



 SEWING | SKILL LEVEL: **BEGINNER**

**Featuring Dual Duty XP® and Coats® Bold Hand Quilting thread and Free-Spirit Noteworthy by Erin McMorr**

Back to school is a very exciting time in a child's life! Send them off happily, with an awesome, personalized backpack! The "hidden" zipper pocket on the back of the back pack will keep all their important stuff, secure! The raw edge trim on the initial is repeated on the pocket edge and drawstring.

**MATERIALS**

**Coats Dual Duty XP® thread**, 8020 Cream

**Coats® Bold Hand Quilting Thread**, 100 white

**Coats® Polyester Zipper**, 7" [18 cm], 23A Nugrey

**Free Spirit Noteworthy by Erin McMorr**

PWEM086.MUSTA 1 yd [91 cm]



**Free Spirit Designer Essential Solids\***

Hot Pink CSFSESS.HOTRO ½ yd [46 cm]

Gold CSFSESS.SOLAR ¼ yd [23 cm]



*\*may also select a tone-on-tone print as shown*

- Cotton batting
- 3⅓ yds [3 m] of ¼" [0.6 cm] thick cotton cord
- 6" [15 cm] of 1/8" [0.3 cm] wide ribbon for zipper pull
- Straight pins
- ¼" [0.6 cm] Piecing Foot

## MEASUREMENTS

11" x 14" [28 x 35.5 cm]

## MAKE THE PATTERN

### Subheadings

1. On the computer, in word, type in the desired initial.
2. Highlight the letter and select Arial Rounded MT Bold font.
3. With the letter still highlighted, type 400 into the size field.
4. Change the color to the lightest gray (it will use less ink as you print it).
5. Print the letter.
6. Cut out the letter.

## CUTTING

### **FreeSpirit, Noteworthy by Erin McMorris PWEM086.MUSTA:**

- (4) rectangles 12" x 15" [30.5 x 38 cm] - for outer backpack front and back and lining
- (2) rectangles 8½" x 7" [21.5 x 18 cm] cut on the bias - for lower pocket
- (1) for outer, (1) for lining
- (2) rectangles 8½" x 2" [21.5 x 5 cm] cut on the bias - for pocket top strip
- (1) for outer, (1) for lining

### **Pink cotton:**

- (1) rectangle 5¼" x 6" [13 x 15 cm] - for initial
- (2) rectangles 3" x 9" [7.5 x 23 cm] - for casings
- (4) 1½" x 9" [4 x 23 cm] strips cut on the bias - for pocket trim

From the remainder of the fabric, cut bias strips to equal 3⅓ yds (48") [122 cm].

### **Gold cotton:**

- (1) letter, cut on the bias using pattern you made

## SEWING

1. Thread with Coats® Cotton machine quilting thread on top and bobbin.
2. Place (1) of the 12" x 15" [30.5 x 38 cm] Noteworthy by Erin McMorris rectangles on top of cotton batting slightly larger than the fabric.
3. Stitch randomly around some of the pencils, quilting the fabric and batting together. Stitch pencils approximately 2" [5 cm] apart.
4. Repeat with the other 12" x 15" [30.5 x 38 cm] rectangle.

5. Repeat with the (1) of each of the (2) bias cut upper and lower pocket pieces.
6. Trim away the excess batting.
7. Stitch near the edge, to secure the batting and fabric together.
8. Place the gold fabric cut initial, centered, on top of the Pink cotton 5¼" x 6" [13 x 15 cm] rectangle. Pin in place.
9. Pin the (2) on the quilted 12" x 15" [30.5 x 38 cm] rectangle, so that the initial is centered side to side, and the bottom of the initial is 2½" [6 cm] above the bottom of the rectangle.
10. Hand or machine quilt ¼" [0.6 cm] in from the edge of the initial.
11. Trim ¼" [0.6 cm] outside the initial as shown.



## Make the pocket

1. Place the 7" [18 cm] zipper right sides together with the 8½" [21.5 cm] side of the quilted pocket piece.
2. Move the needle position all the way to the left.
3. Align the edge of the regular presser foot with the edge of the zipper. Moving the zipper tab as necessary, stitch along the edge of the zipper as shown.



4. Repeat with the smaller top pocket piece on the other side of the zipper.
5. The zipper is now sewn between the two pieces.

6. Place the lower pocket lining piece right sides together with the quilted lower pocket piece. The zipper and the upper pocket piece will be sandwiched between the two layers as shown.



7. Stitch over the same row of stitching securing the lining in place.
8. Repeat with the upper pocket lining piece.
9. Topstitch on each side of the zipper.

## Sew on the pocket

1. Fold each 1½" x 9" [1.5 x 23 cm] bias cut pink strip in half, wrong sides together, lengthwise.
2. Take the first bias strip and place it with the folded edge even with the cut edge of the side of the pocket.
3. Using a ¼" [0.6 cm] seam allowance, stitch it in place.



4. Repeat with another strip on the other side.
5. Fold in the seam allowances towards the pocket.

6. Place the next bias strip along the bottom edge, again with the folded edge even with the cut edge of the pocket, and stitch in place, keeping the seam allowances on the sides, folded in towards the pocket.
7. Repeat with the top edge.



8. Place the pocket 2¼" [5.5 cm] up from the bottom, centered and keeping the seam allowances tucked in towards the pocket, pin in place.
9. Stitch in the ditch of the stitching all the way around the pocket, securing it in place.

## Finish the Backpack:

1. Fold the short ends of the two 3" x 9" [7.5 x 23 cm] rectangles in ½" [1.5 cm] to the wrong side, and press.
2. Fold them in half, lengthwise, wrong sides together and press.
3. Place the pressed casing on the right side of the backpack front (with initial), aligning the raw edges and stitch in place near the edge.
4. Repeat with the other casing piece on the back pack back (with pocket).



5. Place the backpack front and back right sides together and stitch the sides and bottom with a ¼" [0.6 cm] seam allowance.

6. Repeat with the two lining pieces leaving a 4" [10 cm] opening in the side seam to turn.
7. Place the lining inside the outer backpack, right sides together, and stitch around the top using a ½" [1.5 cm] seam allowance.
8. Turn through the opening in the lining.
9. Hand stitch the opening closed.
10. Stitch the 1½" [4 cm] wide bias strips end to end, creating one long strip.
11. Wrap the bias strip around the cotton cord.
12. Snap on either the zipper foot, or mega piping foot.
13. Stitch near the cord.
14. Trim the seam allowance to approximately ¼" [0.6 cm] as shown.



15. Cut the covered cord into two pieces.
16. Using a safety pin, thread the cord into one end of the casing and out the other. Continue threading it into the other casing so that both ends come out the same side as shown.



17. Thread the oather cord, starting at the opposite end of the casing, so the two ends come out on the other side as shown.



18. Knot cords together on each side approx 1" [2.5 cm] from bottom. Stitch straps to bottom corner of Bag as shown in photo working through all layers.



## **ALTERNATE INITIAL STYLE**

Another fun way to finish the initial is with rick rack! This method is easier to work with on simpler letters, like T, O, I, D etc.



3. Fold the rick rack to the wrong side, and pin the initial on the backpack.
4. Stitch in the ditch of the rick rack, where it meets the fabric. (rick rack 2).



1. Cut out the initial from the pattern you made, but, ADD ¼" [0.6 cm] seam allowance all the way around it.
2. Place the rick rack and stitch, on the inside of the point as shown. Cut the rick rack at the inside corners, and start with a new end.

