
Stencil and Sew a Makeup Bag with Anna Joyce

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(peppy music) (upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Anna Joyce. I'm a Portland-based printmaker, artist, designer, and author of the book Stamp, Stencil, Paint, and today we're going to be doing a hand-stenciled makeup bag with a leather bottom. I'm gonna show you how to cut and prepare a stencil, print the stencil onto some canvas, and then sew the whole thing together into a brightly colored leather-bottom makeup bag with a really cute zipper. This brightly colored floral makeup bag is perfect for travel, keeping your cosmetics, or you can give it away as a gift. (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To print your zipper pouch you're going to need Martha Stewart adhesive stencil paper, a little bit of transfer paper for transferring your image. A PDF of the floral pattern that we'll be using that you can download off of Creative Bug. An X-ACTO knife with a sharp blade. A sharp pencil. Some Martha Stewart craft foam topped daubers for printing, and then two colors of paint. I chose Martha Stewart craft paint in Geranium and Indigo, and also a plate that will use as a palette. I like to use a ceramic plate. For sewing up the pouch we've got two pieces of canvas, cut 10.5 by 7.5 inches. A little bit of leather for the bottom that's four by 10.5 inches. A leather needle, scissors, a brightly colored zipper and also an acrylic ruler. I like to have straight pins for pinning everything together. A little bit of water for cleaning up the daubers when you're done so that they don't get ruined, and also a piece of canvas for testing out your colors. You'll need an iron, an ironing surface for flattening your canvas and putting in the zipper. You'll need a sewing machine with matching thread for your canvas and leather, and also a resealable cutting mat for cutting out your stencil. I've also put down a piece of canvas to protect my work surface from any paint; but you could use something else as well like a large sheet of paper. I know it seems like a lot of supplies, but once you have this basic stencil kit you'll be able to create patterns whenever you want.

Chapter 3 - Stencil and Print Canvas

Creating stencil

- To cut and prepare our stencil for printing, we're going to use a few of these items. I've got my transfer paper, the adhesive stencil film, a PDF that you can download off of creativebug of the floral image. A little bit of stencil tape to keep everything in place. An X-ACTO knife or scissors, and a sharp pencil. So to get started, I'm gonna cut everything down to a little bit more of a manageable size. You also want to cut the transfer paper to the same size as the floral. It doesn't need to be exact. You also are gonna cut down the Martha Stewart repositionable stencil film. It has a nice grid on the back that's marked in inches, so it makes it really easy to cut it. You want it to be just a little bit larger than the PDF of the floral, because when we start printing you need a little bit of extra room around the edges so your stencil paint doesn't go off to the edge. To transfer the image, we're going to make a sandwich with the transfer paper, stencil film, and also the image. So you're going to put this transfer paper, with the transfer side down onto the back of the paper of the stencil film. And then place the floral image on top. And to make sure that everything stays in place when we're cutting, you can use a little bit of this adhesive stencil tape. Once everything's in place you're gonna

use a sharp pencil or a pen to trace around all of the lines of the floral. This will transfer the image onto the paper backing of the adhesive stencil film, so that it's easy for you to cut out design. And feel free to experiment with your own patterns and make your own stencils. I find that when you're first cutting and printing stencils, doing something easy is usually the best. You can also use this transfer paper again and again. Remove just the edges of the stencil tape and take this off. And you can see your floral image has been transferred onto the stencil film. You're gonna use an X-ACTO knife to cut away the lines that we just traced. I like to hold my X-ACTO knife as if it were a pencil, and you also wanna make sure that you have a very sharp blade. It might seem counter-intuitive, but a sharp blade is easier and safer to use. Mind what you're doing, these knives are really sharp. And just use smooth, fluid lines to cut away the design that we transferred. I like to sometimes take the tip of my knife and kind of pull up. And don't be surprised if it takes a little bit of practice. These rolls of stencil film are really long and you can try cutting again and again if you make a mistake. And it doesn't need to be exact either. Now that we've cut the stencil, we're gonna go ahead and print the canvas.

