

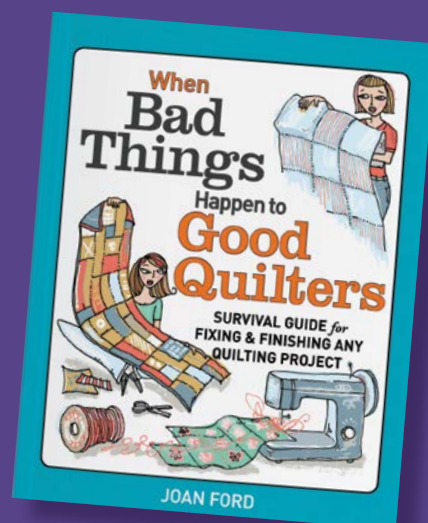
Recycled Shopper Tote



BONUS PROJECT FROM

When Bad Things Happen to Good Quilters

by Joan Ford



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This work is dedicated to Karen, my niece. She caught the quilty “bug” while making her very first quilt block only recently. Even though many miles separate us, we managed to share her first quilt project, start to finish, together.

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Recycled Shopper Tote

It happens to the best of them. As time goes by, they all start to show their age. Some look a little older than others, and some only seem to show wear and tear in one or two spots. Some get unsightly wrinkles that just won't go away; treatments and detergents don't help. A tuck here, a fold there, a stitch or two, and everything looks like new again . . . for a while.

The scars simply don't heal easily anymore. The years can be unkind. Pass the rotary cutter and let's do some surgery . . . on your well-used quilt. What were *you* thinking?

If you don't have a quilt to cut up, dig out the practice quilt sandwiches, the quilt that didn't quite turn out the way you planned, the garage sale find, prequilted fabric by the yard. Make a new quilt for the bed and recycle the old one into a new-to-you project!



FINISHED SIZE

- 14 in. by 19 in. by 3 in.

FABRICS

- Any quilted quilt, lap size or larger, or 2 yd. of 42-in.-wide prequilted fabric off the bolt.
- 1 ²/₃ yd. accent fabric

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- 1 ¹/₂ yd. 20-in.-wide nonwoven fusible interfacing or décor bond, optional
- Walking foot
- 1 ³/₄-in.-diameter button

TIP: Interfacing or décor bond adds structure to the lightweight quilting cotton lining fabric, so the bag will stand up nicely when placed on a horizontal surface. Compare your options: fusible batting or lightweight fusible woven or nonwoven interfacing. If you aren't sure which product is right for you, ask for some assistance at your local quilt shop.

Cutting: Cut through blocks and pieced quilt elements at odd angles. Since the quilt sandwich is layered and quilted, there will be some stretch along the edges, but the quilting will help stabilize the cut-up quilt pieces.

Cut the following from one or more quilts:

- Two 2-in. by 30-in. strips
- One 5 ¹/₂-in. by 8 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- Five 5 ¹/₂-in. by 8-in. rectangles
- Two 5 ¹/₂-in. squares
- One 5-in. by 5 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- One 4-in. by 12-in. rectangle
- Three 4-in. by 8-in. rectangles
- One 4-in. by 9 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- One 4-in. by 7-in. rectangle
- One 4-in. by 6-in. rectangle
- One 4-in. by 6 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- One 4-in. by 5 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- One 4-in. by 4 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- One 3 ¹/₂-in. by 5 ¹/₂-in. rectangle
- One 3-in. by 6-in. rectangle
- One 3-in. by 4-in. rectangle
- One 2 ¹/₂-in. by 4-in. rectangle
- Three 2-in. by 3-in. rectangles

ACCENT FABRIC

Cut one 19-in. width-of-fabric strip, then cut one 19-in. by 26-in. bag lining.

Cut one 8-in. width-of-fabric strip, then cut one 8-in. by 19-in. inside pocket lining and one 6-in. by 8-in. outside pocket lining

Cut five 2¼-in. width-of-fabric strips for pocket and strap binding. Press each strip in half lengthwise and set aside.

Cut seven 2-in. width-of-fabric strips for piecing. Press each strip in half lengthwise and set aside.

Cut two 2-in. width-of-fabric strips, then cut two 2-in. by 30-in. pieces for strap lining (optional).

OPTIONAL INTERFACING

Cut one 19-in. by 28-in. rectangle for bag lining.

Cut one 8-in. by 19-in. rectangle for inside pocket lining.

Cut one 6-in. by 8-in. rectangle for outside pocket lining.

Cut three 2-in. by 20-in. strips for straps; cut one strip in half and combine a 20-in. and a 10-in. interfacing strip for each handle (optional).

PREPARE THE LINING FABRIC

Fuse the interfacing pieces onto the wrong side of the corresponding bag lining and pocket fabric pieces. Set aside.

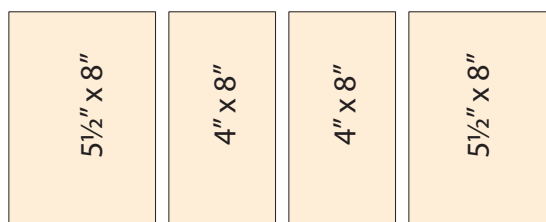
If you decide to include a lining on the straps, fuse the interfacing pieces to the wrong side of the optional strap lining strips. Abut the 2-in. short edges of a 20-in. and 10-in. interfacing piece to extend across the 30-in. strap length.

TIP: A walking foot is recommended for all the sewing on this project.

