



Tote Couture - Large

"Tote Couture" bag patterned in the
Dec/Jan 2011 issue of QUILT Magazine

Web Bonus pattern for quilt by Leigh Headington

From the Halo collection by Gudrun Eria for Red Rooster
Fabrics, www.redroosterfabrics.com

Bag Size – 15 1/2" wide x 14 tall x 2" deep (flat size - 17 1/2" x 16")

MATERIALS:

1/2 yard of a large blue floral
1 yard of a cream vine
Fat quarter of a leaf stripe
Fat eighth of a light blue leaf
5/8 yard of a blue vine

Fat quarter of a cream/blue floral stripe
Pelon Décor Bond 809 heavyweight fusible interfacing
Pelon fusible fleece 987FP
1-3/4" of 3/4" wide sew-on Velcro
Large button for outside pocket

CUTTING:

From the large blue floral:
(2) 11-1/2" x 18-1/2" pieces (main bag outside)

From the blue vine:
(3) 5" x 42" strips (strap)

From the cream vine:
(1) 18-1/2" x 28-1/2" pieces (bag lining)
(1) 10-1/2" x 12-1/2" piece (pen holder)
(2) 11" x 14" piece (inside folder)

From the cream/blue floral stripe:
(1) 10" x 17-1/2" piece (outside pocket)

From the leaf stripe:
(1) 8" x 18-1/2" strip (outside bottom)

From the heavyweight fusible interfacing:
(2) 11-1/2" x 18-1/2" pieces (bag)
(1) 11" x 14" piece (inside folder)
(1) 10" x 17-1/2" piece (outside pocket)
(1) 7-1/4" square (outside pocket flap)
(1) 8" x 18-1/2" piece (outside bottom)
(1) 5-1/4" x 12-1/2" piece (pen holder)

From the light blue leaf:
(1) 7-1/4" square (outside pocket flap)

From the fusible fleece:
(2) 2-1/2" x 48" strips (handles)
(1) 18-1/2" x 28-1/2" piece (bag lining)

Seams are 1/4" unless it is specified to use a 1/2" allowance for strength.

Use a walking foot (dual feed) when sewing through layers of fleece/fabric/interfacing.

The fusible fleece we used for the inside of the bag was PELON Fusible Fleece 987FP.

The fusible interfacing used on the outside was Pelon Décor Bond 809.

We have used 'Velcro' closings rather than snap magnets. Although the magnets are not particularly strong, we do not know if they pose a risk to your computer's hard drive. In general, magnets and computers do not play well together.

Outside Section

Power Plug Pocket Flap:

Fuse the 7 1/4" square of **interfacing** to the wrong side of the power plug flap square. Cut the fused unit in half on the diagonal as shown below (Diagram A), making 2 triangles.

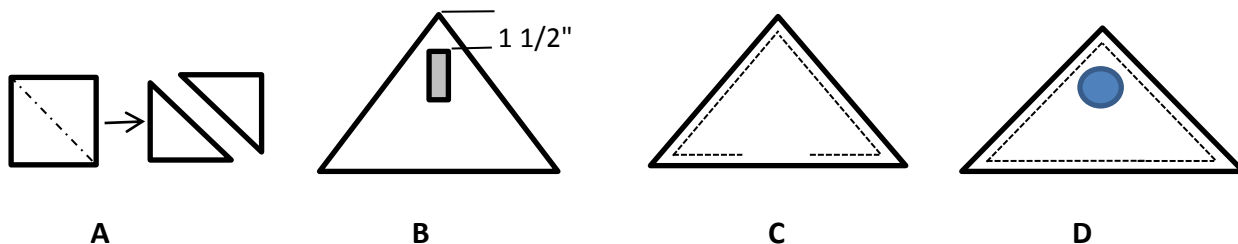
On the right side of 1 triangle, sew a piece of Velcro 1 1/2" down from the point, vertically aligned (Diagram B).

With right sides together, sew the two triangles together, leaving a turning gap on the long side.

Press seams flat and clip corners (Diagram C).

Turn the flap right side out, press, and top stitch the triangle, closing the gap with the stitching (Diagram D).

On the side without the Velcro, sew a large button to the flap. Placement is personal choice since it is decorative rather than functional. We placed ours about 2" from the corner (D).

