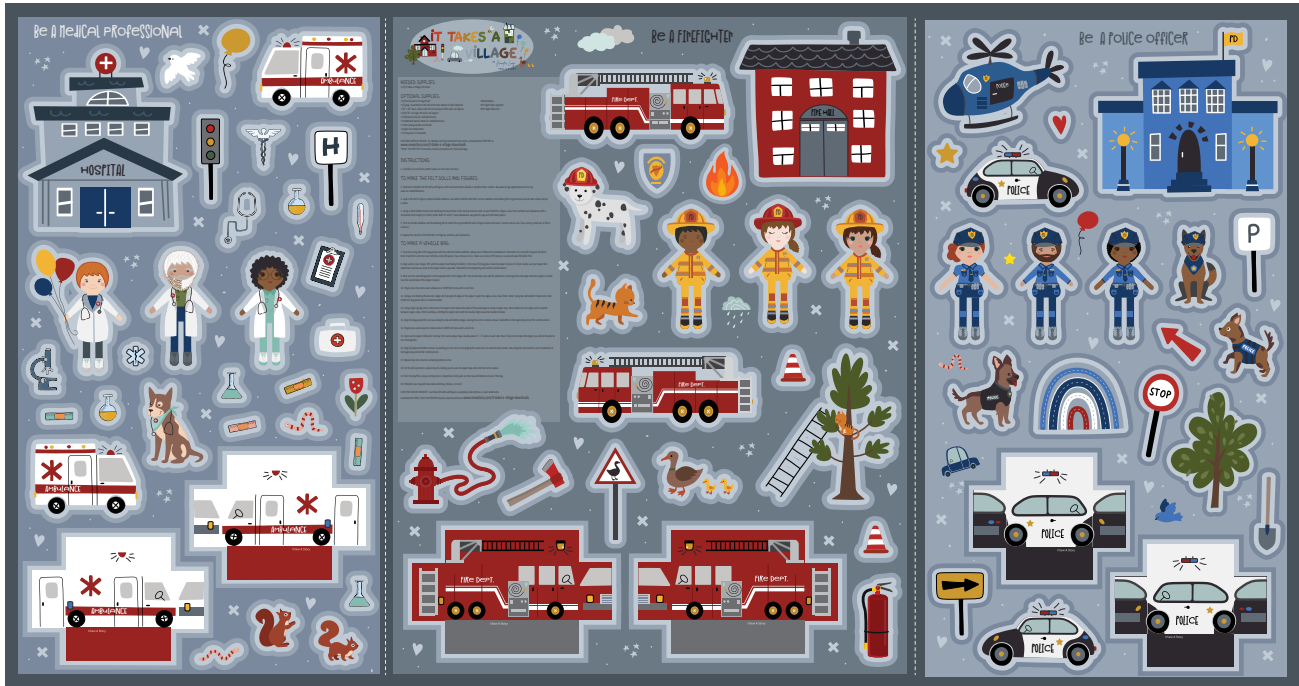


IT TAKES A VILLAGE

By Jennifer Long
SEW A STORY



Sew A Story
BY JENNIFER LONG

Free Instructions for Coordinating
Felt Doll & Play Bags Panel

www.sewastory.com

IT TAKES A VILLAGE FELT PANEL

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Please direct pattern questions to info@sewastory.com.

"It takes a village to raise a child" is an African proverb that conveys the idea that an entire community of people must work together to provide for and positively influence children, so they can grow in a safe and healthy environment. As adults, we know that supportive communities teach children about our interconnected world.

Teach, play, and act out community stories with the It Takes A Village Felt Panel and Bag set! Embellish the felt dolls with hand embroidery, or simply cut and play! Enjoy the keepsake community vehicle bags to explore throughout your community.

You can also use the felt dolls as embellishments on clothing, bags, or create your own bookmarks. Be creative and appliqué the community heroes onto a quilt or hoop art to decorate a playroom!

Jennifer Long

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please read all instructions before beginning this project. Yardage calculated using a 42" usable width of fabric. Refer to the website: www.sewastory.com/pattern-updates for any revisions before starting this project. This pattern requires a basic knowledge of sewing techniques and terminology. The project diagrams portrayed are virtual images. The layout and look of your project may differ when using actual fabric. It is not recommended to prewash fabric before cutting and assembling.

