

How to Quilt a Bag With Style



7 Free Bag Patterns and Purse Patterns

How to Quilt a Bag With Style: 7 Free Bag Patterns and Purse Patterns

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Letter from the Editors

Hi Quilters,

Quilting does not always have to be about comfort. Occasionally, it's nice to make something that's both practical and fashionable, and one of the most popular ways to do so these days is with bag patterns.

You can have a convenient little carrying case for your personal items or a big new tote bag for your quilting supplies. These free bag patterns and purse patterns can be used for whatever you want. We picked from a large variety, so you'll find not only some of our favorite quilted totes, but also small pouches, book bags, and more!

Happy Quilting!

You can find more quilted bag patterns, techniques, and quilting tutorials at www.FaveQuilts.com.

Our eBooks, like all our quilting projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our quilting community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Quilting,

The Editors of FaveQuilts

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How to Quilt a Bag With Style: 7 Free Bag Patterns and Purse Patterns

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Small Quilted Handbags

Classic English Flex Frame Pouch

By: Leila from Where the Orchids Grow

Use a simple English paper piecing tutorial to learn how you can make a bag that's easy to use and very reliable.



Materials:

- [Liberty scrap bag](#)
- [3 ½" flex frame](#)
- ½" hexagon templates
- 2" x 5" piece of linen 2x
- 3 ½" x 4 ½" lining fabric 2x
- 3 ½" x 9" fusible interfacing (I am using a light weight woven interfacing which is ideal for this project)
- Fine cotton piecing thread, Aurifil 50wt or something similar
- A pair of pliers

***all seam allowances are ¼"**

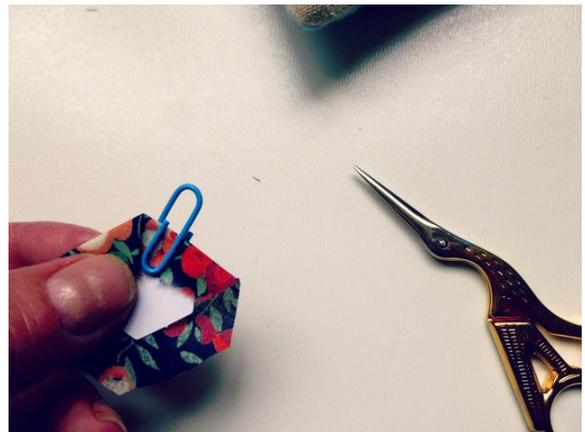
*** If you do not wish to paper piece the exterior of your pouch, you can skip ahead.**

Instructions:

- 1) Place the paper template on the wrong side of your fabric. I usually am not too precise in cutting the fabric I roughly cut around the shape making sure I have at least 1¼" seam allowance on all sides.



- 2) Pick a side that is on grain and fold it over the template, secure with paper clip. Fold over the next corner, making sure you have a nice crisp fold and start baste stitching.



- 3) Simply fold and stitch from corner to corner. For templates this small I like to baste straight through the paper template to make sure nothing shifts.



One down, 54 to go!



- 4) Once you have all your hexagons basted arrange them in 5 rows of 11 hexagons.
- 5) Next start sewing the hexagons together with a small whip stitch.



This is what it looks like on the back. Ideally you would use a thread colour to match your fabrics so that your stitches blend in rather than stand out, but for the tutorial I thought I'd try and show you as best as I could.



Most commonly hexagons are pieced in the traditional flower shape, but since we are making a rectangle patchwork block, I find it easier to piece in rows.



I leave the templates in till the very end, I like that they keep everything neatly in place without me having to worry about it. If however you find the paper templates cumbersome when sewing all the rows together you can take them out earlier of course.

- 6) Sew the completed rows together



until you have a block that looks something like this.



- 7) Give your block a good press before removing all paper templates.
- 8) Make sure you got rid of all basting threads first then apply the fusible interfacing.
- 9) Trim the edges so that you are left with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9" block, cut the large block in half.

You now have two $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " blocks



- 10) Cut two strips of linen 2" x 5"
- 11) Fold the edges over $\frac{1}{4}$ " towards the wrong side of the fabric and press. Fold over $\frac{1}{4}$ " again enclosing the raw edges, press, pin and sew close to the edge.



- 12) Fold the linen strip in half, place on top of the pouch exterior, pin and sew close to the top edge.



- 14) Pin the lining pieces right sides together and sew leaving approximately 1 1/2" - 2" opening at the bottom.



