



## On the Go Bags - 15 Handmade Purses, Totes & Organizers: Unique Projects to Sew from Today's Modern Designers

*By Lindsay Conner, Janelle MacKay*

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**On the Go Bags - 15 Handmade Purses, Totes & Organizers: Unique Projects to Sew from Today's Modern Designers** By Lindsay Conner, Janelle MacKay

Sew that just-right bag for the job! Top sewing designers and bloggers share 15 unique organizers for everyday life. From a laptop folio or a gym bag to an airport sling or a trunk organizer, every tote has distinctive features to keep your essentials within easy reach. Practical, stylish, and versatile by design, each multiuse project is organized by skill level, from confident beginner to more advanced. Includes an overview of bag-making basics.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

You can never have too many bags...or bag patterns. Authors Lindsay Conner and Janelle MacKay have assembled an awesome collection of 15 bags, totes and organizers from some of the brightest names in sewing. The book features bags for a variety of skill levels, from beginner to advanced, and includes a section on bag-making basics, just in case you need a review. (*Sew News, December/January 2016*)

15 great ideas for keeping everything stored and in its place whilst you travel around. Projects are organized by skill level and there is a good basic techniques section. The book includes a laptop cover, bag insert, stroller caddy, organizers, totes, bags, sling, art case and more, even an unusual scarf with a zipper pocket. I would make that so that the zipper is concealed and on the inside for safety. Learn how to cut, pattern piece, do curved corners, use interfacings, make straps and closures, do piping and more. This book has great designs, tips and techniques as well as clear instructions, photographs and patterns. I like the tablet shoulder bag, art case and airport sling and the cover backpack pattern is my favourite. (Karen Platt [yarnsandfabrics.co.uk](http://yarnsandfabrics.co.uk), 12/18/15)

While most bag-sewing books focus on traditional handbags and purses, this collection curated by Conner (Modern Bee) and MacKay features totes and organizers suitable for a variety of purposes. With designs ranging from an infinity-style scarf with a zipped pocket to a wine bottle tote to a single-strap backpack, there's a bag to suit most styles and needs. The authors organize the bags into easy, intermediate, and advanced projects based on the skills required, and tutorials on basics such as making straps and adding closures are included. Sewists interested in refining their bag-making skills can work through the book in order, learning along the way. The directions are straightforward, and the work is divided into components, making the process user-friendly. Pattern pieces are included on a pull-out sheet. VERDICT Crafters who enjoy books by Sara Lawson (Big-City Bags) and Anna Graham (Handmade Style) will appreciate this eclectic collection. (*Library Journal, January 2016*)

Top sewing designers and bloggers share 15 unique organizers for everyday life. From a laptop folio or a gym bag to an airport sling or a trunk organizer, every tote has distinctive features to keep your essentials in easy reach. Each multi-use project is organized by skill level, from confident beginner to more advanced sewer. Also included are an overview of bag-making basics and pull-out patterns. (*Notions, Winter 2016*)

This book has three sections. In the first one, easy projects, you will find five simple designs, including a pocket scarf, laptop keeper and padded bag insert to turn a regular bag into a camera bag. The second section contains six intermediate projects such as a picnic blanket that folds into a tote bag, a travel toiletry organiser and a two-bottle gift bag. The last section has four advanced projects, including a snap-and-go sewing case, minivan organiser and a gym bag made with mesh fabric. The book has clear instructions and an extensive techniques section, making it very suitable to beginning sewers who lead a busy life and need many different bags! (*Down Under Quilts, Issue 174*)

Do you want a new handbag? In this case, this book is appropriate. The different projects - all original - are presented and detailed complete with various sketches. With these step-by-step explanations, you can create these projects in a simple and effective way. This extraordinary book takes you by its refined details to the realization of all sorts of bags: totes, backpacks, and even a bag for men. The fabric combinations are colorful and fun; they can obviously rely on your own tastes. This book is also available in electronic format.

(patCHquilt, Winter 2016)

#### About the Author

**Lindsay Conner** is a freelance writer, editor, and sewist. A Craftsy blogger and Baby Lock designer, she designs patterns for books and magazines. The author of *Modern Bee*, Lindsay lives in Nashville, Tennessee with her husband and baby boy. [lindsaysews.com](http://lindsaysews.com), [craftbuds.com](http://craftbuds.com)

**Janelle MacKay** designs her own line of metal bag hardware and sewing patterns. When not filling bag-bling orders or shoveling snow, she's dreaming of warm places. Janelle lives in Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada with her husband, 2 daughters, and son. [emmalinebags.com](http://emmalinebags.com)

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