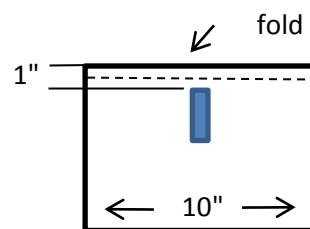


Power Plug Pocket:

On the pocket unit (10" x 17 1/2"), fuse the **interfacing** to the wrong side. Fold the unit in half, **wrong sides together** so it measures 10" x 8 3/4". The fold is the top edge of the pocket.

Top stitch the folded edge for a nice clean finish. Leave the other edges raw.

Place the Velcro mating strip on the center line, 1" down from the top folded edge as shown on the right. Please note: the Velcro should be oriented vertically.



Main Body and Accent

Fuse **interfacing** to each of the 2 outside pieces and the bag bottom accent piece.

Draw a line down the center of the outer 11 1/2" x 18 1/2" piece. Draw a second line, 3" down from the top edge. Center the triangle flap on the center line with the bottom of the triangle on the 3" mark; the Velcro will be visible on the flap. (Diagram E).

Stitch the flap to the outer unit along the bottom 'long' edge 1/4" from the edge (Diagram E).

Center the pocket on the center line of the assembly so the bottom edge of the pocket is aligned with the bottom edge of the top unit. The folded edge will just slightly cover the stitching on the flap (Diagram F). Baste the side edges to the main fabric using a long stitch and 1/8" seam allowance. The Velcro should be visible as shown in the diagram.

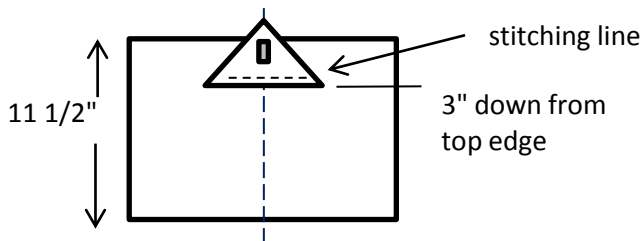


Diagram E

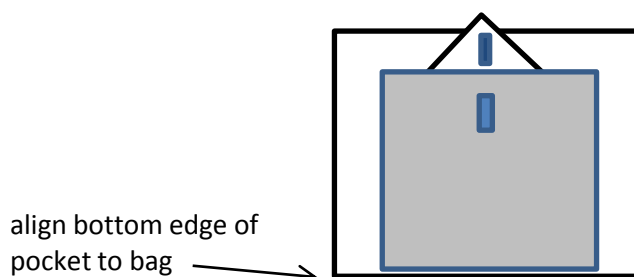


Diagram F

Straps - Make 2

Sew the 3 strips of 5" fabric together to make one long strip. From this unit, cut '2' straps, 48" long x 5" wide.

Center a piece of 2 1/2" x 48" fusible **fleece** on the wrong side of a strap unit and fuse in place (**Diagram G**).

If your fleece is not 48" long, add a scrap from the leftovers to make it the correct length.

Fold the two long sides of the strap in towards the center and press down (**Diagram H**).

Fold the strap in half as shown in **Diagram I**. Make 2 straps.

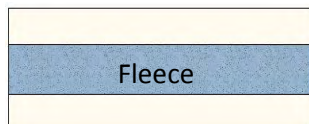


Diagram G

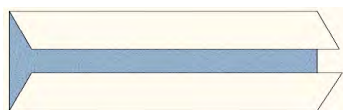
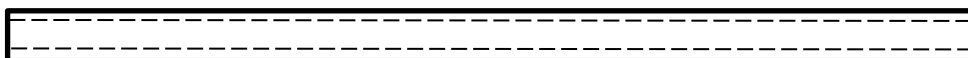


Diagram H



Diagram I

Top stitch both long sides of the straps; we stitched approximately 1/4" from each edge.



Sew Straps to the Bag

Place a strap on the front section as shown in **Diagram J**. Place the edge of the strap 3 1/2" away from the outside edge of the bag.

Stitch the straps to the bag along the top stitching on the strap; stop stitching 2" from the top and secure in place with an 'x' pattern as shown in **Diagram K**. The top of the 'x' is 2" from the top edge of the bag.

