
Supplies

- Fabric for Bag, Lining and Handles
 - (X) 2 ½" x 40" assorted fabric strips for exterior of bag
 - (1) 16" square of fabric for front pocket facing (This fabric will not show on exterior of bag.)
 - (1) 16" square of fabric for front pocket lining (This fabric will show through pocket opening on front of bag.)
 - (1) 20" x 36" fabric for lining and pockets
 - (4) 2 ½" x 40" fabric for handles. Handle fabric can be the same or contrasting colors. (Handle length can be shortened to desired length. See instructions below.)
 - Additional fabric for adding interior pockets, if desired. Instructions and supply list for pockets can be found in the Sewing Tech Talk Handout, "Pocket Pizzazz".
- Floriani Power Mesh Fusible or Non-Fusible 20" wide
 - (1) 20" x 36" for exterior of bag
- Double-sided Fusible Interfacing such as Pellon Peltex 72F double-sided fusible interfacing 20" wide (Note: This interfacing creates a **very stiff bag**, for a softer bag use a foam interfacing such as Bosal In-R-Form or Annie's Soft and Stable; however the Peltex is highly recommended for the handles.)
 - (1) 18" x 34" for body of bag
 - (2) 1" x 30" or *desired length* for handles (Vary the length to suit desired length of handles. See instructions below.)

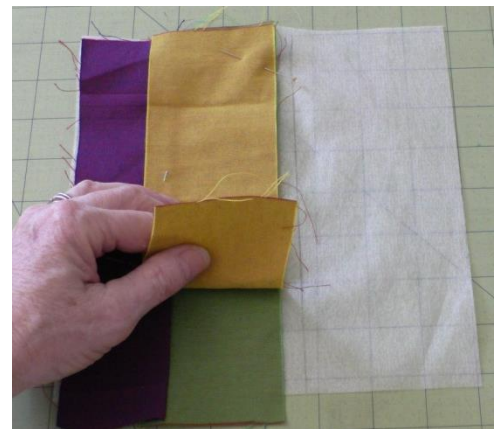


- (4) 1" Metal rings for attaching handles or Quick Link from hardware store as shown in video
- Sewing Thread
- UltraT High Performance feet for sewing handle
- 5" x 7" Magnetic Hoop
- Embroidery Thread and Embroidery Bobbin
- All Purpose Thread and Bobbin to match handle fabric

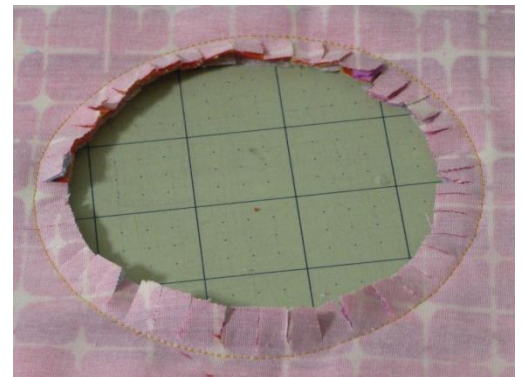
Instructions

Construct the Exterior, Embroider the Exterior and Embroider the Pocket

Create the exterior of the tote as shown in the video with fabric strips sewn on Floriani Power Mesh stabilizer. Sew strips in any order or direction to create a unique design. Sew the strips to the stabilizer directly using the sew and flip method. When using a fusible stabilizer, place the fusible side up. Draw reference lines directly on the stabilizer if needed and place the first strip right side up on the stabilizer. Lay the next fabric strip right side down on top of the first strip and seam both together on one side and through all three layers. Open the strip and press. Continue adding strips until the entire piece of stabilizer is covered. If necessary, trim the edges even. Remember when designing your bag exterior that the middle of the rectangle will be the bottom of the bag.

