



sewing patterns
BY PATTY YOUNG

crafters tote

15" w x 12" h x 4" d



A FREE PATTERN BY PATTY YOUNG/MODKID FOR BABY LOCK

crafter's tote

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The half-square triangle is one of the easiest and most commonly used blocks in quilting, but I bet you've never seen it used this way! We take the half-square triangle to a whole new dimension and introduce rolled hems done on a serger to create a visually striking, self-lined tote that is large enough to carry your crafting supplies and unique enough to become the center of conversation at your next sewing retreat. If you've never used a serger before, this is your chance to learn a new innovative technique! Finished tote size: 15" w x 12" h x 4" d

FABRIC AND NOTIONS REQUIREMENTS:

SUGGESTED FABRICS: quilting cottons 44"/45" wide. On the cover: *High Society* fabrics by Modkid Studio for JoAnn Fabrics.

- Baby Lock sewing machine and serger
- 1/2 yard each of fabric #1 and fabric #2 (for the half-square triangle blocks)
- 1/3 yard of fabric #3 (for the tote handle and button loop)
- 2 yards of lightweight fusible interfacing (at 20" wide)
- 1 large decorative button
- 2 Madeira serger cones of desired color
- 1 spool of textured thread (recommended for the upper looper)
- Sewing pins, cutting tools and iron

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut the lightweight fusible interfacing into 4 equal pieces at 15"x 20".
- Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse 2 of these interfacing pieces to the wrong side of fabric #1 and the other 2 onto fabric #2 as shown in **fig. 1**.

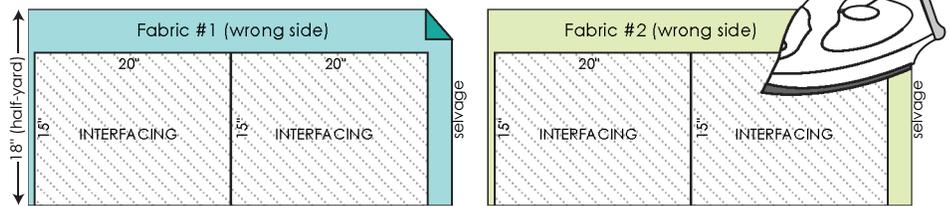


FIGURE 1

- Proceed to cut (24) 5" squares from interfaced fabric #1 and interfaced fabric #2 for a total of 48 squares. As shown in **fig. 2**, you will cut 8 across and 3 high from each piece of fabric.

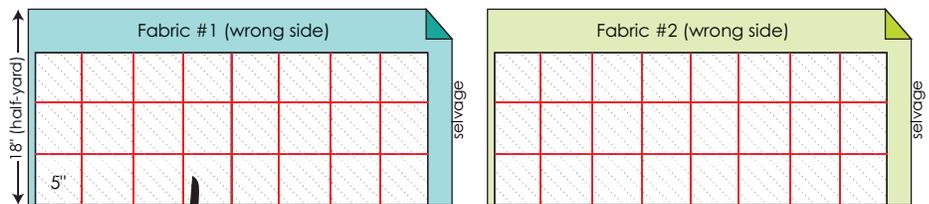


FIGURE 2

- From fabric #3, cut (2) 30" long x 6" wide strips for the **Straps** and (1) 10" x 1" strip for the **Button Loop**, as shown in **fig. 3**.

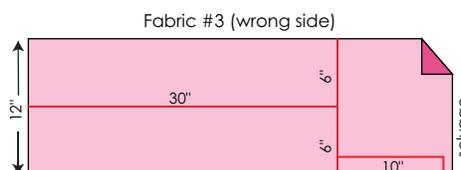


FIGURE 3

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

1. On the wrong side of all fabric #1 squares, mark a diagonal line from corner to corner. Place a fabric #1 square against a fabric #2 square, right sides together, and stitch directly over this diagonal line, to create a half square triangle (HST), **fig. 4**. **DO NOT TRIM THE EXCESS FABRIC!**

Open up the square, meeting each unstitched corner with the opposite unstitched corner, wrong sides together, **fig. 5**. The right side will be showing at the front as well as the back of the HST, thus creating the outer layer and lining of your tote. Press diagonal seams well. **fig. 6**. Repeat with all of the squares until you end up with 24 double-sided HSTs.

2. Divide all double-sided HSTs into two sets of 12 and arrange each set in the order you prefer, ending with 3 rows of 4 HSTs for each set. Refer to **fig. 7** to match our cover sample.

3. Now we are ready to start sewing (serging) our blocks together to construct the tote. *NOTE: Since there is technically no wrong side of these blocks, because they are all right sides out on both sides, we will refer to one side of the block as the **Outer Side** and the other side as the **Lining Side**. The **Outer Side** will have the rolled hems exposed, while the **Lining Side** will have a finished seam.*

Take the first 2 HSTs and place lining sides together and pin along the raw edge. With your serger set to the **rolled hem** setting, serge along the raw edge, **fig. 8**. Press squares open, then place the third square against the second, lining sides together, and serge along the raw edges, **fig. 9**. Repeat with the fourth square in your top row, **fig. 10**. Repeat this process until you have all three rows completed.