- 13) Pin the exterior pieces right sides together and sew. Clip corners and turn the pouch right side out.



- 15) Pin lining and exterior right sides together and sew.



16) Turn the pouch right side out through the opening in the lining. Slip stitch the opening closed.

20) Push the open ends of the flex frame back together, they interlock in the center, and insert the pin.



Almost done now!

17) Push the lining back inside your pouch and give it a quick press if necessary.

21) Push the end caps closed with a pair of pliers to make sure the pin does not fall back out.

18) Insert both open ends of the flex frame into the linen tube.

19) Just wriggle both ends in at the same time, it is quite a snug fit. Go slowly and carefully, the pointy ends of the frame might want to poke through the fabric. Don't force the frame through as you might rip the fabric!



Sit back and admire your cute little flex frame pouch!

Or if you are like me you will want to keep popping it open and letting it snap back closed again.



Little Mini Cosmetic Bag

By: Kira from [Labellacolori](#)

If you're always on the go, you should have a place to store all of your travel must-haves. This super chic bag is the perfect size and won't cost you extra if you use fabric scraps!



MATERIALS:

- Sewing machine (with zigzag feature)
- A zipper foot
- 9 inch zipper
- Basic sewing supplies
- A piece of thin cardboard to create a template (I used an empty cereal box)
- An iron
- A serger (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:



- 1) For the base I used cotton duck/cotton canvas from JoAnn's, but you could use denim (great recycling idea). You need a somewhat sturdy fabric for the base, the base will become the inside of the bag and where the fabric strips are sewn. Here you can see I found cotton duck in bright orange, cream and green. Cut a 9.5 " by 13" rectangle from your base fabric.

***Tip: Use a light to medium colored fabric, this makes it easier to see what you're storing inside.**

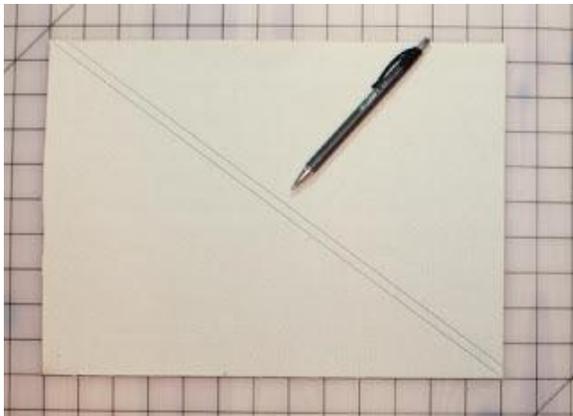


- 2) For the outside of the little bitty bag I used 12 - 1.5 inch strips of fabric for one bag. You can use fat quarters cut into strips or scraps sewn together to make the strips. I used the large floral fabric as my color palette to help choose more fabrics from my stash. I used 10 different fat quarters, but it would look just as good if using only 3 different fat quarters.

[Download the pattern here.](#)

- 3) The above link should open as a PDF and print in the correct size - but check the size everyone's printers are different!! Use the dotted line at the bottom and trace this twice on your cardboard making a pattern

with two tops (one up and one down) and the bottom in the middle. (scroll down some to see my cardboard template) Save your template to use later.



- Line up two strips of fabric right sides together, place on the base fabric with the raw edge of the fabric on the second line (or the 1/4" from center line). This will make the actual seam line go from corner to corner.



- Using a long ruler draw a line from one corner to the other. **If using cotton duck or canvas there is no wrong or right side for your base fabric, but if using a base fabric with a wrong and right side you will draw the line on the wrong side of the fabric (do not worry about seeing the line, you will be covering the line with the fabric strips and this will become the outside of the bag). Then draw a second line 1/4" away from the line you just drew. The second line is the guide to line up your fabrics and begin sewing.



- Sew using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open, next line up another strip right sides together and with raw edges together sew 1/4" seam. Then do the same on the opposite side.



- Continue adding strips to cover the base fabric (if you look closely you will see I have two corners not covered, but I checked with my template I then trimmed the corners off).



