

(Sorry for some of the yellowish pictures....the **camera** was not cooperating (because it couldn't possibly be **operator** error). However, the pics that Vicky Smith took are outstanding. As soon as a I make another bag, I will replace the bad pics.

NEEDED:

25 - 2 ½ inch x WOF strips of fabric (23 for bag, 2 for stabilizing and handles).

25 - 1 ½ x WOF strips of batting (I used Warm and Natural).

Extra fabric for pockets and zipper. (I use one (1) fat quarter for pockets and two (2) 16 x 6 strips for zipper.

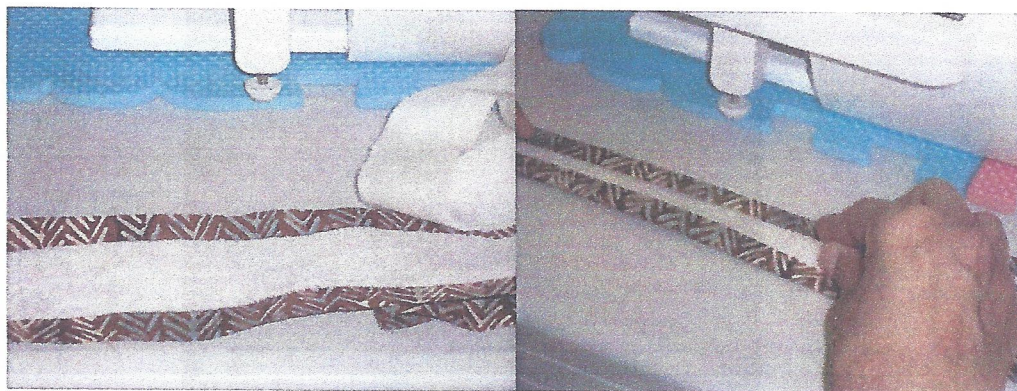
1 - 18 inch zipper (longer if you want longer overhang).

One pair of purse handles.

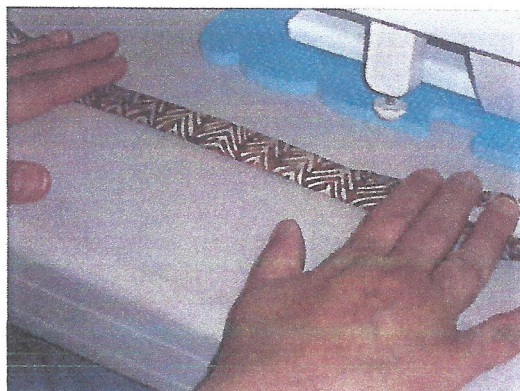
Matching thread (I used variegated thread to sew my strips together. Gives it a nice look).

Walking Foot. Use a walking foot for all of the sewing done to construct this bag unless otherwise noted.

1. Place batting in center of fabric strip, fold fabric edges over length of batting and press.



2. Fold again lengthwise and press



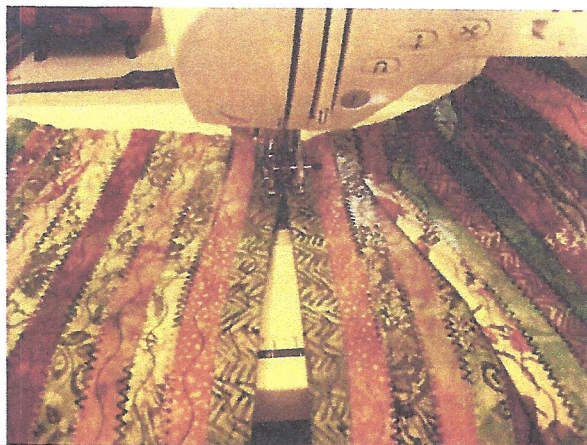
3. Stitch length of each strip with decorative stitch to hold fabric and batting together (make it simple or it will take forever. I used a simple serpentine stitch, see below)). Do this for all 25 strips.
4. Stitch 23 strips together using a sturdy decorative stitch (i.e. zig zag). Make sure stitch is wide enough to ensure that both strips are joined. Sew folded edge against unfolded edge. (Shown is a triple zig zag stitch that my machine has). Sew strips in opposite direction to avoid curving, but some curving will still occur. ☹



5. Even up sides of bag.
6. Cut sewn together strips down the center.



7. Sew the two bottom halves together using the same sturdy decorative stitch you have been using.



Now is when you will be putting in pockets if desired.

