



with you all the way...

Among Brenda's Quilts

Teacher's Notes

The Bevy Bag

Here at ABQ we welcome our latest addition to the Party and Picnic Series.

The insulated Bevy Bag carries cold beverages to all your happy events. Inside the bag you'll find room for 2 regular sized beverage bottles, two lunch bag sized ice packs and there's space in the pockets for two glasses or stackable glasses. Just add friends and serve.

As an added bonus we have included instructions for an alternate lining. It easily turns this bag into a computer netbook or a mini notebook satchel. The satchel can be used to carry all the normal things you would carry in your purse as well as your computer and its hardware. Why carry two bags when you can organize yourself with one? We're always thinking of ways to help you here at Among Brenda's Quilts.

The Bevy Bag flap is the perfect canvas for embroidered motifs using embroidery software or 4D embroidery. If your shop offers these creative tools let the Bevy Bag help sell them for you!

The Bevy Bag is constructed with simple techniques. If students have a machine with a walking foot that can be converted to free arm mode, they will easily be able to make this project.

Just so you know, the Bevy Bag in BYOB style can also be used as a classy shoe bag. If you need warm shoes just slip a heated gel pack in the center pocket.

These Teacher's Notes also include:

- Ad copy for your newsletters with downloadable web sized photos
- Homework suggestions and
- A sprinkling of time saving tips to guarantee great results!

Prior to class:

There are two options when making this bag. **(1)** the beverage tote version and **(2)** the computer netbook version.

If students are planning to make the beverage tote they will need to purchase stabilizer for the base. I recommend Pellon Peltex® Ultra Firm (sew in style) stabilizer. 3 layers are glued together to give a very firm base to the beverage tote. The base is also glued to the bottom of the bag. I have used Aleene's Fabric Fusion Permanent Adhesive for this gluing. The base can be hand tack stitched into place but it is rather awkward as the bag is quite deep.

If students are planning to make the computer netbook satchel they do not need a base. They will require a 2" piece of Velco®.

Grommets for the outer pockets are optional for both versions of the bag. A 1 1/8" **covered button** is used to close both versions.

Batting: Both bags utilize insulated batting and fusible batting. The insulated batting will keep the drinks and ice packs cold and will insulate a hot computer netbook. Fusible batting is highly recommended in the strap and for the computer sleeve pocket. Do not use insulated batting in the strap. It is too difficult to use in this area.

Sewing Machines: It is recommended that students have a machine that converts to free arm for this project. They will also benefit from a walking foot although it is not absolutely necessary.

Cutting: Some of the cut sections of the bag are quite large. Have students bring a 18" or 20" square cutting ruler with them or have them use their grid cutting boards to cut the larger pieces. The largest piece cut is 13" x 16 3/4". **This might be a good opportunity to sell larger rulers to your students!**

Lesson 1 (3 hours)

1. Cutting. Determine which bag version each student is making. In pencil circle the lining cutting instructions that they will need to follow, either the Beverage Tote Variation or the Stachel Variation for Computer Netbooks.

2. Use a fine point pencil to have the students mark the notched corners in step 1. Make sure they cut the notches from the 13" side! Be sure they understand that they cannot overcut with scissors in the corners.

3. Follow instructions 2 and 3 to quilt the front and back of the bag. If time permits students could use a decorative machine stitch to quilt with rather than a plain straight stitch. **Variegated cotton threads always look nice on plainer fabrics. Now's a good time to promote your fancy threads!**

4. Work through steps 4-7. Would you like to demonstrate machine embroidery on the flap? Now's the time to promote your embroidery machines! Follow the instructions in the text box in step 4 to place your design.

Alternately a few lines of simple linear machine embroidery look great on the lower edge of the flap. Go to my web site, follow the link to this pattern and see the photo gallery to see an example. This will give those who purchased variegated thread another opportunity to show it off.



5. Follow steps 8 and 9. Pay careful attention to how we treat the opening on the flap in step 9. Remind students to use this useful technique again and again in their future sewing to avoid lumpy edges. This is a really useful tip!

