PROJECT: Quilt Block Tote

Upcycle a reusable cloth bag into a stylish tote! Piece, quilt, and bind a block to place over the bag's promotional logo.

INSPIRED BY: *Schoolhouses* from designer Valerie Langue *(thequiltmerchant.com)*
QUILT TESTER: Diane Tomlinson

FABRICS are from the Kaffe Fassett Collective by Kaffe Fassett Studio for FreeSpirit *(freespiritfabrics.com)*.

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MATERIALS

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

- ☐ ¼ yard *each* pink print and green print (block, binding)
- ☐ 10"-square *each* purple print, teal print, and orange print (block)
- ☐ Cloth tote (ours is 16" square)
- ☐ 11"-square backing fabric
- ☐ 11"-square batting
- ☐ Lightweight tracing paper or other foundation material of your choice

CUT FABRICS

Cut pieces in the following order.

From pink print, cut:
- ☐ 1–3¼×5" rectangle
- ☐ 1–3×4¼" rectangle
- ☐ 1–2×4¼" rectangle
- ☐ 1–2×2½" rectangle
- ☐ 1–2×2¼" rectangle
- ☐ 1–1¾×7¼" rectangle
- ☐ 3–1¾×2¾" rectangles
- ☐ 2–1½×5¼" rectangles

From purple print, cut:
- ☐ 1–4×8½" rectangle
- ☐ 2–2" squares

From teal print, cut:
- ☐ 1–4×5" rectangle
- ☐ 1–3×4¼" rectangle
- ☐ 1–1¾×4¼" rectangle
- ☐ 2–1¾×2¾" rectangles

From orange print, cut:
- ☐ 1–2×2¾" rectangle
- ☐ 2–1¾×6¼" rectangles
- ☐ 1–1½×2¾" rectangle
- ☐ 1–1¼×2¾" rectangle

From green print, cut:
- ☐ 2–2¼×42" binding strips

PREPARE FOUNDATION PAPERS

The Roof Foundation Pattern is on *page 4*.

1 Use a pencil to trace Roof Foundation Pattern onto lightweight tracing paper (or other foundation material of your choice) one time, tracing all lines and numbers.

2 Cut out traced foundation pattern roughly ¼" outside dashed lines to make roof foundation paper.

ASSEMBLE BLOCK

These measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Press seams in directions indicated by arrows on diagrams. If no direction is specified, press seam toward darker fabric.

To foundation-piece roof unit, stitch fabric pieces to foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered underneath. The resulting pieced unit will be a mirror image of the foundation paper. For step-by-step instructions, see Foundation Piecing, *page 5*.

1 Referring to **Diagram 1,** lay out pink print 2×2½", 2×4¼", and 2×2¼" rectangles and purple print 2" squares in a row. Sew together pieces to make chimney unit. The unit should be 2×11" including seam allowances.

2 Using roof foundation paper and purple print 4×8½" rectangle (position 1), pink print 3×4¼" rectangle (position 2), one pink print 1½×5¼" rectangle (position 3), teal print 4×5" rectangle (position 4), and pink print 3¼×5" rectangle (position 5), work in numerical order to foundation-piece roof unit **(Diagram 2).** The unit should be 3½×11" including seam allowances.

3 Sew together teal print 1¾×2¾" rectangles and one pink print 1¾×2¾" rectangle in a row **(Diagram 3).** Join teal print 3×4¼" and 1¾×4¼" rectangles to top and bottom edges of row to make door unit. The unit should be 4¼×6½" including seam allowances.

4 Referring to **Diagram 4,** sew together orange print 1¼×2¾", 2×2¾", and 1½×2¾" rectangles and remaining pink print 1¾×2¾" rectangles in a row. Sew orange print 1¾×6¼" rectangles to top and bottom edges. Sew remaining pink print 1½×5¼" rectangle to left-hand edge **(Diagram 5).** Add pink print 1¾×7¼" rectangle to top edge to make window unit. The unit should be 7¼×6½" including seam allowances.

5 Referring to **Diagram 6,** lay out chimney, roof, door, and window units. Sew together chimney and roof units to make top section. Join door and window units to make bottom section. Join top and bottom sections to make a house block. The block should be 11" square including seam allowances.