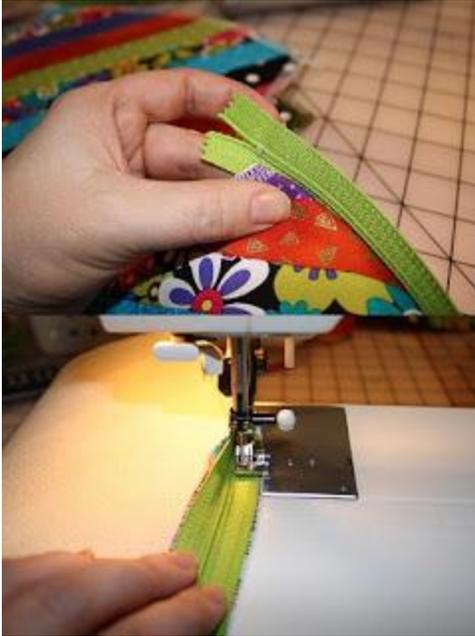
- 8) Using the template trace the outline on the base fabric (do not worry about the lines being seen as they are in the seam allowances). This outline includes your seam allowances and will be the line to which you cut out the pattern.



- 9) Finishing the edge stops the fabrics from fraying. I used my serger to finish off the edges and cut them at the same time, by lining up the outline with the cutting blade and using a 3-thread overlock stitch narrowed to 1/4".

***If you do not have a serger - no worries!! Cut the pattern out on the line you drew using the template and then zigzag the edge and you're ready to go to the next step.

- 10) The zipper goes on the curved edge of the fabric. Place the zipper right side down on the right side of the outside, line up the edges together and pin in place. *Tip: line up the bottom zipper stop to the raw/finished edge of the fabric (see below). Use a zipper foot and sew on the zipper. *Tip: when half way through stop with needle in the down position raise the presser foot and move the zipper to the out of the way, as the zipper pull can be bulky and hard to sew around. (in the photo above I started sewing from the bottom of the zipper and then half way I move the zipper to the bottom)



press the curved edge with the zipper.



You should have something that looks like this – you're almost done - YEA!!

- 11) After sewing one side of the zipper, you need to see where to line up the next side. To do this fold over the zipper and note where to zipper stop is, use this as a reference to line up the next side of the zipper. Fold the fabric in half with the outside/strip-ie sides together. Pin the zipper with the zipper edge and raw/finished edges together again noting where the zipper stops are. Sew just as before, and also use the tip to move the zipper pull again if needed (I did).



- 13) Now top stitch the fabric on the outside, not only does this make it pretty it stitches down the zipper and keeps it out of the way. This can be tricky but go slowly and start from the top of the zipper and work to the bottom of the zipper using the zipper foot. I used a thread color to match the zipper but that's up to you.

- 12) Unzip the half-way finished bag and turn right-side out, then slowly/carefully zip the bag closed. Finger press and use an iron to



- 14) Turn the bag inside out and leave halfway unzipped. *Tip: do not leave zipper closed, this causes a problem when you want to open it and the zipper is sewn closed - ask me how I know. Starting at the bottom of the bag (folded edge) sew up the sides, making sure to put the finished edge/zigzagged edge in the seam allowance, stop just on the zipper tape (do not go all the way off the edge) back-stitch to lock your stitches. Then trim the corners as shown above (see my finger ;0) this will remove the bulk from the corners when you turn them.



- 15) To create the bottom of the bag fold the side of the bag down with seam allowances open and line up the side seam to the center bottom (is that clear as mud?). See picture above, the bottom of the bag is on the bed of the sewing machine the side is facing up in my fingers and the zipper is wide open and to the left. (I may need to add more pictures to explain this) Stitch the little corner, back stitching at the start and finish. *Tip: Now if you don't want to make the bottom this way - well then don't it's ok and you're finished!
- 16) Turn the little bitty bag right-side out, finger press to make nice and neat.
- 17) You now have a Little Bitty Bag to give someone a little bitty smile :0)



Leftover Block Envelope Bag

By: [Linda Winters](#) from [Buzzing and Bumbling](#)

You only need a single quilt block to make this cute little pattern that really pops with the rest of your ensemble.



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) I started out with a variation of the Road to California block. (A hint about where I'm going!) If you want this block in particular, you can find directions here: <http://www.blockcentral.com/bom2009-2.shtml>



Actually, this is the block I started with: (It was a little too plain for me so I used fabric dye and added some color and design! Remember, this is a block I would have thrown out anyway, so I had nothing to lose by experimenting!)



- 2) Bring three corners up to the middle. I chose to bring the yellow corners to the center for balance. Try different corners to find which is best on your block.



- 3) Sew the sides of these corners together. It is helpful to turn it inside out to do this. You will have only two seams.



- 4) Using the same binding (that you bound the block with) turn the raw edges to the center and press. The length will depend on how much strap you want. Mine is 24", but you may want yours longer. Try it out first!



