Project: Sunny Beach Tote

DESIGNER: ERIN GILDAY *(PATCHWORKUNDERGROUND.COM)*

This sturdy tote is great for carrying to the beach or out for a day of shopping. The traditional Cathedral Window pattern with a modern twist showcases a contrasting fabric in the "window."

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Project: Sunny Beach Tote

Materials

- 2 yards yellow dot (tote)
- 1 yard rust floral (inset, lining, handles)
- 1⅝ yards iron-on fusible interfacing

Finished tote (excluding handle): 16" square

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

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

From yellow dot, cut:

- 2—33¾" squares

From rust floral, cut:

- 2—4×23½" strips
- 2—16½" squares
- 1—11¾" square (If you are using a directional print, or if you want to fussy-cut a motif for the inset square, cut the square on point.)

From fusible interfacing, cut:

- 1—16×31" rectangle
- 2—4×23½" rectangles

Assemble Tote Body

1. Fold one yellow dot 33¾" square in half vertically and horizontally. Finger-press folds to mark center of square; unfold. Press under ¼" on all edges of square.

2. With wrong side of square up, fold points to center; press outer folded edges. The folded unit should be about 23½" square. Hand-stitch center points together in an X **(Diagram 1).**

3. Fold points of Step 2 unit to center and pin **(Diagram 2);** press outer edges. The folded square should be about 16½".

4. Repeat steps 1 through 3 with remaining yellow dot 33¾" square.

5. Place squares side by side, folded sides up. Open out adjacent side triangles and place squares wrong (unfolded) sides together; carefully match pressed folds and pin. Sew together along folds of open triangles to make center front seam **(Diagram 3).** Press squares open, refold triangles, and pin.

6. Center and pin rust floral 11¾" square over center front seam **(Diagram 4).**

7. Turn a center yellow block open edge over rust fabric square; curve edge so it is about 1" wide at center and tapers to nothing at corners; pin. Repeat for remaining three edges **(Diagram 5).** Using a slip stitch, sew both curved window edges in place.

8. Turn back adjacent open edges, again forming curves about 1" wide at center and tapering to nothing at corners **(Diagram 6).** Slip-stitch along both edges of curves on top half. On bottom half, slip-stitch outer curves only, sewing just through curve and one layer below it, to complete window in tote body.

9. Center and fuse 16×31" interfacing rectangle to wrong side of tote body.

10. Open up end triangles and fold tote body in half crosswise, matching pressed creases; pin. Stitch along creases to make center back seam of tote body **(Diagram 7).** Refold triangles and pin in place.

11. Referring to **Diagram 8,** refold tote body and open up lower triangles; match creases and stitch across pressed line. Refold triangles and pin in place. Slip-stitch inner folded turnbacked edge **(Diagram 9).**

12. Zigzag-stitch tote back triangles in place, butting folded edges, to complete tote body **(Diagram 10).**

Assemble Tote

1. Fuse a 4×23½" interfacing strip to wrong side of rust floral 4×23½" strip. Press under ¼" on each rectangle long edge, then press in half with wrong side inside to make a strap. Topstitch long edges. Add three more rows of evenly spaced topstitching. Repeat to make a second strap.

2. Layer two rust floral 16½" squares; sew together side and bottom edges, leaving a 6" opening along bottom edge for turning tote right side out. Using tip of iron, carefully press seams open to make tote lining. Leave lining wrong side out.

3. Referring to **Diagram 11,** pin strap raw ends to front edge of tote body with strap centered and 5" between the ends. Baste strap ends to tote body a scant ¼" from tote edge. Repeat with second strap and tote back.

4. Insert tote body inside tote lining with right sides together; straps should be between tote and lining. Align raw edges and seams. Stitch together upper edges of tote body and lining, backstitching over each strap for reinforcement.

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5. Turn tote and lining right side out through opening in lining; pull lining out of tote. Machine-stitch opening of lining closed.