Stenciling fabric

- Before I get started printing my stencil, I always like testing my materials. Today for printing the actual stencil pattern, I'm gonna be using this foam dauber in the largest size. There's also some smaller sizes that come in the package that are really fun to play with and I'll show you that in a second. I'm gonna pick up just a tiny bit of paint and then start dabbing it at a 90 degree angle on my plate. I really like using a ceramic plate or sheet of plastic for my palette because it doesn't put any lint onto the surface of your dauber. So definitely resist the urge to use a paper plate or a cookie sheet or anything that will make it hard for you to see the color or put lint into your paint. All right so now this is thoroughly saturated and I'm ready to test it out on my canvas. You can actually use these to make patterns. Do polka dots, which I think is a really fun use for this. When you're stenciling, you don't wanna use a lot of paint, it's more about getting a thin, even layer of color than adding a lot of paint onto the top of your stencil. You can also use a stencil brush, which you can find at art stores, but I really love these foam daubers because they give more of an airbrush quality, it's a very even printing. I think that looks good, I'm gonna set this aside and use a fresh dauber for my blue. Pick up a little bit of the paint and repeat the process. I really like how the blue and the orange look together. I was inspired by Scandinavian folk art when I was working on this design. These all surface acrylic paints will dry up to two shades darker than what you see when the water evaporates from the paint. Definitely make sure to let everything dry before you decide on your final color palette. I really like using the smaller daubers in this set to make tiny polka dots and you could add a really cute center to the flower if you wanted to. All right, that looks good. I think I'm gonna move on to printing the stencil onto my canvas. The first step is to peel off the paper backing. Do it carefully so the stencil doesn't fold over on itself. And it will reveal the sticky side. I'm gonna start in the upper left hand corner of my canvas, I'm just gonna position this in a pleasing way. And then use my fingers to gently press the adhesive film onto the canvas. You wanna make sure there are no air bubbles or any place where paint could get under the edge of the stencil. Now that everything's secure, I'm gonna start by printing the petals of my flower with the orange. You're gonna come down at a 90 degree angle and just gently put the pigment onto the canvas that's revealed through the cut stencil. Since we're gonna be using two colors today, try to keep the orange around where the petals are since we're gonna be printing the leaves in blue. I notice that the leaf is cut very close to the edge of the stencil so I'm gonna make very sure that I don't go off

the edge and print where I don't want to. When my dauber gets dry, I'm just gonna pick up a tiny bit more paint, tap it on my plate and move on to the next leaf. Now that everything's been printed, I'm gonna peel this off to reveal the pattern. You wanna do this slowly so that nothing rips. And there you go. You have a perfectly printed floral in two colors. To print the rest of it and repeat, I'm just gonna take the stencil, you can reuse it again and again, it's still sticky. The canvas is so absorbent that it doesn't really matter if the stencil film covers over it, there's not too much drying time. And I'm gonna go ahead and use my dauber to press everything down. Just wanna make sure there's no air bubbles. I like to rotate my stencil in between prints so that it has more of an all over pattern, more of a toss patter feel instead of being printed in rows. I also like to keep this paper that was peeled off of the back of the stencil in a little folder so that you can have all of your designs in one place in case you wanna recreate the stencil and you don't need to go through the process of transferring the image you can just trace from inside the lines onto the back of your stencil paper. Keep printing your stencil, rotating it in between each print and also don't be afraid to go off the edges a little bit, it'll look as though the piece of fabric was cut from whole cloth instead of just printed on top. And you'll do this on both pieces that you're gonna use for making the zipper bag. I have some pieces of canvas here that I've already printed and they are dry and ready to go. I'm really happy with the way that they turned out, I love how graphic and colorful the pattern is. So one really important thing is that you need to wash the daubers, these guys are not inexpensive but if you take care of them you can use them over and over again. You just want to dab at the bottom of a shallow bowl to remove as much paint as possible. You wanna be gentle because that top layer of foam is held on by a thin layer of glue and if you're too rough with them it may come apart. I like to dab onto a cotton rag, you can also use a paper towel. And also take a minute to kind of get any paint residue off of the edge as well. If you don't wash out the paint, these will become rigid and unusable but if you take care of them and clean them properly, you can use them for a lot of stenciling projects.

