

Above & Beyond

SEWING VACUUM



Patchwork Tote

Supplies:

- 18 5" fabric squares assorted colors
- 2 5"x 22" fabric strips for handles
- 2 14"x 14" lining fabric
- 2 14" x 14" fusible batting
- Thread for piecing and quilting

Step 1: Assemble Outer Bag.

Layout your (9) 5" squares in the pattern of your choice for the front of your bag and then repeat the same pattern for the back. Beginning with the first row place the middle square on top of the left corner (right sides together) and stitch along the right side of the squares. Now take the remaining right corner and lay on top of the middle square (right sides together) and stitch along the right side. Repeat for the remaining rows. Press the seams in the first row to the left, the second row to the right, and the third row to the left. Join rows together, nesting seams of alternate rows. Press. Repeat for other side of bag.

Step 2: Quilt .

Iron on fusible fleece to wrong side of each bag side. On front side, mark quilting pattern with chalk. Consider a diagonal grid for squares or stitch in ditch pattern. Stitch quilting lines with quilting or decorative threads.

Step 3: Construct bag handles, lining and bag.

Press handles lengthwise in half, RS out; fold each had in half again, Press. Top stitch each side of handle. Sew bag front and back together, stitching side seams and bottom seam with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams. Box corners. Repeat sewing seams for lining, leaving a 3" opening in middle of bottom for turning. Box corners.

Step 4. Joining bag and lining.

Baste handles to top of bag along the outside of each center square. Sew lining and bag RST matching side seams. Turn right side out through lining opening. Press. Top stitch around top of bag.