6. Follow step 10.

There is no homework with today's lesson. Congratulate everyone on a job well done!

For next class: Have those students who wish to have grommets in their pockets bring a hammer to the next class. You might have them practice making one grommet at home on scrap fabric. Have them follow the grommet directions at step 11.

Lesson 2 (3 hours)

1. Follow step 11 to make the two pockets. Grommets are optional on the pockets. Have students who wish to use grommets try a practice grommet on scrap fabric if they have not done this at home already.



Grommets: The tricky thing about metal grommets is placing them exactly where you want them. Have cereal box cardboard available to make round templates the size of the grommet. Use this template to draw a circle on the top of the pocket, centered at the placement spot before placing the grommet. When you hammer the grommet together use very light taps to start the 'curl' of the metal. Then hammer with more force. Don't hammer your fingers!

2. Follow steps 12 and 13 to sew the pockets in place. Make sure that the raw edge of the pocket is facing the bottom of the bag as shown. Students will need to put their machine into free arm mode when sewing the second pocket in place.

3. Follow steps 14 and 15. Students will be tempted to sew the bottom edge of the bag together in step 15. Don't let them!

4. Continue with the instructions ending the class at step 21.

Homework: See step 22. Have those students making the Beverage tote glue their layers of stabilizer together at home. 3 layers glued together makes up the base. Tell them not to handle the glue with their fingers. Spread it with a plastic knife or a wooden stir stick. Have them press the glued layers together under the weight of some books. When the base is dry they will need to apply glue to one side of the base and stick it into the bottom of the bag. Flat bottom books placed upright in the bag will weigh down the base while it dries. All drying takes 24 hours. The glue does have an odor so a ventilated area is recommended when using it.

Have those students making the computer Netbook satchel bring in their Netbooks or bring in the measurements of their Netbook for the next class. Beverage tote students will need to bring a hand sewing needle and some heavier 50 weight thread for hand basting.

Lesson 3 (3 hours)

You will need to have your wits about you today as there are two different linings your class will be making! (Don't worry, it's not that difficult!)

1. **Have the Beverage tote students** work on steps 23 to 26. Before they start to sew the pocket in place to the lining check to make sure that the pocket opening is facing the **top** of the bag. Make sure they have measured and placed the pocket 2 ¾" down from the top edge on the right side of the lining. Make sure they sew the pocket in place stopping 1" from the bottom of the pocket. See the diagram at the bottom of page 7 for reference.



Have the computer Netbook students work on steps 37 to 40. Give them the following hints for sewing with Velco ®

- * Sew slowly with less tension than is normal for your machine.
- * Use a heavy duty needle like a denim needle.
- * Sew between the rows of loops on the tape whenever possible.
- * Avoid backstitching – oversew instead.

2. **Have the Beverage tote students** work on steps 27 to 31.

Have the computer Netbook students work on steps 41 to 45. Get them to fit their computers to the opening made by the basted side stitching lines in step 45.

3. **Have the Beverage tote students** work on steps 32 and 34. Be sure that they hand baste the lining to the outer bag in step 33 before machine sewing around the top of the bag.

Have the computer Netbook students work on steps 46 to 48.

4. **Have the Beverage tote students** work on step 35 (the covered button) and on step 36 (the optional side ties).

Have the computer Netbook students work on steps 49 to 52. They may need to make their side ties at home.

A Refreshing Iced Tea - to share with friends.

Save a couple of reusable bottles and keep them for use with your Bevy Bag. Glass is a healthier choice than plastic. This easy to make tea is delicious and will save you money!

Add 2 black tea or 2 green tea bags to 5 cups of boiling water. Add (2) ¼" slices of ginger root. (slice the remaining ginger and put it in the freezer for future use)

Allow the tea to steep to your liking. Let cool, leaving the ginger in the tea. Refrigerate. Sweeten to taste. I make a batch of this tea every day during hot weather. For a spicier iced tea add a cinnamon stick and a few cardamom pods to the boiling water.