

# Creative Sewing Center

These instructions do not supersede the instructions that come with the train set. They are simply my interpretation of an easier and faster way of completing a fun project.

## First:

Read the instructions on the fabric, starting with the train information.

## Second:

Relax, it isn't all that hard. You don't have to make the process that much work.

## Third:

Purchase Décor Bond or a similar "heavy" fusible interfacing that will stiffen the project without bulk. I used 2 yards in my projects. That included double use on the tote bag, both lining and face fabric pieces.

## Fourth:

Don't even think about Timtex type products unless you like pushing, shoving, and handwork. Been there done that on the buildings. Works but is maybe not worth the effort when turning the project right side out. Needles hate sewing through heavy stuff with questionable "sew" through fusibles.

## Fifth:

Let's Go. I started with the buildings.

Cut out the buildings on the solid line. You will notice two rows of dotted lines. You will be using the inside dotted line for your seam. Thus a 1/2" seam allowance.

Take the Decor Bond to the Ironing Board and lay it sticky/ shiny/ fusible side up. Lay the building piece face up on the Decor Bond. You will be fusing the wrong side to the Decor Bond.

Be careful to just fuse the fabric not your iron to the Decor Bond.

Press, do not iron. Once the fabric is stuck a bit, cut out the building piece next to the solid line.

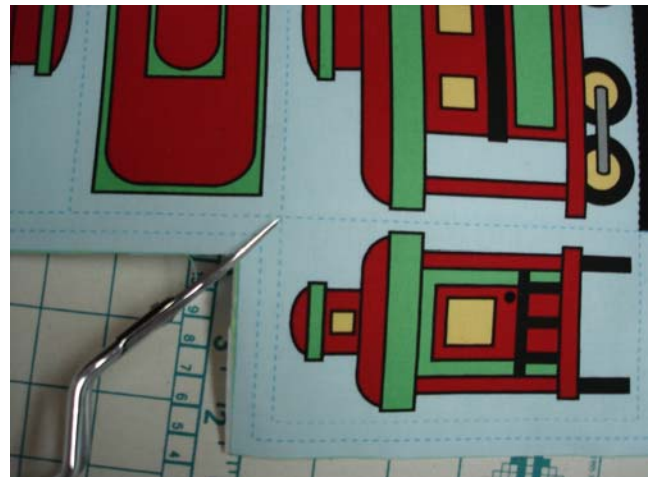
You will notice clip marks in the inside corners. If you feel comfortable then clip to the inside seam line but not through the seam line now. You will end up doing it anyway.

I used contrast thread so that the seams would show but you need to use a matching thread. I used 100% polyester thread by Metler called Metrosene Plus. It is strong and thin.

Once you have sewn some seams then you will notice that you are going to also clip along the long sides. These clips will be at the fold line of the back, side fold line.

I also cut small Decor Bond sections that were the size of the front and back of the buildings. I cut these pieces by measuring the inside of the rectangle formed by the inside seam line. This second layer of Decor Bond was not in the seam line. You could do it

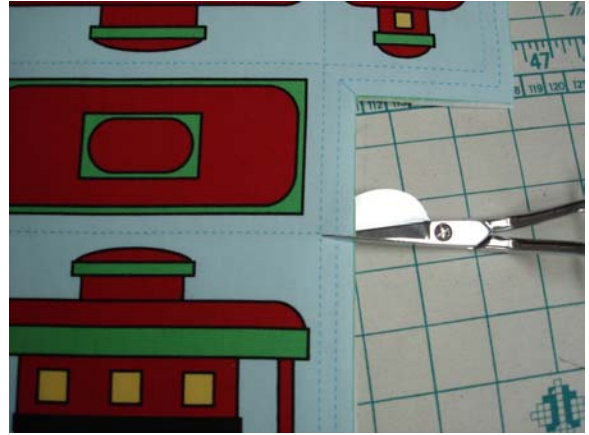
Yes, I know these are the trains , same thing just different.



with all sides and the top and bottom.  
Later on I did that on the second set of train cars.



