

Sweet Summer Tote

by Kathy Harrison

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Description

This is a fun and simple summer project in cheery yellow cottons, especially when you add a cute embroidered pocket flap! Shown in Mary Rose prints from the Sweet Charms Collection by Quilt Gate. The pattern for the bag is **Butterick 5659**, View D. If you ever intend to make this bag, **pick up the pattern soon, before it is discontinued!** Finished bag is 12"h x 11"w x 2.5"d, plus straps.

Flap Design Download

I can provide you with the embroidery file for the blank flap, in most formats. Email me at kathy@customkeepsakes.com and let me know what format you need. Add whatever small floral design you like to the point of the flap. The design on the sample bag is "**Floral101**" from the [Heirloom 1 Collection](#), which so many of you have!

The flap design measures 3.5" x 8.2". Note: Since the bag is made entirely of simple rectangles, those with a 5" x 7" hoop could perhaps reduce the size of the flap design and modify the size of the rectangles for a slightly smaller finished bag.

Following Butterick 5659: Before beginning Step 11 of the View D instructions, add the embroidered pocket flap to POCKET 17.

Embroidery

1. If you have my [DMC #50 cotton threads](#), wind a **matching bobbin** for the scallops. White bobbin thread is OK, but this gives a nice solid edge to the flap. I used yellow linen for the flap on the sample bag because I did not want the print underneath to show through too much. OR embroider flap on silk organza to allow the pocket fabric to show through completely! **Stitch flap** onto fabric with one layer of [water soluble stabilizer](#) on the back.

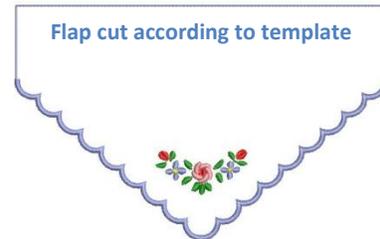


2. Before cutting out flap, **soak away stabilizer** completely. No matter what brand stabilizer you use, it takes a little bit of time for every bit to dissolve under the satin stitching. Overnight is best. Rinse well, roll in a towel to partially dry, and then **press from the back** into a thick towel until dry. (This is the best way to press any of my embroidery - it brings the work up to the top of the fabric, leaving it flat on the back.)

3. Using small curved blade scissors, **trim around scallops** as closely as possible. I use [Gingher 4" curved blade](#) scissors. Don't worry, nobody will notice if there are pokies left. Pokies are all over my work and nobody cares. I guess if I had to give one piece of advice for this, try to

position your scissors so that each scallop can be cut entirely in one smooth cut. But that is not always possible, so just do your best and it will be fine. If you happen to get too close and clip a thread, just dip the tip of a toothpick into one drop of a fray stop product and touch lightly on both sides where the thread is cut. Then forget about it. I have never had anything fray out after doing this step. Never cover the entire edge with fray stop product!

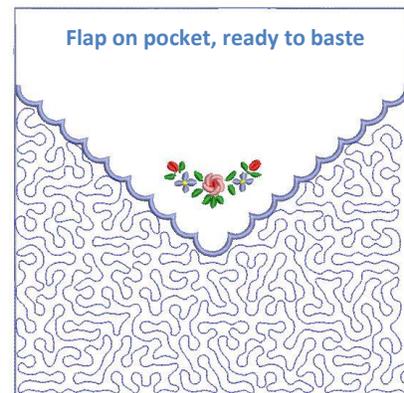
4. Use template on the last page to **cut upper edges** of pocket flap.