MAKE THE INSIDE POCKET

From the pressed 2-in.-wide accent fabric, cross-cut three 8-in. strips. On your worktable, arrange a 5½-in. by 8-in. quilt block, two 4-in. by 8-in. quilt blocks, and a 5½-in. by 8-in. quilt block, forming a row of four blocks as shown. [1]

FIGURE 1



With the raw edges aligned, sew an accent fabric strip to the right side of the 5½-in. by 8-in. block on the left and each 4-in. by 8-in. block in the center using a ¼-in. seam. [2]

FIGURE 2

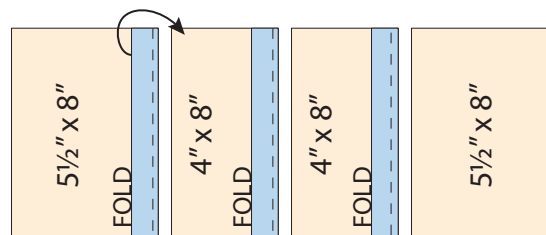
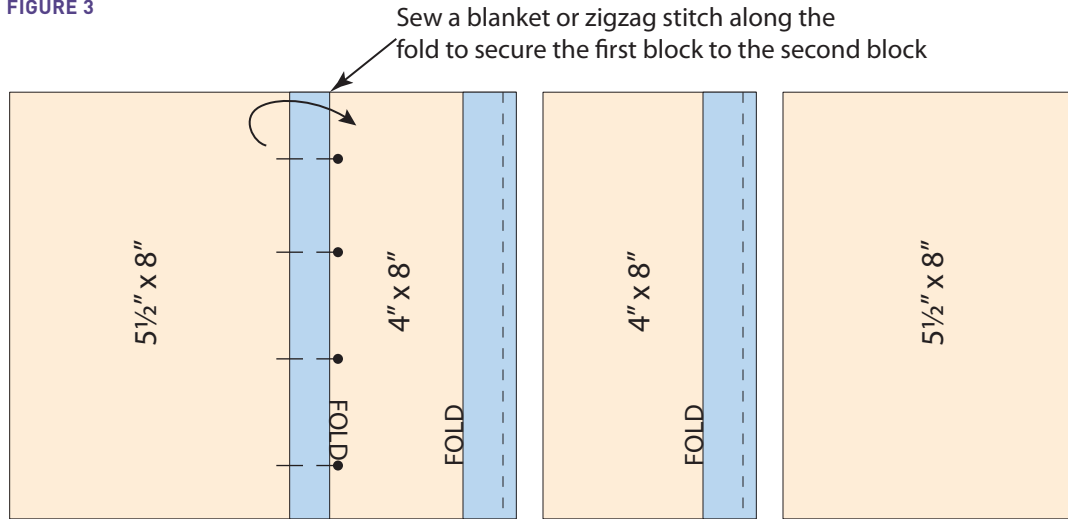


FIGURE 3



Abut the 5½-in. by 8-in. block with the adjacent 4-in. by 8-in. block. Carefully turn the folded edge of the accent fabric over the intersection of the two blocks and onto the 4-in. by 8-in. block and secure the accent fabric fold with pins as shown. Sew the fold to the 4-in. by 8-in. block with a blanket or zigzag stitch, stitched in-the-ditch, removing pins as you sew. [3]

In a similar fashion, connect all four blocks in a row. For aesthetics, blanket-stitch or zigzag in-the-ditch on the second side/fold of each accent fabric strip. The inside pocket is 8 in. by 19 in. [4]

Layer the inside pocket lining and the pocket wrong sides together and pin around the perimeter with raw

edges aligned. Cross-cut a 19-in. strip from a folded 2¼-in. binding strip. With the raw edges aligned, secure the binding strip with pins to the wrong side of the top edge of the pocket as you would a binding. Sew through all the layers using a ¼-in. seam. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the front of the pocket. Pin to secure. Instead of sewing the fold to the front of the pocket as you might with a quilt binding, match the decorative stitches on the sashing strips and sew the fold to the pocket with a blanket or zigzag stitch in-the-ditch through all layers, removing the pins as you sew. [4]

