

## Love Letter Valentine Chairbacker

by Devon Iott



Make this adorable Love Letter Valentine Chairbacker to fill with goodies for your kids/grandkids/kids at heart! Use the included applique design to personalize the flap, or simply monogram it with a name. For a non-embroidered option, use the included template to add a red felt embellishment to the Velcro closure. This would be very easy to modify with non-seasonal fabric to make a toddler/little kid backpack or activity bag. You could also tie it to the back of your car seats to hold books and snacks.

### Sewing Supplies:

- HUSQVARNA VIKING® sewing and embroidery machine
- DESIGNER™ Splendid Square Hoop 120x120mm 412968201
- Utility Foot A

- ¼” Edge Stitching Foot 412914146
- Embroidery foot of choice suitable for machine
- ½ yard exterior fabric
- ½ yard lining fabric
- ½ yard Pellon Décor-Bond (45” wide)
- 5” square fabric for embroidered applique heart (optional)
- 4” square red felt for flap embellishment (optional)
- 2 yards ⅝” ribbon
- 1” of ⅝” wide sew-on Velcro
- 40wt rayon embroidery thread for applique and text (optional)
- Bobbin fill thread (optional)
- Sewing thread
- Rotary cutter, mat and ruler
- Water or air soluble marking tool
- Point turner
- Basting glue stick (optional but helpful)
- Scissors
- Pins
- Iron and ironing board

## **Cut:**

From exterior:

2 pieces 11½”Lx9 ½”W (front and back)

1 piece 3½”Lx30½”W (gusset)

1 piece 9½” square [non-embroidered option] (flap)

OR

1 piece 11½”square [embroidered option] (flap)

From lining:

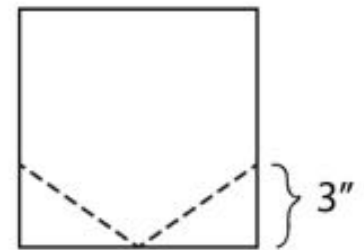
- 2 pieces 11½”Lx9 ½”W (front and back)
- 1 piece 3½”Lx30½”W (gusset)
- 1 piece 9½” square (flap)

From Décor Bond:

- 2 pieces 11½”Lx9 ½”W (front and back)
- 1 piece 3½”Lx30½”W (gusset)
- 1 piece 9½” square (flap)

## Prepare:

1. On all 9½” squares, measure 3” up from the bottom edge on each side edge. Draw a line from this mark to the bottom center to create a point. Cut along lines.
2. Fuse all Décor Bond pieces to wrong sides of coordinating exterior pieces following manufacturer’s instructions.
3. Cut ribbon into two equal halves.



## Embroider:

1. Place interfaced 11½” square of exterior fabric in **120x120mm hoop** with bottom half centered. Thread embroidery machine with embroidery thread to match heart applique fabric and bobbin thread. Snap on **embroidery foot**. Toggle to **Embroidery Mode**.
2. Load **heart.applique.vp3** and center in hoop. If desired, load either **be mine.vp3** or **valentines.vp3** and center over heart. Alternatively, use built-in fonts in machine to add a name or word on top of heart.
3. Toggle to **Embroidery Stitch Out Mode**. Touch **Start/Stop** to embroider applique placement line. Place applique fabric over placement line and press **Start/Stop** again to attach applique fabric.

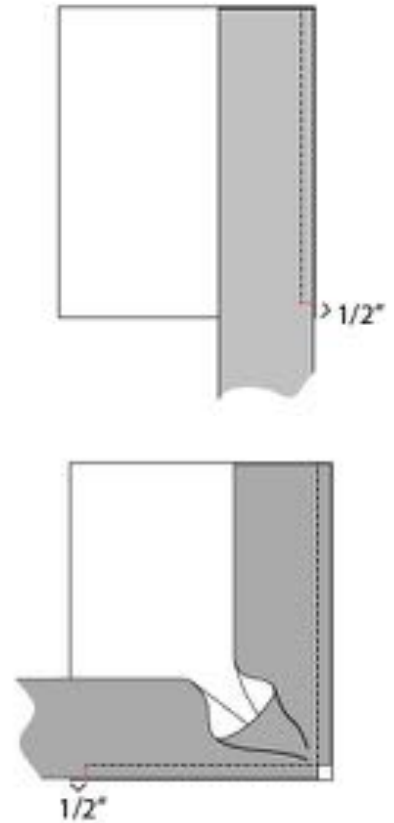
4. Remove hoop and trim excess fabric close to stitching line. Re-attach hoop and press Start/Stop to finish applique. Follow thread change prompts to complete text embroidery.
5. Remove from machine and press with press cloth. Trim to 9½” square so that the heart applique is centered vertically and the bottom edge of applique is 1½” from bottom edge of fabric. Follow step 1 in “Prepare” section above to trim to point.

