Easy Quilted Block Tote Bag

Choose a quilt block or two you would like to make for your quilted tote bag. Feel free to make your bag any size you want. Use a quilted bag for a laptop tote by using a thick foam batting such as Pellon Flex Foam. Pellon Flex Foam is now available as a single or double sided fusible product.

Once you have constructed the blocks you want for your bag, you will want to add a bit of border fabric to the blocks to accommodate the sides, bottom and top of the bag.

The Moda Charm Pack tote bag pattern is a great guideline for bag construction. The Charm Pack pattern is not a quilted pattern. Quilt as desired prior to completing the construction of the bag.

Here is the link on my website where you can download basic bag construction directions.
http://www.suzzettsfabric.com/category/PATTERNS.html

**Top of bag
front**

**Top of bag

back**

Bottom of bag

The picture above shows the black and white block on the left for one side of the bag and the black and white block on the right for the other side of the bag. Blocks may be directional so use audition placement of the blocks.

Complete the piecing of the block then add the frame (red) for the block that will make up the bag sides, top and bottom.

For a 12 inch block, add a 3 to 4 inch fabric strip to opposite sides of each block. Add a two to three inch fabric strip to the top of each block. Add a 5 to 6 inch fabric strip to the bottom of one block then attach the remaining block bottom to the wide strip. The wide strip is the bottom of the bag.

Add a fusible batting product or fusible Pellon Flex Foam to the back of the bag unit. I like to leave about a quarter inch of the unit unfused so your seams wont be so thick.

Quilt the bag unit as desired. Trim the batting or Pellon out of the 1/4 inch seam if desired.

Refer to the Moda Charm Pack Tote pattern "Make Bag and Lining" step.

The width of the bag 's bottom and sides is determined by step 2 of the tote pattern. I like to use a small 1" cut out square. When your bag is full of goodies the bag bottom doesn't make your bag look disproportionate. If you want a wider bottom and side to your bag, make the strips wider for both the bottom and sides of the bag and cut out a bigger square from the corners.

Create the bag handles adding a bit of batting to the handle if desired. Longer bag handles allow you to carry a bag across your body which is great for carrying a laptop or heavy items.

Pin the ends of a handle about 3" in from each side seam on one side of the bag. Repeat for the other side of the bag's second handle. Sew the bag handles to the outside of the bag with a 1/4 " seam.

Make your lining the same size as your bag.

Don't forget to add pockets to your lining. Reinforce the stress points of the pockets with a second piece of fabric or batting placed on the inside of the lining before attaching the bag.

Add a bit of body to batik fabric by fusing a light weight interfacing to the lining. For the lining I put a seam at the bottom of the bag with about a 6" gap in the seam.

Proceed to the "Assemble bag" step. I change this step a bit. **Place the bag inside the wrong side out lining.** The right side of the bag will be facing the right side of the lining. Pin the top of bag and lining together matching side seams. Make sure you tuck the handles down so you don't catch the in the seam. Stitch a 3/8 inch seam around the entire top of the bag.

Open the bag out and press the seam smooth. Turn the bag inside out through the gap in the bottom of the bag lining. Hand stich or machine stich the opening in the bottom of the lining. Press the bag then top stitch the bag top.

http://www.suzzettsfabric.com/category/PATTERNS.html
Link to quilted block bag.

The pictured bag is one bag with different blocks on each side of the bag.

The block for the bag pictured on the left was created by adding a blue border to the block so that the actual block would be framed. The block on the right does not have an additional border.

Both blocks are 12 inch finished nine patch blocks created using the Creative Grids Cat's Cradle tool. The center pinwheel block was constructed using four two inch Cat's Cradle blocks. The block with the flying geese making the saw-tooth star has a four inch Cat's Cradle blocks in each corner.