FIGURE 4

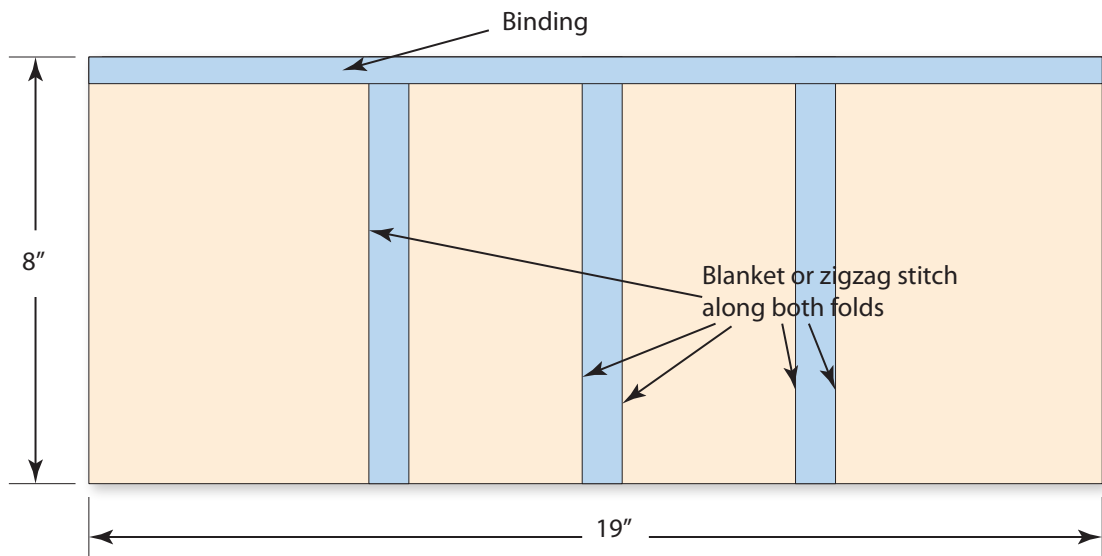
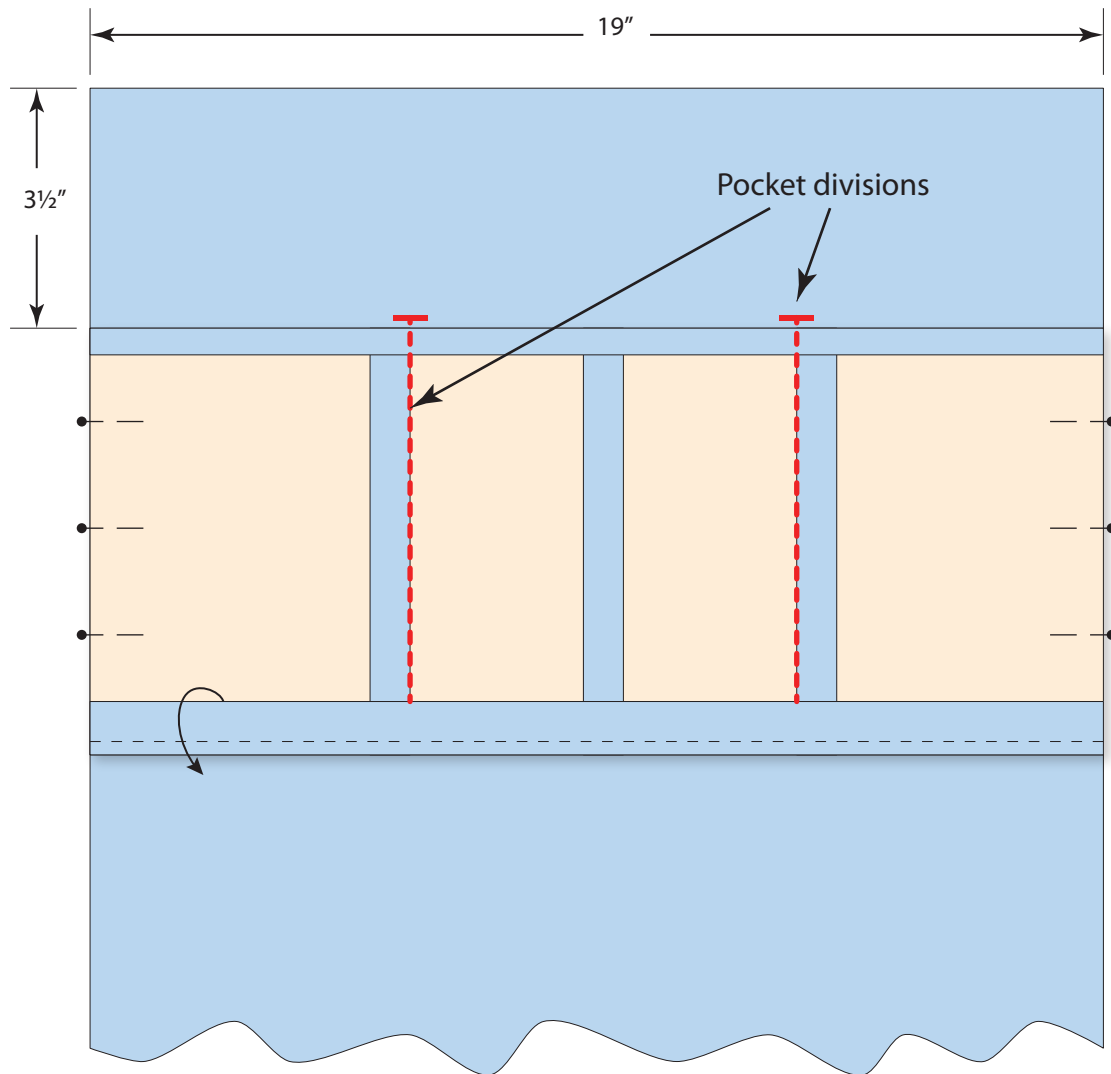


FIGURE 5



ASSEMBLE THE BAG LINING

Retrieve the lining fabric set aside earlier, and lay it flat on your worktable. From the 2-in.-wide pressed accent fabric, cross-cut one 19-in. strip.

