

WHITE

Everything's Coming Up Posies!



Posies and patchwork—what a great combination! Have fun sewing up this summertime bag full of appliqué and piecing techniques. Add fun, new handles to your handy tote and you're ready for a day at the beach or casual shopping.

Necessary Supplies:

Four or five fat quarters of cotton print fabric
One fat quarter of white cotton fabric for center bands
2/3 yard of cotton fabric for lining
Assorted scraps for flower centers
3/4 yard of fusible interfacing

3/4 yard of fusible fleece batting
Paper-backed fusible web
Assorted colorful buttons
All-purpose sewing thread
Coordinating rayon thread
Purse handles
White Quilter's Star 1780 with accessories

Directions:

Cutting and Preparation—

1. Cut four 2" x 18" strips from the same fabric for the top and bottom bands. Cut 20 assorted 4-1/2" x 3" rectangles for the pieced strips. Cut one 5" x 18" from one fabric for the bottom and two 5" x 18" panels from the white fabric for the center panels.

2. Fuse the interfacing and the paper-backed fusible web to the wrong side of one fabric for the flowers and another for the stems. Trace and cut out twelve 2" circles for flowers and twelve 1/4" to 3/8"-wide stems. Be creative and cut your flowers in a variety of shapes.



3. Position six stems with six flowers overlapping on each white panel; fuse in place.

Construction—

1. With right sides together, sew the 20 4-1/2" x 3" rectangles together along the narrow edges with a 1/4" seam allowance using your 1/4" Piecing Foot. Press the seams to one side.

2. Begin assembling the strips for each side of the bag. Using a 1/4" seam allowance and your 1/4" Piecing Foot, with right sides together, sew one 2"-wide strip to the pieced strip. Trim away the remaining pieced strip. Press the seams toward the darker fabric.

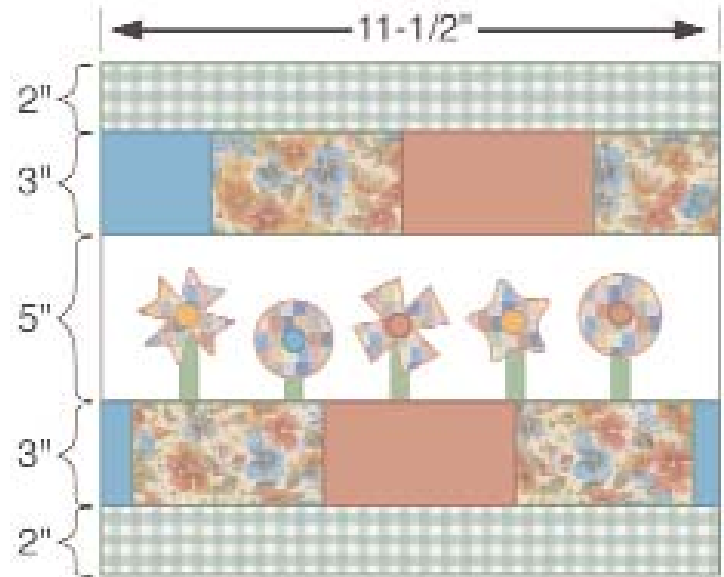
3. Again with right sides together, add a 5"-wide white flower strip, then attach the pieced strip trimming at the end.

4. Sew a 2"-wide strip to make the bottom edge of one side of your bag.

5. Repeat this sewing sequence for the other side of the bag.

6. Sew one long edge of the bottom piece to one side piece, right sides together. Sew the other side piece to the other edge of the bottom piece. You will now have one long piece of striped fabrics.

7. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the batting to the wrong side of the stripped piece. Trim the edges evenly.



8. Select a zigzag stitch and set the width to 2 to 2.5mm and the length to 1.5 to 2mm. Attach the Zigzag Foot and stitch along the edge of the stems and around the flowers through all the layers. Cut small shapes for flower centers from the scraps and fuse in place. Zigzag around the centers in the same manner.

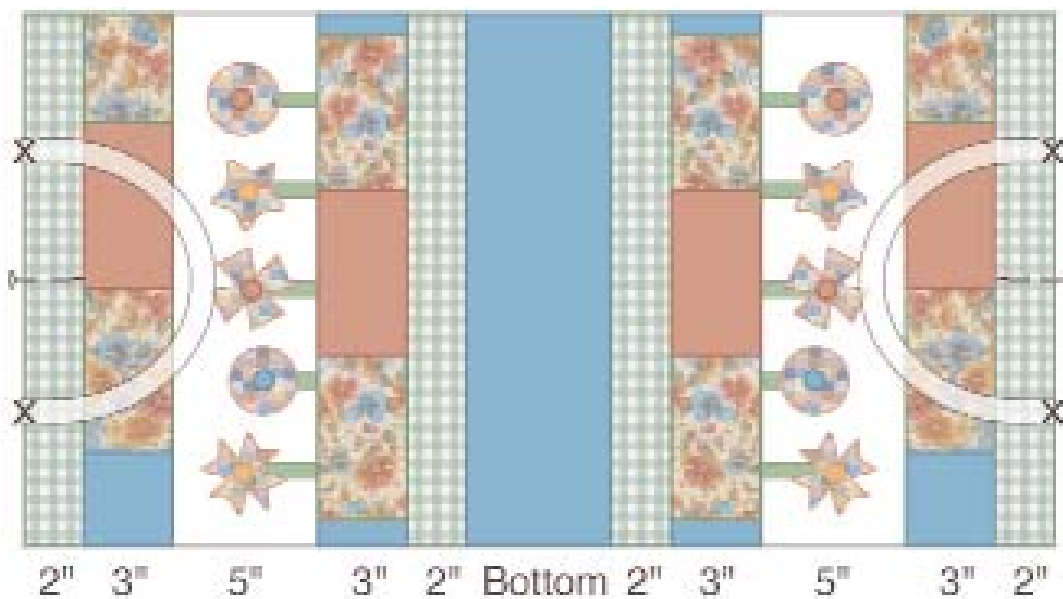
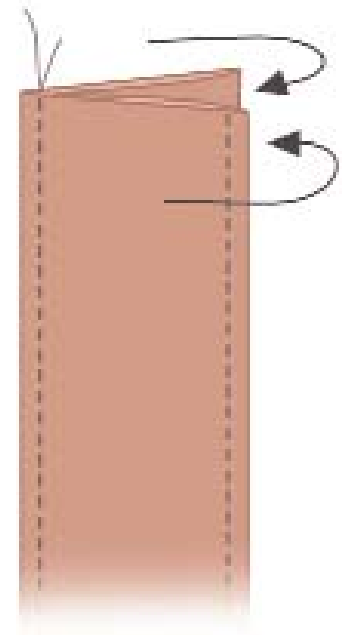


