

Simple Bags

JAPANESE STYLE



*Twenty
Designs
To Sew*

Akiyo Kajiwar

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Akiyo Kajiwara, textile artist

Traveling the diverse regions of Japan, I did my apprenticeship in the textile world with the great masters of traditional Japanese techniques: spinning, weaving, natural dyeing, and many other techniques that are still very much alive in that country. I hope that this book will be for you a beautiful encounter with Japanese culture and will offer you true moments of joy.

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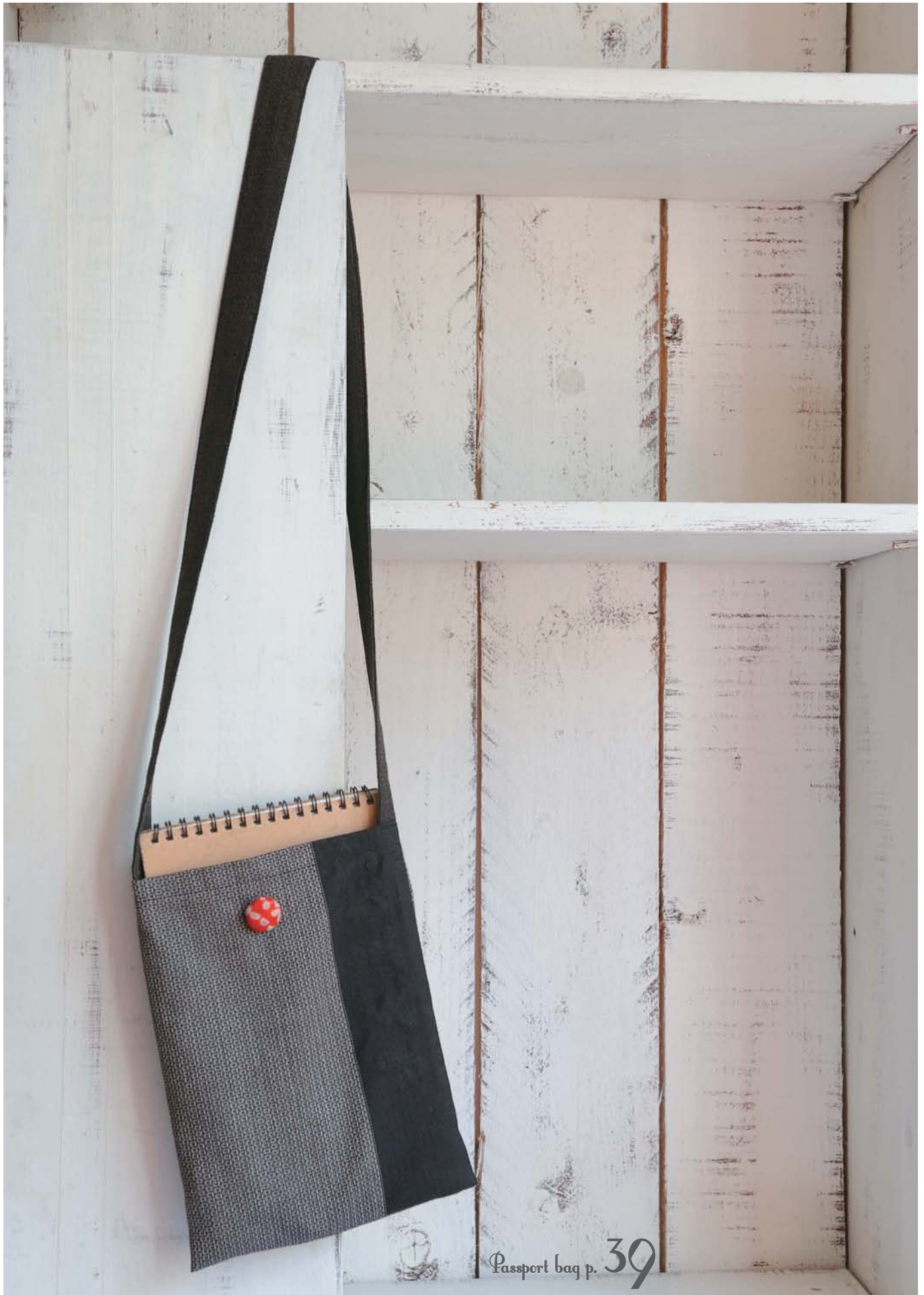
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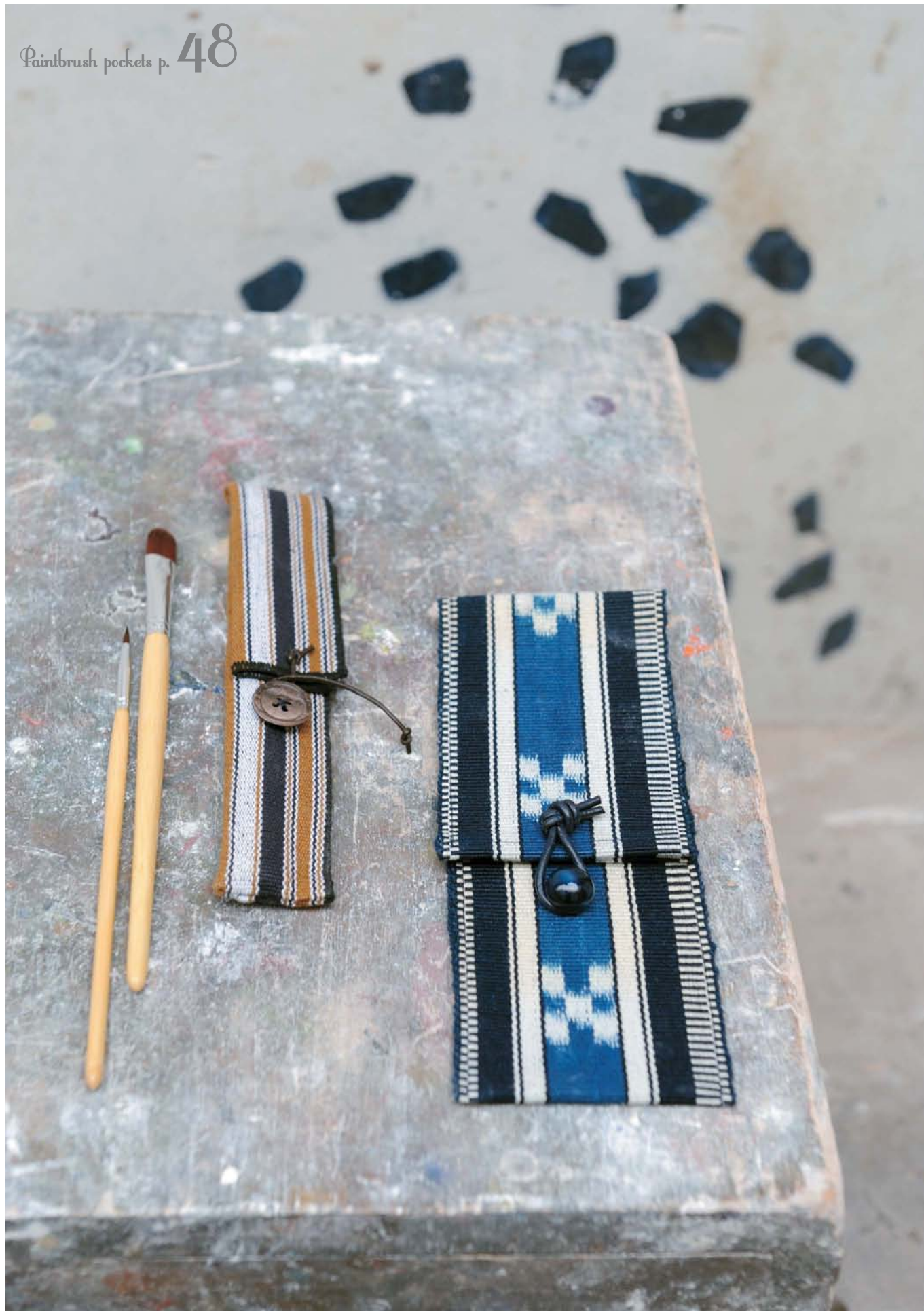