Place the top edge of the inside pocket 3½ in. away from one 19-in. edge of the lining. Secure the pocket to the lining with pins. (5)

With the raw edges of the accent strip and the bottom of the pocket aligned, sew the 19-in. accent fabric strip to the bottom of the pocket panel using a 1/4-in. seam. Sew through all the layers, including the lining. Turn the folded edge of the accent fabric over the raw

edge of the pocket and onto the lining fabric. Secure the accent fabric fold with pins and sew the fold to the lining with a blanket or zigzag stitch. Sew a blanket or zigzag stitch along the remaining accent seam. (5)

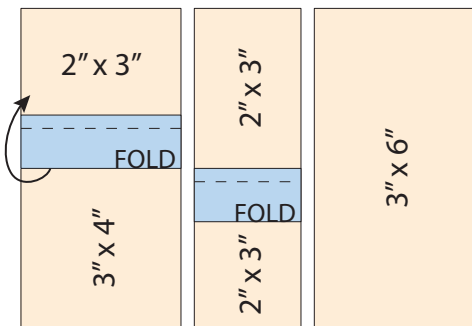
Topstitch in-the-ditch along two of the vertical accent fabric seams to divide the pocket into three smaller sections. Start at the bottom of the pocket and sew along the accent fabric seam, over the pocket binding, and just onto the lining (stitching shown in red). Double-backstitch at each end of the seam, pull the thread ends to the wrong side of the lining, and knot the threads with a square knot. (5)

MAKE THE OUTSIDE POCKET

From the 2-in.-wide pressed accent fabric, cross-cut two 6-in. strips, one 3-in. strip, and one 2-in. strip. On your worktable, arrange the 2-in. by 3-in., the 3-in. by 4-in., the two 2-in. by 3-in., and the 3-in. by 6-in. quilt blocks as shown. [6]

With the raw edges aligned, sew an accent fabric strip to the top of the 3-in. by 4-in. block and the top of the lower 2-in. by 3-in. block using a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. seam. [6]

FIGURE 6

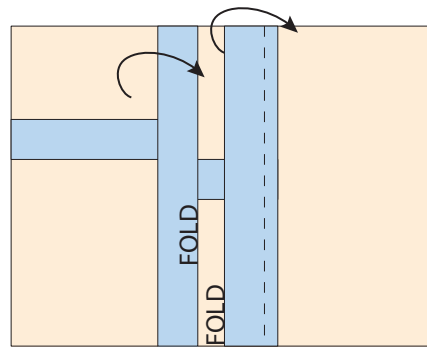


About one 2-in. by 3-in. block with the 3-in. by 4-in. block. Carefully turn the folded edge of the accent fabric over the intersection of the two blocks and onto the 3-in. by 4-in. block and secure the accent fabric fold with pins. Sew the fold to the 3-in. by 4-in. block with a blanket or zigzag stitch, removing the pins.

Repeat the steps to sew the other two 2-in. by 3-in. blocks together. Blanket-stitch or zigzag the second seam on each accent fabric. The resulting blocks will be 3 in. by 6 in. and 2 in. by 6 in., respectively. Replace the sewn blocks back into the pocket block arrangement.

With the raw edges aligned, sew an accent fabric strip to the right side of the pieced 3-in. by 6-in. and 2-in. by 6-in. blocks using a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. seam. Sew the three blocks next to each other in a row using the two 8-in.

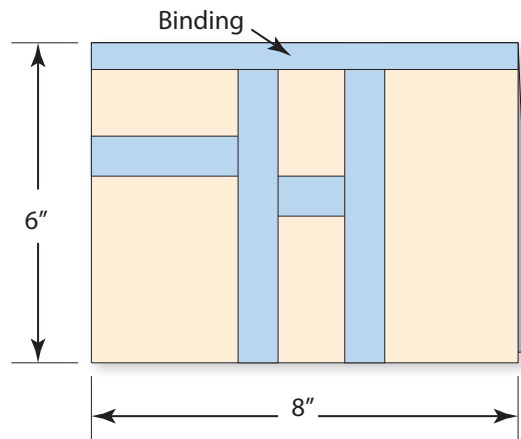
FIGURE 7



accent strips. Blanket-stitch or zigzag the second accent seam. The pocket is 6 in. by 8 in. [7]

Layer the lining and pocket wrong sides together and pin around the perimeter. Cross-cut an 8-in. strip from a folded $2\frac{1}{4}$ -in. binding strip. With the raw edges aligned, secure the binding strip with pins to the wrong side of the top edge of the pocket. Sew through all layers using a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. seam. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the front of the pocket. Pin to secure. Sew the fold to the front of the pocket with a blanket or zigzag stitch, removing pins as you sew. Set the outside pocket aside. [8]

