Project: Patchwork Strips Tote Bag

INSPIRED BY *DOUBLE UP* FROM DESIGNER SHERRI K. FALLS OF THIS AND THAT PATTERN COMPANY *(THISANDTHATPATTERNS.COM)*

Make an easy tote even easier by choosing a great focal print and using precut 2½"-wide fabric strips for the remainder of the bag. Use rickrack, eyelets, and a button for a polished patchwork tote.

Materials
- ⅓ yard blue print (bag)
- ¾ yard total assorted prints and stripes in green, orange, and red (bag)
- 1⅛ yards muslin
- 1⅔ yards green print (bag, bag lining, pocket)
- ½ yard orange stripe (bag, handles, button loop, ties)
- 2—18×24" batting rectangles
- 25×35" heavyweight fusible interfacing
- ⅔ yard 1"-wide rickrack: orange
- 2—1×30" strips cotton webbing (handles)
- 4—⁷⁄₁₆"-diameter eyelets
- ⅞"-diameter button: blue

Finished bag: 18×14×4"

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 blue print, cut:
- 1—10½×22½" rectangle

From assorted green, orange, and red prints and stripes, cut:
- 45—2½×4½" rectangles
- 9—2½" squares

From muslin, cut:
- 2—18×24" rectangles

From green print, cut:
- 1—22½×32½" rectangle
- 1—22½" square
- 2—2½×22½" rectangles

From orange stripe, cut:
- 2—4×30" strips
- 2—2½×22" strips
- 1—2½×6" strip

From heavyweight interfacing, cut:
- 1—22½×32½" rectangle

Assemble Bag Front
1. Referring to **Diagram 1**, baste orange rickrack along bottom edge of blue print 10½×22½" rectangle. The bottom half of rickrack will extend past the edge of rectangle.

2. Sew together five assorted green, orange and red prints and stripe 2½×4½" rectangles and one 2½" square to make a pieced row **(Diagram 2)**. The pieced row should be 2½×22½" including seam allowances. Press seams toward 2½" square. Repeat to make a second pieced row.

3. Join two pieced rows to make a pieced unit **(Diagram 3)**. Sew pieced unit to bottom edge of Step 1 rectangle. Add a green print 2½×22½" rectangle along bottom edge **(Diagram 4)**. Press seams in one direction to make bag front.

4. Lay a muslin 18×24" rectangle right side down on a flat surface. Top with an 18×24" batting rectangle, aligning edges. With right side up, center bag front on batting.

5. Quilt as desired.

6. Trim bag front to 22½×16½". Machine-baste a scant ⅛" inside all edges.

Assemble Bag Back
1. Referring to Assemble Bag Front, Step 2, and using remaining assorted green, orange, and red print and stripe 2½×4½" rectangles and 2½" squares, make seven pieced rows total.

2. Join pieced rows, alternating the position of 2½" squares, to make a pieced unit. Add remaining green print 2½×22½" rectangle to pieced unit **(Diagram 5)**. Press seams in one direction to make bag back.

3. Referring to Assemble Bag Front, steps 4–6, use remaining muslin 18×24" rectangle and 18×24" batting to quilt and trim bag back.

Assemble Bag Body
1. Layer bag front and back with right sides together; sew together along sides and bottom **(Diagram 6)**.

2. To shape flat bottom for bag, at one corner match bottom seam line to side seam line, creating a flattened triangle **(Diagram 7)**. Measure and mark seam allowance 2" from point of triangle. Draw a 4"-long line across triangle; sew on drawn line. Trim excess fabric. Repeat at remaining bottom corner to make bag body. Turn bag body right side out. Press.

Assemble Lining
1. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing 22½×32½" rectangle to wrong side of green print 22½×32½" rectangle.

2. Fold green print 22½" square in half with right side inside to make an 11¼×22½" rectangle. Sew along long edge to make a tube. Turn tube right side out and press to make pocket.

3. Fold green print 22½×32½" rectangle in half to find vertical center; press. Referring to **Diagram 8** for placement, position pocket on green print rectangle 2¼" from center; pin in place. Edgestitch pocket to green print rectangle along pocket's bottom edge. Stitch 5" from outer edges to create three pockets.

4. Fold green print rectangle in half along center fold. Sew together side edges, leaving a 6"-wide opening along one side.

