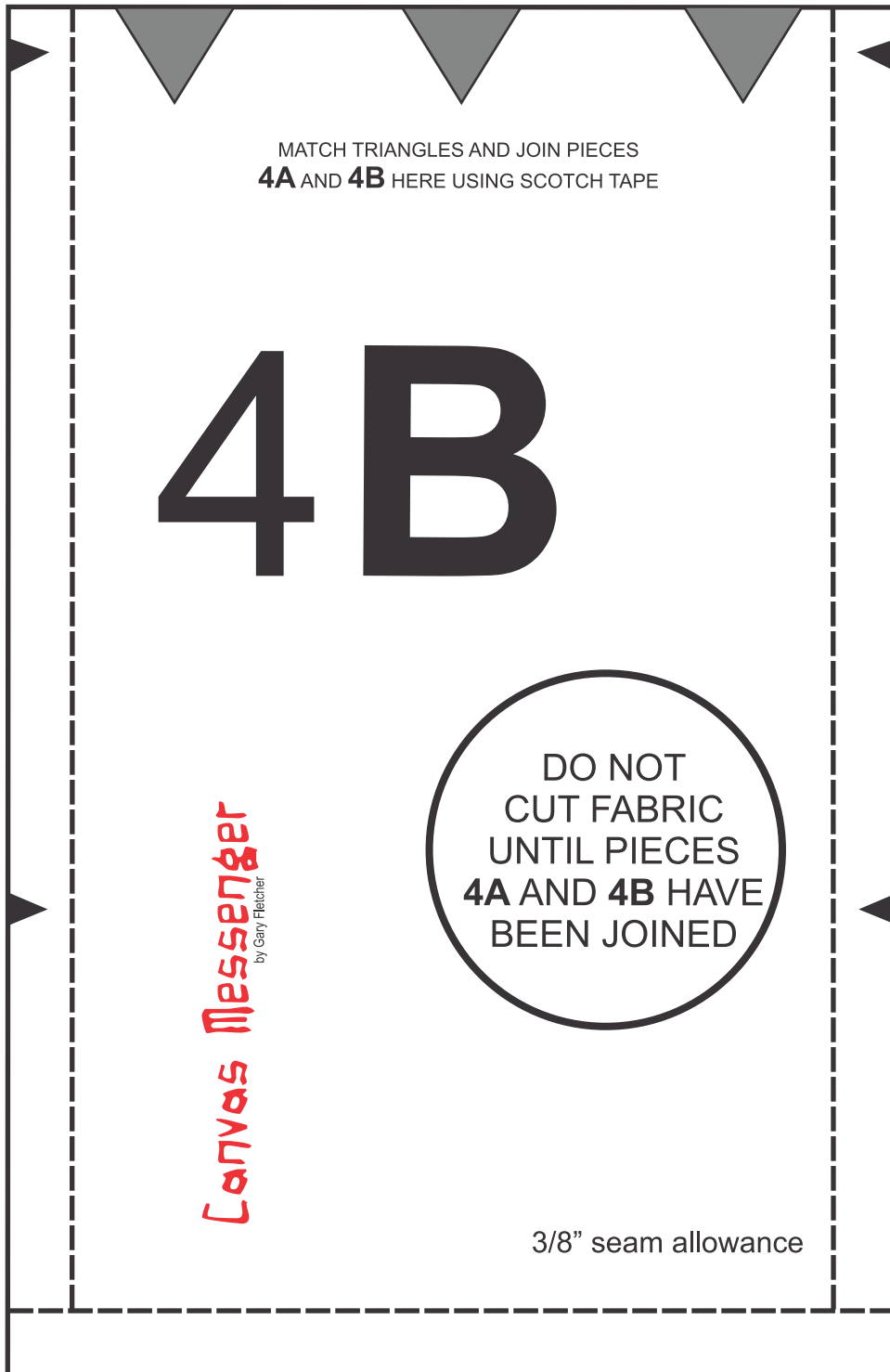
1/4" seam allowance

Hook velcro here



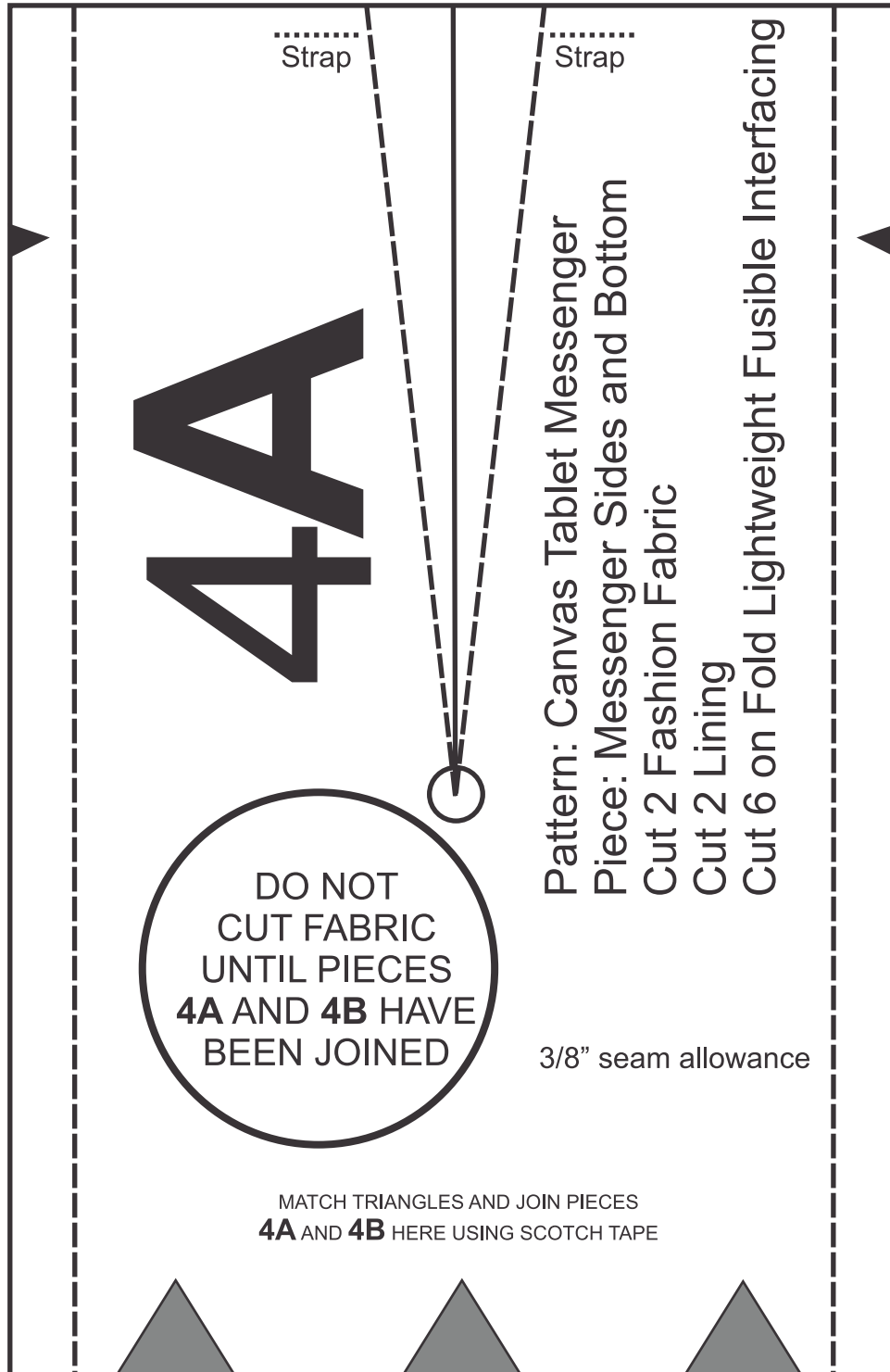
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## NOTIONS

2ct. 1.25" Rectangular Hoops

Approx. 12" of 1/2" wide Velcro tape that includes both the hook and loop sides.

