

HOPE QUILTERS' TOTE BAG PATTERN

January, 2009

Select 3-5 fabrics for front and back of bag. Also need fabric for lining (bag and pockets), handles and pockets.

Abbreviations and General Info:

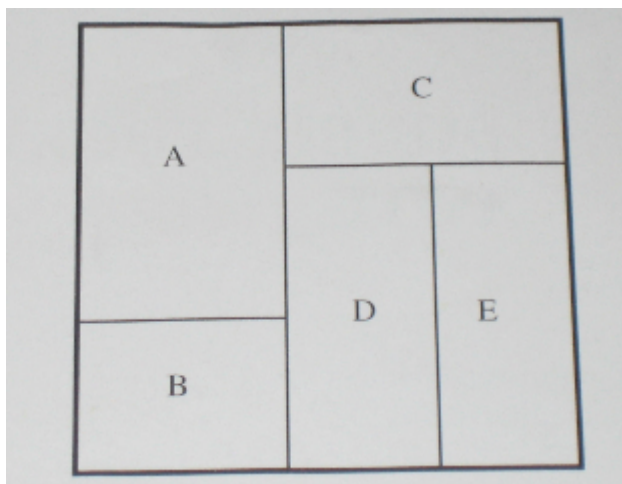
RST = Right Sides Together; WST = Wrong Sides Together; WOF = Width of Fabric; PFF = Pellon Fusible Fleece (fleece is ALWAYS applied to the wrong side of the fabric)

All seams are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch unless otherwise noted.

CUTTING

For Bag Front and Back, cut 2 of each piece

A – $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9" B – $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" C – $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" D – $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9" E – $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9"



Lining: Cut 2 $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x $13\frac{1}{2}$ "

Handles: Cut 1 5" by WOF

Inner and Outer pockets: will be determined by size of pockets you choose to make (see Pocket Instructions)

For PFF:

Cut 4 $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x $13\frac{1}{2}$ " for outer bag and lining

Cut 1 5" x WOF for handle

Pockets – will need one piece of PFF cut for each pocket (size to be determined by size of pockets you choose)

STEP #1 Piecing and Fusing Front and Back of Bag

Follow the following directions for both the front and back, using RST for all pieces and pressing seam allowances to one side of each seam:

Stitch A&B together along 8½" side.

Stitch D&E together along 9" side.

Stitch C to D/E along 10½" side.

Stitch A/B piece to C/D/E together.

You have now created the front and back of your bag! 😊

Final piece should be 18 ½" x 13 ½".

Iron PFF to the wrong side of each piece, including to the back of each piece of lining. The front and back are now ready to be quilted.

STEP #2 Pockets

Inner Pockets: Create 4-patch blocks for inside pockets using 3½" – 5" squares. Size is at your discretion – one pocket can be smaller, one larger or both same size. Once you've determined the size, cut a piece of lining and PFF the same size as you finished 4-patch block. Fuse PFF to the 4-patch.

Lay the lining piece RST onto the pieced pocket and sew both sides and the top, leaving bottom edges open. Trim corners at the top and sides; turn and press. Set aside.

Outer Pocket: Optional

For an envelope-style pocket: you may use three 5" squares or one 5" square and one 5x8" rectangle. Once you've determined size, cut a piece of lining and PFF the same size (should be approximately 4 ½" x 7").

For the triangular shaped flap, cut one of the squares in half diagonally. Align, RST, stitch the two short sides; the longest side is left with raw edges. Turn and press. Top stitch ¼" from edge.

If using two 5" squares, trim one inch off of each one, making them measure 4"x 5". Sew the two 5" sides together and press. Fuse the PFF to the wrong side of the front pocket unit.

Place front pocket unit right side up, lay the envelope shaped flap on top, aligning the raw edges along the top edge, centering. Place the pocket lining piece on top of the front pocket unit RST and pin through layers. Stitch on both sides and top, leaving the bottom open. Trim corners at top, turn and press. Sew button on, going through the button, flap and the lining. Your pocket should look like an envelope!

STEP #3 Pocket Placement

Outer Pocket: Measure down 7" from top of bag front – you can center the pocket or place it off-center (your choice!). Draw a 4" line where you want bottom of pocket. Position pocket with the raw edges on this line. BE SURE FRONT OF POCKET IS FACING BAG FRONT. Stitch bottom of pocket in place and then flip it up and press. Pin in place making sure pocket is straight. Now using a top stitch and a scant ¼" sew around the pocket to anchor to the bag front, stitch on the sides and the bottom, leaving the top of pocket open.