FIGURE 8



MAKE THE BAG EXTERIOR

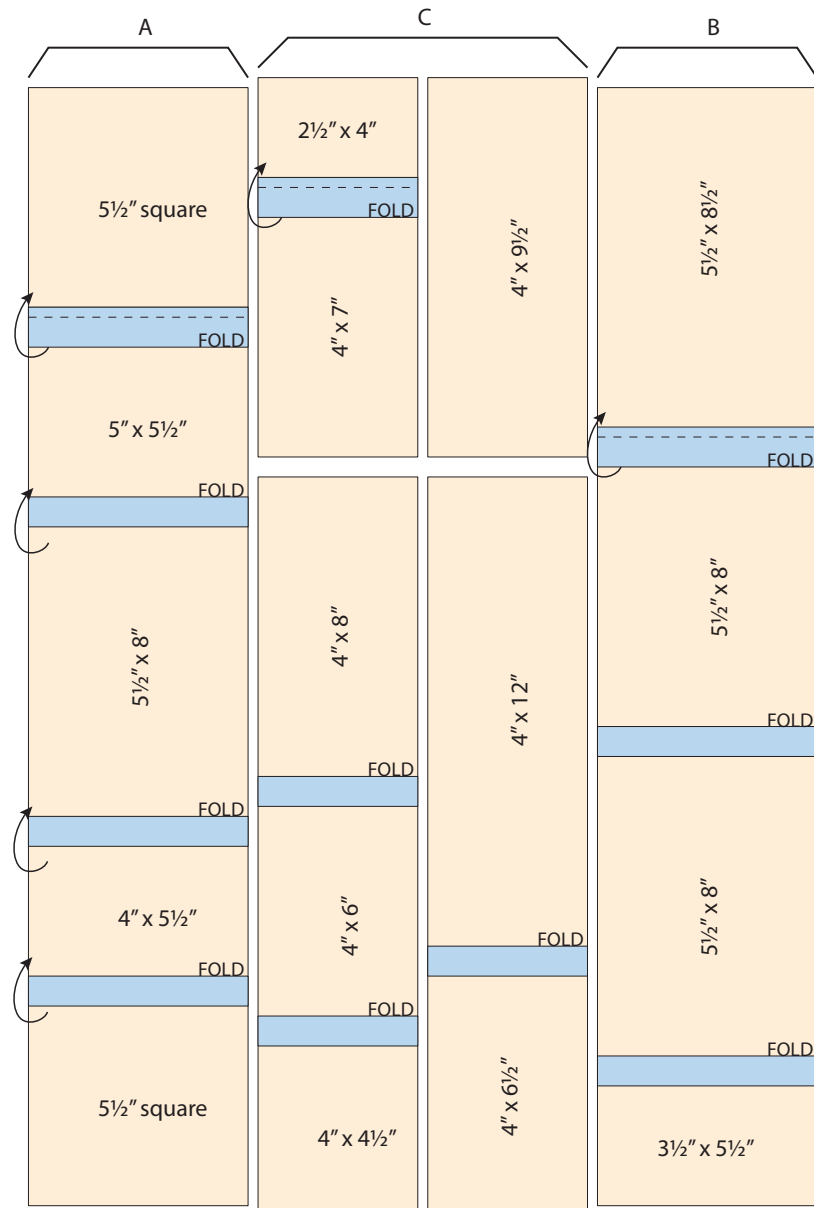
Arrange the cut-apart quilt blocks on your worktable as shown. [9]

From the 2-in.-wide pressed accent fabric, cut strips in the following quantities and lengths:

- Two 28-in. strips
- One 18½-in. strip
- One 9½-in. strip
- One 8-in. strip
- Seven 5½-in. strips
- Four 4-in. strips

Place each 5½-in. and 4-in. cut accent strips into the block arrangement at the top edge of its corresponding-width quilt block with raw edges aligned. Sew the blocks into vertical rows. Make outer vertical rows that are 5½-in. by 28-in. first (A and B), then sew the center vertical row into four vertical sections, two that are 4-in. by 9½-in. and two that are 4-in. by 18½-in. Follow the same sequence used to construct the pockets in the two previous sections: Sew the ¼-in. seam, turn the accent fabric over the intersection, and secure both accent fabric folds with a blanket or zigzag stitch. [9]

FIGURE 9



To complete the center panel (C), connect the top two sections with the 9-½-in. accent strip placed vertically between the two sections. Sew the ¼-in. seam, turn the fabric over the intersection, and secure both accent fabric folds with a blanket or zigzag stitch.

Connect the lower two sections of the center panel with the 18-½-in. accent strip following the same process.

Place the outside pocket on the bottom of the upper panel, as shown, with the raw edges aligned and the wrong side of the pocket facing the right side of the panel. Pin the pocket around the edges to secure it.

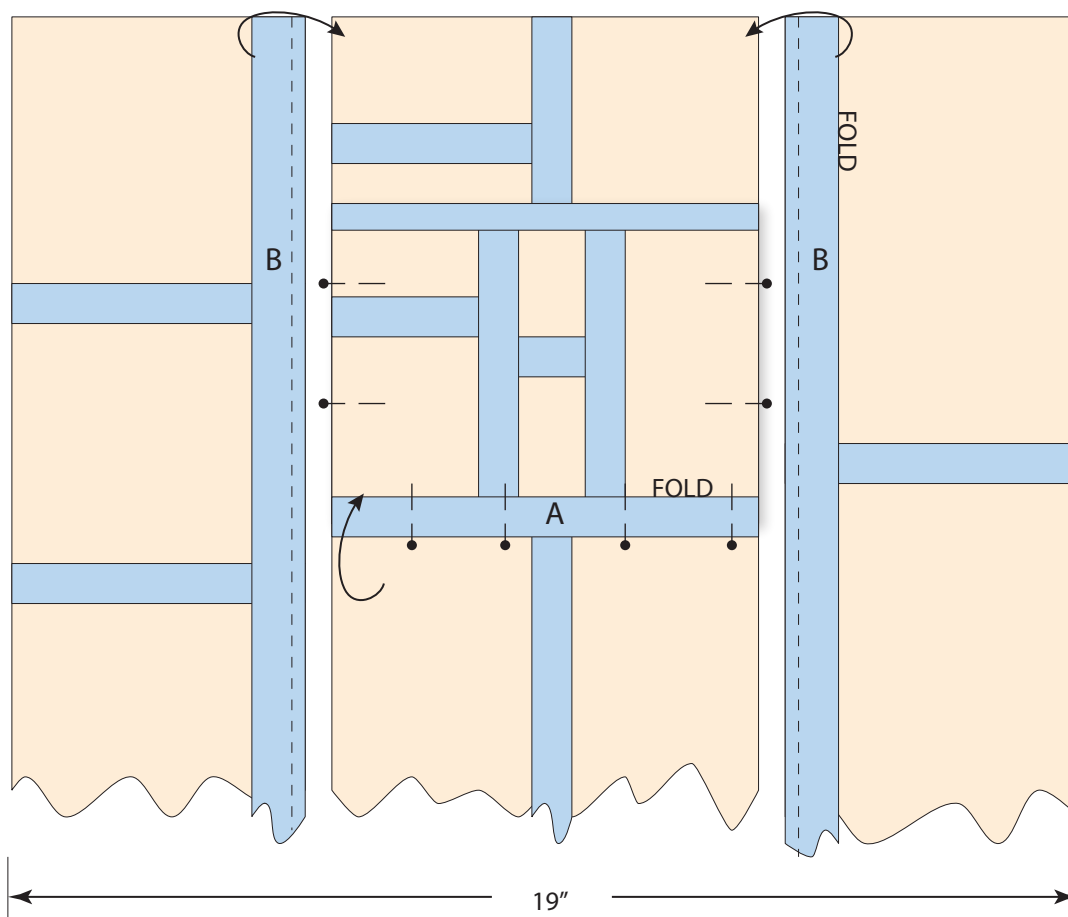
With the raw edges aligned, sew an 8-in. accent fabric strip to the top edge of the lower center panel using a ¼-in. seam.