## **Sew:**

*All seam allowances are ½” unless otherwise noted.*

1. Toggle to **Sewing Mode** if applicable. Thread machine with sewing thread on top and bobbin. Set machine to a **straight stitch** and snap on the **Utility A Foot**.
2. Fold lining flap in half vertically to crease center. Measure 1¼” up from bottom point and mark. Place hook side of Velcro centered on crease just **above** mark and use pins or basting glue stick to hold in place. Stitch around edge of Velcro to attach, pivoting at corners and backstitching at beginning and end.
3. Fold exterior front in half vertically to crease center. Measure 5½” down from top edge and mark. Place loop side of Velcro centered on crease just **below** mark. Stitch to attach as above.
4. Along top edge of exterior back, mark 1” in from each side edge. Fold both ribbons in half and pin fold to top exterior edge, just inside marks. Stitch across ribbons at ¼” to secure.
5. On bottom ribbon halves only, mark 3” down from top fabric edge. Stitch across each ribbon at this point to secure to fabric, making sure that ribbon stays straight and parallel to edge of fabric.
6. Place flap exterior and flap lining right sides together and pin. Stitch around sides and bottom edges, pivoting at the corners. Be sure to leave the top edge open. Clip corners and turn right side out through top, using a point turner to make corners crisp. Press.
7. Snap on ¼” **Edge Stitching Foot** and increase stitch length to **3.5**. Topstitch around sides and bottom edges of flap with ¼” seam allowance.

8. *Optional:* If desired, use template to cut a heart from red felt. Place heart on exterior point of flap, with the point just barely hanging over the edge. Use pins or basting glue stick to secure. Snap on **Utility Foot A** and decrease stitch length to **2.5**. Change upper thread color if desired. Edge stitch all the way around heart to secure.
9. Snap on **Utility Foot A** and decrease stitch length to **2.5**. Pin exterior gusset to right edge of exterior front, right sides together. (Gusset will extend well beyond front.) Measure  $\frac{1}{2}$ " up from bottom edge of front and mark. Starting at the top, stitch down to mark, backstitching at mark.
10. Through gusset **only**, snip from edge up close to end of stitching. Bring gusset around to align it with the next (bottom) edge of the front. Pin in place and again mark  $\frac{1}{2}$ " before the end of this side. Stitch from where previous seam ended to new mark, backstitching at beginning and end.
11. Snip gusset as before. Bring around to align gusset with third side of front. Pin and stitch together from where previous stitching ends to top of bag.
12. Repeat steps 9-11 with other edge of gusset and exterior back, taking care that the ribbons do not get caught in any of the seams. Clip corners and turn right side out.
13. Repeat steps 9-12 with corresponding lining pieces, except **leave a 6" opening in one of the bottom seams**. Do not turn lining right side out.
14. Place top edge of flap against top edge of exterior back, centered, with exterior sides together. Stitch to secure with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
15. Place exterior inside lining so that right sides are together, aligning both upper edges and all seams. Flap should be pointed down so that it's sandwiched in between the layers. Pin and stitch all the way around upper edge.





16. Turn bag right side out through opening in lining. Fold raw edges of lining opening in and edgestitch along opening to close. Stuff lining down inside of bag, pressing upper edge well.
17. Snap on  $\frac{1}{4}$ " **Edge Stitching Foot** and increase stitch length to **3.5**. Topstitch around the top edge of the bag between the edges of the flap.
18. Pinch each center side of bag together so that exterior is right sides together. From inside of bag, stitch along crease for  $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
19. Give your whole bag a nice press. Clip any threads and trim ends of ribbons into two points.

**Tie your new creation to a special someone's chair and fill it with treats!**