SEWING TECHNIQUES

Sew all seams RST and with a ¼" seam allowance unless stated otherwise. Refer to the quilt layout diagram for placement of the prints. Press seams as desired unless stated otherwise. Dimensions listed in steps are unfinished sizes.

RST = Right Sides Together

RSO = Right Side Out

NEEDED SUPPLIES

- (1) It Takes a Village Felt Panel

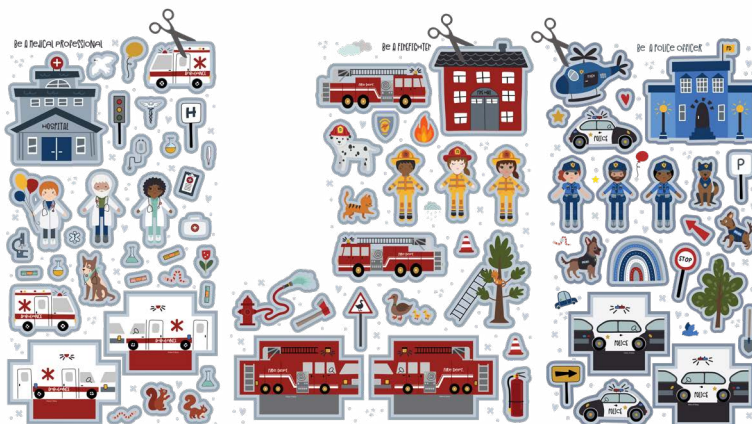
OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

- Fat Quarters for bag lining (2 per bag)
- (2) packages HeatnBond Craft Extra Firm Non-Woven Fusible Stabilizer
- 36" x 48" basic, white craft felt for the back of felt dolls and figures
- (3) 8"/9" or longer #5 nylon coil zippers
- Embroidery floss for embellishments
- HeatnBond Sparkle Paste for embellishments
- Hand sewing needle and thread
- Zipper foot attachment
- Turning tool or chopsticks

IT TAKES A VILLAGE FELT PANEL

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Carefully cut out all the pattern pieces on the outer cut lines.



TO MAKE THE FELT DOLLS AND FIGURINES

2. Optional: Embellish the felt dolls and figures with hand embroidery details or Sparkle Paste. *Caution: Be aware of age appropriateness for any sewn-on embellishments.*

3. Layer a felt doll or figure, optional fusible stabilizer, and white craft felt with RSO. Cut the stabilizer and backing felt out generously around each shape and pin in place.

4. Using a white bobbin thread and matching the top thread to the most prominent color on each felt doll or figure, sew in the marked seam allowance with a shortened stitch length (1.5-2mm). Note: Both ¼" and ½" seam allowances are given for age and skill level options.



5. Trim the fusible stabilizer and the backing felt to match the printed felt doll or figure outline with even, smooth scissor cuts. (Use a sharp, small pair of fabric scissors.)

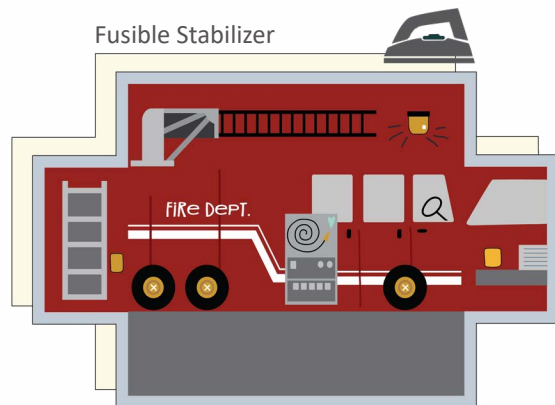
6. Repeat this step for all of the felt dolls and figures, animals, and accessories.