5. To shape flat bottom for lining, refer to Assemble Bag Body, Step 2, to make bag lining.

Assemble and Attach Handles and Button Loop

1. Fold a orange stripe 4×30" strip in half, wrong side inside. Press, then unfold. Fold long edges in to meet at center; press again **(Diagram 9)**. Open one long edge and place a cotton webbing 1×30" strip inside along fold line.

2. Refold long edge toward center of strip. Referring to **Diagram 10,** fold in half lengthwise, matching folded edges. Topstitch long edges to make a handle.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make a second handle.

4. Referring to **Diagram 11,** pin and baste handle ends to bag front and back 5" from side edges.

5. With wrong side inside, fold and lightly press orange stripe 2½×6" strip in half lengthwise. Open strip and press long edges under ¼". Refold strip; press. Topstitch long edges to make button loop strip **(Diagram 12)**.

6. Fold button loop strip in half, matching raw ends **(Diagram 13)**. Press folded end to form triangle tip; topstitch across long end of triangle to make button loop.

7. Aligning raw edges, center and pin raw ends of button loop to top center of bag back; baste in place **(Diagram 14)**.

Assemble Bag

1. Insert bag body inside bag lining with right sides together; the handles and button loop should be between bag and lining. Align raw edges and seams. Stitch together top edges of bag body and lining, backstitching over each handle for reinforcement.

2. Turn bag and lining right side out through opening in lining; hand-stitch opening closed.

3. Insert lining back into bag and press top edge. Topstitch ¼" from upper edge of bag.

Finish Bag

1. Referring to **Diagram 15** for placement, make a 1¾" pleat, through both layers, at side edge of bag front; pin. Following manufacturer's instructions, add a 7⁄16" eyelet in center of pleat, about 1½" from top of bag. Repeat, adding remaining three eyelets to opposite side of bag front and to both side edges of bag back.

2. With wrong side inside, fold and lightly press under short edges of an orange stripe 2½×22" strip; press strip in half lengthwise **(Diagram 16)**. Open strip and fold long edges in to meet at center; press again. Refold strip at center, matching folded edges. Topstitch all edges to make a tie. Repeat to make a second tie.

3. Thread one tie through both eyelets at one side edge of bag (see photo on *page 1*); tie in a bow. Repeat with second tie.
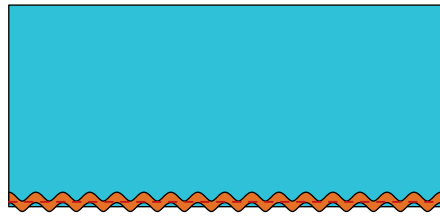
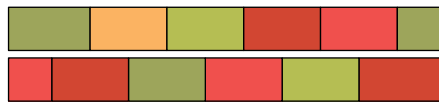4. Sew blue 7⁄8"-diameter button to bag front 1" from top edge to complete bag.

