

# Liberty Scrap Challenge 2012



**February**

## **Embellish a Drawstring Bag with Droplets of Liberty**

By Nova

[a cuppa and a catch up](http://www.acuppaandacatchup.com)

Liberty scraps supplied by Jo @ [The Organic Stitch Co](http://www.theorganicstitchco.com)



## What you will need ::

[Jeni's drawstring bag tutorial](#) (makes a drawstring bag with approx finished size of 10" x 10" with a 3" depth/gusset) & fabric to make the bag as per measurements in tute.

Liberty Scraps

Paper backed iron on fusible webbing such as Vliesofix or Bondaweb

Droplets template (or draw your own)

Embroidery floss or Perle 8 cotton thread

Some beads &/or sequins to add a subtle touch of twinkle if you like!

+ your basic sewing supplies (sewing machine, iron, needle, scissors, pencil, tailors chalk, ruler)

## How to ::

1. Print out the droplets template (at the end of this tutorial) or draw your own. With a pencil, trace the droplet designs onto the paper side of your fusible webbing. Roughly cut around pencil line leaving approx 1/4 inch space around the design. For my drawstring bag I drew 10 of each size.



2. Place the glue side (the non paper side) of the cut out fusible webbing on to the wrong side of your Liberty scrap. Follow the manufacturers instructions & carefully iron the droplet design in place.

When it's cooled, cut around the pencil line.

Peel the paper away from the back of the fabric & you'll be left with a gluey back ready to fix to the main fabric of your drawstring bag. Place to one side.



3. Using [Jeni's tutorial](#), cut your fabric for the drawstring bag. I cut mine as one whole piece as I didn't want the accent piece distracting from the droplets but keep it in if you like by all means. I also cut my lining pieces at this point but didn't attach them until after I had finished embellishing the main bag fabric so they weren't in the way.

4. Using your ruler & tailors chalk, mark out some guidelines for positioning your fabric droplets. You don't really want any droplets where the drawstring is or on the base. I marked my guidelines approx 4" from either short end, and approx 3" from the centre either way.

Next I marked some guidelines to place the droplets on so they were evenly spaced across the bag. I marked a line down the centre and then 2 lines either side of the centre line approx 2" apart. This keeps the droplets within the seam allowances and when you come to sew the gusset in Jeni's tutorial you won't lose a droplet in the gusset!



5. Position your droplets (right side up) onto the guidelines you marked.

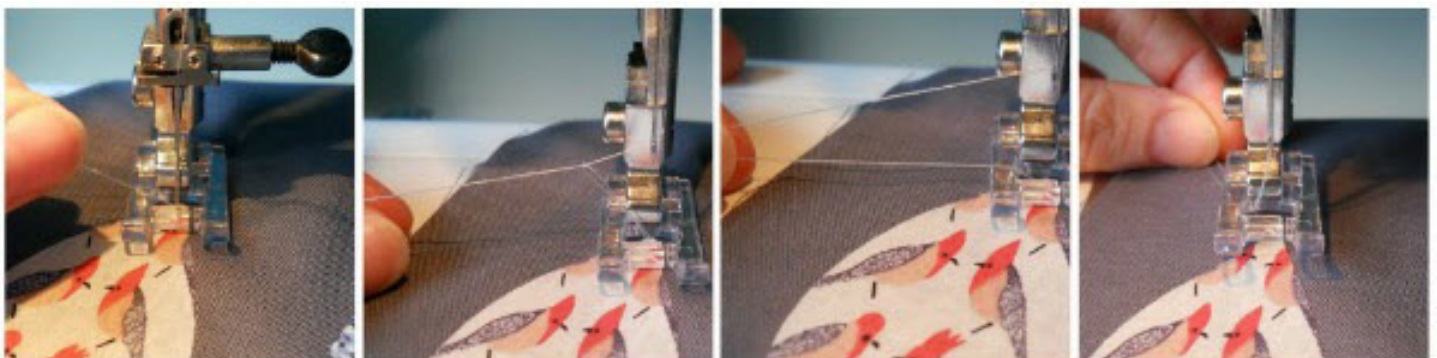


shuffle them around & when you are happy with their placement carefully iron in place.