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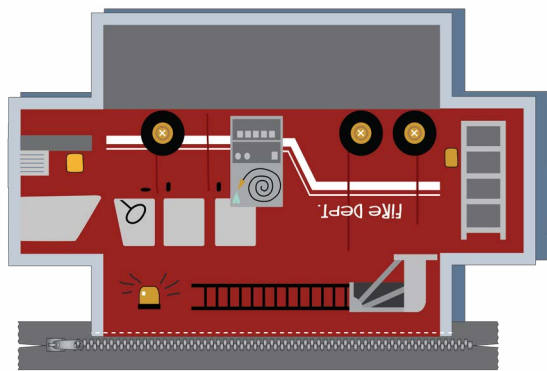
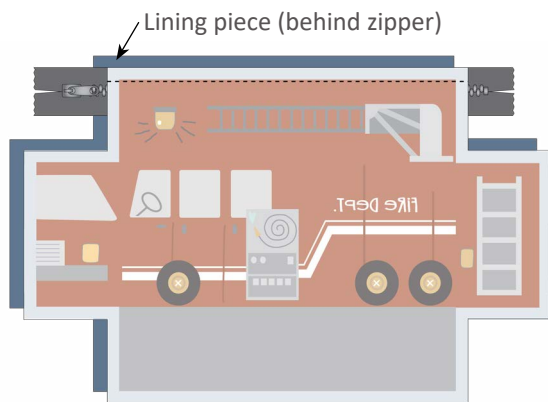
TO MAKE A VEHICLE BAG

7. Fuse the wrong side of the bag pieces with the optional fusible stabilizer, taking care to follow the manufacturer's directions for correctly fusing to the fabric. *Note: Heat from a hot iron can melt the acrylic felt panel. If you choose to iron, make sure to do a TEST press on a scrap of panel felt fabric first.*



8. Trace the bag piece shape onto (2) bag lining fat quarters. Cut on the traced lines.

9. Gather (1) zipper, (2) prepared bag pieces, and (2) lining pieces. Place (1) bag piece and (1) lining piece together RST. Sandwich (1) long edge of the zipper between the two pieces with the zipper head facing the fabric. Sew the zipper in place. For best results, use your zipper foot attachment and sew as close to the zipper teeth as possible. Backstitch at the beginning and end for reinforcement.