8. Cut a piece of fabric 22 x 9 (a fat quarter cut in half. This way you can make pockets for both sides with one fat quarter). Fold in half lengthwise RST and sew opening of long side together to form a tube.



9. Turn right side out and lay on the inside of your tote strips approx. 6 strips up from center. Repeat this on the other side if you wish to have pockets on both sides.



10. Sew bottom of pocket to tote bag. I use invisible thread for this so as not to compete with decorative stitches on front. Leave ends of pockets unsewn, as these will be sewn when you sew up the sides.
11. Place stabilizing strips on top of the pockets as shown. I position mine six inches from the sides, but place them wherever you feel they will work best.



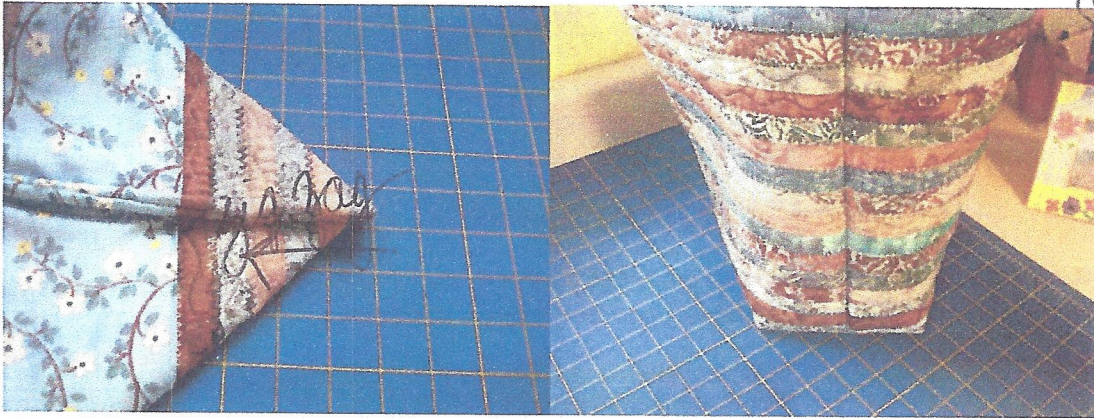
Use decorator stitch &
to sew the sides.

12. Sew the stabilizing strips to your bag securing the strips on each side (again I used invisible thread). This will create the different sections of your pockets and will provide you with a means to attach your handles.

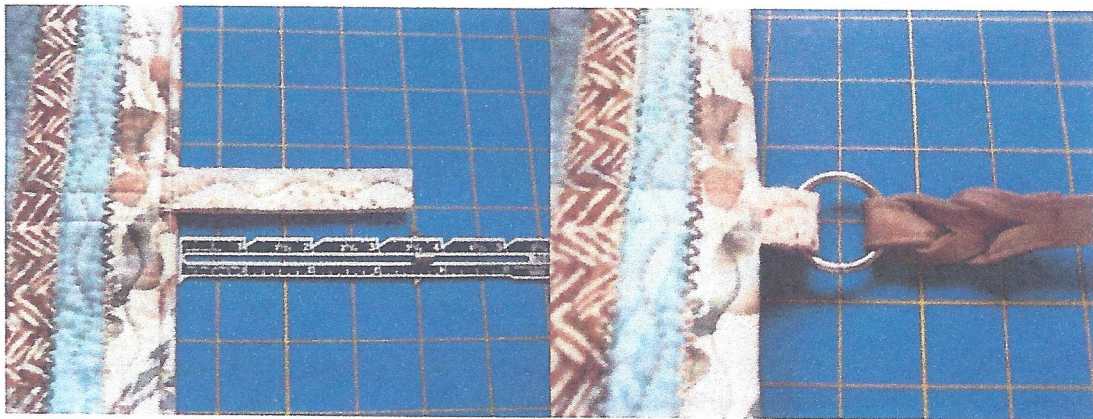
13. Sew up side seams of the bag. You can either use a French seam or a serger to get a finished edge. This is a significant thickness to sew through, so you may need to experiment with different feet to make this work. I used one that has a spring in it rather than the walking foot...don't know what it is called but it's used for going over humps of fabric. This seemed to work best for me.

