

## Friendship Bag by Brother Ambassador Joanne Banko



Created for July 21, 2022 Episode 284 Brother Live show broadcast on the Brother Sew USA Facebook page and Brother Sew USA YouTube channel here: [https://youtu.be/7mZWU7k\\_-Xk](https://youtu.be/7mZWU7k_-Xk)

This easy to sew, classic zipper bag features embroidery that fills the entire front of the bag. With a full lining and neatly covered zipper ends this bag is as pretty on the inside as it is on the outside. Leave it flat or choose to box the corners. Either way, this bag has plenty of room for a variety of items. Finished bag measures approximately 9-inches wide at the **top** edge, 6.5-inches at the **bottom** boxed edge, and 7 -inches long from top to bottom.

**Note:** I created the featured zipper bag with the Brother Luminaire, using several special features, including the ability to create a stamp outline in embroidery edit mode, create an original design using stamp shapes and decorative fill stitches in My Design Center, and select a specific hoop area to fill with the region fill tool. Materials and sizes listed are for the 9.5" X 9.5" hoop.

### Options for making bag using an alternative design:

You can certainly use these basic instructions to create a bag using an embroidery design you already have in your repertoire. Add lettering at the top and consider using a frame shape to outline the lettering. Your finished piece with added embroidery should measure 10 ¼-inches wide X 10 ¼-inches long, which includes seam allowance. Use this same measurement for bag back and lining pieces.



## Materials and Supplies:

- ⇒ For embroidered front of bag, select firm canvas, duck cloth, or denim. Hoop fabric to fill 9.5" X 9.5" hoop. Stabilize with medium weight fusible interfacing, fusible Brother tear-away stabilizer, or use a layer of medium weight tear-away hooped with the fabric or floated under the hoop. Here is a link to the fabric I used for this project:  
<https://www.hobbylobby.com/Fabric-Sewing/Canvas-Duck-Cloth/Natural-Duck-Cloth-Canvas-Fabric/p/45459>
- ⇒ For back of bag: Cut one piece of matching fabric using **trimmed embroidered piece** for actual size.
- ⇒ For bag lining: Cut two pieces of cotton using **trimmed embroidered piece** for actual size.
- ⇒ Cut two pieces of lining fabric measuring 2-inches wide X 1 ½" long to make tab ends for zipper.
- ⇒ SA208, narrow base zipper foot is recommended for sewing zipper and side seams.
- ⇒ Optional: Cut one piece of main fabric, or lining fabric measuring 2-inches wide X 4-inches long to create a loop on the side of the bag. Project does not feature this addition but it's easy to sew this piece into a tube, turn right side out, press, and then insert in left facing side seam slightly below the position of the zipper.

## Notions:

- ⇒ Purchase a zipper at least 12-inches long.
- ⇒ Choose threads to coordinate with your lining and embroidery design.
- ⇒ Optional: Use Dritz Wash Away Wonder Tape to keep zipper in place while stitching if desired.
- ⇒ Optional: Purchase 1/8" wide ribbon for zipper pull, or use purchased zipper tab or tassel to add a decorative touch and help open and close zipper.

## Steps to create design for featured bag:

**Note:** Touching OK finalizes various operations listed here. Please follow along with the video to see all steps for making bag.

1. Start by selecting the 9.5" X 9.5" hoop size in set mode. Choose 1-inch grid.
2. In embroidery mode, select font No. 11 from font menu. Program the following words, using a medium size font:

Birds of a feather

Next, select enter key to create second line of text  
stay friends forever!



Touch set and use edit mode to move lettering to top of 9.5-inch hoop area, leaving a little less than an inch of blank space at the top.

3. Touch Outline key to turn outer edges of lettering into a stamp shape. Set distance to equal .168 to create a bubble effect around lettering. Make sure inside setting is turned to OFF. Touch memory to place in stamp memory bank. Touch OK.
4. Touch Add and go to My Design Center. Create featured design as follows:
  - Touch stamp icon and retrieve the lettering stamp outline from memory. Next, Touch stamp icon and touch key to select decorative stamps. Choose motif with two birds. Touch OK. Touch size or rotate key and move birds up, positioning them so they're slightly less than an inch under the stamp outline created for lettering.
  - Touch stamp icon again to return to decorative stamps. Select the sprig of leaves. Touch rotate and rotate 90 degrees to the left. Touch size and resize leaves to equal 3.36 by 4.22. Now, move until leaves connect with branch under birds. **Tip:** Magnify to precisely position leaves under the bird branch.
  - To add eyes to birds, touch icon for standard shapes and select the circle option with outline only. Touch size and resize circle to equal 0.20. Magnify 400% and move circle until it's aligned with beak. Now, move circle for eye into place and adjust as necessary. Use duplicate key to create second eye and position on head of second bird.