Inner Pocket(s): These are applied in the same manner as the outside pocket. Measure up 3" from bottom middle of both lining pieces and draw a line. Lay the pocket on the line and stitch it down. Flip it up and press. Pin in place and top stitch the pocket down. You can also stitch down the dividing seams in the pocket to create areas for pens, cell phones, etc.

STEP #4 Handle Construction and Placement

Fuse the PFF to the handle piece. Press handle lengthwise with both raw edges to the middle, PFF to the inside. (May have to use pins along the way.) Fold in half length-wise again, pressing and pinning along the way. Using a 1/8" – 1/4" seam, stitch, catching both folds in the seam. Do this on both sides of the handle. Add 1-2 more lines of stitching evenly spaced. Cut the selvage area off; fold the handle in half and cut.

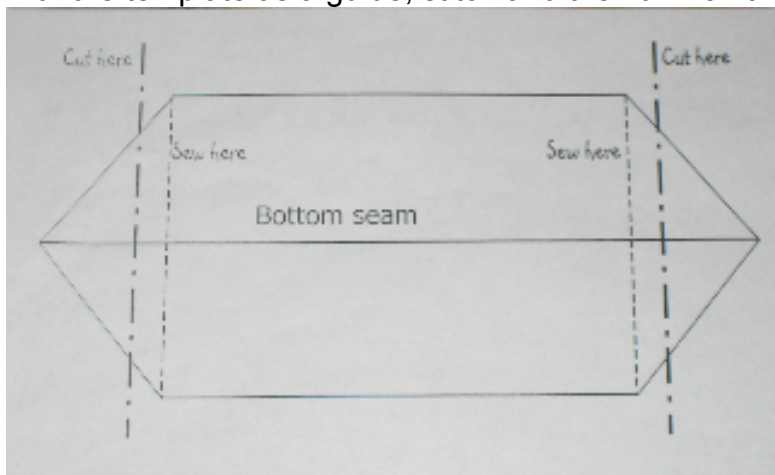
Position handles onto the front of the bag piece with the raw edge ends even with the top of the bag, centering each handle. Pin in place and then sew them on, using a scant 1/4" seam. Reinforce by sewing over handle 2-3 times. Repeat for the other handle, making sure handles are even for both the front and the back of the bag.

STEP #5 Bag and Lining and Creating Bottom of Bag

With RST sew the bag front to the bag back, leaving only the top open. Leave bag in this position. With RST sew the lining pieces together, leaving the top open AND a 7" opening in the middle of the bottom for turning.

Make a 2" square template made from plastic or paper. Place template in the bottom corners and trace onto the PFF. Do this on the front and back of the bag and the lining for a total of 8 times. Leave both the bag and the lining sections inside out.

With the bag inside out, match the lower area of the side seams to the bottom seam. At this point looking at the bottom of your bag, it should resemble the diagram below. Using the lines you traced with the template as a guide, stitch and then trim on the "cut here" line. Repeat with the lining.



STEP #6 Attach Lining to Bag

It is easiest to have the bag “inside out” with handles inside and the lining “right side out.” Put the lining inside the bag, aligning the side seams of bag and lining together. Pin all the way around, making sure it is smooth and there are no tucks. If the lining is too big, make the seam allowance on the lining a bit wider. Likewise, if it’s too small, take a slightly smaller seam in the lining.

Once you have lining pinned to the bag, sew all the way around, using a generous ¼” seam. It’s also a good idea to go back and reinforce the seam over the handles.

Reach inside the lining through the opening you left in the bottom and pull the bag through the hole. You can stitch the turning seam closed by hand or machine.

Stuff the lining back inside the bag. Press the top edge with a lot of steam, making sure all of the lining is to the inside. Top stitch using a ¼” seam. Go slowly over the handles where there is a lot of bulk to keep the top stitching nice and smooth.

STEP #7 Firming up the Bottom of the Bag (OPTIONAL)

Measure the length and width of the bottom of your bag from the inside. Cut cardboard to this size. Depending on how much fabric you have left over from lining fabric, you can make a sleeve (like a pillowcase) to fit over the cardboard or just cut a piece about an inch larger all the way around and wrap it around the matte board and glue to the back side (using a glue stick, Elmers or craft glue). Slip covered piece into the bottom of the bag and YOU ARE FINISHED!!!