

Fancy Dancy Quilted Bag

By Camilla Bignell

(adapted from a course I took in South Carolina and she adapted from a Threads December/January 2003 issue)

You can use any bag pattern.

*For making a bag that is approximately 14 ½ x 15 ½ inches, finished

Fabric Supplies*:

- o 1 theme fabric (e.g. Laurel Birch fabric)
- o A variety of fat quarters
- o Glitzy fabric (optional)
- o Velvets and/or silks (optional)
- o Thin cording for piping (or store bought piping if you want to cheat 😊)
- o 1 fat quarter of black and white striped (or other colour) fabric for piping (if making your own)
- o 1/3 meter of fabric for handles
- o 1/3 meter of fabric for gusset of bag
- o ½ meter muslin for foundation
- o 1 meter bag weight interfacing (fusible or not... I prefer the fusible)
- o ½ meter of fabric for lining
- o Thread to match
- o Invisible thread
- o Rayon threads
- o Regular sewing foot
- o Piping or zipper sewing foot
- o Embellishments – your choice (buttons, beads, tassels, fun glittery stuff and hairy yarns... basically anything that you want to have on your bag)

Basic Supplies:

- o Fusible pressing cloth
- o Rotary cutter, ruler & mat
- o Pins
- o Scissors

Homework:

- o Strip your fat quarters and glitzy fabrics into 2" and 3" strips (only 2 strips per fabric, unless it's your absolute favourite... then 3 or 4 can be used)
- o Cut 2 pieces of muslin the size of your bag*
- o Cut 2 pieces of bag interfacing (same as above)** If you have the fusible interfacing, please fuse it to the cut muslin. Bring your remaining interfacing to the class.

**Feel free to cut muslin and bag interfacing larger or smaller if you prefer.

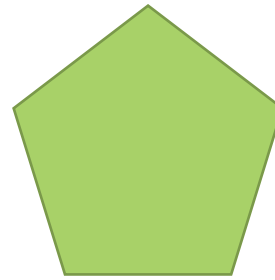
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Constructing Your Block Panel

Place your theme fabric (with at least 5 sides) on the foundation block already prepared and start sewing strips around it. (If you have done crazy quilting, it's just like that.)



Fancy Tip: You may wish to add embellishments right into the seam... like beading or lace.



Next, add embroidery stitches and couching or any other embellishments.

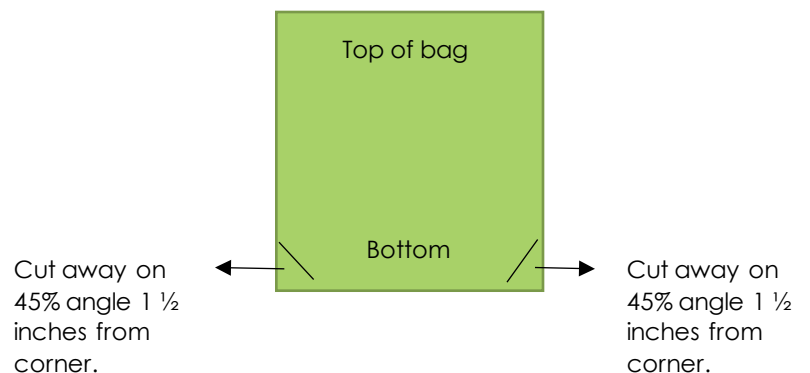


Reminder: There may be some embellishments that would be better to add once the bag is constructed.

Once you have completed both block panels, ensure they are trimmed to the desired same size. Then cut off the TWO (2) bottom corners on your blocks on a 45-degree angle 1 1/2 inches from the corners.



Reminder: Be sure to cut the bottom corners.

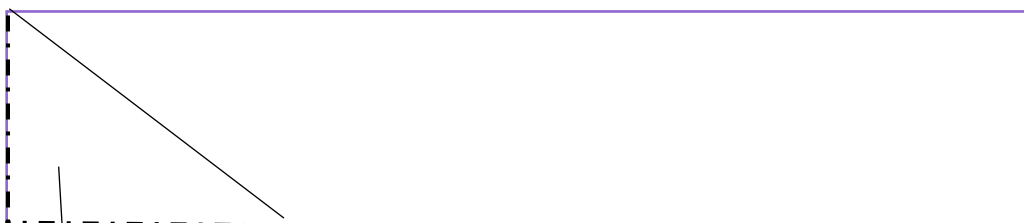


Making the Piping

Take your piping fabric and cut on the diagonal by folding your raw edge over to the selvedge. Cut your piping strips 1 1/2 inches wide. Sew your piping using a piping foot (if you have one) or a zipper foot.

Baste your piping (if you prefer) to both blocks from the top of one side, down and across the bottom and up the other side.

Raw edge and selvedge together



Use this piece for piping.

Preparing the Gusset

I used 4 inch strips for the gusset, but you can use anywhere from 3 inch strips and up. You should also use interfacing on these strips. Measure the height of your block panel (multiply by 2) plus the width of your block panel, to determine the length of your gusset strip to cut. Don't forget to cut your interfacing too.

Preparing the Straps

Cut 2 strap fabric lengths. Length at least 2 feet (I used 3 feet) and a width of about 4 inches. Use the interfacing on the straps as well. Sew into tubes and turn.

Constructing the Bag

Take your finished block panels and sew the gusset on. Begin from the top of one side, down and across the bottom and up the other side.



Reminder: Be sure that the piping is sandwiched in the middle with the raw edges out.

Do the same with the other block... again, remember the piping (if you haven't already basted it).

With raw edges together, attach straps securely – approximately 2 inches from each block panel edge.



Reminder: Be sure to match straps on both sides.

Making the Lining

Measure the size of the bag around the top and divide by 2. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for seams. Cut lining. Lining length should be the length of your two block panels plus the gusset piece plus a seam allowance (only after you have constructed the bag, above in previous steps for **Constructing the Bag**).

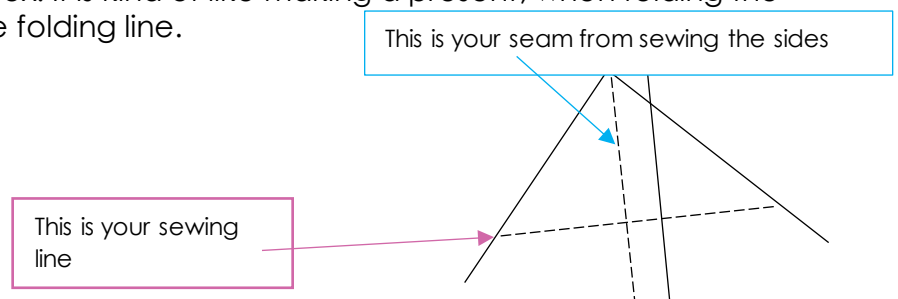
I leave an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the top for turning.

You may also want to add a pocket at this point if you wish.

Cut the same size piece of interfacing and apply to lining (if using fusible).

Fold lining in half and sew up the sides.

Match bottom fold or seam with side seam and on a 45-degree angle sew $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the seams to form the lining into a box. It is kind of like making a present, when folding the corners up to tape... you sew on the folding line.



Putting It All Together

Turn your bag right side in and put the lining inside the bag with right sides facing the bag. Sew your bag together leaving an opening of approx. 4 – 5 inches for turning.

Press.

I like to sew around the top of my bag with a decorative stitch or you can topstitch it if you prefer.

Then add any beads, buttons, tassels, etc. as desired.

If you have any questions, reach out and ask:

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