

Project: Lazy Days Tote

DESIGNER CINDY TAYLOR OATES



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When choosing fabrics for the miniature patchwork pieces that make up designer Cindy Taylor Oates' bag, select mostly small-scale prints. For more style, consider using a specialty fabric, such as silk douppioni, for the solid band or the entire bag.

If you want a more secure bag, think about adding a closure, such as ribbon ties, a button and loop, or magnetic snaps.

Materials

- 18×22" piece (fat quarter) pink print (triangle-squares, band, bag base)
- ½ yard piece (fat quarter) dark pink print (triangle-squares, lining)
- ¼ yard light green print (Four-Patch units)
- ¼ yard green print (Four-Patch units, bag handle)
- ⅙ yard green polka dot (Four-Patch units)
- ⅓ yard muslin (backing)
- 16×26" thin batting
- 3×9" rectangle heavy cardboard

Finished Bag: 9×9×3"

Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics. All **measurements** include a ¼" seam allowance. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

To make the best use of your fabrics, cut pieces in the order that follows.

From pink print, cut:

- 1—3½×9½" rectangle
- 2—2×12½" rectangles
- 20—2⅞" squares

From dark pink print, cut:

- 2—9½×12½" rectangles
- 1—3½×9½" rectangle
- 20—2⅞" squares

From light green print, cut:

- 4—1¼×42" strips

From green print, cut:

- 2—1¼×42" strips
- 2—2×18½" strips for handles

From green polka dot, cut:

- 2—1¼×42" strips

From muslin, cut:

- 2—9½×12½" rectangles
- 1—3½×9½" rectangle

From thin quilt batting, cut:

- 2—9½×12½" rectangles
- 1—3½×9½" rectangle

Assemble Triangle-Squares

1. Use a quilter's pencil to mark a diagonal line on wrong side of each pink print 2⅞" square. (To prevent fabric from stretching as you draw lines, place 220-grit sandpaper under the squares.)
2. Layer a marked pink print 2⅞" square atop each dark pink print 2⅞" square. Sew each pair together with two seams, stitching ¼" on each side of drawn line (**Diagram 1**).
3. Cut each pair apart on drawn line to make two triangle units (**Diagram 2**). Press each triangle unit open, pressing seam toward dark pink triangle, to make 40 triangle-squares total (**Diagram 3**). Each triangle-square should be 2" square including seam allowances.

Assemble Four-Patch Units

1. Join a light green print 1¼×42" strip and a green print 1¼×42" strip to make a strip set (**Diagram 4**). Press seam toward darker print. Repeat to make a second strip set; cut strip sets into forty 1¼"-wide segments total.

2. Sew together two 1¼"-wide segments to make a Four-Patch unit A (**Diagram 5**). Press seam in one direction. The unit should be 2" square including seam allowances. Repeat to make 20 Four-Patch A units total.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 using two green polka dot 1¼×42" strips and remaining light green print 1¼×42" strips to make 20 Four-Patch B units total.

Assemble Bag Front and Back

1. Referring to **Diagram 6**, lay out a pink print 2×12½" rectangle, 20 triangle-squares, 10 Four-Patch A units, and 10 Four-Patch B units in six horizontal rows. Pay attention to how Four-Patch units A and B are placed to create diagonal rows of the same units.
2. Sew together pieces in each row. Press seams toward triangle-squares. Join rows to make bag front; press seams in one direction.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make bag back.

Assemble Outer Bag

1. Layer bag front with batting and muslin 9½×12½" rectangles. Baste layers a scant ¼" from all edges. Quilt as desired. (Cindy machine-quilted her bag with an all-over stipple.) Repeat with bag back.
2. Layer pink print 3½×9½" rectangle with batting and muslin 3½×9½" rectangles. Baste layers a scant ¼" from all edges to make the bag base. Quilt as desired.