Assign the following stitches to each shape, using the Line Tool key to assign line tool properties and the Brush Tool key to assign region fill properties. Be sure to touch the bucket key before touching your shapes. Choose desired colors as you go. Note that you can assign stitches as you bring the shapes on screen, **or** after all shapes are in place. If you hear a "knocking sound" it means the selected stitches have already been activated. You can choose to change color and stitch type and then re-touch shapes to change stitches. Use magnify option as needed to help in touching select areas for assigning stitches.

- Assign **triple stitch** outline for lettering bubble.
- Assign **no stitch option** to outline for birds.
- Assign **zig zag outline** to bird's eyes.
- Assign **zig zag outline** to branches.
- Assign **standard fill** to bird bodies and leaves.

**Note:** I used the default setting for all assigned stitches.

At this point you can touch next and use the preview key to see if everything looks just right. Next, touch Return to go back to the design screen.



5. To finish design, we'll add a decorative fill stitch to fill the entire 9.5" X 9.5" hoop. To fill this hoop size from edge to edge, begin by touching the stamp icon. Touch the hoop icon and select 9.5" X 9.5" hoop from the menu. Touch OK. Use Brush Tool key to fill the region, selecting decorative fill pattern 012. Touch bucket key and fill area by touching the screen in the blank space between motifs. Place your work in memory if desired, to retrieve later and edit.
6. Touch next. Note that you can scroll through the design using arrow keys and change stitch direction or fill as desired. Touch preview to check design one more time. When you're happy with everything, touch set and then touch OK to proceed to embroidery. Note that you can place your work in memory if desired, to retrieve later and edit. See completed design combination below:



Embroider design with desired thread colors. Consider choosing colors that coordinate with your lining fabric. **Tip:** When stitching decorative fill pattern, stitch at a speed of 350 SPI for best results. Trim finished piece, leaving a ¼-inch seam allowance at the top edge and a ½-inch seam allowance on sides and bottom. Use your front piece to cut a matching piece for back and two pieces for lining, as outlined in supply list.



**Bonus instructions:** Add a custom label or hand-written note created using My Design Center, and stitch to lining piece before construction. You'll find a video showing the steps when you [CLICK HERE](#) to visit my Let's Go Sew with Joanne Banko YouTube channel.

7. Construct bag using video as a guide. Basic steps are as follows:
  - Center oversized zipper along upper edge and mark each end so its ½-inch shorter than each end at the top edge. Trim excess zipper tape.
  - Add tab ends to cover zipper ends and create zipper stops.
  - Use a ¼-inch seam allowance to sew right side of zipper to front piece, sandwiching it between the front and the lining. Sew zipper to back piece and lining in the same manner.
  - Press fabric pieces away from zipper with lining pieces matching together, and front and back pieces matching together.
  - With right side together and all raw edges matching, cut away a 1 ½-inch square from each bottom corner for boxed corners.
  - Important! Open zipper almost all the way before you proceed any further.
  - Next, sew bottom seam of lining leaving an opening at least 4-inches for turning bag right side out.
  - Sew bottom seam of front and back bag closed.
  - Sew side seams of front and back and of lining, making sure fabric tabs on zipper ends don't get caught in the seam.
  - Turn right side out by pulling bag through zipper opening and opening in lining.
  - Push lining inside, smooth out bag, and push out corners. Carefully press bag using a pressing mitt or sleeve board.
  - Add ribbon, zipper pull tab, or tassel to add a decorative touch and help open and close zipper.
8. After completing the bag, I decided to set the machine up for free arm sewing and topstitch the edges along the zipper to help keep lining away from zipper teeth. See photo below:



**Your bag is finished!**

**Happy Friendship Day to one and all!**