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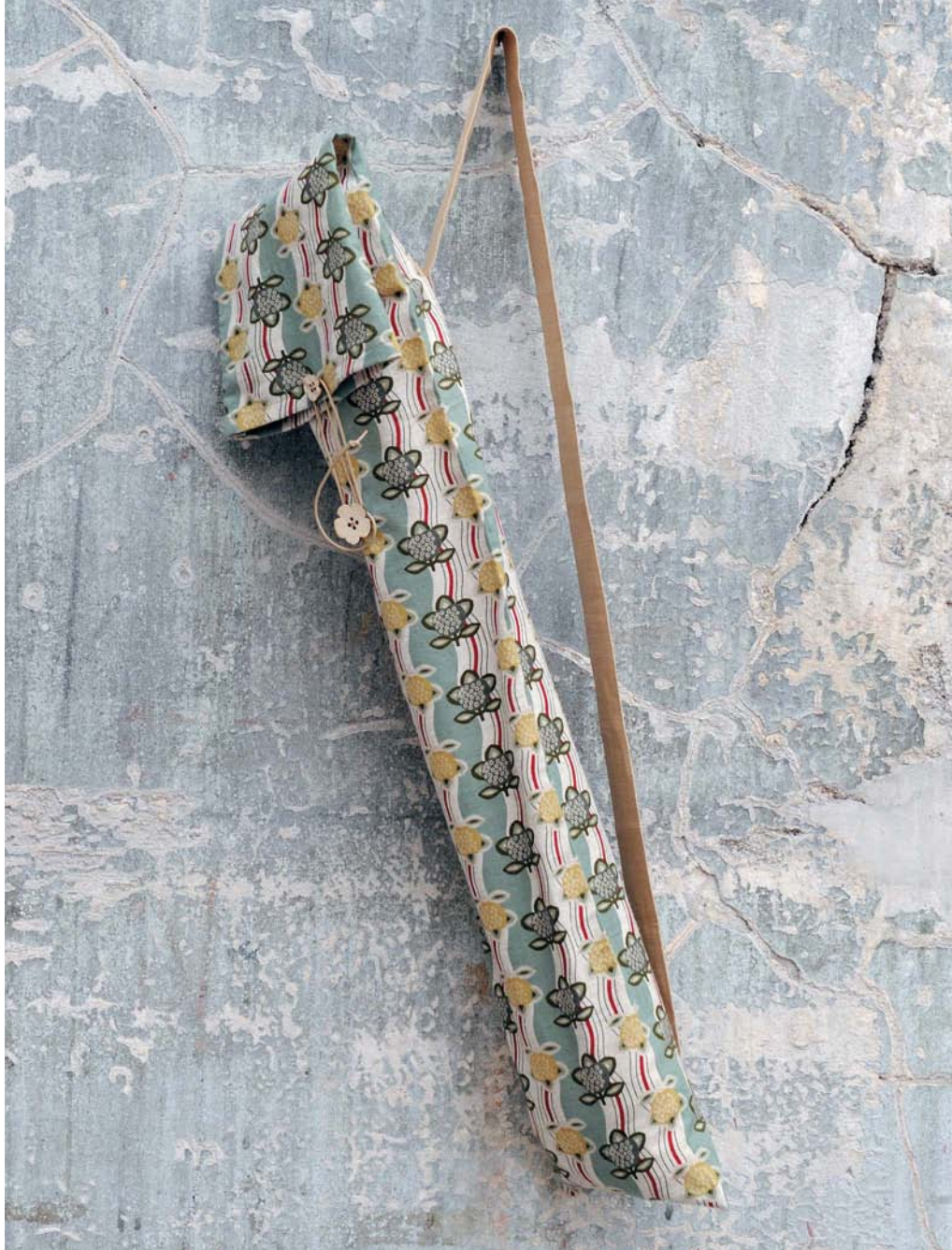












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Japanese terms

Azuma-bukuro: Bag constructed starting with a rectangle of cloth.