6. Insert lining back into tote and press upper edge. Topstitch ⅛" from upper edge to complete tote.

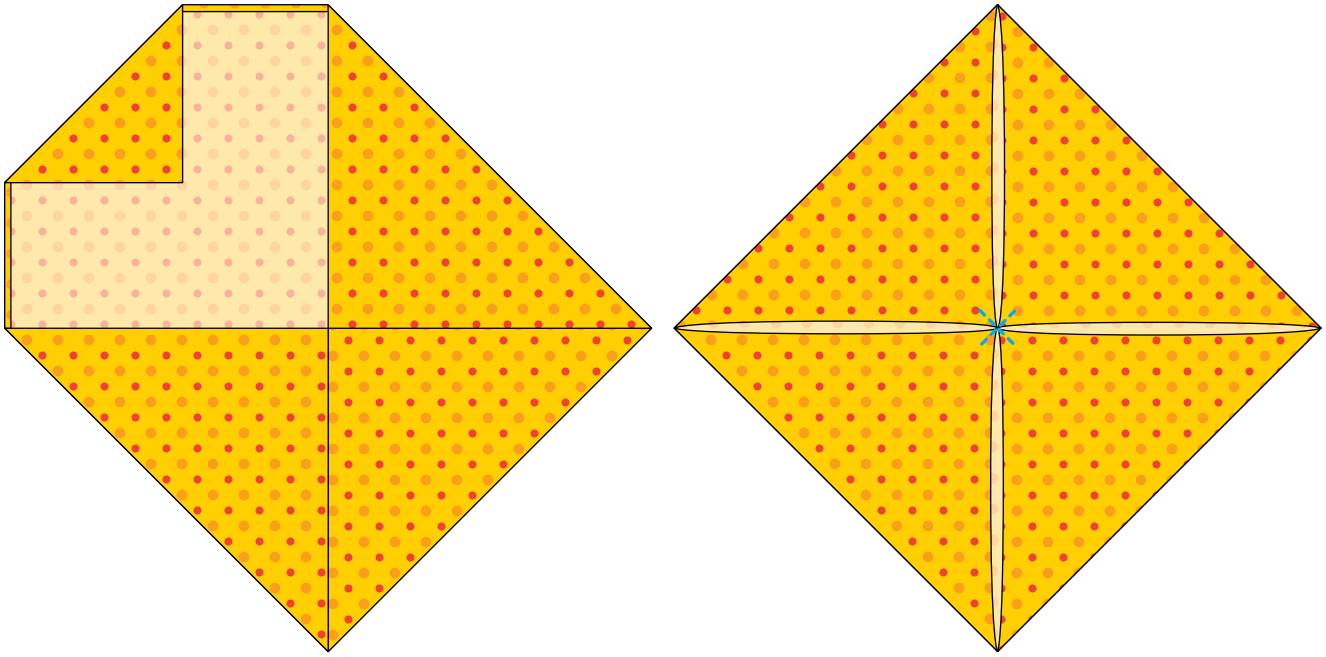

DIAGRAM 1

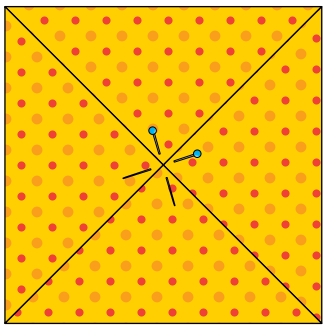

DIAGRAM 2

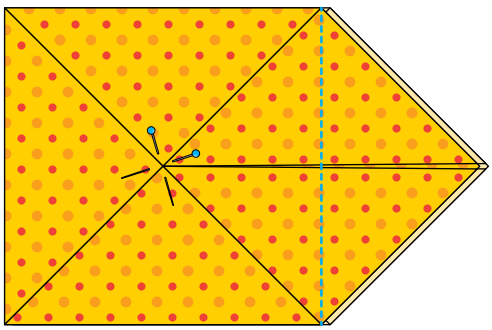

DIAGRAM 3

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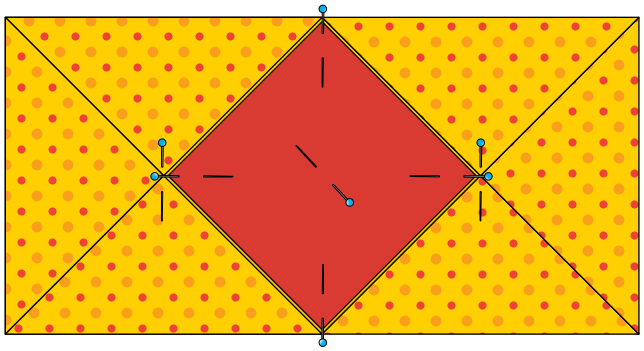

