

Summer Jelly Tote Bag

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This quick and easy tote bag showcases your favorite ruler work designs. It is sturdy, can be made in various sizes and lovely. One jelly roll will make 2-3 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!

Sewing the fabric and preparing for ruler work

- Sew together 10-12 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.

Design 3

- **Spin Fex 8 (11.5)** 8 Rotations @ Odd Rotations with ruler at the center point (facing upside down).
- **Spin Fex 12 (11.5")** Sew 8 Rotations at the Even Crosshairs. With the top of the ruler pointing outwards
- **Spin Fex 12 (9.5")** Sew 8 Rotations at the EVEN Crosshairs. With the top of the ruler at the center position of crosshairs (Upside down)
- **This will complete the center design.** You can bury or cut your threads
- **6" Arc Border:** Move you needle to the oval point (SP 12, EVEN) and drop your needle into that point. Pull up your bobbin thread and place your 6" ARC against the rulerfoot. Mark the center of the Arc with the Quilter's Acrylic Marker for easier visual. Using your spacing gauge, line up the arc so that you will sew from oval point to oval point. Sew from oval point to oval point to finish off arc.
- **12" Arc.** With the acrylic marker, mark a line across the ruler on **the 2nd line of the grid lines. Also mark a line at the center of the ruler.** Line up the center line of the ruler, with the 2nd marked line and sew a circle from crosshair to crosshair. This will finish your design.
- **If you used a heat erasable marker, you can now iron off your markings.**
- Trim both designs to the same size and mark here

- Width _____ Length _____
- If you are lining the bag, cut two (2) pieces of lining the above measurement.

Completing the Tote Bag

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

Finishing with bias tape.

- Fold down the top of the bag and topstitch the top of the bag.
- Pin the sides and bottom. Right sides together and using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance sew the sides and bottom together.
- Mark and make gussets 3" into the bottom of the bag and sew.
- Keeping a $\frac{1}{2}$ " 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.

Lined Bag

- Measure your rulerwork front and back and trim to the same size.
- Take that measurement and cut two (2) pieces of lining fabric.
- The following directions are for the lining piece, as well as the bag itself.
- On the lining fabric, fold over the top twice and press with Best Press for a crisp hem. Do the same for the quilted bag.
- With a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the sides and bottom of the lining, then do the same for the quilted bag. On the quilted bag, sew a topstitch to secure the fold (this fabric is thicker so that is why you need to do this step).
- To Make a Gusset: separate the sides of the lining, folding seams to opposite direction, forming a triangle shape. Measure in from the triangle 2.5" and mark a line. Pin the triangle together and sew along the draw line. Cut to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance and cut away the excess. You have a perfectly formed gusset! Note: you can make the gusset any size that you like.
- Make the same size gusset for the quilted bag. Sew & cut.
- If using Grommet Handles: Sewing lining to quilted bag. If you are making the handles with Grommets & rope, then you need to sew the lining to the

quilted bag first. Simply pin the lining to the quilted bag. I fold the side seams in opposite direction and pin those first. Then I pin all the sides, easing any fabric that I might have to. Once pinned, sew together, following the topstitch line that is already sewn on to the quilted side.

- Grommet Handles: If you want to make the grommet bag with the rope handles, purchase a kit. I like General Tools brand Grommet Tool Kit. It is available at most hardware stores and Amazon.
- Rope is available online or at a Dollar Store (note; the dollar store rope is a little rougher but works well).
- Measure your placement of grommets a few inches from the ends of the bag. Mark all four grommets (two on each side of the bag) and mark w/ an X.
- Follow the directions for inserting the grommets on to the lined bag. I couldn't get a circle cut through all the fabric with the grommet cutter so I simply traced a circle the correct size and cut with a scissors. Proceed with inserting and hammering the grommets.
- Once your grommets are in place, measure your rope to size and cut 2 pieces.
- Place the rope through the grommets. place a knot in each end of the rope (you can also add a little glue for extra security). Your bag is ready for use.

Web Handles

- The webbed handles will be sewn between the lining and the quilted bag.
- Place your lining inside the quilted bag and secure the side seams with pins.
- Cut webbing to size, adding 4" to each piece.
- Place the handles approximately 3" from the side of the bag. Put the webbing 2" down between the lining and bag and secure with pins.
- Sew the lining, webbing and quilted bag together. I like to use a regular stitch but go back and forth over the webbing a few times, for added security.
- Your bag is done and ready to fill with your summertime treats!
- This also makes a great gift!