



Flying Geese Tote Bag

Finished size: 23" x 12" x 4 1/2"

Designed by Caroline Critchfield, SewCanShe.com

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Fabric Loft® Motley Collection Precuts:
 - 1 Navy Geometric Canvas (36" x 44") - Fabric A
 - 1 Orange Floral Canvas (36" x 44") - Fabric B
- 3/4 Yard Pellon® Fusible interfacing (Décor Bond® 809)
- Coordinating thread
- Fabric marking pen
- Rotary cutter, mat, and acrylic ruler
- Basic sewing supplies
- Sewing machine
- Iron

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Read all instructions before beginning project. Press fabrics with a dry iron on cotton setting before cutting. Use a 1/4" seam allowance and sew fabrics with right sides together (RST) unless otherwise noted. Back tack at the beginning and end of seams.

CUTTING

Fabric A: 2 - 20" x 20" squares (Bag and lining - Main Fabric)
2 - 6 1/2" x 40" strips (Straps)

Interfacing: 2 - 20" x 20" squares

Fabric B: 2 - 20 7/8" x 20 7/8" squares (Bag and lining - Accent Fabric)
2 - 12 1/2" x 20" pieces (Pockets)

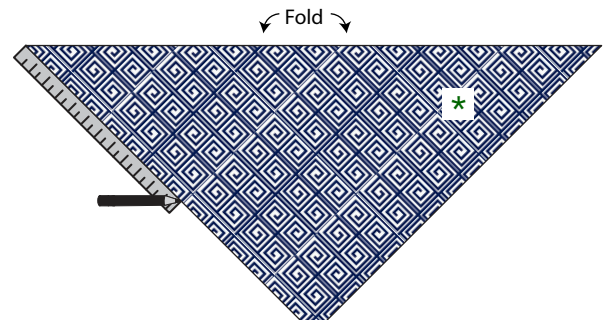


PREPARATION

1. Cut Fabric B and interfacing squares in half diagonally.
2. Center interfacing triangles 1/4" from corner and sides; crease on wrong side of two Fabric B triangles. Fuse in place following manufacturer's instructions.
3. Fold Fabric A squares in half diagonally with wrong sides together; press fold firmly.
4. With wrong sides of Fabric A squares facing up, fuse remaining interfacing triangles in place aligning long edges with diagonal folds.

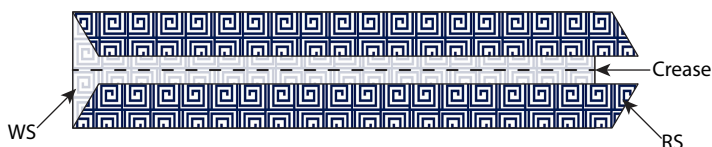
Note: Interfacing will be used for stabilizing the bag only; the lining will not be interfaced.

6. **Adding the Straps:** With interfaced side on top, fold a Fabric A square in half along crease with wrong sides together. With the fold at the top, measure 12 1/2" from left top corner toward the lower corner and mark with the fabric marking pen. Repeat from the right top corner measuring and marking along the remaining diagonal side of the triangle to mark the placement for the other end of the strap.



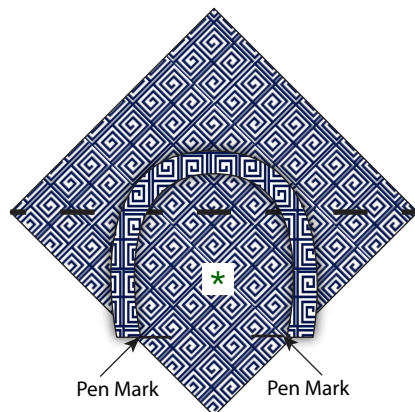
SEWING

5. **Making the Straps:** With wrong sides together, press straps in half lengthwise. Open straps flat with wrong sides up and fold cut edges to the center crease; press. Fold in half enclosing cut edges to make two 1 1/2" wide straps; press well and pin. Stitch close to long edges.



Note: A * Indicates interfaced area

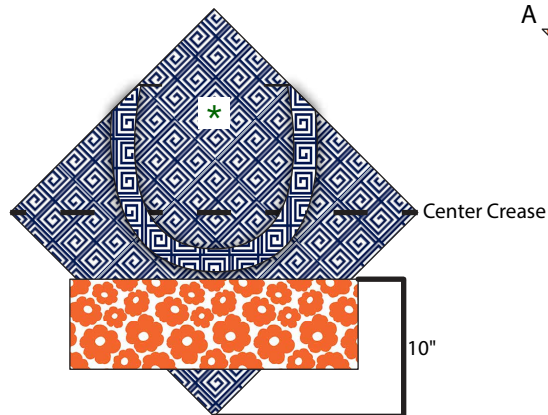
7. Open and place one Fabric A square right side up with interfaced corner (with marks) pointing down. Place the right corner of one end of the strap even with the edge of Fabric A along the left mark; pin in place. Place the opposite end of the strap even with right mark. **Note: The straps should be perpendicular to the crease with the ends outside the marks.** Pin upward toward the crease from the cut ends.