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2

DIAGRAM 3
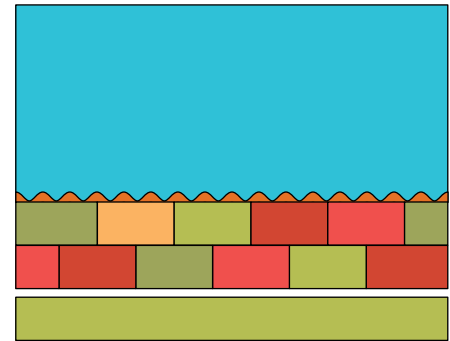
DIAGRAM 4

DIAGRAM 5

Bag Back

Bag Front
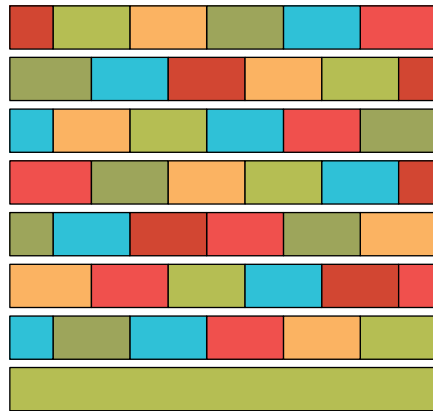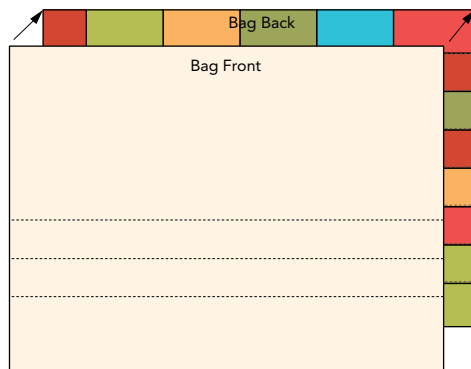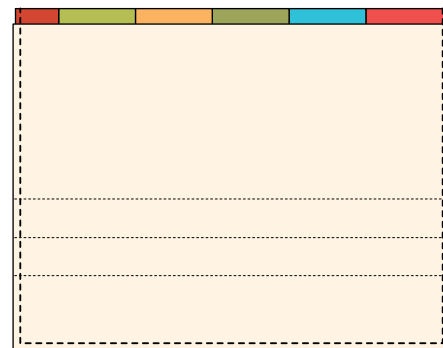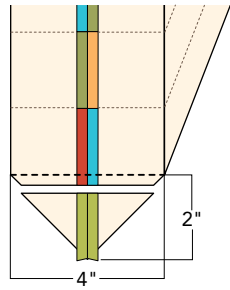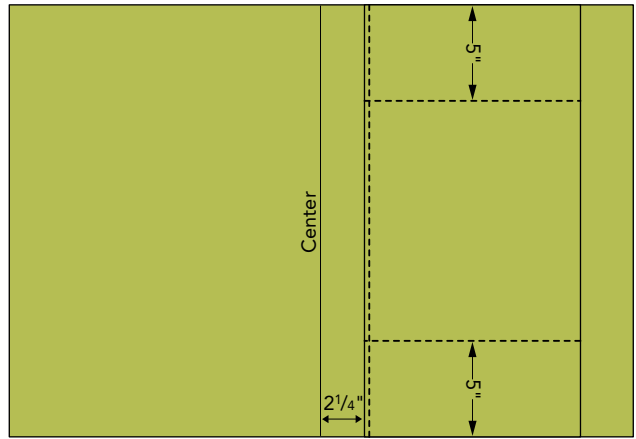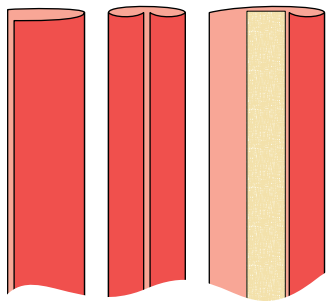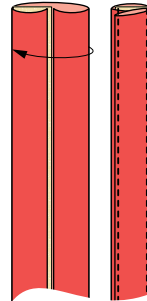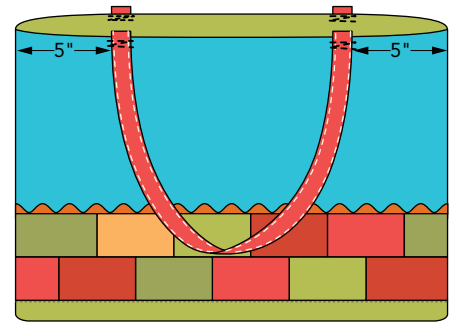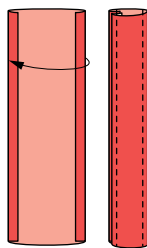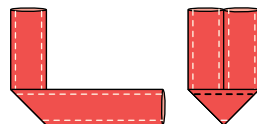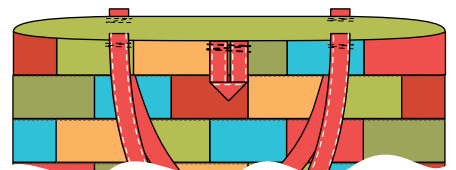
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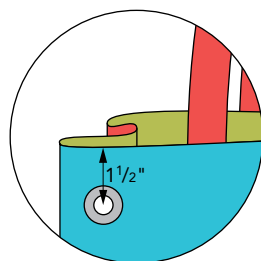
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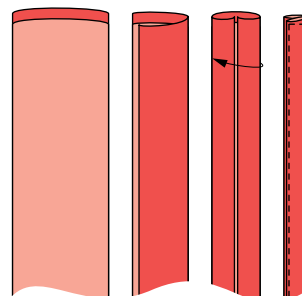
DIAGRAM 8

DIAGRAM 9

DIAGRAM 10

DIAGRAM 11

DIAGRAM 12

DIAGRAM 13

DIAGRAM 14

DIAGRAM 15

DIAGRAM 16