That is because the first set had no Velcro in position for the hook up tabs. I have trains for the track and trains for the Tote bag.



#### Sewing:

My husband asked why would anybody do this much work. With these instructions there is little work. After you make one building then you can complete each item in about 10 minutes. I can see the little boy down the street saving these train puff cars for the rest of his life. My husband has his trains from when he was a child. I can see my grandson scooting along the padded train track with little cars and pulling up the houses and fire station to show friends.

#### Tips on Sewing:

1. Whenever possible or thinkable- SEW FROM THE START POINT TO THE FOLD.

Push a pin through the fabric at the start point (this is the point of the inside seam line- sometimes where the dotted line turns a 90 degree angle. Push it through the opposing fabric at the start point. Look at the instructions on the fabric. Pin the two sides together right side are together and will form a seam with a cut angle at the end. That is the fold. Pin that look inside at the right side. You will see that you are forming a box. This is the fun part. This little project will be a learning experience. OPEN YOUR MIND. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING once you learn this.

Whenever possible sew from the start point to the fold. Keep reminding yourself about this little rule. It can be used on almost everything including eight point stars.

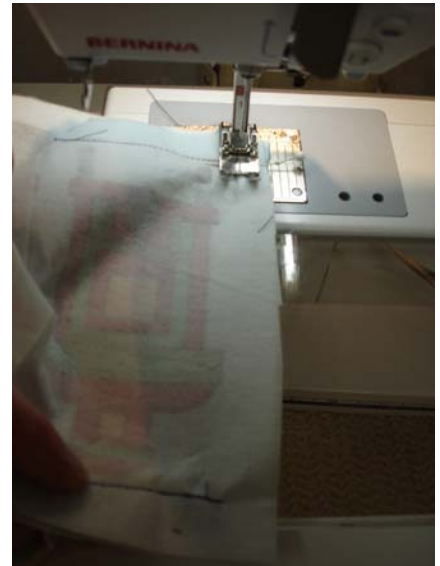


2. It is important that you only sew from seam start point to seam end point. These are found when the dotted line turns a corner. You will know what I mean if you don't do this. You will be taking some seams out. Oh, by the way, don't back stitch until you know what you are doing. Sometimes you have to take things out. Also a 2.2 stitch length is good but too long a stitch length will not feel easy. Shorter than 2.2 is hard to take out.

3. Whenever possible or thinkable- SEW FROM SEAM TO SEAM. Once you have sewn some seams it will be necessary to sew the last 3 seams. These will form the bottom of the item. Now you will know what I mean about clipping the long side so that you can fold on the fold line. When you start thinking like a box then you will love how the little clip makes a great fold. Now you have a choice as to which side to sew on. Remember to look for the seams. Sew from seam to seam. That way you know where your start point and end point are. You can pin but by the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> item you will be comfortable. Remember this is a 1/2" seam allowance. Don't be too hard on yourself, this project is for a child not an engineering project. Close is good enough.

4. When sewing the last seam notice the hole to turn through. Sew from the side to the line and back to the side. You will have reinforce the seam and have fewer threads to cut. The marks are right- a smaller opening is too hard to turn though. Been there done that already.

5. Stuff and hand sew the last seam shut. You might be able to Steam a Seam II the seam shut but it takes one TV program to close the seams.



#### The Tote bag:

This is such a great idea for lots of projects. I used some of the left over fabric items such as the label, a few pictures, and the flowers to make two sides of the tote bag. Cut 14" squares of fusible interfacing or muslin as a base fabric to sew, flip and make sides using the scrapes of fabric, and iron them to cover the interfacing. I used the instructions for the bag as the bottom of the Tote. That way they are never lost in case someone wants to know how it was completed. I can image that this bag will hold lots of things and stand by itself because of the two layers of Decor Bond- one layer on the lining and one layer on the face fabric.

I have loved making this project. It is such a great learning experience and everyone will enjoy using the techniques over and over in their sewing projects.

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There are no mistakes only opportunities to be creative



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