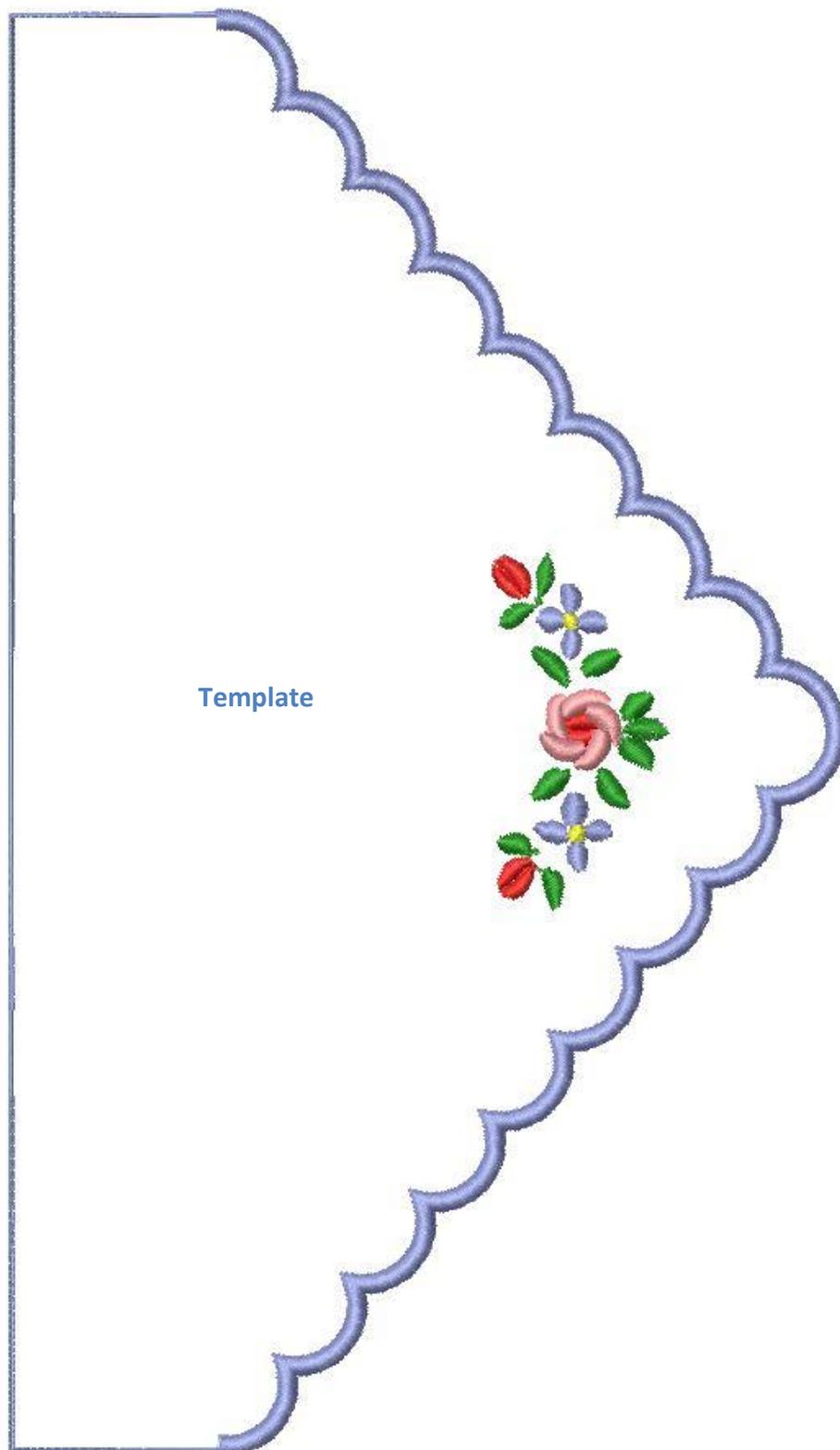


5. Right sides up on both pieces, lay finished flap on top of the POCKET 17 fabric with upper and side edges even. Baste together along the 5/8" seamline on top and sides and treat as one from now on. If your pocket flap does not perfectly fit the top of the POCKET 17 pattern piece, it's OK. The difference will be hidden in the ample 5/8" seam allowances!

6. Move on to Butterick 5659 Step 11 to line your beautiful pocket, and carry on to finish your bag!

Note: On the sample bag, pattern pieces 18 and 19 were combined into one piece to show off a pretty pattern on the fabric.





Template