

Summer Jelly Tote Bag

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This quick and easy tote bag really showcases your favorite ruler work designs. It is sturdy and lovely to use. One jelly roll will make 3 tote bags, making it a great option for those jelly rolls you've been saving. You can also use a variety of your favorite strips cut 2.5". Make this tote in holiday fabric, fall fabric, batiks, the possibilities are endless!

This bag is broken up into two classes, the first is constructing the jelly strips, and rulerwork for Design 1. The second class will focus on Design 2, and finishing the construction of the tote bag.

Sewing the fabric and preparing for ruler work

- Sew together 12 jelly roll strips. I like to chain sew them in pairs, then add them all together.
- Using your Miracle Wool Pressing Mat, and Best Press, press strips all seams facing one direction or open seams. Note: When you use the wool mat and best press, you will have your strips as flat as possible, making the ruler work much easier. I press seams all in one direction but you can also press your seams open. Be careful to make sure the that your strips are pulled out all the way and laying flat.
- Trim the ends of your "jelly" fabric.
- Cut the rectangle in half for two pieces. You can either have your strips laying horizontally or vertically, whichever you prefer.
- Measurements: Length _____ Width _____
- Cut your fusible fleece to fit and press with a hot dry iron to the back the jelly fabric.
- Cut your backing fabric, an inch or two larger then the fleece and jelly fabric.
- Using spray baste, spray the back of the fleece (NEVER the fabric) and lie on top of the fleece/jelly fabric.

- This is giving you a front and back of the tote. I like to add two different designs on both sides. You can also add a outside pocket to one side but you will have to design your ruler work so the pocket does not cover the design. Another option would be to make a smaller design on the pocket. If you add a pocket, use a coordinating fabric or a solid, along with fusible fleece (or a scrap of batting) and a backing fabric. To attach the pocket, you can fold over ½" seam allowance and topstitch the pocket prior to sewing the tote together.

Ruler work Design

- I like to position my ruler work design, not directly in the center but a little bit higher on the jelly fabric. We will be adding a gusset bottom and I want to leave room for that.
- Position your crosshair ruler in the center of the jelly fabric (Side to Side) but about 4-6" up from the bottom of the fabric.
- Using your marking tool, make 8 rotations of the ruler. Turn ruler and line up the center hole and the etched grid lines and add 8 more rotations for total of 16 rotations.
- Optional: Number each line 1-16. If this is easy for you to follow the "odd & evens" of the rotations.

Design #1

- **Spin Fex 8 (11.5")** Turn template upside down so that the top of the ruler is at the center point of your cross hair. Sew 8 Rotations at the Odd Rotations (#1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15)
- **Spin Fex 8 (11.5")** Use template with the top of the ruler facing out. Sew 8 rotations at the EVEN crosshairs (#2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16)
- **Spin Fex 1 (7.5")** Use template with the top pointing out. Sew at the even rotations.
- **12" Arc** Using the 2nd etched line on the arc, line up with the odd lines of crosshair markings and center the center of the ruler on the even rotation. I use the removable stickers and creative quilters marker for acrylic rulers to mark the arc for an easier visual. Sew from odd line to odd line, completing a complete circle around design.

- **6" Arc** using the arc and centering the arc on the even crosshair, sew from odd to odd lines creating a scalloped design on the edge.

Design #2

- **Spin Fex 8 (11.5")** with the top of the template pointing outward, sew 8 rotations at the ODD crosshair markings.
- **Spin Fex 10 (7.5")** with the top of the template pointing out, sew 8 rotations at the EVEN crosshair markings.
- **6" Arc** drop your needle into the tip of the pointed star and line up ruler to the next point. Sew from point to point moving the Arc and using the spacing gauge. Go around the entire design.
- **12" Arc** Line up the last sewn line on the 3rd line of the 12" Arc. I also use the creative quilters markers for Acrylic to mark the third line for an easier visual. Sew from odd crosshair to odd crosshair, completed a circle around the design. This will complete your design or you can go in and add small circles or crosshatch lines in between.

Completing the Tote Bag

The tote bag can either be lined at this point or finished with bias tape.

- Fold down the top of the bag and topstich the top of the bag.
- Pin the sides and bottom. Right sides together and using a ½" seam allowance sew the sides and bottom together.
- Mark and make gussets 4" into the bottom of the bag and sew.
- Keeping a ½" seam allowance, cut off the bottom of the excess.
- **Double fold Bias Tape:** you can use handmade or purchased. Finish off the raw seams on the inside of the bag. You can also line the bag but I choose to bias tape.
- **Grommets will be added and rope handles in the 2nd class**