

Project: Pick-a-Pocket Purse

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A simple bag cleverly incorporates six outer pockets for everyday necessities. The sew-simple trick is that the pockets are formed when the straps are sewn on the bag pieces.

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Materials

- ¼ yard blue print (straps)
- ⅔ yard blue-and-green print (pockets)
- ⅔ yard green print (bag/lining)
- 2—10¼×14½" rectangles thin, firm batting

Finished Bag: 8×10×4"

Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

From blue print, cut:

- 2—4×34½" strips

From blue-and-green print, cut:

- 2—14½×16½" rectangles

From green print, cut:

- 2—14½×20½" rectangles

Assemble Straps

- 1.** Fold and press a blue print 4×34½" strip in half lengthwise with wrong side inside (**Diagram 1**).
- 2.** Open and press long edges to center. Refold in half and press. Topstitch ⅛" from outer edges to make a strap (**Diagram 1**).
- 3.** Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make a second strap.

Assemble Bag

- 1.** Fold and press one blue-and-green print 14½×16½" rectangle in half lengthwise with wrong side inside to make an 8¼×14½" pocket rectangle. Repeat with remaining blue-and-green print rectangle to make a second pocket rectangle.
- 2.** Referring to **Diagram 2**, layer a green print 14½×20½" lining rectangle and a pocket rectangle, right sides together. Place a 10¼×14½" batting rectangle under the layered pieces; pin all layers together.
- 3.** Referring to **Diagram 2**, pin a strap to the bottom edge of layered pieces, leaving 4" between strap sides.
- 4.** Place a pin on each side of strap 10¼" from bottom edge. Beginning at bottom edge of layered pieces, topstitch one side of strap up to the pin marking 10¼"; remove pin, sew across strap, and topstitch back down to bottom edge. Repeat with remaining side of strap to complete one bag unit.
- 5.** Repeat steps 2 through 4 to make a second bag unit.
- 6.** Layer bag units right sides together; pin. Pin loose portion of straps in place to prevent catching them in stitching. Join units around all edges, leaving a 5" opening at top center for turning (**Diagram 3**). Press seams open.
- 7.** To shape flat bottom for bag, at one corner match bottom seam line to side seam line, creating a flattened triangle (**Diagram 4**). Measuring 2" from point of triangle, draw a 4"-long line across triangle. Sew on drawn line. Trim excess fabric. Repeat with remaining bottom corner of bag, and both corners of green print lining.
- 8.** Turn bag to right side and finger-press seams. Slip-stitch lining opening closed. Insert lining into bag.

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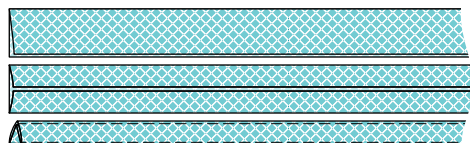


DIAGRAM 1

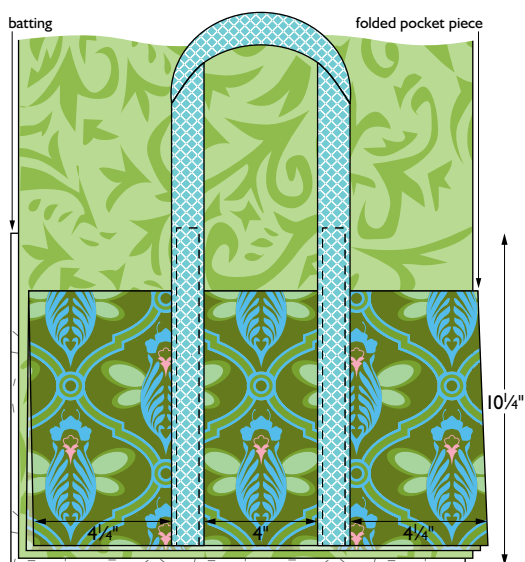


DIAGRAM 2

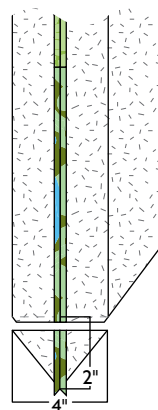


DIAGRAM 4



DIAGRAM 3