1ct. 1" -1.25" Bar Slide Buckle (this allows the strap to be adjustable)

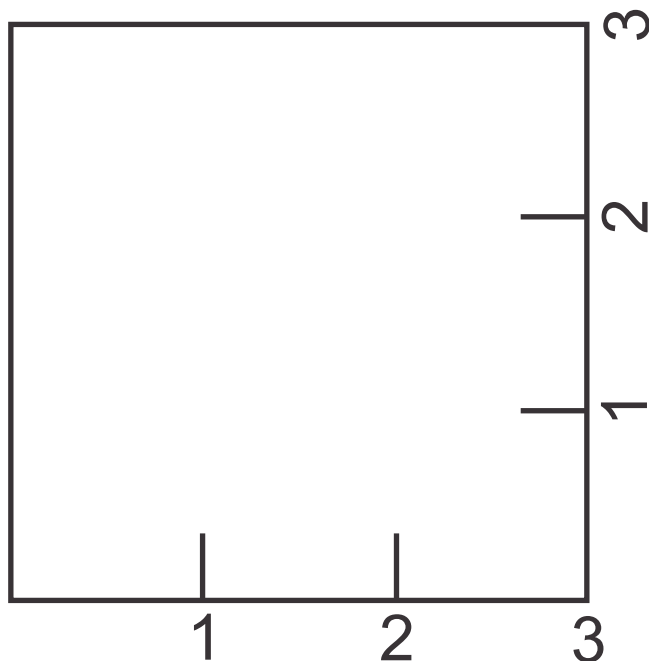
1yd. Canvas or other medium to heavy weight fabric such as decorator fabrics. ( I used 10oz. raw canvas and dyed it)

1yd. broadcloth or synthetic for lining

2yds lightweight fusible interfacing.

## PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

This pattern requires Letter size paper (8.5 x 11"). When printing this pattern select letter sized paper from your printer options. Also make sure that options like **CENTER** or **FIT TO SIZE** are not selected. After printing the pattern measure the scale below to ensure that the pattern has printed to the correct scale. Minute difference are acceptable.



## **Preparation**

For best results please read the instructions all the way through before starting. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [gary@garyfletcher.us](mailto:gary@garyfletcher.us). When contacting me list the name of the pattern you are referring to.

For best results I recommend using Singer Heavy Duty Needles Style 2020 Size 110/18 or equivalent for your machine as you will be sewing several layers of medium to heavy weight fabric that has also been backed with fusible interfacing. Using a stronger needle will ensure proper stitches and reduce needle breakage. Please check your machine manual to ensure that these needles can be used with your machine before attempting to sew. If these needles are not appropriate for your machine, please use needles that are recommended for your machine and heavy weight fabrics. Refer to your manual and or contact your machine manufacturer for guidance.

A free arm sewing machine is also recommended (not required). This will simplify the process of applying the binding to the top edge of the bag as well as applying the flap.

It is recommended that you print this pattern to card stock and trace the pattern onto fabric before cutting. I find that this method transfers the pattern to the fabric more accurately and produces truer results.

If you plan to add an embroidered design to the flap of the bag, as pictured and would like the embroidery file for the robot I used. Please contact me by email at [gary@garyfletcher.us](mailto:gary@garyfletcher.us). I'm happy to share this original robot design that I created especially for my messenger bags. The file is in .FHE and .XXX format which are supported by Singer Home Embroidery machines.

If you would like to see step by step photos of the construction process please visit [www.garyfletcher.us](http://www.garyfletcher.us) and check out the tutorial section.

I'm so happy that you chose to use my pattern! Thank you for your purchase. Have fun and please send me a picture of the finished project. I'm always very glad to see the end results. Please send images to [gary@garyfletcher.us](mailto:gary@garyfletcher.us). If you would like to see your images along with your name, posted on my site please let me know.