Chapter 4 - Sew Bag

Sewing leather to canvas

- Before we're able to sew the bag together, I need to finish all of the edges so that the canvas won't fray. I used a serger here to finish the edge but if you don't have a serger at home, you could use pinking shears or a simple zigzag stitch to make sure that the canvas isn't going to fray on the inside of your bag. I also like to iron everything flat. The canvas has a tendency to buckle a little bit when the paint dries and it's nice to be working with a really flat surface when you're sewing. So now that everything is flat, I'm gonna flip it over and take one of the edges and fold it over about a quarter of an inch and iron it flat. I'm gonna do this for both pieces of the canvas. This is where we're gonna put the zipper in when we start sewing. The next step to making your zipper bag is adding the leather to the bottom. I like to choose a leather that has a feeling almost like cloth. When you're working with a home sewing machine and leather, you don't wanna use anything that's too stiff. You also don't want it to stretch a lot. So I like to look for something that has a nice thin weight but is sturdy. So I'm gonna flip it over to the wrong side and add a little bit of this Collins Wonder Tape. This is gonna help keep the leather in place when you're sewing it, keep it from stretching and moving and since you can't pin leather, this tape is really invaluable to keeping everything in place. Peel off the backing. Discard. Then simply take your leather and finger press it in place. You wanna do this on both sides. Now that everything's in place, I'm gonna stitch this down. I have my sewing machine outfitted with a leather needle and some chocolate brown thread to match my leather. I'm

just gonna sew right along the edge, backstitching at the beginning and the end. Stitch down the leather on both sides of your zipper bag. I have these done here and now it's time to install the zipper. This is kind of an untraditional way of putting a zipper in but I was always so intimidated to make anything with a zipper that I found that this top stitching technique works really well and it's very simple and you don't even need a zipper foot. So I'm just gonna take my zipper and line up one side of this folded edge. I'm gonna slide it in. Put down the presser foot and then just adjust. I'm just gonna run a straight stitch that's gonna top stitch this folded edge along the side of my zipper. Backstitch. I have a 14 inch zipper here so I lined up the makeup bag just right in the middle. So I've got my pull and the end about, I don't know, an inch and a half from either side. Now I'm gonna stitch on the other side of the zipper bag. You wanna make sure to line up the edges of your canvas so that the bag will be even. Now we're gonna stitch it down the same as we did on the other side. Now that the zipper's been put in, we're ready to construct the bag. When you're putting in the zipper, in this kind of east, non-traditional way, the only thing that you want to make sure that you do is that you don't go off of the edge of the canvas onto the zipper tape itself other than that, it should be pretty easy to put together.

Assembling bag and gusset

- Alright so now that I've sewn in the zipper, we're ready to construct the bag. I'm gonna start by unzipping about half way, fold the two right sides together. I'm gonna use a pin to keep everything in place while we're sewing. Definitely don't stick a pin through your leather because it will leave a hole that you can't get rid of. I'm gonna use just the edge of the presser foot to be my guide for the seam allowance. It's a little bit more than a quarter of an inch. And right here I'm gonna stitch right over the end of this folded zipper tape. Back stitch. I'm gonna remove the pins... And snip off the end of my zipper tape being careful not to cut the canvas. You can just throw those away. Now I'm gonna unzip the bag and put in the gusset. So when you're putting in a gusset, you wanna fold down the sides and line up the seams on the bottom inside of the bag and this seam right here. Creating a triangle. And you can feel with your fingers when the seams are lined up. And then we're gonna go ahead and sew right across here at about an inch and a half. I'm gonna line up the end of my zipper bag with this line right here on the sewing machine so that it is even on both sides. That'll be my marker point. Back stitch. And repeat the same step on the other side. So we've sewn everything together. It looks like my gussets are the same size. So our bag won't be crooked when we turn it right side out. Now we're gonna flip it right side out. I usually start from the corners, use my thumbs to flip it. And do this on the other side. And this is where the magic happens. You can use your hand to kind of finger press everything. I also use my thumb to pop out this zipper right here. And now you have a beautiful hand printed, leather bottom zipper bag.