4. Place the first and second row lining sides together and pin along the long raw edge, aligning all vertical seams. Serge, then press the row open. Repeat with remaining row. One side of your tote, and its lining, are now complete, **fig. 11**. Repeat for the opposite side.

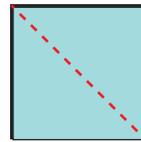


FIGURE 4

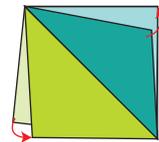


FIGURE 5

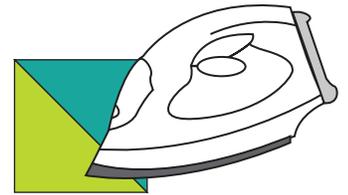


FIGURE 6

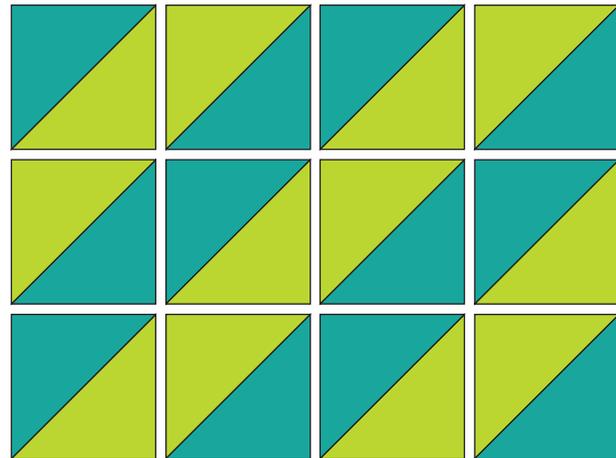


FIGURE 7

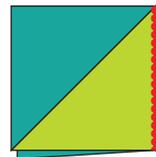


FIGURE 8

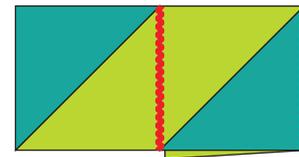


FIGURE 9

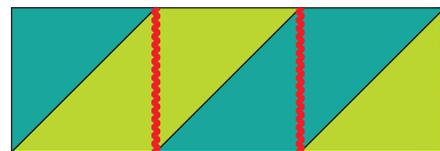


FIGURE 10

TIP: Use a textured thread (like Woolly Nylon®) on the upper looper of your serger to get a thicker, richer rolled hem.

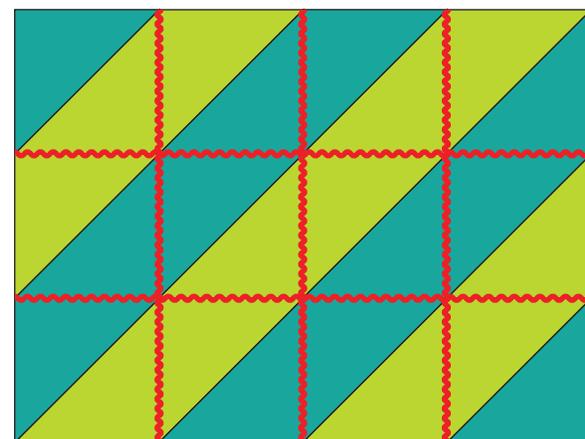
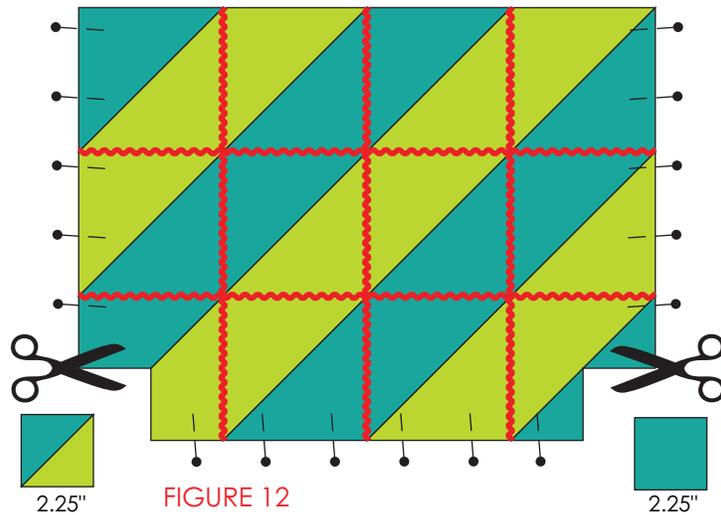


