

Project: Happy Holidays Handmade Gift Bag

DESIGNER: ELIZABETH STUMBO



FABRICS are from At Home for the Holidays collection by Heather Mulder Peterson for Henry Glass & Co. (henryglassfabrics.com).

Make the presentation as fun as what's inside! Use a holly leaf pattern and a trio of buttons to add adorable appliqué to a lunch sack gift bag. Prairie points create festive fringe. Hook-and-loop tape keeps the flap closed and the gift tucked inside.

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Materials

- 18×22" piece (fat quarter) each of green tone-one-tone (bag body) and white floral (lining)
- Scraps of assorted red and green prints (prairie points, appliqués)
- Heavyweight interfacing
- Lightweight fusible web
- 3 assorted-size red buttons
- Thin, stiff cardboard
- 2— $\frac{5}{8}$ "-diameter circles of hook-and-loop tape

Finished bag: 2½×6½×9"

Measurements include a ½" seam allowance unless otherwise specified. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. Patterns are on page 4.

To use fusible web for appliquéing, complete the following steps.

1. Lay fusible web, paper side up, over Pattern B. Trace pattern twice, leaving ½" between tracings. Cut out each fusible-web leaf roughly ¼" outside traced lines.
2. Following manufacturer's instructions, press fusible-web leaves onto wrong side of green print; let cool. Cut out leaves on drawn lines. Peel off paper backings.

From green tone-on-tone, cut:

- 2—10×11" bag body rectangles

From white floral, cut:

- 2—10×11" lining rectangles

From red print scraps, cut

- 5—2" squares

From green print scraps, cut:

- 2 of Pattern B

From interfacing, cut:

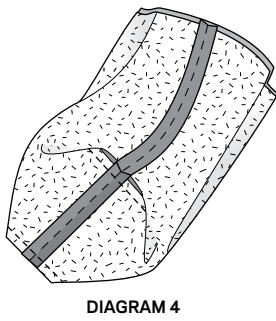
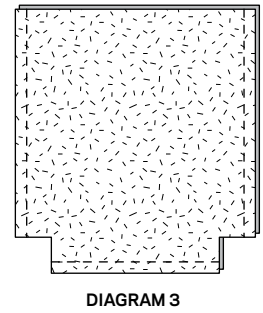
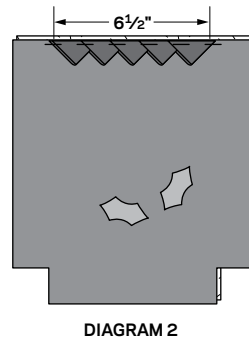
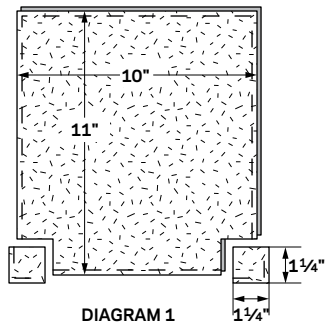
- 2—10×11" rectangles

From cardboard, cut:

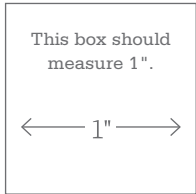
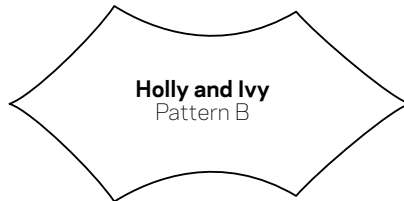
- 1—2½×6½" rectangle

1. If using fusible interfacing, follow manufacturer's instructions to fuse an interfacing rectangle to wrong side of each green tone-on-tone bag body rectangle. If using nonfusible interfacing, baste an interfacing rectangle to wrong side of each bag body rectangle, machine-stitching a scant ¼" from edges.
2. Cut a 1¼" square from each bottom corner of interfaced bag body rectangles (Diagram 1). Repeat to cut squares from bottom corners of lining rectangles.
3. Fold an assorted red print 2" square in half diagonally with wrong side inside to make a triangle; press. Fold triangle in half again and press to make a prairie point. Repeat with remaining assorted red print 2" squares to make five prairie points total. Pin prairie points along top edge of bag body back rectangle, points down, corners overlapping, and spacing them to fill 6½" (Diagram 2).
4. Referring to Diagram 2, position two green print B leaves in bottom right-hand corner of bag body front rectangle. Fuse in place. Using thread that matches the appliqués, hand- or machine-stitch around appliqués.
5. Join bag body rectangles along side and bottom edges to make bag body (Diagram 3). Press seams open.
6. To box bottom corners, match each side seam of bag body with the bottom seam; stitch across resulting straight edge (Diagram 4). Turn bag body right side out and press.
7. Repeat Step 5 with lining rectangles, leaving 4" opening along one edge, to make lining. Repeat Step 6 to box bottom corners of lining. Do not turn lining right side out.
8. Insert bag body into lining (they will be right sides together). Sew together around top edge with ¼" seam.
9. Turn bag body and lining to right side through opening in lining. Hand-stitch opening closed. Push lining into bag body and press upper edge of bag. Topstitch ¼" from bag upper edge through all layers.
10. Press creases into bag sides to resemble a lunch sack. Insert cardboard rectangle into bag to reinforce bag bottom.
11. Referring to photo, hand-sew buttons to bottom right-hand corner of bag front. Adhere hook-and-loop tape circles to prairie points on either side of center prairie point and on bag body 3½" from top edge.

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*** NOTE:**

When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

Make and Use Templates

Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

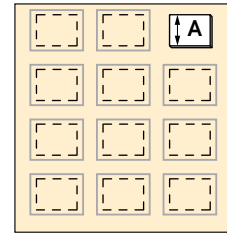


DIAGRAM 1

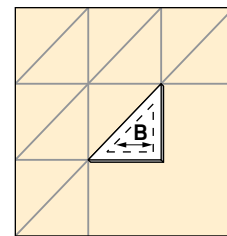


DIAGRAM 2