Abut the upper center panel with the lower center panel. Carefully turn the folded edge of the accent fabric over the intersection of the two panels,

including the bottom raw edge of the pocket, and secure the accent fabric fold with pins. Sew the fold to the upper center panel through all layers with a blanket or zigzag stitch. Blanket-stitch or zigzag the second seam on the accent fabric. (10A)

To connect the three panels, with the raw edges aligned, sew a 28-in. accent fabric strip to the right side of the left panel. Similarly, sew a 28-in. accent fabric strip to the left side of the right panel. As before, abut the adjacent panels and turn the folded edge of the accent fabric over the intersection of the two panels and onto the center panel. Pin and sew the accent fabric as before. As you sew the folded edge of the accent strips across and onto the center panel, you'll be incorporating the pocket sides. The external panel is 19 in. by 28 in. (10B)

FIGURE 10



MAKE THE STRAPS

From the 2¼-in.-wide pressed accent binding strips, cross-cut four 30-in. strips.

If you are adding a lining to the strap, place the quilted strap and the strap lining wrong sides together, and pin along the center to secure them to each other before adding the binding. With the raw edges aligned, sew the binding strip to the wrong side of each 30-in. edge of each strap with a ¼-in. seam. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the front of the strap. Pin to secure, and sew the fold to the strap with a blanket or zigzag stitch. Make two 2-in. by 30-in. straps.

MAKE THE BUTTON LOOP

Cross-cut one 6½-in. strip from the 2¼-in.-wide folded binding fabric. Open the middle fold and fold both 6½-in. edges so they meet in the center. Fold the loop in half lengthwise on the original fold. Edgestitch along both sides. (11)

ASSEMBLE THE BAG

Pin each strap to the top edge of the external panel with raw edges aligned, right sides together, and strap centered over the accent strip on the external panel. Take care that the strap isn't twisted. (12)

Fold the button loop in half and pin it to the center accent strip on the exterior panel. Be sure the button loop is pinned to the end of the panel without the pocket. (12)

FIGURE 11

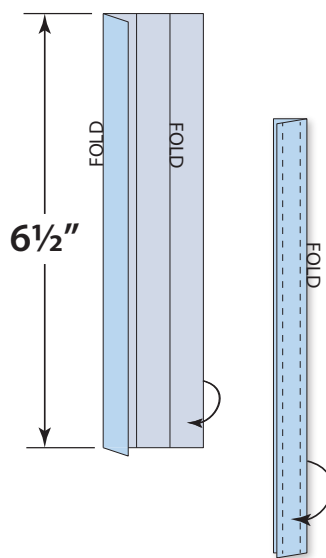
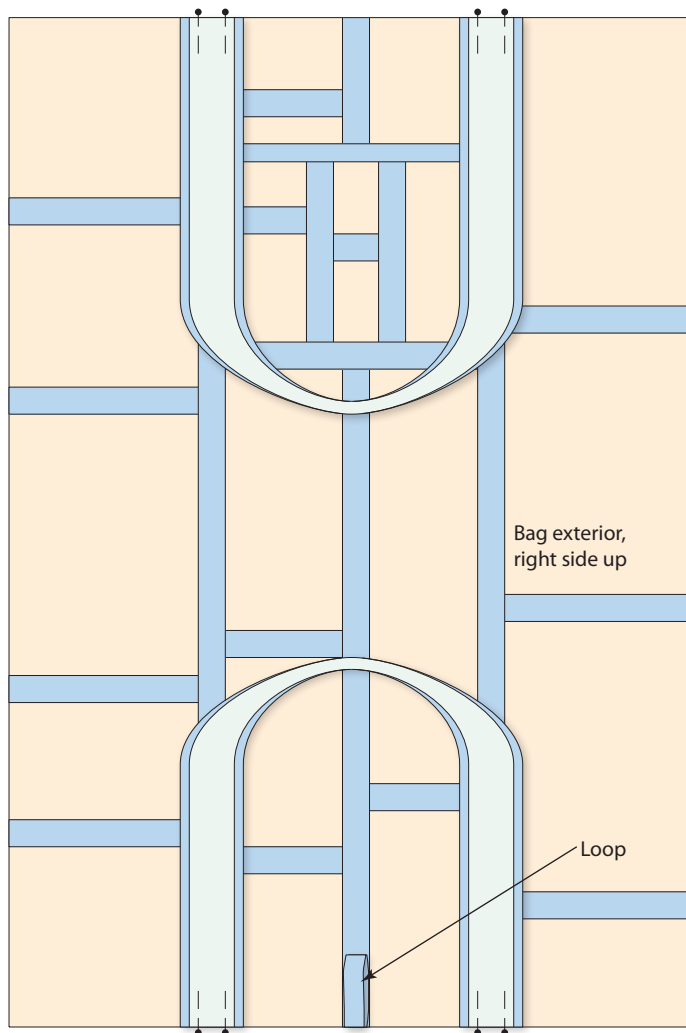


