

Use your
FREE
templates

53CM WIDE x 37CM HIGH
x 9CM DEEP

Retreat tote

Whatever you've got planned, this bag is the perfect size for an overnight stay or filling with your fabric and notions to take to a workshop or retreat

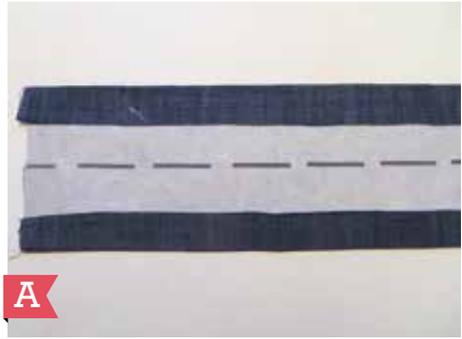
BY **DEBBIE VON GRABLER-CROZIER**

MATERIALS

- ◆ 50x60cm fabric makower Handmade Notions Blue for bag front (Fabric A)
- ◆ 80x60cm makower Handmade Buttons Blue for front pocket section & back (Fabric B)
- ◆ 100x60cm makower Handmade Sashiko Baby Blue lining fabric (Fabric C)
- ◆ 50x150cm makower Handmade Sashiko Blue for fabric straps & pocket flap (Fabric D)
- ◆ fat quarter navy solid for binding (Fabric E)
- ◆ 1m Vlieseline Style-Vil foam interfacing
- ◆ 80cm H630 Vlieseline fusible wadding
- ◆ fat quarter S320 Vlieseline fusible interfacing
- ◆ 12cm square Vlieseline G740 fusible interfacing
- ◆ fat eighth Vlieseline Decovil I Light fusible interfacing
- ◆ Vlieseline Bundfix tape
- ◆ 70cm navy heavy-duty zip
- ◆ 3 18cm navy zips
- ◆ grey #20 Kam snap
- ◆ narrow gold ribbon for zipper pulls
- ◆ templates (from pattern sheet)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Seam allowances are all $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise stated. Please read all instructions through and assemble the equipment before beginning.

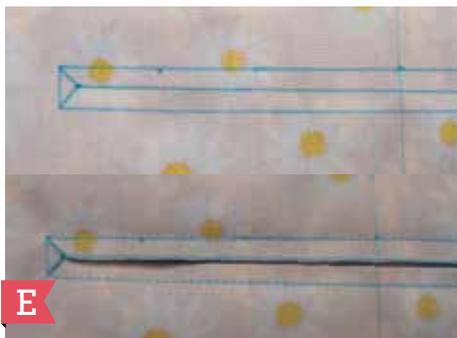


ASSEMBLY

1 From Fabric D, cut two 10cm wide x 70cm long strips. Cut two 70cm-long pieces of Bundfix tape and fuse them to the wrong side of the Fabric D strips, allowing an equal margin of fabric on both sides.

2 Fold the raw edges over the side of the tape. (See Pic A.) Fold in half, trapping the raw edges inside. Top-stitch twice down each side using co-ordinating thread. (See Pic B.) Trim the ends of the straps.

3 Cut the front pocket using Template 1 from Fabric B, from H630. Fuse the H630 to the back of the Fabric B panel. Cut a 22x40cm piece of Fabric C. Set aside.



4 Using Template 2, cut a flap from Fabric D, Decovil I Light and H630. Cut a piece of Fabric C and a piece of H630 to measure 30x15cm. Fuse the wadding to the wrong side of the fabric. Fuse the H630 to the wrong side of the Fabric D piece. Fuse the Decovil I Light over the top of the wadding.

5 Lay this interfaced piece of Fabric D onto the untrimmed Fabric C panel with right sides together. Pin. Sew around the edge of the flap, leaving the straight edge open. Trim all layers so that they match. Clip the curve. (See Pic C.) Turn out through the gap and press it closed. With co-ordinating thread, top-stitch the sides and the curve of the flap only. The rest will be incorporated into the binding when the flap is attached. Put the flap aside.