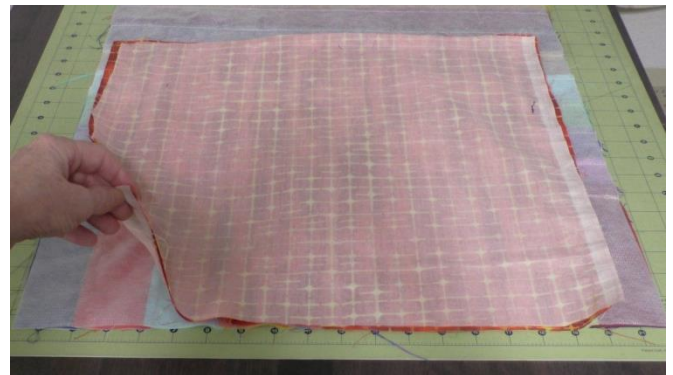


Now is the time to embroider on the exterior of the bag. The Floriani Power Mesh will act as a stabilizer for most embroideries, but additional stabilizer can be used if needed for designs with higher stitch counts. Determine the location of the pocket for the exterior of the bag and consider this placement when embroidering the bag. The short ends of the 20" x 36" rectangle are the front and back of the bag. Check the orientation of any design before embroidering.



The pocket on the exterior of the bag is a faced pocket created with embroidery. At the embroidery machine, select the Frames category and the shape of your choice and the straight stitch option. Any shape will work, but a shape with minimum inside corners will work the best. The circle in the video was 4.48". Lay the 16" square of fabric for the front pocket facing (this fabric will not show on the exterior of the bag) right sides together and centered over the part of the exterior piece for the front of the bag. The location of the pocket should be towards the top of the pocket area, but placement is entirely designer's choice. Mark the center of the placement and hoop both pieces of fabric with the mark in the middle of the hoop. Enlarge the shape and embroider. When embroidering, note the length of the stitch. If the stitch length appears to be long, use the embroidery as a guide to sew a straight stitch around the shape using a 2.0 to 2.5mm stitch length. After embroidery, remove the fabric from the hoop and trim the interior of the shape away leaving a ¼" seam allowance. Liberally clip the seam through the seam allowance but not through the stitching. The curvier the shape, the more clips are needed. Pull the facing through the shape and to the back. Work on the edge of the shape to create a crisp edge. Topstitch the edge of the shape to hold it in place.

Lay the pocket lining with on top of the exterior with the new pocket opening and the top edges. (If desired, mark the location of the pocket opening on the lining fabric and embroider a design in this location on the pocket lining fabric before sewing the pocket pieces together.) Complete the pocket by sewing around the pocket facing and pocket lining as shown in the photo. Note that the pocket in the video is 16" square, but this pocket could be any size and multiple pockets would add design interest. Each pocket opening needs a separate facing and lining.



Make the Handles

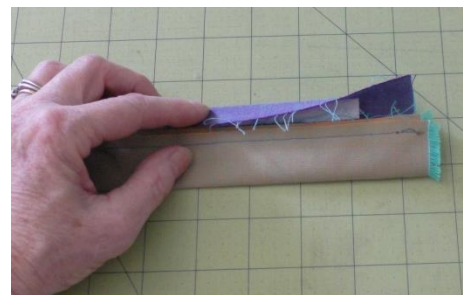
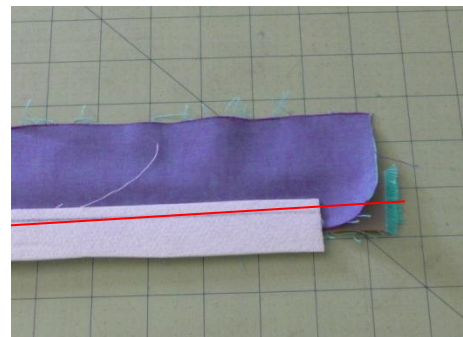


The handles are sewn over 1" strips of the fusible interfacing and then attached to the bag with rings. Wrap the fabric around the stabilizer and fuse into place. The raw edge is covered with a folded strip of fabric. The ends of the handles do not have stabilizer to reduce bulk. Tabs are cut off each end of the

handles to attach the 1" metal rings. Handles attached with rings can be easily replaced when they wear out.

Determine the length of the handles by measuring the handles on a favorite purse or tote bag. Cut the (2) 1" wide fusible interfacing strips 2" *shorter* than the desired handle length. Cut the (4) 2 ½" wide fabric strips 10"-12" *longer*

than the desired handle length. Lay one 1" strip of stabilizer on an ironing surface and place the 2 ½" strip centered with the raw edge along the center of the stabilizer. The stabilizer will be much shorter than the fabric strip. Press the edge of the fabric to the stabilizer. Press a second 2 ½" strip of matching or contrasting color in half lengthwise. Lay the raw edges of the folded strip even with the single layer strip that has been fused to the stabilizer. Clip or pin to secure this strip in place.