Happy Sewing!

## **Cutting Fabric**

Please note that pattern pieces 4A and 4B need to be joined as indicated on the pattern pieces by matching the triangles and using a strip of tape. From here on out this piece will be referred to as piece 4.

## **Fashion Fabric**

- 1) The fashion fabric is the fabric you'll use to construct the shell (exterior) pieces of the



messenger bag. This fabric will also be used to construct the strap and the bindings.

- 2)
- 3) Cut all pieces as indicated on the pattern markings. Also cut a strip of fashion fabric approx. 60" long x 3" wide. This piece will be used for the messenger bag strap. Cut two strips of fashion fabric approx. 60" long x 1.5" wide. These strips will be used to bind the top edge of the messenger bag as well as the top edge of the pockets. These pieces do not need to be cut on the bias as they will not be used to bind curved edges. Set all pieces aside for now.

## **Lining**

The lining is the fabric which will be used in the interior of the messenger bag. Cut all lining pieces as indicated on the pattern markings.

## **Interfacing**

- 1) Interfacing is the key to achieving excellent results while constructing this bag. The interfacing acts as extra support for your messenger bag and is the difference between a home made looking finished project or a well made professional looking project.
- 2)
- 3) Fashion fabric pieces 1, 2, 3 and 4 will all receive two layers of lightweight fusible interfacing applied to the wrong side.
- 4) Lining pieces 1, 2 and 4 will receive one layer of lightweight fusible interfacing applied to the wrong side.. Please note that lining piece 2 will be cut 4 times and each piece will have one layer of lightweight fusible interfacing applied to the wrong side.

## **Construction**

### **Shell and Lining**

- 1) With right sides together sew pieces numbered 4 together along the bottom raw edges using a 3/8" seam allowance as indicated on pattern markings. Press seam allowance to one side. From the right side top stitch over seam allowance using a long stitch approx. 1/4" from the seam. With right sides together sew darts as indicated on pattern pieces near the top raw edge of each end. Press darts towards the same side. Repeat this step for the lining pieces. Set pieces aside for now.
- 2) If you are going to embroider a design on the flap of the messenger bag, now is the time to apply the design. Center one of the flap pieces in your machine embroidery hoop with the right side of the flap facing upward and select a design approx. 3 to 4" in height and no wider than 8". I find it easiest to use a self adhesive stabilizer when embroidering the flap. Once the embroidery has been completed sew both flap pieces together With right sides together and matching notches sew pieces 3 (flap) together along outside raw edges using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn flap right side out and press outside seamed edges so that they are smooth. Use lots of steam and press hard! Using pattern piece 3 markings as a guide secure a 1" strip of Velcro hook to the wrong side (UN-embroidered side) by sewing approx. 1/8" from outside edges of Velcro strip. Set flap aside for now.