Bento: A boxed lunch, either store-bought or prepared at home, containing a variety of foods.

Biwa: Traditional Japanese musical instrument, related to the lute, originating in East Asia.

Cha-kago: *Cha* means tea; *kago* means basket. You can put all the elements of the traditional tea ceremony in such a container: the tea ball (*maccha-jawan*), the spoon (*chashaku*), the whisk (*chasen*), the box of green tea powder (*natsume*), and so on.

Furoshiki: Square piece of cloth for wrapping something.

Hoso-obi: The narrow belt for a man's kimono.

Ikat: A method of dyeing fabric that involves dyeing the thread using a resist method (similar to tie-dyeing) before it is woven into cloth.

Mamé-shibori: A traditional textile pattern of small dots.

Minsa-obi: A belt from cloth dyed with traditional *ikat* techniques from Okinawa, in southern Japan. It is made of cotton dyed indigo. Its pattern can include symbolic images or patterns that women can use to communicate messages to men through their clothing.

Mongiri-gata: Openwork pattern, obtained by origami (folding paper).

Obi: The belt of a kimono. The obi is made of thick cloth.

Oshima (kimono oshima): A traditional regional *ikat* from southern Japan. It is made of silk and dyed with mud that's rich in iron.

Sashiko: A kind of decorative embroidery that served to reinforce cloth, originating in northeastern Japan. Traditionally, *sashiko* is made with white cotton thread on an indigo background. Simple stitches are used to embroider geometric or traditional motifs. Modern *sashiko* is more varied.

Shibori: Cloth that is knotted, then dyed, which leaves some spots their original white.

Sukiya-bukuro: A pocket used in the traditional tea ceremony, in which one can put one's fan, papers, handkerchief, and so on.

Tenugui: A kind of fine napkin made of white cotton cloth, printed with traditional motifs and the family name. It generally measures 35 by 14 inches.

Yukata: A kind of light summer kimono. It is generally made of cotton and is worn at baths or hot springs, for nightclothes, or for certain special occasions such as the summer festival.

The basics of sewing bags

Where to find cloth

You can make the bags in this book with ordinary fabric from your local sewing supply store. If you want to replicate a design, using the exact same cloth as pictured, you will find the suppliers and their contact information on page 2.

Some simple steps before cutting the cloth

- Wash the cloth first if there is any risk of it shrinking on the first washing (particularly true of cotton).
- Iron it.
- Lay it out on the right side.
- Find the grain of the cloth (the selvage edges should be on the right and left when the cloth is laid out straight in front of you).

Assembling the cloth

Lay the pieces of cloth on top of each other and pin them so they won't move. Baste them by hand before sewing with a machine.

Hemming

The simplest way to hem a piece is to do it first with the iron. Fold the edge to be hemmed over, then fold it over on itself again. Crease the fold with a finger, then iron it; this will allow you to sew it by machine without basting first. The measurements given in the materials lists include allowances for the hems.

Ironing the seams

Open the seams with your iron and iron them on the wrong side, separating the seam allowances and pressing them down to each side. For all the projects in this book, the measurements include seam allowances.

Useful terms

Simple hem: A hem in which the edge of a piece of cloth is folded over once and then sewn.

Double hem: A hem in which the edge of the piece of cloth is folded over twice and then sewn down. This kind of hem prevents unraveling better than a single hem.