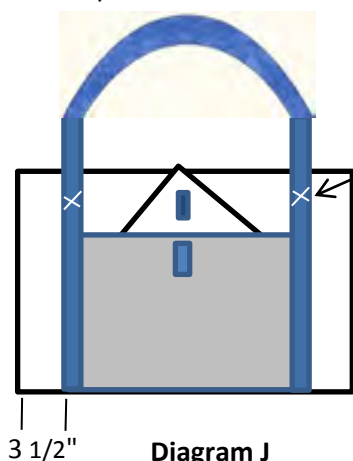


Diagram J

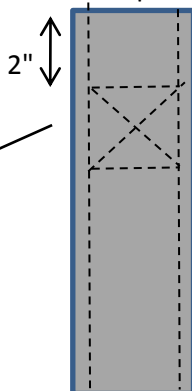


Diagram K

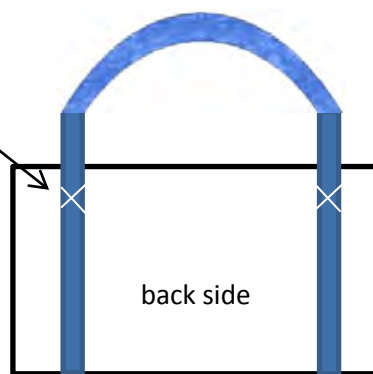


Diagram L

Sew the other strap to the back side, placing the straps 3 1/2" from the edge as done on the front side.

Top stitch as before, using the same reinforcement as shown in **Diagram K**.

Sew the accent strip (8" x 18 1/2") to the front and back units, using a 1/2" seam allowance (**Diagram M**).

Press seams towards the accent strip. Top stitch the seam down, stitching 1/8" away from the seam line.

Fold the bag, **right sides together**, and stitch the side seams together using a 1/2" seam allowance (**Diagram N**).

Press seams to one side.

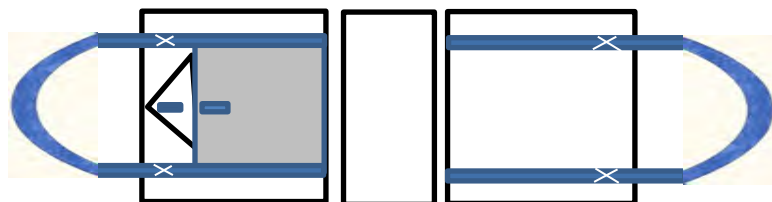


Diagram M

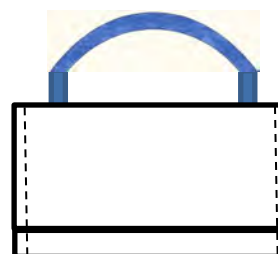


Diagram N

To form the flat bottom, we need to make a 'dog ear' at the bottom of each side.

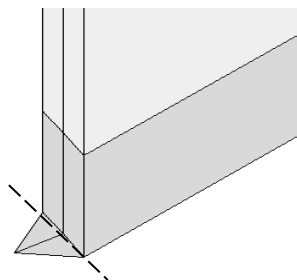
Leave the bag inside out. Fold the side of the bag to a point, matching the side seam to the center of the accent piece. It will form a 'triangle' as shown in the diagram below. Make a chalk line 1" away from the point as shown in **Diagram O**.

Stitch on this line using a slightly longer stitch than you normally use to accommodate the thickness; the 1" distance will give a 2" depth to the bag.

Repeat the instructions for the other side of the bag.

Trimming the ear is optional; we chose to leave it for additional strength in the seam allowance area.

Turn the bag **right side out** and put aside.



Stitch across the point (1" from point)

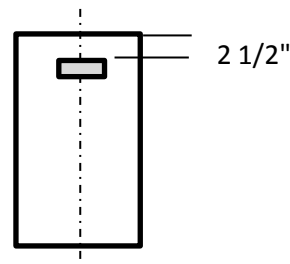
Diagram O

Bag Lining

Fuse the bag lining **fleece** to the wrong side of the lining fabric.

Sew a piece of Velcro to the **right side** of the lining, 2 1/2" down from the top edge and centered side to side. Set aside for now.

The orientation of the Velcro is horizontal.



Inner Folder

Iron fusible **interfacing** to the wrong side of one of the 11" x 14" inner folder units.

Place the other 11" x 14" piece against this one, right sides together, and stitch around all 4 sides, leaving a small gap in the bottom for turning (**Diagram P**). Press, clip corners, and turn right side out. Stitch the gap closed.

Top stitch the top edge of the folder; sew the Velcro to the center and on the top edge (**Diagram Q**).

Place the folder on the lining, letting the VELCRO be the guide for placement (**Diagram R**).

Sew the folder to the lining on both sides and bottom. Be sure to backstitch both top corners of the pocket for strength.