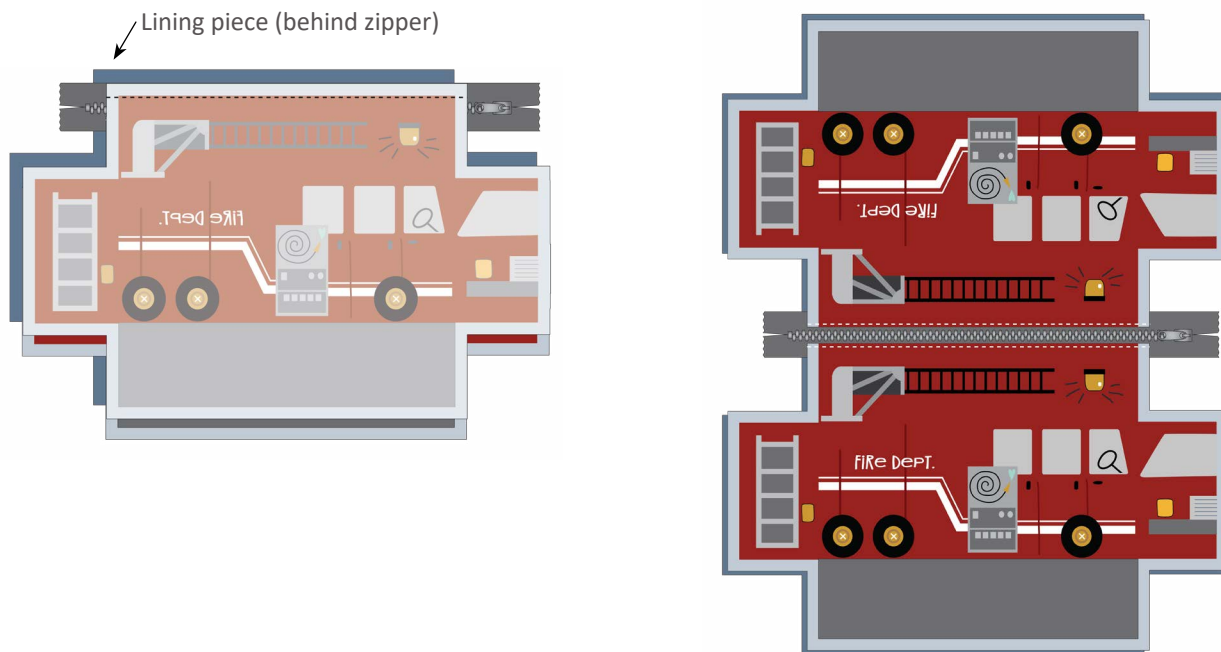


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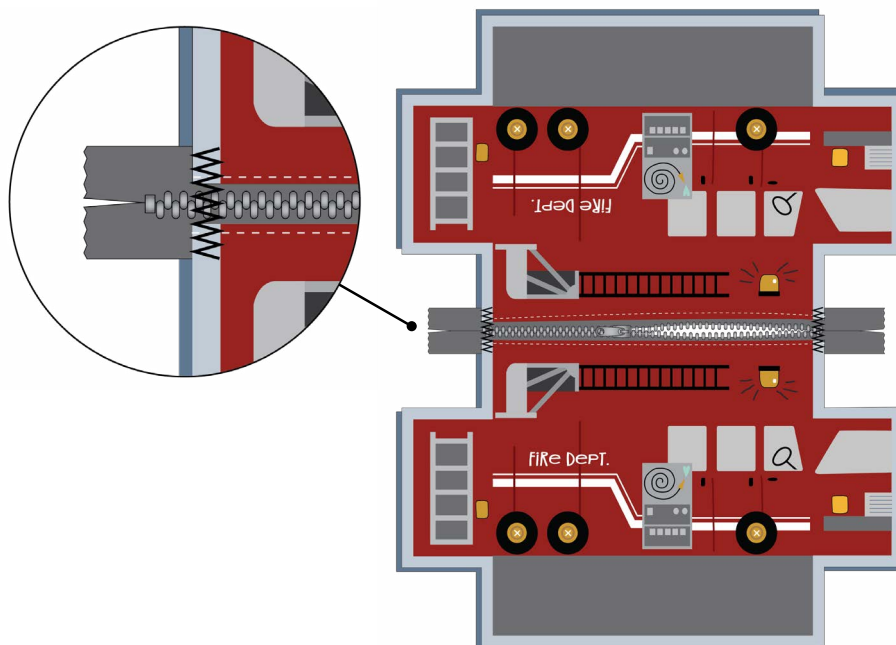
10. Next, align the second bag piece and lining piece RST, then sandwich the opposite side of the zipper between the two fabrics. Use the already sewn side for placement, ensuring both ends align when the zipper is closed. Sew the second side of the zipper in place.

11. Finger press the entire seam allowance or CAREFULLY press with a cool iron.

12. Using a coordinating thread color, top stitch along both edges of the zipper to give the edges a nice, clean finish. *Note: Using top and bottom thread colors that match the bag panel colors is recommended.*



13. Using a tight zig zag stitch, stitch across the zipper teeth where the ends of the panel align to create a zipper stop. Repeat on the second side. *Note: Make sure the zipper pull is located between zipper stops. Stitch carefully, as hitting the zipper teeth with the needle might cause the needle to break.*

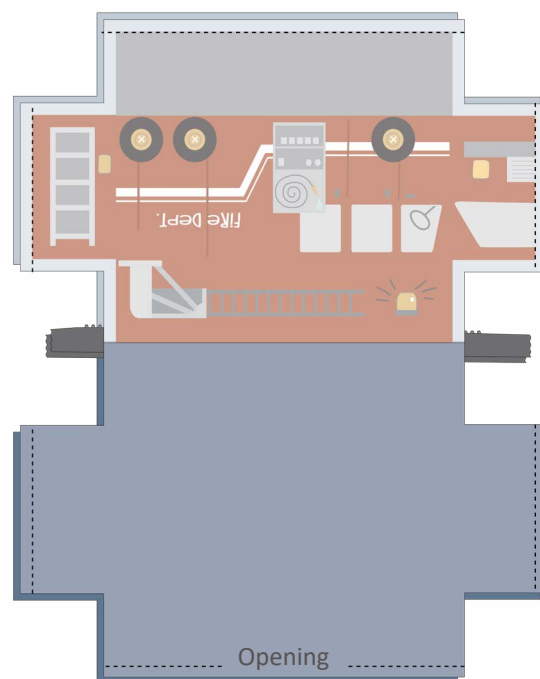


IT TAKES A VILLAGE FELT PANEL

14. Open up the zipper halfway for turning. Trim excess zipper tape, leaving about ½" - 1" extra on each side. *Note: If you do not open the zipper, you will not be able to turn the bag RSO.*

15. Align the bag panels RST and lining fabric RST, as shown below. Sew along the sides and bottom, leaving the corner cutouts unsewn on both pieces and an opening at the bottom of the lining only for turning. Backstitch at the beginning and end for reinforcement.