Fuse: To put two pieces of cloth together with a piece of fusible web between them, then fix them all together by ironing all three layers.

In the glossary on the left, you'll find definitions for all the Japanese words in the following pages.

Patchwork handbag

Dimensions of finished piece:

4 1/4 x 10 in.

Materials

- 20 x 20 in. of purple cloth printed with a Japanese chrysanthemum pattern for the patchwork and the pockets
- 20 x 20 in. of black cloth printed with a Japanese chrysanthemum pattern for the patchwork
- 24 x 12 in. of solid light tan cotton fabric for the inside
- 40 x 4 in. of yellow silk for the strap
- 40 x 4 in. of blue-gray silk for the strap
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut 6 squares of 6 x 6 in. from the purple cloth. Think carefully about the pattern and what colors you want where before you cut!

Cut 4 squares of 6 x 6 in. from the black cloth.

Cut 1 rectangle 4 1/4 x 21 in. from the cotton.

Cut 1 piece 40 x 2 3/4 in. from the yellow silk.

Cut 1 piece 40 x 2 3/4 in. from the blue-gray silk.

The chrysanthemum is a traditional lucky motif and a symbol of longevity.

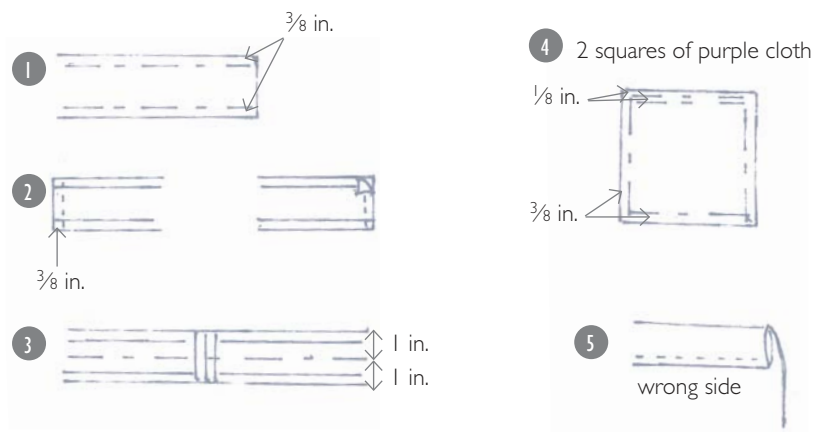
Instructions

The handle

- 1 Iron over an edge of 3/8 in. along each long edge of the two handle pieces.
- 2 Put the two ends of the pieces together; right sides together; pin them in place, then sew them together; 3/8 in. from the edge, to form one long band in a single piece.
- 3 Iron down the seams and fold the piece in two on the wrong side.

The pockets

- 4 Fold over to the wrong side and iron 3/8 in. along the bottom and sides of two squares of the purple fabric.
- 5 Iron and sew a double hem of 1/8 in. along the top edges of both pockets.



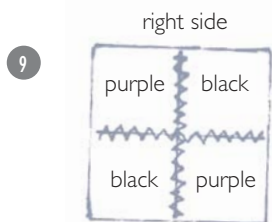
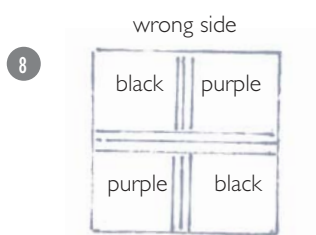
The patchwork

- 6 Put a purple and a black square together; right sides together. Sew them together 3/8 in. from the edge and iron down the seam.
- 7 Put together another two squares in the same way, reversing the positions of the two colors.
- 8 Attach the two rectangles of patchwork together; sewing along the long side 3/8 in. from the edge, to form a square. Iron the seam.
- 9 Sew over the seams with a zigzag stitch on the right side.

