

## PATCHWORK TOTE BAG

This pattern was taught to a friend of mine while she was in Europe. Unfortunately, she and I don't know who to give credit to for the pattern. Kelly Woodworth

### MATERIALS:

8 strips of different color, compatible fabrics cut 3.5 inches wide

(My samples had eight different fabrics in them)

OR 4 strips of each of two different fabrics

OR 2 strips of each of four different fabrics

4 strips of batting at least 7x25 OR 1 piece 25x30

4 strips of lining fabric at least 7x25 OR 1 piece 25x30

2 yards of webbing for the handles, a little extra of one of the fabrics you choose or you will have some scraps left over that you can use for handles!

This is a great project to use up your left over scraps that come from around the edges of a quilt. (Batting and lining) The lining can be muslin or anything you want.

### SEWING SUPPLIES:

Sewing machine

Rotary cutter / Ruler / Mat

Machine quilting thread

Thread to match fabrics

Pins / Scissors

- This makes one tote bag with some left over fabric. If you really want to be thrifty....you can cut and sew two sets of the instructions above and you can make three bags at once. One bag for you and two to use as gifts! Then you would need to buy 6 yards of webbing for the handles or more of one of the fabrics in order to make the handles.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Sew together the eight strips of fabric that are 3 1/2 inches wide, using 1/4-inch seam allowance. If using only two fabrics, alternate them. If using four fabrics, repeat their order. (Example: 12341234)
2. Press strips in one direction.
3. Cut across the strips every 3.5 inches until you have cut eight strips.
4. Sew two strips together, turning one strip upside down before sewing in place. Make four sets in this manner, making certain that the upside down strip is in the same position (always on the right) in each of the segments.
5. Pin a 7x25 piece of the batting to each two patch strips and machine quilt. Trim away excess batting. Note: Don't quilt on the lining in this step.
6. Cut lining panels to exact size of above section after quilting.

7. Place quilted strips on a flat surface as illustrated, with strips positioned so that the same fabric squares meet at the center. Sew base together, leaving a quarter-inch on outer seams open.
8. Sew strips together per diagram so you have a bag with four points.
9. Join lining strips in the same formation as the outer bag.
10. There are 2 ways to finish the bag: 1 is Place lining bag inside patchwork bag with wrong sides together and pin top raw edges together and then bind as you would a quilt with the leftover scraps. 2 is to Place the patchwork bag and lining bag together rights sides together, pin the raw edges around the top and sew with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance - leaving a 3" opening, and turn, slip stitch the opening and topstitch thru all layers. I finish mine the second way. I just find it easier for me. Make sure to cut into your points and corners about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " of an inch. This will make it lay flat after you have turned it inside out.
11. Cut webbing strips to the desired length and sew to the points of the bag, making sure handles are sewn to adjacent points (don't cross over opening of bag).

**DIAGRAM:**

\*Join base seams first, leaving a quarter-inch open at edges. Then sew strips together as indicated, pivoting at the open quarter-inch seam.

Strips will not be even as completed bag will have points on all four corners.

Handles will be attached to these points.