- 5) Fold the binding in half with the raw edges inside and press. Sew along each side. This forms your strap.



- 6) Fold under each end of the strap about 1/4" and sew to the top at each side of the bag. I sewed it about 1" below the top because I have the flap overlapping about 1" at the closure. Sew hook and loop tape (or snap, magnetic closure, button, etc.) just below the "junction" of the three corners that you have sewn together. Sew the corresponding hook and loop (or other method) to the top flap. I chose to sew a button on the front of the flap for color.



Patchwork Bags

Patchwork Pocket Personalized Book Bag

By: Stephanie from [The Silly Pearl](#)

Make a stop at the library or the grocery store much more comfortable with a pattern that you can personalize.



MATERIALS FOR THE POCKET:



- Six different fabrics for the patchwork part, cut to 2x7 inch strips
- One piece of fabric for the top of the pocket where the name will go, cut to 9x4.5 inches
- Fabric scraps for the name and applique
- Fusible webbing such as Steam-A-Seam2
- Medium weight interfacing, cut to the same size as the pocket (the total size of the strips plus the top of the pocket sewn together, about 9x11 inches)
- One piece of fabric for pocket lining, cut to the same size as the interfacing
- Scissors or rotary cutter and self-healing cutting mat and ruler/straight edge
- Not pictured: Sewing machine, thread, tear-away stabilizer

MATERIALS FOR TOTE BAG:



- Two pieces of fabric for outside of tote (I used duck cloth), cut to 15x18 inches
- Two pieces of fabric for lining (I used a vintage sheet), cut to same measurements as above
- Two pieces of fabric for straps, cut to 4x20 inches
- Not pictured: Sewing machine, thread



2) Sew together the six strips



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE POCKET:

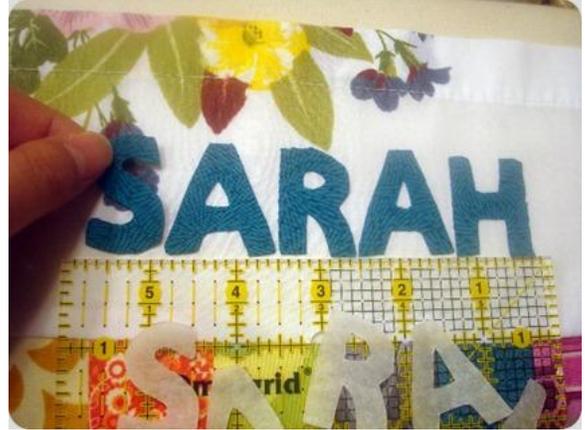
Note: For the pocket, I used a 5/16"-inch seam allowance (the edge of my presser foot).

1) Line up all your color strips in the desired order.

3) Press the seams to one side



- 4) Sew the top of the pocket to the top of the strips. I used a vintage sheet here as well as for the lining. Press the seam to one side.



- 5) Cut out your letters for the top of the pocket with fabric and fusible webbing. Click [here](#) for more detailed instructions on one of my previous tutorials, or just follow the directions on your fusible webbing package.



Note: Because I plan to wash these totes (they're filthy already...smooth amateur mom move making them a light color!) I sewed the letters to the pocket in addition to fusing them.

- 6) Center the letters onto the top of the pocket and fuse, following the directions on your fusible webbing package.



- 7) Fuse the pocket lining with the medium-weight interfacing. With right sides together, pin the lining/interfacing with the front of the pocket and sew together, leaving a hole for turning.



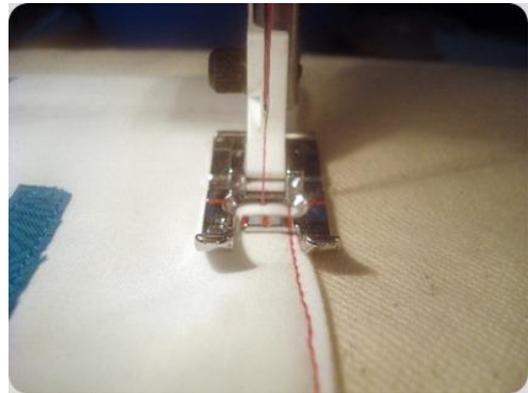
- 8) Turn the pocket right side out and press



- 9) Position the pocket onto one of your duck cloth panels. I centered it and then raised it an inch or two because you'll be squaring the bottom of the tote which will lower the center, if that makes sense. Pin with big pins. Be sure all horseys and piggies are cleared away before pinning.