FIGURE 12



Fold the exterior panel in half, right sides together; Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. seam along each side. [13]

To make the box pleat, open the seam at the bottom corner and flatten, centering the side seam.

Measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the point, and draw a line perpendicular to the side seam. Sew on the line, and trim the excess bulk. Repeat for the other bottom corner. Turn the bag exterior right side out. [14]

FIGURE 13

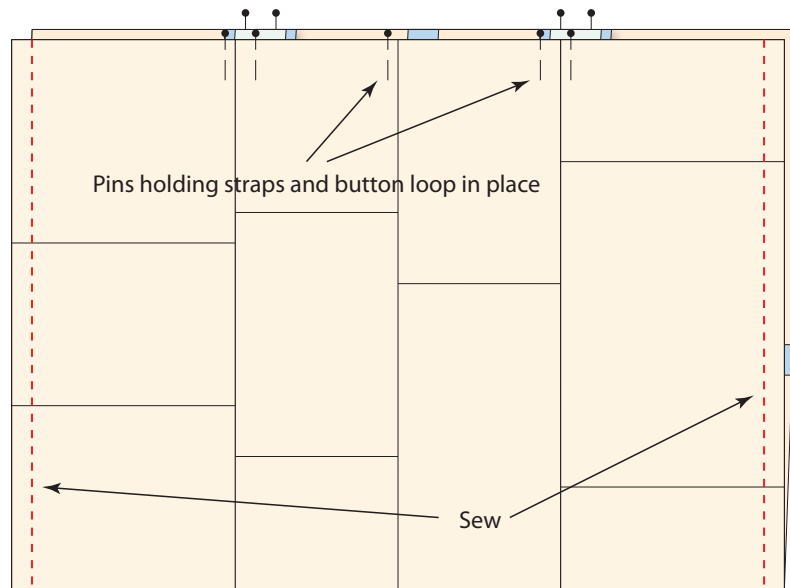
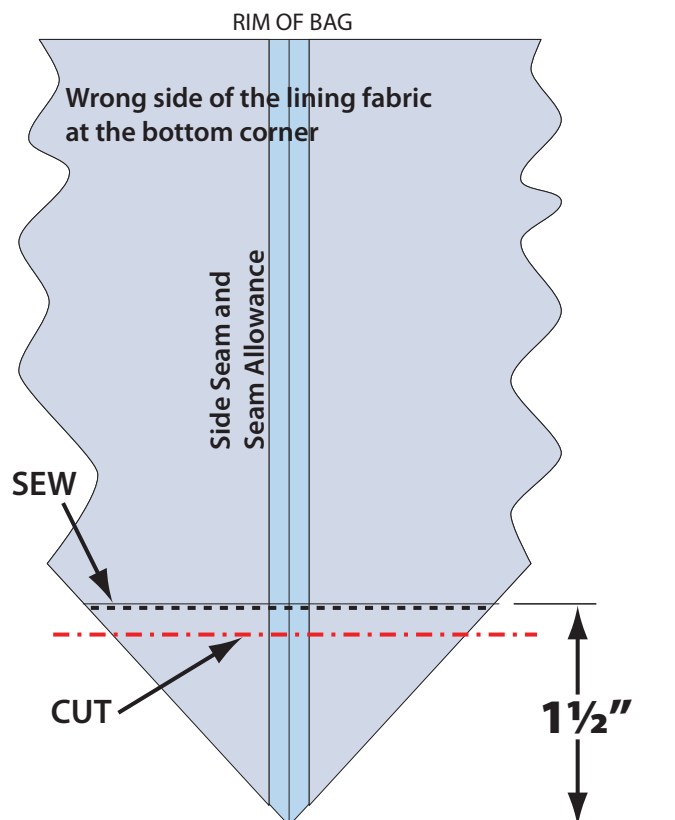