Diagram P

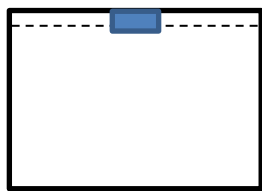


Diagram Q

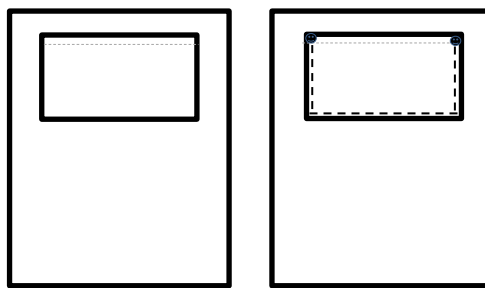
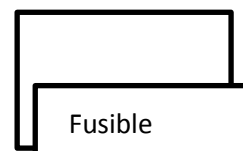


Diagram R

Make Pen Holder

Iron fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the *bottom half* of the pen pouch section.



Fold with **right sides together** and stitch the sides and bottom, leaving a gap for turning. Press, clip corners, and turn. Stitch the opening closed.



Center the pocket on the center line of the lining as shown in **Diagram S**; the top of the pocket should be 4 1/2" down from the top of the lining. Sew the pen pocket to the lining on both sides and along the bottom, sewing 1/8" from the edge of the pocket. Reinforce the top two corners.

To make the pen sections, mark 3 chalk lines, each 1 1/2" apart as shown in **Diagram T**.

For the remaining section, add one more line to accommodate your own needs.

On our sample, we centered the seam in the middle to make 2 small pockets.

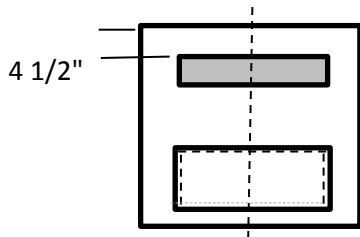


Diagram S

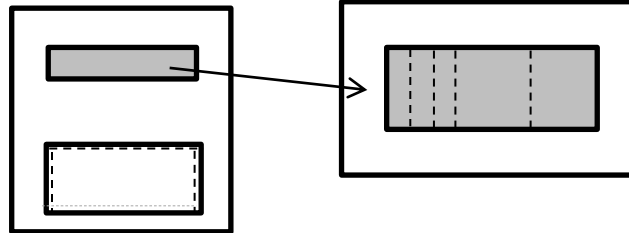
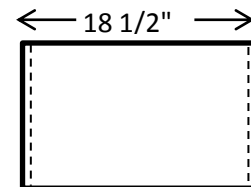


Diagram T

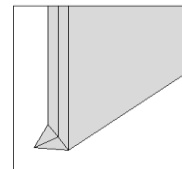
Fold the lining, right sides together; sew the side seams together using a **1/2" seam allowance**. Press seams open to reduce the thickness.



Make the 1" box triangles (dog ears) the same as completed on the outside section.

Trim off the dog ears, leaving a 1/4" seam allowance.

Leave **wrong side out**.



Final Assembly

Place the outer bag section (**right side out**) inside the lining section (**wrong side out**) (**Diagram U**).

Make sure the handles are pinned down so you don't accidentally catch them in the top seam.

Match the side seams and pin together; ease the bag edges together and pin around the bag. Mark a 5" opening on the back side of the bag; do NOT sew that part. Stitch around the top edge using a **1/2" seam allowance**, leaving the 5" gap open on the back side of the bag. Press the seam flat.

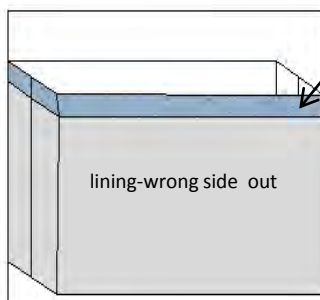
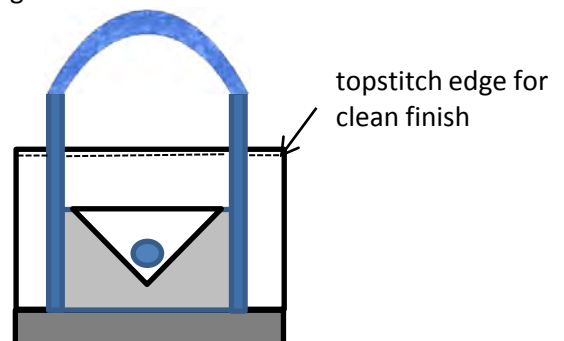


Diagram U



Gently pull the bag through the hole; press top edge flat. Topstitch the edge for a clean finish, making sure to close the gap in the process. Press the bag lightly if needed.

Your new bag is complete; enjoy those complements you receive on your very upscale laptop tote!