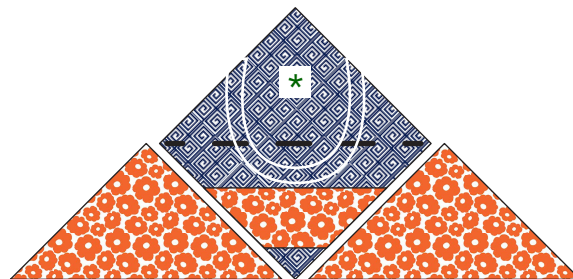
8. Sew the straps to the bag by stitching on top of the previous stitching. Sew only from the crease to the cut edge. Trim strap ends even with the edge of Fabric B. Repeat Steps 6-8 with the remaining Fabric A square and strap.

9. **Making the Pockets:** Fold pocket piece in half lengthwise RST. Sew along the long edges to make a 6" x 20" tube. Turn right side out and press flat with seam along one long edge. Top-stitch the edge opposite the seam. Repeat for the second pocket.

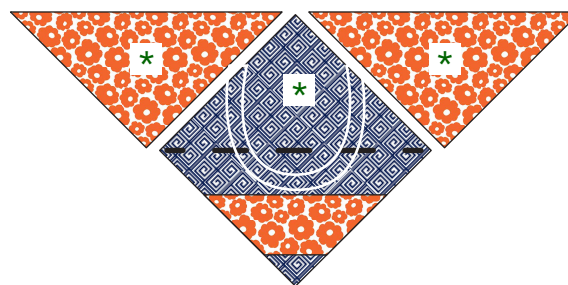
10. With the unfused corner of the Fabric A right side up, pin top edge of the pocket 10" from the bottom corner and parallel to the center crease. Sew across the bottom edge of the pocket. Turn bag piece wrong side up and trim pocket even with edges. On the right side, baste pocket sides to bag within the seam allowance. Use the fabric pen to mark sewing lines perpendicular to the top edge dividing the pocket as desired. Sew along lines. Repeat for the second pocket.



11. **Sewing the bag together:** Lay out two large triangles as shown. Pin Fabric B triangles to Fabric A squares RST, being sure to match interfaced and non-interfaced edges together. Stitch and press seams toward the Fabric B triangles.

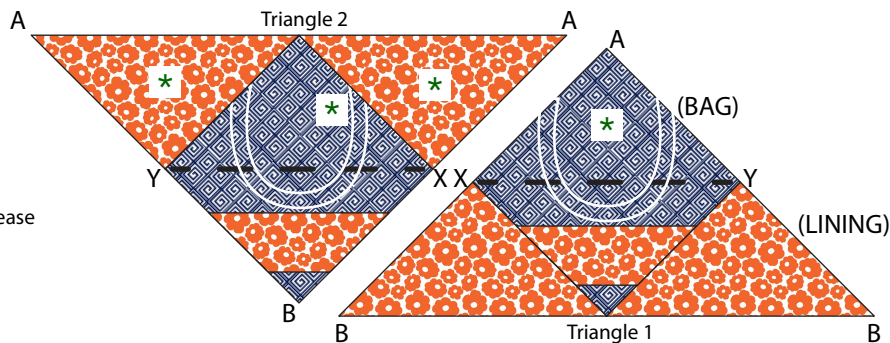


Triangle 1 - Fabric A square for bag is interfaced **above** dashed line **only**. Remaining pieces for the lining are not interfaced.



Triangle 2 - Fabric A square **above** dashed line and Fabric B triangles are interfaced for the bag.

12. With right sides together, place Triangles 1 and 2 RST matching center seams (X) and points A to B. Bag (interfaced) parts are at top edge and lining parts are at bottom edge. Pin from the center seams outward toward the points. Sew edges together to make a parallelogram.

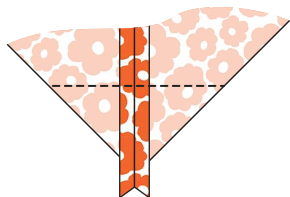
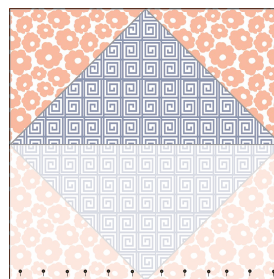


13. With RST, fold Y to Y (center seams); pin. Match A to A and B to B, pin edges together and sew edges of the parallelogram RST, matching center seams; sew to make a tube. Trim projecting triangles or dog ears even with the edge.

14. Arrange the tube RST with the Fabric A squares on the front and back as shown. **Note: Bottom half of tube is interfaced.** Pin bottom edges together; sew with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam for bag bottom. Sew a second row of reinforcement stitches within the seam allowance. Trim dog ears if desired.

15. On the open opposite edge of the bag (lining), mark 8"-10" from each corner. Sew from corners to markings, leaving the center open for turning. **Note: Take care not to stitch handles in seam.**

16. **Boxing the Corners:** Flatten the bottom of the bag and align the seam in the middle. Measure a 4" line across one corner and mark. Stitch along the line. Trim away the corner leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Repeat until all 4 corners are boxed.



17. Turn bag right side out through opening. Press the edges of the opening to the inside. Hand or machine stitch the opening closed.

FINISHING

18. Stuff the lining into the bag, with the straps on the outside. Press the top edge all the way around; pin. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge of the bag to keep the lining on the inside.

Load up your roomy new tote with beach towels, workout gear or groceries!

FINISHED CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Machine wash in cold water; gentle cycle. Lay flat to dry or tumble dry low.