FIGURE 14

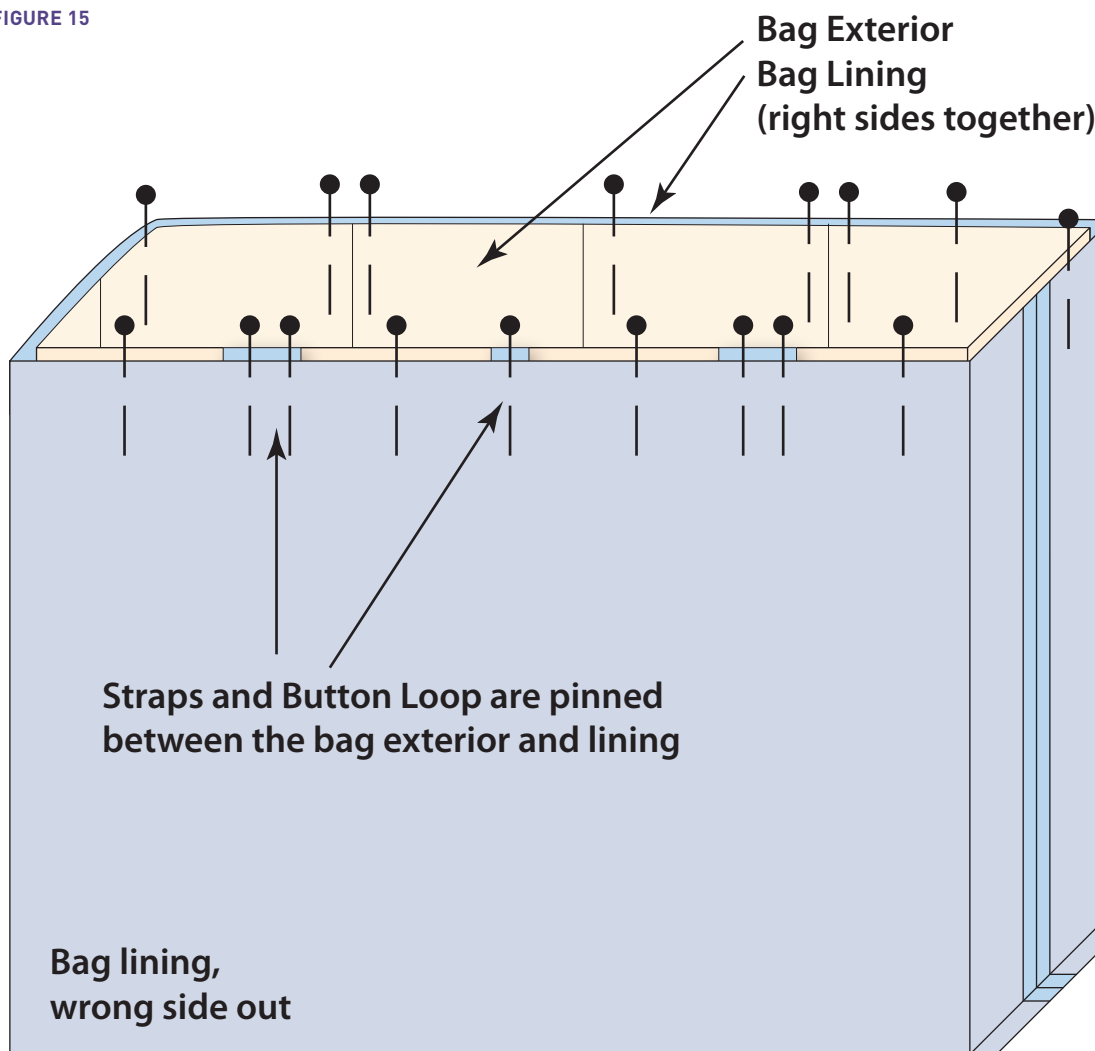


Similarly, fold the lining assembly right sides together, and sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. seam along each side, leaving an 8-in. gap in the sewing on one side of the lining. Add box pleats to the lining, but do not turn the lining right side out.

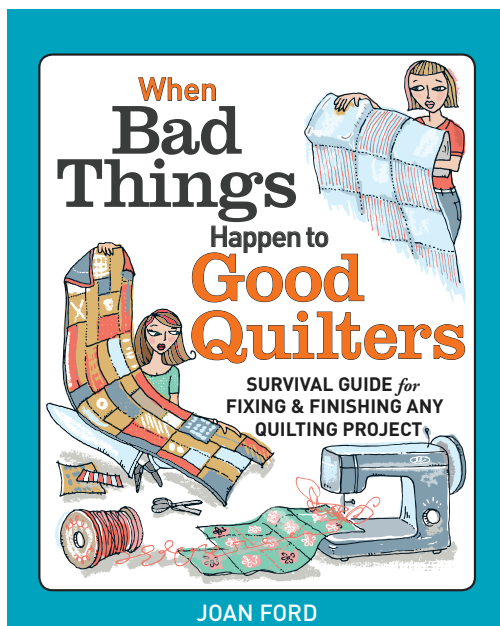
Place the bag exterior inside the lining with right sides facing. Pin around the rim, making sure that the straps and the button loop are tucked between the bag exterior and the lining. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. seam allowance around the top edge of the bag. [15]

Turn the bag inside out through the opening in the lining. Tuck the lining seams in and secure them with pins; edgestitch along the opening to close it. Tuck the lining in the bag, then edgestitch around the rim. Center and secure the button on the front of the bag (the side with the outside pocket) about 1 in. away from the bag rim.

FIGURE 15



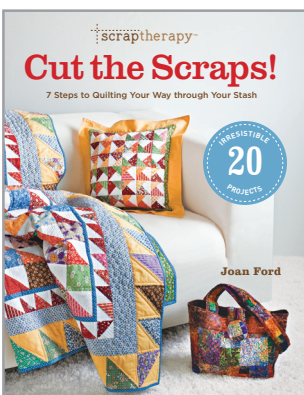
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