6 To create a zip box pocket on the front, make a crease in the vertical centre of the bag panel and the pocket lining and mark. On the wrong side of the pocket lining, measure down on one short end by 3.5cm and draw a 1x18cm box. (See Pic D.) This is the sewing line. Draw another line down the middle with two angled lines each end. (See Pic E.) This is the cutting line.

7 Line up the two vertical creases, site the pocket lining onto the main pocket front flush with the top edge of the main pocket and pin it. Sew around the sewing line and cut along the cutting line. (See Pic E.) 'Post' the lining through the hole and smooth it out on the back perfectly.

8 Top-stitch an 18cm zipper into the box gap. (See Pic F.) To complete the pocket,



G



H



I



J

bring the other short end up so that it aligns perfectly with the first one and sew around the sides and top.

9 Position the flap over the zipper pocket in the centre and baste into place. Lay the front main pocket onto the lining with the wrong sides together and pin all around. Bind the top edge with straight binding made from Fabric E. Baste the pocket layers together to make them easier to handle. Position a Kam snap under the flap and just above the zip pocket. (See Pic G.)

10 Cut the remaining front section from pattern from Fabric A using Template 3. Fuse to a piece of H630 the same size. Lay the front pocket onto the fused piece. Lay the layered pieces onto a slightly larger piece of Style-Vil. Attach all

layers with a half normal seam and then trim back the foam interfacing.

11 For the back, cut a back piece from fabric B using Template 3 and fuse it to a piece of H630. Position a zipper box pocket 10cm down from the top in the centre using the same sizes, fabric and technique used in steps 6 to 8.

12 Cut two pieces of lining fabric C using Template 3. Cut a 22x40cm piece of Fabric C for an internal zipper box pocket. Make two slip pockets, by cutting two 25cm wide x 12cm deep pieces of S320. Cut two pieces of Fabric C and Fabric A 1cm larger all around than the interfacing.

13 Fuse the interfacing centrally to the wrong side of the piece of Fabric A. Place the interfaced piece right sides together with

the lining and pin. Sew all around the very edge of the interfacing, leaving a gap for turning in the bottom.

14 Trim the seam allowance back to normal and clip across the corners. (See Pic H.) Turn out through the gap and then press well so that the pocket is perfect. Repeat for the other lined slip pocket.

15 Find the vertical centre of the lining panel and on one, site a box zipper pocket 5.5cm down from the top edge. A slip pocket goes 2.5cm under this. (See Pic I.) Repeat for the other piece of lining but this time, only the one slip pocket goes 9cm down from the top. Attach the slip pockets with a narrow topstitch and make some vertical divisions in them to stop sagging.

16 Attach a handle 5.5cm down from the top and 13cm in from each edge on the front and back. Top-stitch the handles into place with the trimmed raw edge folded under. (See Pic J.) Tuck them into the nearest pocket to keep out of the way.

17 Place the two outer panels together with right sides facing and sew the sides and bottom with no gaps. Cut a 3cm square from each lower corner. (See Pic K.) Box the bottom.



18 Place the two lining pieces together and sew around, this time leave a turning gap in the bottom. Box the corners.

19 Attach the top zip by basting it on to the outer, with the zip fully open. Position it approximately 1cm away from the edge seam on the opening end. Finish 1cm before the opposite seam. Sew the zip in. Fold the tape ends on the opening end in so that they will be hidden in the lining.

20 To assemble the bag, have the outer the right way out and the lining inside out. Pull the lining on over the outer and line all of the centre seams perfectly. Make sure that the zip is even and that the handles are tucked away. Sew the lining in by sewing around the top using a zipper foot. Turn the bag out through the gap in the bottom of the lining and gently pull everything into place. Close the lining gap. Stuff the lining down into the bag and top-stitch around the top edge to keep it down.

21 Make a tab for the end of the zip that is hanging free. Cut a 5cm wide x 12cm long piece of Fabric D and fuse a piece of G740 to the wrong side of it. Fold it over and sew the sides to create a little bag. Trim the corners to reduce bulk. Turn the right way out and poke the raw edge into the 'bag' to make a square tab.

22 Shorten the zip to around 65cm (take the stopper off the end and make your own by sewing across the zip a couple of times). Push the tab onto the end and secure with a topstitch in a square.

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