9. Attach the Button Sew-on Foot and carefully sew assorted buttons in the centers of the flowers and in the middle of the pieced rectangles as desired.

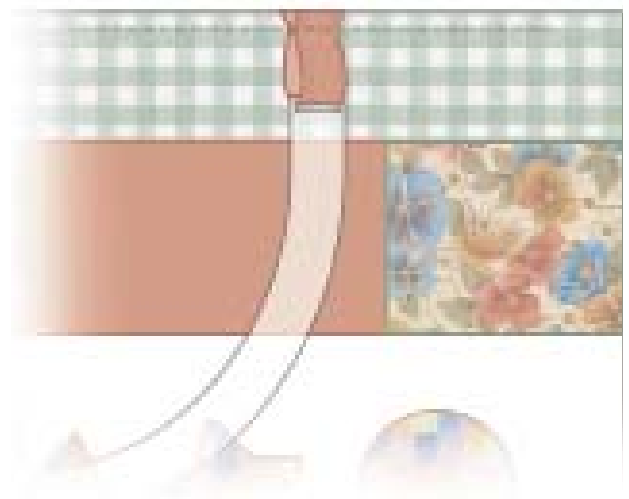
10. Stitch-in-the-ditch between each strip on both side pieces using your walking foot.

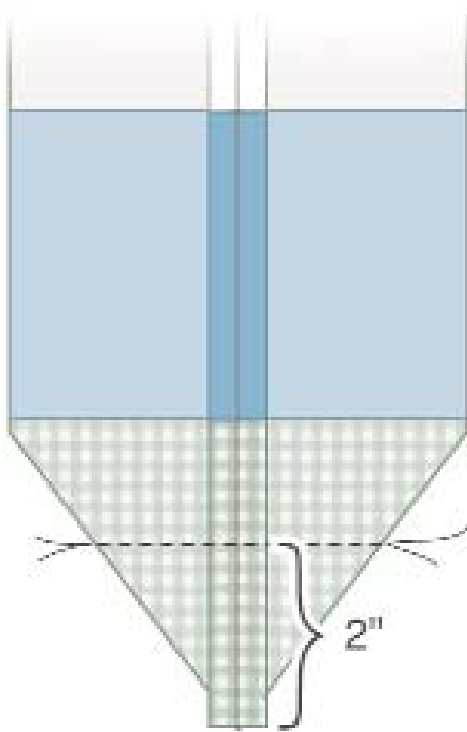
11. To make the loops for the handles, measure the opening on your handles. Multiply that number by four and cut one long piece, the new number x 12". With wrong sides together, press the piece in half lengthwise. Fold the raw edges into the middle and press again.

12. Edgestitch along both long edges. Cut the strip into four equal pieces.



13. Find the center top on each side piece and mark with a pin. Center a handle over the pin and mark where the handle ends meet the top of the bag. Thread a loop through each side of a handle. Matching raw edges, baste the loops with handles to the top edge of each side piece at the marks.





14. With right sides together, fold the bag in half matching the strip seams. Using your 1/4" Piecing Foot, stitch the side seams.

15. Center the side seams on the bottom strip and create a point to make boxed corners. Measure up 2" and mark a line across the points. Stitch on the lines.

16. Cut a lining piece 30"-long x 18"-wide. To give the lining more stability, you can interface the fabric if desired. With right sides together, fold the lining in half matching the 18" edges. Using your 1/4" Piecing Foot, stitch along one open side keeping the raw edges even. Stitch the other open side leaving about 5" open for turning. Press the seams to one side.

17. Box the bottom of the lining as you did for the bag (see step 15.)

18. With right sides together, place the lining around the bag matching the upper edges and pin. Stitch around the top edge using a 1/4" seam allowance.

19. Turn the bag to the right side through the opening. Press the lining into the bag along the top edge. Topstitch 1/4" from the top edge to keep the lining in the bag.

20. Fold in the seam allowances along the opening and stitch closed.

Additional Creative Options for Bags

Choose your handles to reflect your fabrics. Select bamboo-type handles with "jungle" prints. Wooden handles would be fun with "country" prints. Or paint your handles any color you want!

Get your appliqué inspiration from children's coloring books or sticker books. The simpler the design, the easier it is to appliqué. Since this bag is made with raw edge appliqués, you can be more daring in your designs. But always remember, when stitching, work from the bottom up—stitch the farthest back fabric first and work your way to the top.