FINISH BLOCK

1 Layer block, batting, and backing; baste.

2 Quilt as desired. Quilt tester Diane Tomlinson stitched in the ditch around the roof, window, and door units.

3 Bind with green print binding strips to complete block.

FINISH TOTE

1 Center block on front of tote; pin in place.

2 To attach the block to the tote and create a pocket, stitch in the ditch between the binding and the block along side and bottom edges; leave the top edge open.

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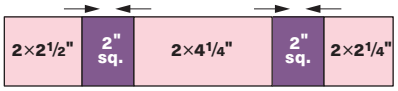

Diagram 1

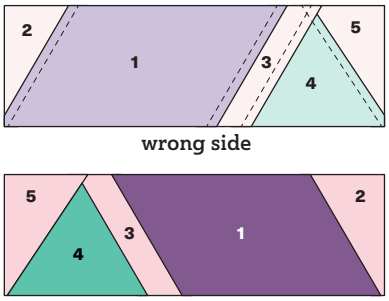

Diagram 2

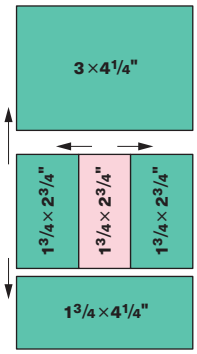

Diagram 3

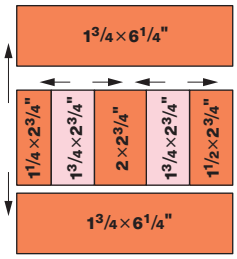

Diagram 4

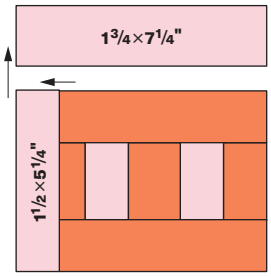

Diagram 5

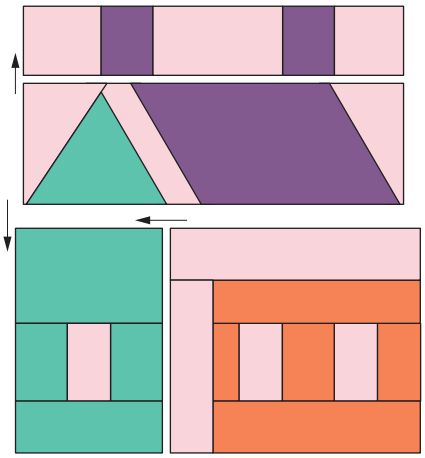

Diagram 6

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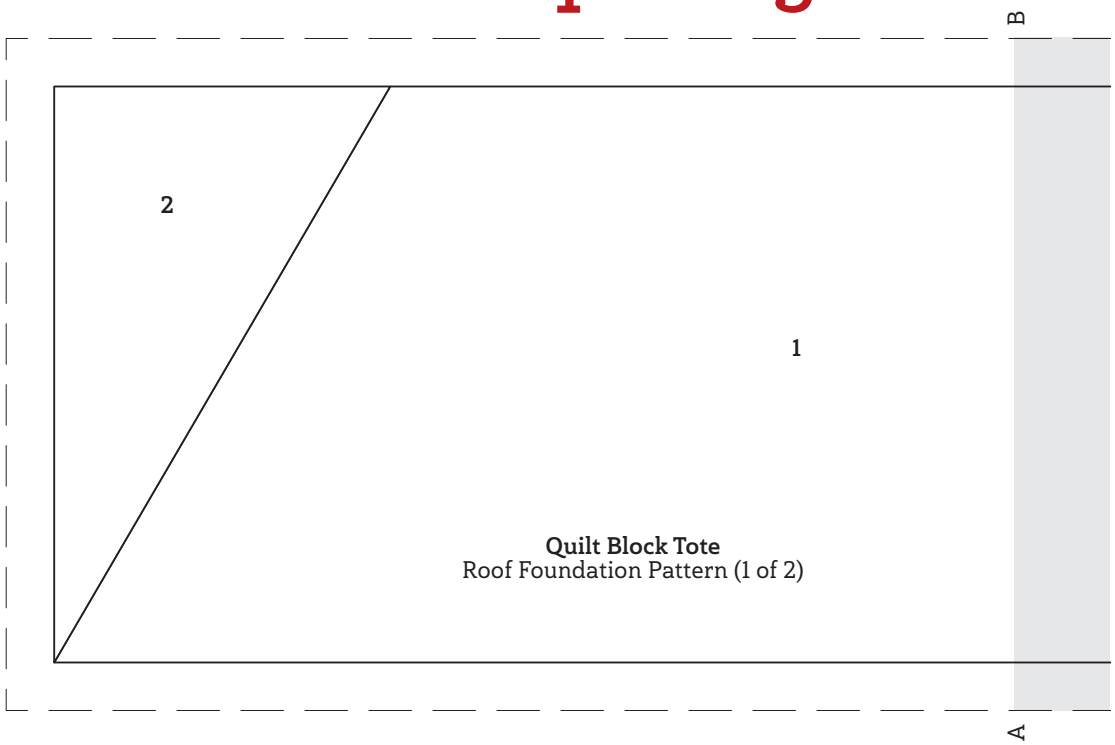
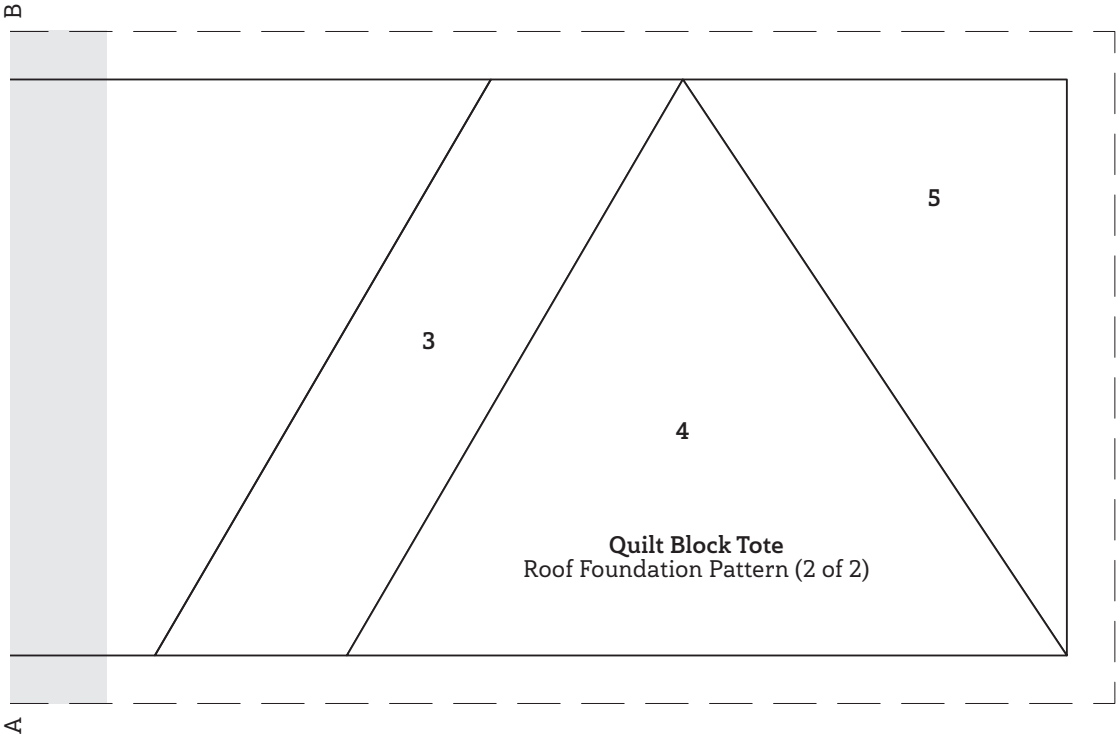


Quilt Block Tote
Roof Foundation Pattern (1 of 2)



Quilt Block Tote
Roof Foundation Pattern (2 of 2)

To make a complete pattern, cut out partial patterns on outside lines and, overlapping shaded areas, tape them together.