FIGURE 11

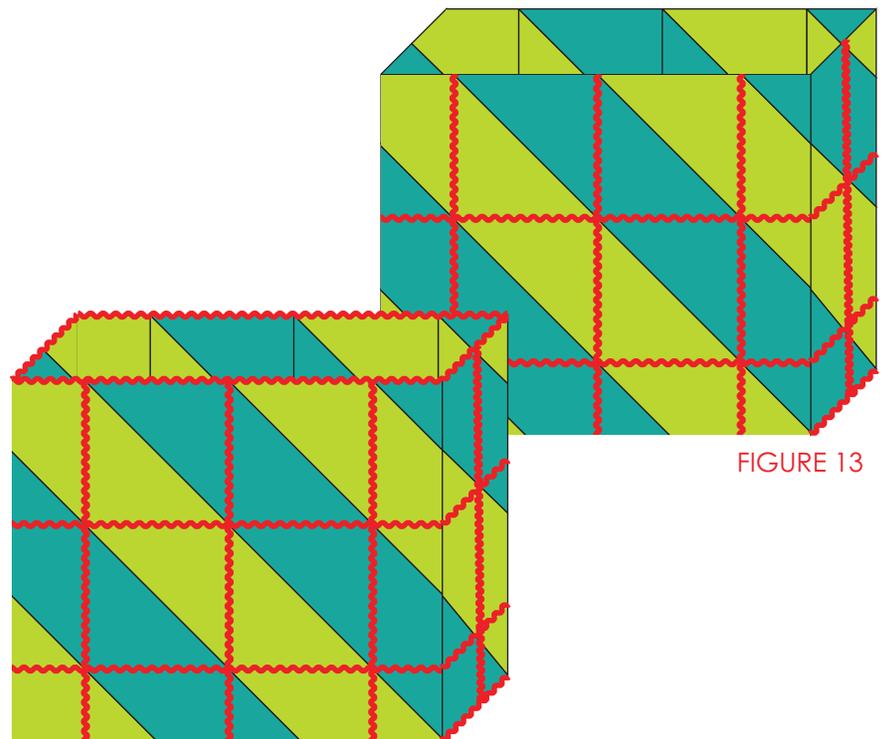
5. Place the two tote pieces lining sides together and pin along sides and bottom. Cut a 2.25" square out of each bottom corner, **fig. 12**.

6. Serge along the sides and bottom of the tote in the same way as before, leaving the square cut out at each corner unstitched.



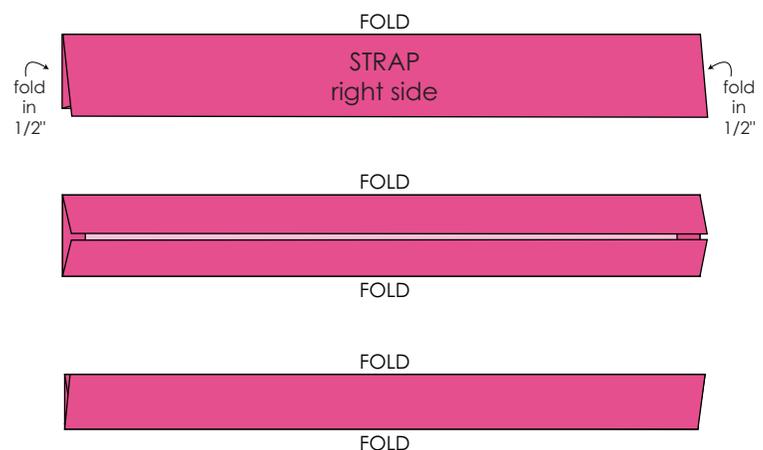
7. To create your box bottom, flatten out the square opening, lining sides together, so that each side seam is aligned with the bottom seam of the tote. Serge the opening closed, **fig. 13**. Dab a little Fray Check at each corner to prevent unraveling.

8. Serge a rolled hem all the way around the top edge of the tote to finish off the raw edges, overlapping slightly at the end, **fig. 14**. Dab a little Fray Check at the overlap, to prevent unraveling. Set tote aside.



9. Press the 2 short ends of your Straps and Loop toward the wrong side 1/2". Proceed to press all three pieces in the same way as bias tape. To do this, fold each piece in half, lengthwise, and press to create a center crease. Open up, then fold each long edge toward the wrong side, meeting at the center crease, and press. Lastly, fold entire piece in half, lengthwise, encasing all raw edges, and press, **fig. 15**.

Topstitch along the two long edges of all 3 pieces.



10. Measure 1.5" down from the top edge of the tote and 6" in from each side seam to mark the placement of your straps, **fig. 16**. You will be making 4 marks total.

Pin the short ends of the straps to the tote, at each mark, making sure the straps are not twisted. Stitch the straps in place, stitching an X in the middle of your square to reinforce, as shown in **fig. 17**.

11. Stitch the Button Loop at the back center of the tote, 1/2" down from the top, as shown in **fig. 18**.

12. Hand sew a large decorative button at the center front of the tote for the Loop to wrap around.

NOTE: To create the structure of your tote, press the sides (vertically from the edge of the serged bottom corner to the top edge) and the bottom (horizontally from serged corner to serged corner) of your tote using a hot iron.