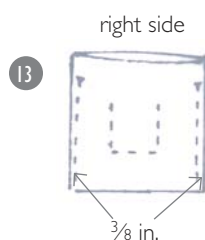
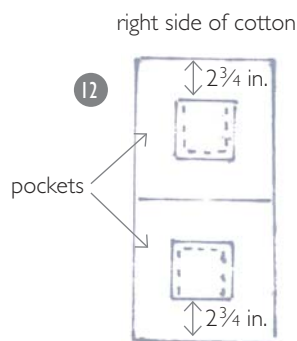
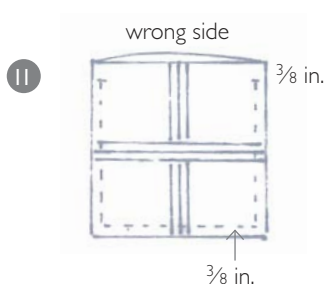
ASSEMBLING THE PATCHWORK



Patchwork handbag (continued)



10 repeat 6-9



10 Repeat all the steps to make the second square. Pay attention to the position of each pattern.

11 Put the two patchwork squares together, right sides together, and pin them. Sew the bottom and the two sides of the square, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Stop sewing $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the top on each side. Turn the bag right side out and iron the seams.

The inside of the bag

12 Pin the two pockets on the right side of the cotton, $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the two short edges, with the wrong sides of the pockets against the right side of the lining. Sew the three sides of the pockets to the lining.

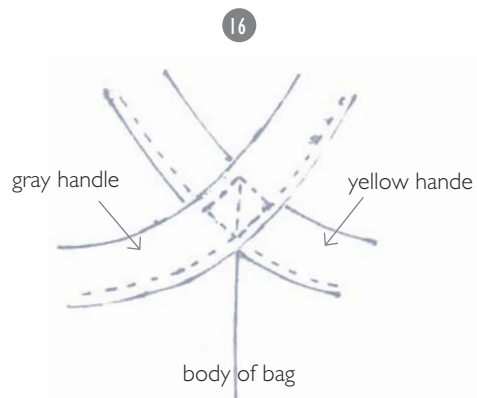
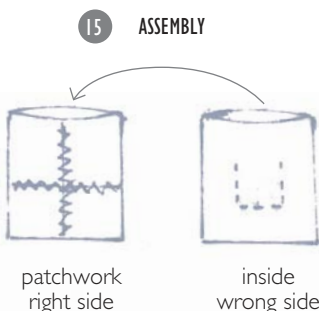
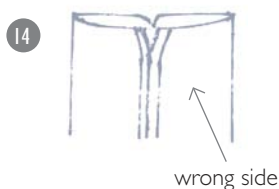
13 Fold the lining in half, right sides together, and sew the two sides, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from each edge, stopping $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the top edge on each side.

14 Iron the seam.

Assembling the bag

15 Put the inside and outside of the bag together, wrong sides together, and pin the top edge.

16 Put together and pin the two handles on the two top edges of the body of the bag, so they cross at the sides of the bag, and sew them into place.



Dimensions of finished piece:

8¼ x 8 in.

Materials

- 14½ x 24 in. *tenugui* fabric for the outside and the handle
- 10 x 20 in. of camel-colored felted wool for the inside
- 4 x 12 in. of fusible web for the handle
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 8½ x 17 in. from the *tenugui*.

Cut one rectangle 8½ x 17 in. from the wool.

Cut two pieces 6 x 8 in. from the *tenugui* for the pockets.

Cut one piece 4 x 12 in. from the *tenugui* and one from the fusible web for the handle.

Instructions

The pockets

- 1 Fold to the back and iron ¾ in. on the bottom edge and both sides of the two small pieces of *tenugui*.
- 2 Iron over onto the wrong side and sew a ¾ in. double hem along the top edges of these same pieces.

