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Turning miscut fabrics into zippered sling bags



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Club	Stitching Club	Run by	aikyam fellows and Shabana K H
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Today we finished stitching our screen-printed fabric products and took on a creative problem-solving challenge. We found a batch of fabric pieces cut to the wrong dimensions. They were unusable for our standard bag patterns. Instead of wasting this material, we held a group discussion. We brainstormed practical ways to reuse the miscut pieces.

Together, we decided to turn the smaller panels into compact sling bags. The first assembly went smoothly. It produced a very neat and appealing bag structure. But attaching a zipper to the sling bag created an unexpected technical hurdle. The placement of the shoulder strap interfered with standard zipper installation along the top edge.

To fix this conflict, we tested other attachment methods. We built a clever finishing solution. We left a small, controlled opening along one side of the zipper seam. This made room for the strap. We integrated the bag handle alongside the zipper on the opposite side.

This adjustment solved the alignment issue cleanly. The result is a sturdy, functional and visually polished zippered sling bag with zero fabric waste.

Problem-solving

Outcome

Successfully eliminated fabric waste by converting miscut panels into a functional sling bag and developed a practical technique for installing zippers alongside sling bag straps. How we know: Observed through collaborative design discussions, physical prototyping, and functional testing of the completed zipper and strap assembly.

Learnings

What worked: a group brainstorming session turned miscut fabric pieces into an attractive, functional sling bag. Offsetting the zipper seam with a small side gap allowed clean strap integration.

What was difficult: standard top-edge zipper attachment clashed with the sling bag handle placement. We needed careful structural adjustments to prevent seam bunching or zipper obstruction.

Changes for next time: record the exact measurements and zipper-gap pattern from this sling bag prototype. Then any future miscut fabric pieces can be systematically converted into uniform sling bags.

Problem-solving

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