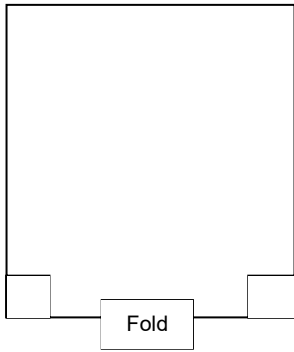
Turn the handle over. The seam line is ¼" from the edge of the stabilizer fused to the fabric through all thicknesses. Sew from the end of the fabric and onto the stabilizer. The seam line placement on the stabilizer and fabric is shown in the top photo right. Wrap the single layer of fabric around the stabilizer and fuse in place. The raw edge of the fabric should just meet the seam line. The folded fabric covers the raw edge of the fabric wrapped around the stabilizer. Fold this fabric down and topstitch in place.

To create the tabs, remove a 3" section off of *each end* of both handles. The tabs will not have stabilizer inside. The ends of the handles will also not have stabilizer inside. Wrap the (4) 3" sections of tab around the (4) 1" rings and baste in place. Add the handles at this time by double folded over the ring and stitching. Stitch the ends of the handles securely to the rings.



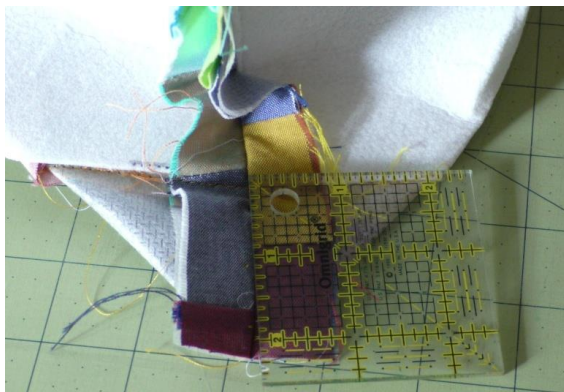
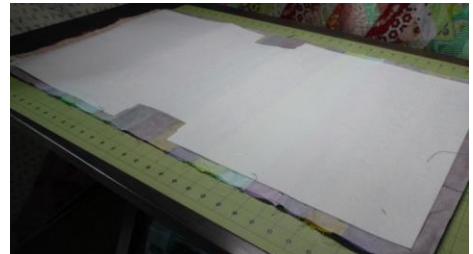
Assemble the Bag

Fold the Pellon in half and cut a 2" square from both the bottom corners along the fold (see diagram). Save the 2" squares to mark the lining fabric. Lay the bag exterior flat on a heat



resistant surface and center the Pellon onto the back. There will be 1" of space all around the stabilizer. Turn the bag exterior and stabilizer over and fuse the stabilizer in place by pressing on the fabric side. Follow the fusing instructions for the Pellon. The bottom side of the stabilizer should not fuse to the heat resistant surface, but check just to be sure.

Fold the bag in half to stitch the side seams with the top edges even. Stitch the 1" seams just along the edge of the fusible interfacing through all layers. If the seam just misses the edge of the fusible interfacing on the backside of the seam, that is okay. To create a flat bottom on the bag, box the bottom corners by aligning the side seam along the center bottom of the bag and the sides of the 2" squares cut previously from the fusible interfacing. This will form a triangle on the bottom of the bag. Sew through all layers just catching the edges of the fusible interfacing.



If adding pockets to the lining of the bag, do that now. When placing pockets, avoid the 1" side seams. Assemble the lining by sewing the side seams and boxing the corners. Leave a generous opening in one of the side seams to turn the bag after final assembly. To box the corners, fold the lining in half right sides together and mark the corners using the 2" squares cut from the fusible interfacing. Fold the lining to create the corners by aligning the side seam with the

center bottom to form triangles in the corners. Stitch along the marked line to create the flat bottom.

Baste the handle tabs with rings to the top edge of the exterior of the bag. The tabs in the sample bag are 5" on center from the side seam of the bag. Turn the exterior right side out and insert into the lining. Align the top raw edges and the side seams of the lining and exterior. Sew the top edge and reinforcing the seam at the tab locations. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the side seam of the lining. Stitch the opening closed with a straight stitch or by hand. Adjust the lining and press to fuse to the fusible interfacing. Turn the bag to the right side.