- 10) Top-stitch the pocket to the duck cloth panel, first along the edge and then about 1/8 inches away (I followed the tick marks on my presser foot). Leave the top open for the pocket and back stitch at the ends to secure.



I'm glad I made the pocket big. It's big enough for this book!



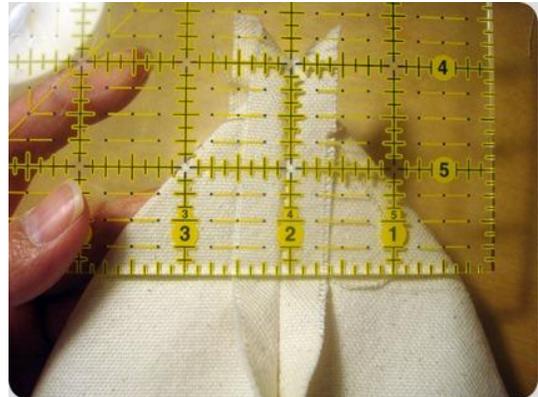
11) Sew the applique on the other duck cloth panel. You can use anything, but I quickly made my shapes with cookie cutters and a jar of pomade. I used fusible webbing to fuse the pieces together as well as to fuse them to the back duck cloth panel, and with a piece of tear-away stabilizer in the back, I sewed a satin stitch around all the edges.



DIRECTIONS FOR THE TOTE BAG:

12) First, pin the two duck cloth panels right sides together and stitch around the sides and bottom, leaving the top open. Do the same with the two lining panels. For the duck cloth panels, make sure the pocket and applique are facing the right direction!

13) Then square the bottom of the tote by pulling the two sides apart at the bottom and matching up the side and bottom seams. Mark about 2 inches from the corner and draw a line. Stitch along the line. Do the same with the other corner as well as with the lining.



14) Make the straps by pressing the two ends towards the middle and folding it closed. Top stitch it closed, and then top stitch the other side.



15) Now we'll sew all the pieces together...turn the lining right side out and stuff that inside the duck cloth which is still inside out. Pin them together with right sides together. When you get to about 2 inches from the sides, pin the straps in place. Sew all the way around, leaving an opening for turning up top.

Sun Pattern:



Heart Pattern:



16) Pull the lining and the duck cloth all the way through the hole and stuff the lining inside. Press the seam, and top stitch all the way around, closing the opening. I referenced [this](#) tutorial to make the tote.

Lining:



Finish It Your Way Patchwork Bag

By: Corrine from [Heart of Mary](#)

Choose your favorite fabrics to make a stylish quilted bag that you'll want to take with you any time you leave the house.



Finished Bag Size: Approximately 12 ½" at the top, 12 ½" high, and 14" at its widest point

MATERIALS:

- Assorted medium-weight printed cotton fabric scraps
- Medium-weight plain cotton fabric scrap, measuring no less than 7" by 15"
- Fusible fleece and fusible interfacing enough to line main bag and lining
- Matching thread
- Your choice of closure, i.e. zipper, magnetic snap, button, etc.
- Basic sewing skills, some experience in bag making recommended

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) **PATTERN:** Download the pattern [here](#). Print at 100% then cut out pattern pieces. Glue pattern pieces onto cardboard then cut out once again. Use these as your templates.

- 2) **CUTTING YOUR FABRIC:** With the use of your prepared templates for tracing, cut the following:

For pattern piece A - cut 12 strips in assorted fabrics (you can choose to cut 2 of each kind if you want to make the front and back of your bag uniform).

For pattern piece B - cut 2 strips first then reverse the template before cutting 2 more (there should be 2 strips each for right and left side of bag).

- 3) **CREATING YOUR PATCHWORK:** To create your bag panels, first determine how you would want to layout your fabric strips. Piece the strips by stitching them right sides together along the long edges. Start with the left side of the bag using the strip with the curved left bottom corner, then continue with 6 different straight-sided strips. End with the piece for the right side. Do the same for the rest of the pieces for the other bag panel. Open all seams and press flat.



Pin one bag panel to your fusible fleece. Using this as your pattern, cut out two

pieces of your fusible fleece. Iron on to the wrong side of your fabrics.



Quilt your bag panels by stitching down on both sides of the seams, about 1/4" away from the seam.



- 4) **HANDLES:** Cut two 4" by 30" strips for your handles. You can choose to cut from one fabric only or join different fabric strips to make the required length. I used two different fabrics for mine.