16. Finger press seams open to reduce bulk or CAREFULLY press with a cool iron.



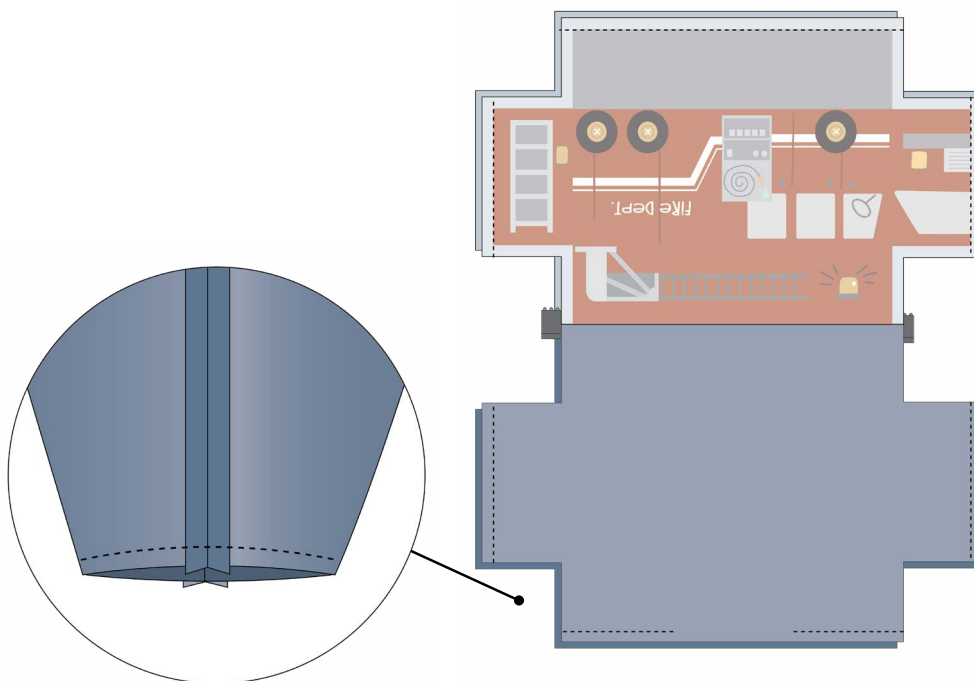
17. Align (2) adjacent bottom corners by pinching out the corner and aligning the seam lines to create a box corner. Sew along the seam and be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end for reinforcement.

18. Repeat step 17 to box the remaining bottom corner of the bag panel and the (2) lining pieces.

19. For the (2) top corners, repeat step 17, making sure to sew the zipper tape ends into the corner seams.

20. Turn the bag RSO, using a turning tool or chopsticks to fully push out the top and bottom corners of the bag. Close the opening in the lining by hand or machine. Push the lining into the pouch.

21. Embellish your bag with decorative stitching, ribbons, or more!





Have fun and be creative! Use these felt dolls and figures as appliqués, decorations, or even bookmarks.

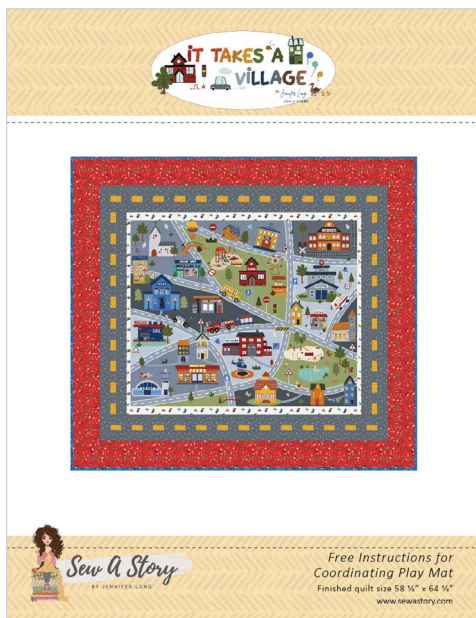
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