6. Time to machine applique! If you can, set your machine to sew at a slower speed, shorten your stitch length a bit ( I set min to 1.8) and attach your machine applique foot (it's usually the short dumpy one with a wider opening).

You might prefer to use & be more comfortable with a free motion foot. I am not very practiced with free motion and prefer the control of the applique foot but that's just a personal preference so please use which ever method you are more comfortable with :)

At your start point, lower your needle keeping a hold of thread from the needle. Raise the needle, still holding the thread & gently pull the bobbin thread up through to the top of your fabric. Pull it all the way through and then bring both threads around to the back of the foot. This saves you getting any tangly bits on the back of your work.

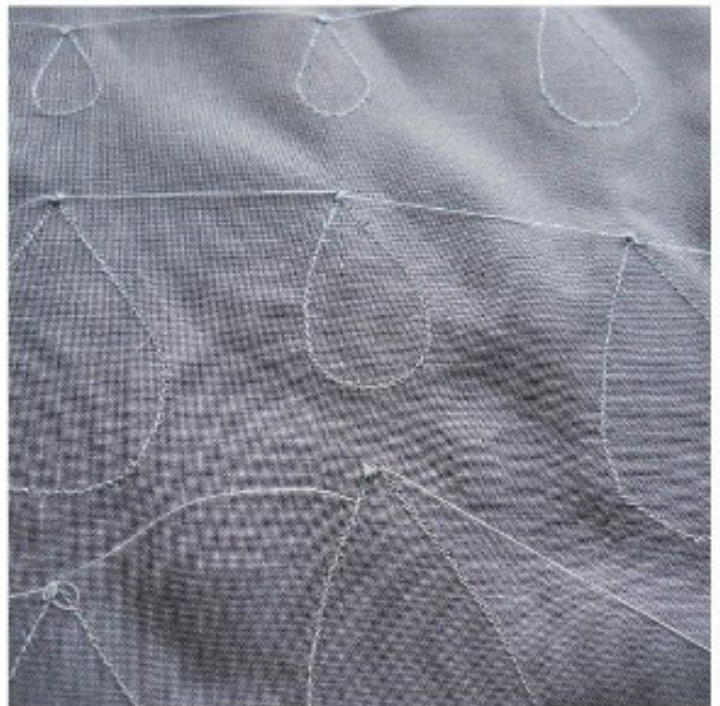


Begin sewing, rotating your work as you go. Back stitch at the beginning and end point of each droplet.

There's no need to cut the thread between each droplet, simply raise the presser foot and move across to the next droplet & keep sewing until you have sewn all the droplets.



Remove your work from the machine & trim off all those in-between bits of thread from the front & back.



7. Add some hand stitches. Using a hera marker, or tailors chalk mark some guidelines to hand stitch along. You can use a ruler if you like straight lines or just freestyle it if you like a more relaxed look.



For my hand stitches (a simple running stitch) I used 3 strands of embroidery floss but Perle 8 would be really lovely too. You can use a hoop if you like but as it is a fairly small piece you might be moving it a bit. I found that a nice plump cushion across my lap to rest my work on worked a treat!



As I was sewing down the rows, I added in a few (about 6 or so on each side) randomly positioned opaque sequins. I'm not a blingy person by any stretch but these just added a subtle little twinkle to the bag that reminds me of raindrops glinting in the sunshine after a summer shower. You can add more or less or none or some little tiny glass beads might be sweet too.

I attached the sequins with a french knot. Some I placed on the droplets & some in-between on the backing fabric.



Once you have added all your stitches and embellishments it should look a bit like this...



At this point you can return to Jeni's tutorial, add your lining fabric and complete your drawstring bag.



You might like to embellish something else with the Liberty droplets too ! perhaps a tote, or a zippy pouch or a kitchen towel or sewing machine cover or make an embroidery hoop or.....

If you make a Liberty droplet embellished bag (or something else) we'd love to see! You can share your photos in our [Flickr Group](#) or drop me a line with a link to your blog post or with images attached to :: [nova@acuppaandacatchup.com](mailto:nova@acuppaandacatchup.com)

If you use Jeni's drawstring bag tutorial I'm sure she'd love a peek too, you can find her [flickr group here](#).

Need some Liberty scraps? Jo can help out you there! Hop over to the [Organic stitch co](#) for all your Liberty goodness needs :)