14. Box bottom corners of the bag to get the flat bottom. (I used the foot with the spring in it for this as well.)

DOUBLE SEW SIDE SEAMS
after cutoff triangle zigzag



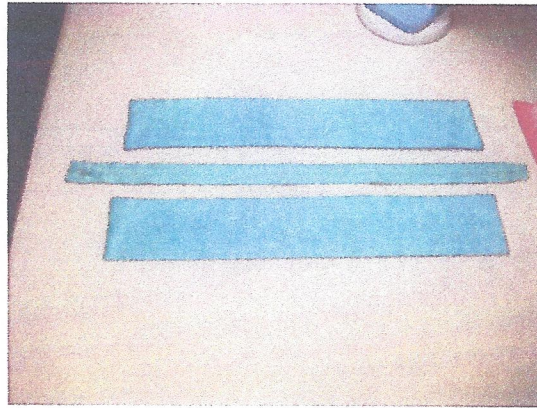
15. Add handles by using stabilizing strip ends. Cut strips to size necessary to secure handles, slip handles over strips and sew ends down on the inside of the bag. I cut them to 3 1/2 inches, sew down and then trim ends neat. You can use a zig zag over lock stitch to give it a more finished look, but chances are the handles will be covered by your zipper panel.



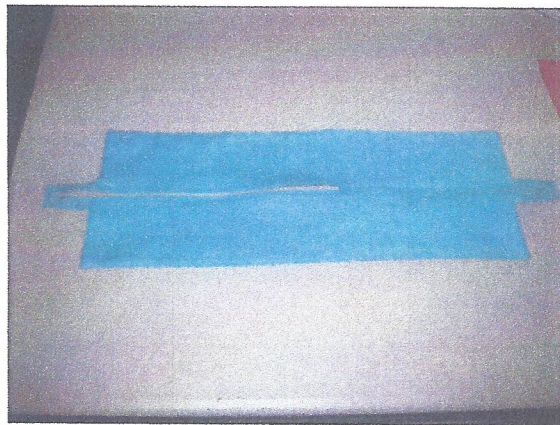
Before sewing up side seams — sew on 1 1/2" strip for Hong Kong Seam ONLY DO 1/2 of purse @

ZIPPER CLOSURE (Optional, but recommended)

1. Cut two pieces of fabric 6" x 16".
2. Fold fabric in half lengthwise RST and sew around the raw edges, leaving a small section open so that you can turn the fabric right side out. (I leave a section on the **long** side open to turn. This way I can close this section when I sew in the zipper and do not have to hand sew to close.) Do this for both pieces.



3. Tack the top of the zipper together. (If desired, sew fabric tabs to both ends of the zipper for a more finished look.)
4. Sew zipper to both sides of the fabric to form a zipper panel, centering fabric on zipper.



5. Center zipper panel inside of top of bag and sew to both sides of the bag. You can sew it to the very top or down a few strips....whatever pleases you. The example below is sewn at the top.



THAT'S IT!!! You did it! TA-DA!!!!

