Yakityak's Doggy-Doo Right Bag Holder

…Do the right thing! Clean up from your dog!

I like to take copious bags along on dog walks. One never knows how many will be necessary! Initially I simply used a leash that incorporated a bag holder in the handle, and thought that was the most marvelously convenient arrangement. Then one day, my little 8 pound dog snapped the lead… a lead that was advertised as appropriate for dogs up to 12 pounds. After a few heart pounding moments all was remedied, but I decided to take a closer look at the leash. It turns out that there was a flaw in the design – some very narrow cording was used to attach two much sturdier components, and the cording broke. I decided I would only use quality flexible leashes from then on, but sadly, most of these don't have bag dispensers incorporated into them. So I tried to use the little plastic bag dispensers that you can attach to any leash. The plastic was cheap and broke. The replacement wasn't much better – the tab used to attach it to the leash was single-use. Annoying! So I decided to make my own bag dispenser with a snap attachment. The bag is sewn in much the way one sews a bolster pillow with an overlap opening, with the strap appliquéd along the back. You can take it off to switch leads. You can launder it. There is a place at the bottom of the strap to hang a full baggy so your hands remain free on your walk. You can even tuck in a spare roll of bags when the one you are using is getting low.

Now for a word of caution. This is a wee little project. In practical terms, this means that the sewing is fussy, often requiring a fair number of pins in a small space and lots of stopping and repositioning on the machine. If that's the sort of thing that drives you bonkers, you ought to do a quick cost-benefit assessment and decide which is more annoying… the commercially available bag dispensers or sewing this thing. And if you do decide to sew this anyway, a little glass of chardonnay never hurts.

Materials

- 2 fat quarters of cotton quilting fabric, or equivalent in any sturdy woven
- one complete set of snaps
- matching thread
- a penchant for sewing small items

Cutting Instructions

- Cut one rectangle each of exterior fabric and contrast at 10 ½" X 4" for main body and lining.
- Cut one rectangle of contrast fabric for strap at 10 ½" X 2 ½"
- Cut two squares of exterior fabric at 3 ¼" X 3 ¼" for end pieces
- Optional: cut two squares of lining fabric at 3 ¼" X 3 ¼" for hand finishing interior

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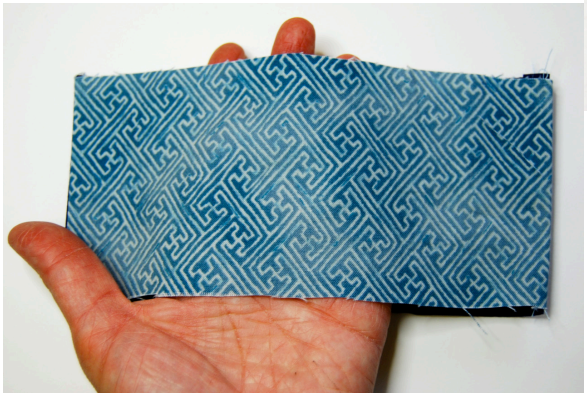
Sewing instructions: Sew with a ½" seam allowance

1. Fold strap rectangle long-side to long-side, right sides together (RST). Sew one short end and one long end shut. Trim the corner, turn right side out and press, pushing the points all the way out with a long skewer.
2. Lay the main body contrast and exterior fabrics together, RST. Sew both short ends and leave the long ends free. Turn right side out and press.



3. Find the center line of the main body piece by matching the two sewn short ends together and pressing a crease. Lay the sewn strap piece so that is centered over this crease, with the raw edge of the strap flush with one raw edge of the main body piece. Pin in place.
4. Measure up 1 ½" from the raw edge of the strap piece and mark (I use a pin). Measure down ½" from the other raw edge of the main body piece and mark with another pin on the strap.
5. Appliqué the strap in place by topstitching a rectangle that ends at the two previously placed pin marks.

6. Make note of the ½" seam allowance on the two end squares using water-soluble ink. Fold a square in half to find its midline. Align the square with the main body piece so that the square's midline is centered over the strap. Make certain the strap is out of the way, and that the square and the main body piece are RST. Pin in place. Sew only that one side of the square's seam allowance to the main body, making sure to start and stop ½" from each corner. Repeat for the bottom square, but this time make certain to catch the free raw edge end of the strap in your seam allowance.
7. Pick one square end and carefully pivot and pin the main body piece to the next side of the rectangle. Check frequently to get the corners to lay right – your aim is to make a square ended bolster shape with nice sharp corners. Sew this next seam, remembering to stop ½" away from the corner. Repeat for the other complete side of the square end. What remains is the "overlap" side of the square. Carefully pin the remaining portion of one end of the main body piece to the square. This main body piece should extend just beyond the middle of the square's side. Pin in place. Do likewise with the other side of the main body piece. The finished edges of the main body piece should overlap each other by ¼" – $^{1}/_{3}$".
8. Repeat step 7, paying close attention to the overlap so that the same side overlaps both top and bottom.
9. Turn bag right side out and test strap against your leash handle to gauge snap placement. Place snaps on strap according to manufacturer's directions.

At this point, you can be done if you wish. There are raw edges inside the bag, but they will never see the light of day. It is a poopy-bag holder, after all. But, if this still irks you, you can certainly encase them with a facing, but this will require some hand sewing. Cut out the two optional end squares from lining fabric, and press all the seam allowances to the same side. Turn the bag inside out again and slip stitch these lining patches over the end squares, encasing all seam allowances inside.

Snap your bag holder on the leash and take your dog for a walk!

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