Cut two 2" by 29 1/2" strips from your interfacing. Center your interfacing to the wrong side of your handle fabrics, such that 1" on both long sides and 1/4" on both short sides will remain uninterfaced.



Fold the long sides to the center, then fold again in half to end up with a 1" wide handle. Stitch down the long sides, about 1/8" from the edges.



- 5) **TOP BAND:** Measure the upper edge of your pieced bag panel. Using this length, cut 2 pieces from your plain fabric, 3 1/2" wide. Cut the same size of interfacing. Fuse your interfacing to the wrong side of your top bands.



- 6) **ASSEMBLING THE BAG PANELS:** Pin handles to bag panels as shown below. Center handle ends to the second strip (on your patchwork) from each side. Baste in place.



With right sides together, align the long edge of your top band to the upper edge of the bag panel, sandwiching the handle. Pin in place, then stitch layers together 1/4" from the edge. Do the same with both panels.



Open your fabric. This is what the right side will now look like.



Press the seams (where your top band and pieced panel joins) downward.



Topstitch close to the edge, making sure

you catch the seams on the other side. Again, do the same with the other bag panel.



- 7) **LINING:** Pin one bag panel to your lining fabric. Using this as a guide, cut out 2 lining pieces.



If you'd like to put in a simple or a zippered pocket on your lining, do this now.

- 8) **DARTS:** The darts will give your bag bottom a bit of depth. To make a dart on a bottom corner, you will need to do the following:

Fold your bag panel diagonally such that one side edge will line up with the bottom edge.



Mark your dart by measuring 1" on the folded side and 3/8" on the curve. Lightly draw a diagonal line as shown. Stitch the dart in place along this line. Do the same for all curved corners of both main bag and lining panels.



This is how the corner will look like after stitching the dart.



Now comes the fun (?) part....How do you want to close your bag?

It's up to you now. Just some general suggestions:

If you want a zippered closure like mine, you can assemble the main bag and lining as you would a simple zippered pouch. If you don't know how to, click [here](#) to learn.

If you want some other kind of closure (like magnetic snaps), you would have to sew around the main bag and lining separately first, then assemble it as you would a basic lined tote or purse. See [this](#) for a sample.

Whatever you choose, just make sure your darts line up correctly.

Quilted Tote Bags

The Blossie Bag

By: Ros from [Bloom](#)

Make a real fashion statement with your latest quilted bag pattern using this one-of-a-kind, but totally functional design.



- 2) Lay the base fabric, right side up, on the fusible side of the Pellon. Press. Be careful to press the fabric only, not the Pellon.



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Cut a rectangle of medium weight fusible Pellon, approximately 20"x13" (I used Vilene H640). Choose coordinating fabrics, as many or few as you like, & cut strips 20" long. The width of the strips for my bag were cut 3.5" (stripe), 2.5" (blue), 1.25" (orange), 1" (yellow), 2" (green) and 4" (floral). There are lots of ideas for combinations on my [previous post](#).

- 3) Pin the second strip to the base strip, right sides together.



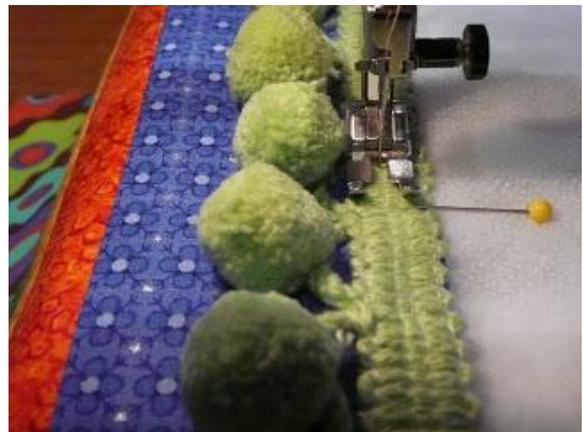
- 4) Stitch a 0.25" seam. Use a walking foot if you have one, as this prevents the uppermost strip from stretching as you sew.



- 6) How to add a pompom trim with a header which needs to be hidden: Pin the pompom trim to the top of the previous strip. Stitch the trim to the bag.