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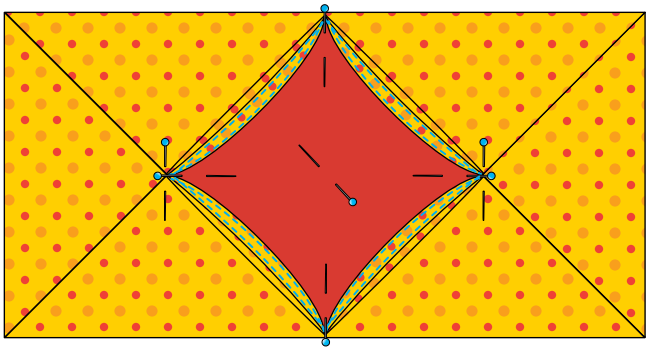

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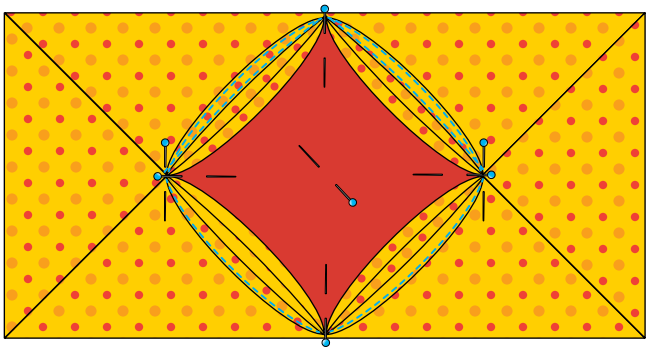

DIAGRAM 6

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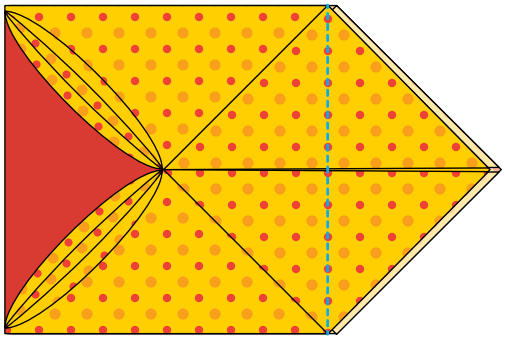

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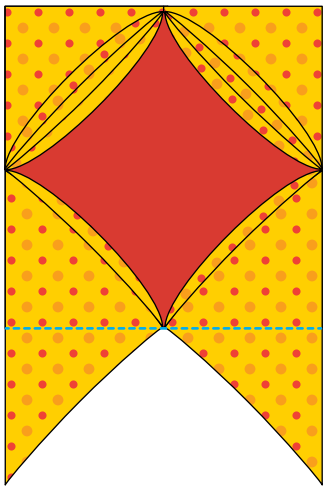

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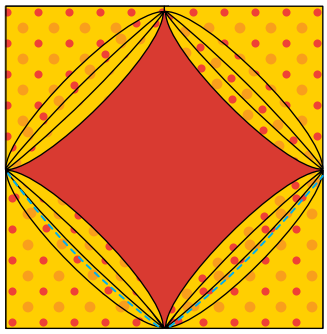

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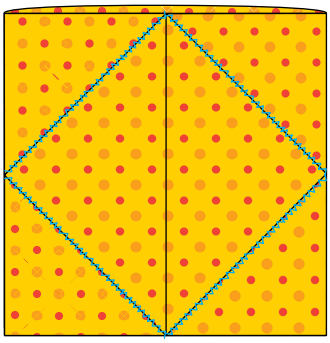

DIAGRAM 10

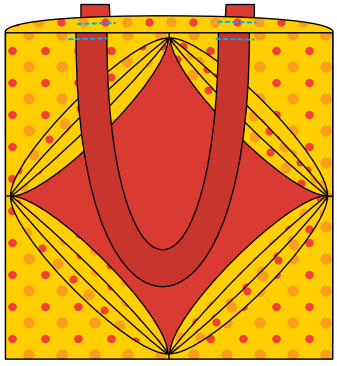

DIAGRAM 11

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