- 3) With wrong sides together place piece 2 fashion fabric over piece 2 lining and secure both pieces together by stay stitching approx. 1/4" along outside raw edges. This step should be completed 3 times for the front tablet pocket and the back pocket as well as the interior lining pocket.
- 4) Please note that the back pocket will have 1/2" trimmed away from the top raw edge. This is important so that the back pocket doesn't interfere with sewing on the flap.
- 5) Take one of the 1 1/2" x 60 inch strips and fold the bottom edge over approx. 1/4" with wrong sides together and press. This strip will be used to bind the top raw edges of the exterior and lining pockets. With right side of the strip facing the wrong side (lining side) of the pocket sew raw edge of strip to top raw edge of pocket using a 1/4" seam allowance. Fold strip over seam allowance and press and then fold strip over the front of the pocket and press. Secure folded edge of strip into place by top stitching approx. 1/16" from folded edge. Repeat this step for the remaining exterior and lining pockets.
- 6) The back pocket (the shorter pocket) will have a 10 inch strip of the hook side of Velcro applied to the lining side approx. 5/8" from the top edge as indicated on pattern markings. The Velcro hook strip should be centered and stitched into place approx. 1/8" from the outside edges of the strip. Additionally sew a 10" strip of the loop side of Velcro to piece 1 as indicated on pattern markings. The back pocket that you sewed the hook Velcro strip to will match up with this loop strip.
- 7) Secure a 2" strip of Velcro loop to the front pocket as indicated on pattern piece 2 by sewing approx. 1/8" from outside edges.
- 8) With the wrong side of all pocket pieces 2 facing the right side of the messenger bag front and back pieces and lining pieces 1, matching notches secure both pieces together by stay stitching approx. 1/4" around the outside raw edges.
- 9) Matching notches pin piece 4 to the bag front 1 and sew together using a 3/8" seam allowance. Repeat this step for the back and lining. Turn the bag and lining right side out and press all seams outward towards the sides and bottom of the bag. Use lots of steam and shape the curves using the curved edge of your ironing board. Place lining aside for now.
- 10) With the right side of the flap (embroidered side) facing the back of the bag pin raw edge of flap along the markings indicated on pattern piece 1. Secure flap to bag by sewing approx. 1/4" from raw edge. Fold flap over and press. Again secure folded edge of flap by top stitching approx. 1/4" from folded edge.
- 11) Insert lining into messenger bag shell with the wrong side of the lining facing the wrong side of the messenger bag. Match top raw edge of lining seams to top raw edge of messenger bag seams. Pin into place. Stay stitch top raw edge of lining and bag together by sewing approx. 1/4" from top raw edge.
- 12) With right sides together fold the 3" x 60" strip of fabric that you cut early, over lengthwise and sew raw edges together using a 1/4" seam allowance. Using a tube turner, turn the strap right side out and press smooth. Top stitch along the each folded edge of strap lengthwise approx. 1/4" from folded edge. Cut two 3" sections away from the strip. These two sections will be

used to secure the metal hoops to the messenger bag. Insert one hoop into each strip, fold the strip over in half and stay stitch raw edges together approx. 1/4" from raw edge. Using pattern piece 4 markings as a guide secure each strip / hoop assembly to the inside of each side of the bag by stay stitching approx. 1/4" from raw edge.

- 13) Take the remaining 60" x 1.5" strip of fabric and with wrong sides facing each other fold the bottom raw edge over approx. 1/4" and press. Take one end of the strip and fold the end over with wrong sides facing each other approx. 1/2". This is the end you will start with when sewing the strip to the bag. From now on this strip will be referred to as the binding.
- 14) With the right side of the binding facing the wrong side (lining side) of the messenger bag, sew raw edges together using a 1/4" seam allowance. When you reach where you started trim the excess off. Fold binding over raw edge and press. Fold binding over again so the wrong side of the binding is facing the right side of the messenger bag. Secure binding into place by top stitching approx. 1/16" from folded edge. This is where the free arm feature of your machine and the heavy duty needle is needed most. You are stitching through several layers of canvas and interfacing. Walk your machine through thick areas such as where the straps are on each side of the bag. Be patient. I've made several of these bags using nothing more than heavy weight needles and a budget sewing machine. Although I do have an industrial machine I was amazed to learn that my new Singer 160 could handle the job.
- 15) Insert one end of the remaining strap into the bar slide buckle. Once you have the end threaded into the bar slide buckle pull out an excess of approx. 3" and fold the raw edge under approx. 3/8". Stitch folded edge to strap approx. 1/4" from folded edge. Thread other end of strap through the left hoop on the messenger bag and fold over bring the end back through the bar slide hoop. Again thread the end of the strap through the right hoop on the messenger bag. Thread through approx. 3" and fold the raw edge of the strap over approx. 3/8". Stitch folded end edge to strap approx. 1/4" from folded edge.

Finish your bag by giving it a good pressing all the way around. Use lots of steam and again shape the rounded edges using the curved edge of your ironing board. Press the lining by putting the iron inside the bag. Stuff the bag with craft paper so that the bag holds it's shape until it can be presented to it's new owner.