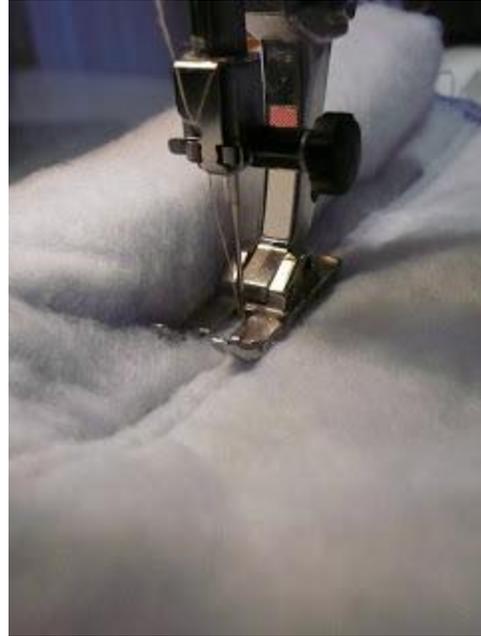
- 5) Carefully press the second strip back against the Pellon. This is a sort of quilt-as-you-go technique, and means you don't have to quilt the top of the bag later. Continue adding strips in this manner until you get to the pom-pom trim.



- 7) Pin the final strip of fabric to the bag, with the pom-poms sandwiched beneath.



- 8) Stitch the final strip to the bag, getting as close as you can to the pom-poms as your walking foot will allow. This stitching is awkward, and can be a bit rough. It is really only stay-stitching.



- 10) Now press the final strip back against the Pellon & with a bit of luck, you will have a lovely row of pom-poms sticking out from the seam nicely!



- 9) Flip the entire bag over, and now stitch on or inside a previous stitching line, as close as you can to the pom-poms. A zipper foot at this point may help.



- 11) Add any extra trims you'd like at this stage by simply stitching them on the bag. Pom-pom trims with a decorative header can be

added at this point rather than inserted in the seam as previously described.



- 12) When all strips have been sewn to the Pellon & all trims attached, cut the rectangle back to measure approximately 18"x11.5".



You should now have something resembling the photo below:



- 13) With right sides together, match the two 11.5" sides of the rectangle. Stitch this side seam and across the bottom of the bag with 0.25" seams. Fold the side of your bag against the center bottom seam to form a triangle. Stitch across the corner approximately 0.75" from the tip. Repeat for the other corner. Trim excess from corners and turn bag right side out.



- 14) Prepare two handles 15" long as described in [this tutorial](#). Stitch them 1.25" either side of the center top of the bag.



- 15) Prepare the bag lining as for the outer bag, leaving a gap in one seam for turning. Keeping the outer bag right side out, place it inside the lining with right sides together. Matching side seam, pin the outer bag & lining together around the top & stitch with 0.25" seam.



- 16) Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining.



- 17) Top stitch around the bag top & slip stitch the opening in the lining closed.



If you are making this as a bible bag, it will fit a student's bible approximately 15cm wide x 22cm long x 4.5cm deep, with some extra room for pens, lip gloss, iPod, lollies, prayer notes (?) etc.

EDIT: Pocket tutorial available [here](#).



Angie's Big Quilted Tote

By: Angie from [Angie Quilts](#)

Be prepared for any occasion with this handy quilted tote bag that can come in a number of sizes to fit your lifestyle needs.



MATERIALS:

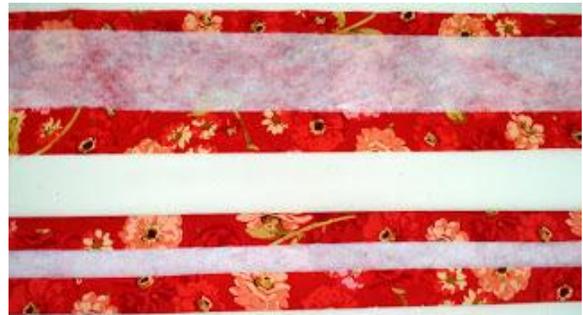
- 2x (20"x15") of main fabric, lining fabric, and batting/wadding, for front and back panels
- 2 x (15"x8") of side panel fabric, lining fabric and batting/wadding
- 1 x (20"x8") bottom panel fabric, lining fabric and batting/wadding
- 4 ½"x (required length for handles) of main fabric and batting/wadding
- Co-ordinating threads

Note: [There should be a printer friendly version here.](#)



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Handles, very easy... press handle fabric flat, spray with starch if you like, lay batting in center of strip then wrap the two edges over batting and press....



