



The Classy Border and Project prints from the Melba collection are perfect for making large elegant totes like these for Shopping Sprees and days Sewing with the Girls!

Requirements

- Outer Bag 24" / 60m
- Lining 24" / 60m
- 40cm Adhesive Bag Batting

Method

1. From Outer Bag fabric cut two pieces, 19" wide x 15 ½" high. Take care to centre motifs on the fabric design if using a border print.
2. From Lining fabric cut two pieces, 19" wide x 15 ½" high. Cut 19" side parallel to selvedge to leave enough for bases.
3. From Lining fabric cut two bag bases, 14" x 5 ½". Back the outer bag base with bag batting.
4. From batting cut two pieces 19" wide x 15 ½" high and adhere to the wrong side of your outer bag pieces.
5. To make the handles, cut two strips 4" x 20" from your chosen fabric.
 - A. With wrong side facing up, press each long strip in half, then open out and fold sides into the centre, then fold the strip lengthways in half. This will give you a strap with four thicknesses.
 - B. Top-stitch one or more times along each edge to secure and reinforce. Set aside for later.
6. You are now going to join the panels, to opposite sides of the base as shown (in **Figure A**), stopping a quarter inch before the end of the base. To make sure it fits properly, find the centre of the bottom of your side panels, and the centre of the two sides of the base and line up when pinning.



Figure A

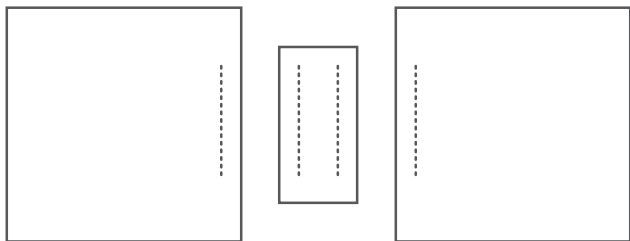
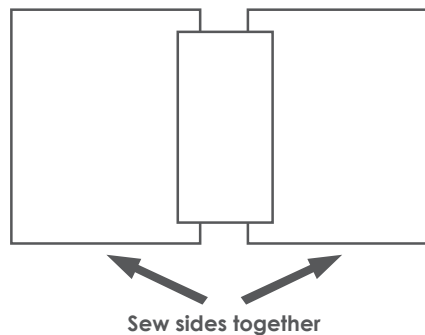


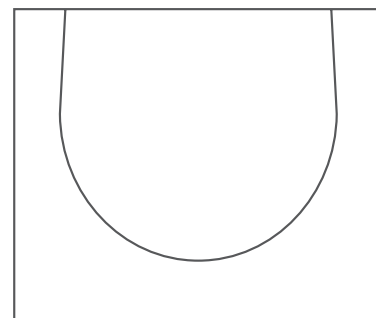
Figure B



7. Once this is done, bring together the two matching sides of the side panels, and sew together (you don't have to leave $\frac{1}{4}$ " open at base). Pin carefully matching fabric seams.
8. You can then sew the bottom edge of the side panels to the short ends of the bag base to complete the outer bag.
9. Construct lining as for bag construction of the outer bag. Leave a good 6" opening on one side seam for turning through.

Final Bag Construction

1. Pin handles to the right side of the bag panels, $5\frac{1}{2}$ " in from each side seam as shown.
2. Sit bag lining inside outer bag, right sides together. Pin around top, matching side seams. Then simply sew right around the top of the bag, and turn right side out through the side seam opening in the lining.
3. Slip stitch opening shut, and press bag well around top trim. You may wish to top stitch around the top, or add a quilting line between the top trim and pieced parts of the outer panels.
4. Add a approx $13" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$ bag base if desired.



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