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3. Mark center bottom of bag front and back. Mark center of each long edge of the bag base (Diagram 7).
4. Matching centers, sew bag base to bag front and back (Diagram 8). Press seams toward bag base. Topstitch bag base through all layers, about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from seams.
5. Fold both green print $2 \times 18\frac{1}{2}$ " strips in half lengthwise with right sides inside; stitch along long edges. Trim seams to $\frac{1}{8}$ " and turn right sides out. Press flat and topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from long edges to make two handles.
6. Pin handles to top of bag front and back with ends about $2\frac{1}{4}$ " from side edges; baste (Diagram 9).
7. Sew bag front to bag back along sides; press seams open. Mark center of each short edge of the bag base with a pin. Fold bag so one pin matches the corresponding side seam (Diagram 10). Stitch across the end of the bag. Repeat with other side of the bag to complete the outer bag.
2. Sew together sides of bag lining, leaving a 5" opening for turning on one side. Press seams open. Mark center of each short edge of the lining base with a pin. Referring to Diagram 10, fold lining so one pin matches the corresponding side seam. Stitch across the end of the lining. Repeat with other side of the lining.

Finish Bag

1. Place lining inside outer bag with right sides together and side seams matching. Stitch along top edges. Turn bag right side out through opening in the lining. Slip-stitch opening closed. Smooth lining inside the bag. Press bag's upper edge and topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from edge.
2. For a sturdier bag, place cardboard 3×9 " rectangle in bottom of bag.

Assemble Lining

1. Mark center bottom of dark pink print $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles. Mark center of each long edge of the dark pink print $3\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle. Matching centers, sew large rectangles to small rectangle to make lining; press seams toward small rectangle. Topstitch small rectangle through all layers about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the seams.

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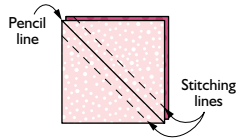


DIAGRAM 1

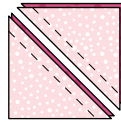


DIAGRAM 2



DIAGRAM 3

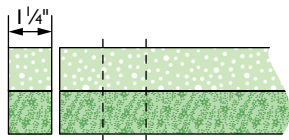


DIAGRAM 4

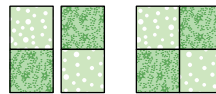


DIAGRAM 5

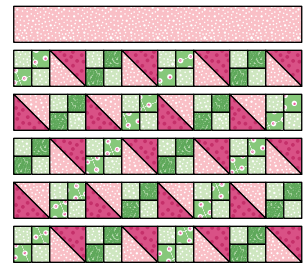


DIAGRAM 6

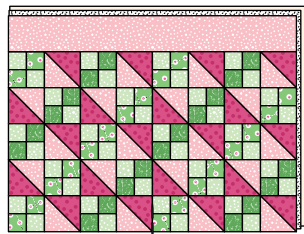


DIAGRAM 7

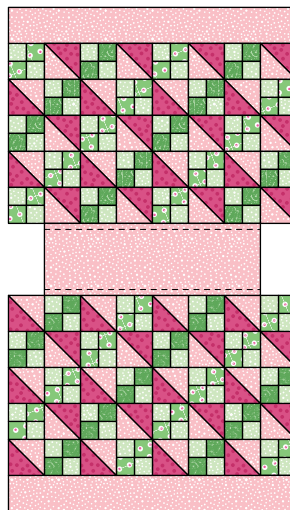


DIAGRAM 8

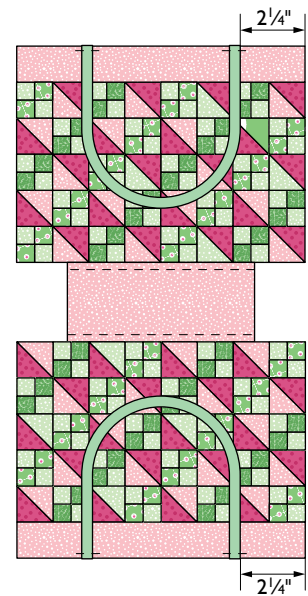


DIAGRAM 9

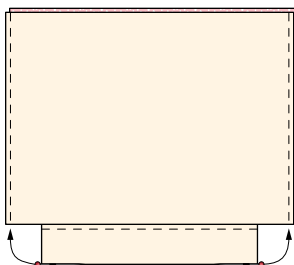
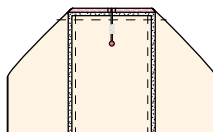


DIAGRAM 10



Project: Lazy Days Tote Color Option

**spice it up a bit**

If the Four-Patch units are too small for you to deal with, follow our lead and alternate the triangle-squares with 2" squares instead. Because these squares are a bit bigger, they can handle a slightly bigger print like the black-and-white vine print shown. Just be sure to balance the print by using solid or small-scale prints in the triangle-squares. As a final touch, choose a print for the handles and band that ties everything together, like the saucy colors of our chili pepper print.