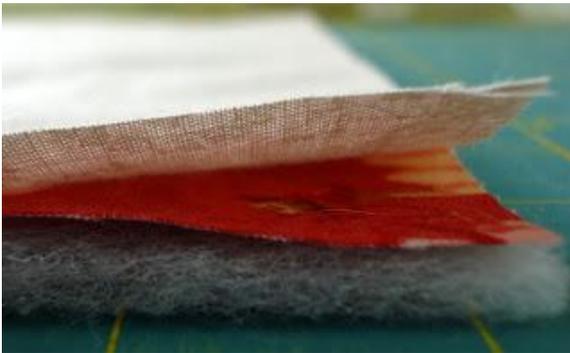
- 2) Fold strip in half and pin to secure then stitch close the edges on both sides, you can stitch down the middle too if you want to.



- 3) Two poufy, comfortable, strong handles, set aside for now...



- 4) Same method as making the Mat & Ruler Bag... lay batting/wadding flat and place the lining and your main fabric, right sides together, on top. Pin to hold in place and....



- 5) Sew a seam about the width of your walking foot.



Do this for the front, back and the two side panels, no need to do the bottom panel.

- 6) Flip the top fabric up and over, like this.....



- 7) Press well... (careful not to melt your batting) then fold over to complete sandwich....



taking care to get an even finish as this will be the top of your very own Big Bag, then you need to do two or three lines of stitching across the top to secure and strengthen it, this also decorates it and keeps it all firm (same as the Mat & Ruler Bag)



- 8) You need to quilt all of your panels. I chose to use my walking foot for straight lines on my side and bottom panels....



- 9) I did tiny meandering, free-motion stitching around my tea cups (I'm very pleased with the result AND it was fun). I will leave you quilting your panels while I prepare the next step..... just to note... the more quilting you do, the firmer your Big Bag will be, if you want it all floppy, do less quilting!



- 10) OK?... Now you have all your panels beautifully quilted you need to trim off all

the little messy bits of threads and any batting/wadding that is untidy... be careful, all the panels need to be the right size so try not to trim off any main fabrics, just batting and threads.



- 11) Stitch the two side panels to the bottom panel using a 1/4" seam, you will need to use your walking foot for the bag construction....



you should then have one long 'gusset'...



It is easier to add the handles at this stage but if you want to leave them to the last job, that works too.

They need to be evenly spaced and level on both front and back (I know that is obvious but hey ho) I did quite a few rows of stitching to secure the handles because I

want it to be strong. The handle straps will be stronger if you take them all the way to the bottom of the panel but I didn't have enough fabric... it's my bag... I pleased myself, ha ha ha!

12) Now starts the fiddly bit. It will be easier for you to understand this if you have done 'Y' seams before. All the panels need to be stitched together starting and stopping 1/4" in from the edges so that they meet up perfectly. Use a lot of pins to help you....



see. it is the same as a 'Y' seam...



13) Line up all panel edges using pins, lots of pins....



each start and stop seam should line up with the other two, the whole thing will be getting harder to man-handle by now, he he he stick at it.



Does it help to see the Big Bag inside? It shows the three seams all meeting up.... this bit is hard to explain me thinks!

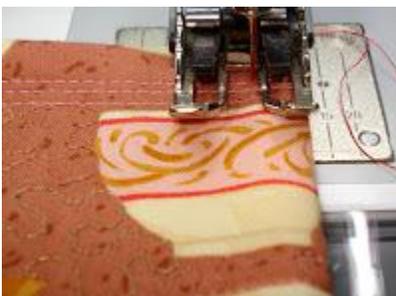


14) Turn the bag now, to have the inside inside and the outside on the outside... he he he, have I confused you? Anyway, the top joins will look like this now so manipulate the seams to be neat and then



17) The top will be neat too, I back stitched here too, to keep it good and strong, I bet it needs it too.

15) Top stitch all-round the all of the panels, stopping and starting 1/4" before the end of each 3 join (Y seam)panel. In this picture the stitching is on one side seam of the front panel joining it with one side of the side panel and all other pieces are held out of the way...



See how lovely and neat it is on the inside, with no need to add binding anywhere, apparently these are French seams that I thought I had invented here.....

16) back stitching will help, as you can see mine isn't perfect... it's my bag!

Make sure you are not stitching anything you shouldn't be, keep the panels in the right order.... eg, sew all seams from top of bag to bottom of bag before stitching around the bottom seams... oooo I hope you are following me...



18) Voila..... my Big, Quilted, Panel Bag ... I am so very proud of it.

I can confess that it was ultra difficult for me to cut into these beautiful, favourite fabrics.... but I am now very pleased that I did, what do you think?



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