This box should measure 1".

1"

NOTE:
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FOUNDATION PIECING

To precisely piece intricate blocks or units, you can sew together fabric pieces on a paper pattern or foundation. Some quilters find this technique (also called paper piecing) to be freeing because precise cutting isn't required and grain line direction doesn't matter. However, it requires you to think about piecing in a different way.

To foundation-piece, you stitch fabric pieces to a foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered under the paper. The resulting pieced unit will be a mirror image of the foundation paper. **Diagrams 7-11,** which show the right and wrong sides of a unit as it is being constructed, illustrate the process.

To make a foundation paper, trace desired pattern onto tracing paper or the foundation material of your choice, including all lines, numbers, and dots. Repeat to make the desired number of foundation papers. Cut out the traced foundation papers roughly ¼" outside the dashed outer lines.

Roughly cut out fabric pieces that are at least ½" larger on all sides than the area they will cover on the foundation paper. (For this example, green and pink rectangles were cut to cover triangles on foundation paper.)

With right sides together, layer the green position 1 rectangle atop the pink position 2 rectangle; align a pair of long edges.

Place a foundation paper, marked side up, atop the layered rectangles, positioning the paper so the aligned rectangle edges are ¼" beyond the stitching line between positions 1 and 2 and at least ¼" beyond the foundation paper outer stitching line **(Diagram 7).**

To check placement, pin on the line between positions 1 and 2. Flip the pink rectangle open. Make sure the rectangles completely cover positions 1 and 2 and extend at least ¼" into adjacent positions. If they don't, reposition and recheck until they do.

Working with marked side of foundation paper up, use a small stitch length (1.5 millimeters) to sew on the stitching line through all layers, extending stitching past the beginning and end of the line by a few stitches **(Diagram 8).**

Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Referring to **Diagram 9,** trim green rectangle (but not the foundation paper) to about ¼" beyond next stitching lines (the line between positions 1 and 3 and the line between positions 1 and 4). Roughly trim pink rectangle to the foundation paper edge. (You will trim it later on the dashed lines when you trim the entire unit.)

With right sides together, align a pink position 3 rectangle with the long trimmed edge of green piece. Turn stitched layers over so the foundation paper is on top. Sew on the stitching line **(Diagram 10).** Turn stitched layers over so foundation paper is on the bottom. Press pink rectangle open. Roughly trim pink rectangle to the foundation paper edge.

In same manner, add a pink position 4 triangle. Trim all fabric layers and foundation paper on the outer dashed lines to complete a foundation-pieced unit **(Diagram 11).** Remove foundation paper with tweezers or the blunt edge of a seam ripper.

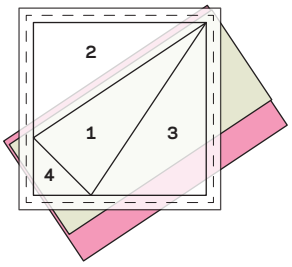


Diagram 7

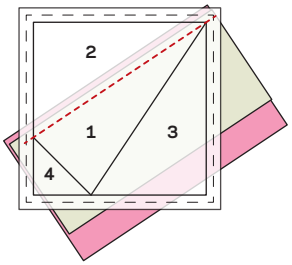
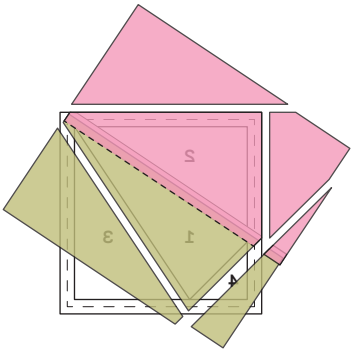


Diagram 8



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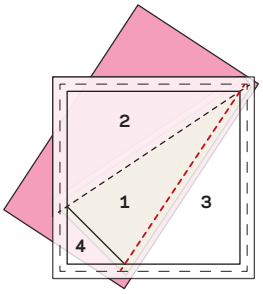

Diagram 10

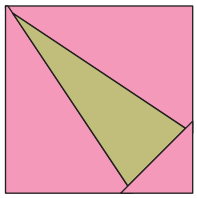

Diagram 11

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