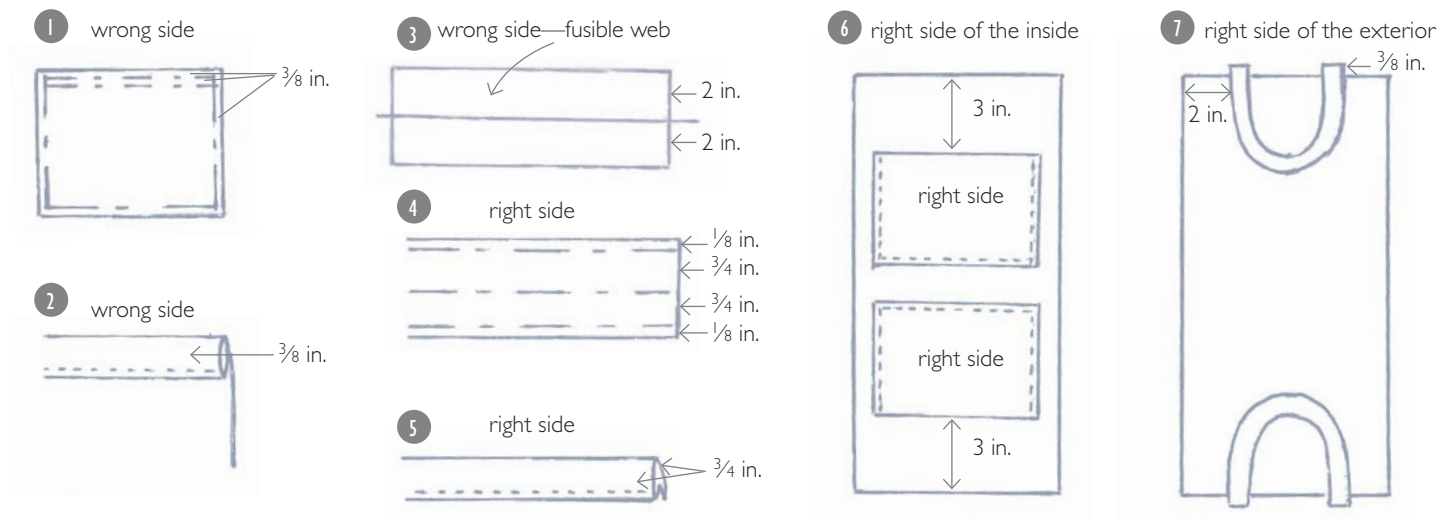
The handle

- 3 Cut the long piece of *tenugui* in half to obtain two pieces 2 x 12 in.
- 4 Iron to the wrong side a simple hem of ⅛ in. on the two long sides of each piece.
- 5 Fold the pieces in half and sew along the edge.

Assembling the bag

- 6 Put the pockets on the right side of the wool rectangle, wrong sides down. Center them, leaving 3 in. between them and the top and bottom edges. Pin in place, then sew the sides and bottom edges of the pockets.
- 7 Put the two ends of the handles on the top and bottom edges of the outside of the bag, 2 in. from each side, letting the ends stick out ¾ in. beyond the edge, and pin in place.

Put the outside and the inside of the bag together, right sides together. Sew ¾ in. from the edge all the way around the outside edge, taking care to leave a space of about 2 in. to turn the project. Turn the project right side out and close up the space with small stitches. Iron the seams, then fold the bag in half.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
8 x 12 in.

Materials

- 28 x 28 in. gray linen for the base
- 14 x 48 in. of red batiste print
- 14 x 55 in. of navy blue batiste print
- 14 x 55 in. of white batiste print
- 54 in. gray polka-dot bias tape (1 1/2 in. wide)
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut two rectangles 14 x 24 1/2 in. from the linen

Cut three rectangles from the red batiste:

A: 8 1/2 x 24 1/2 in.

D: 4 3/4 x 8 1/2 in.

G: 12 1/2 x 14 in.

Cut three rectangles from the navy blue batiste:

B: 4 3/4 x 24 1/2 in.

E: 4 3/4 x 8 1/2 in.

H: 12 1/2 x 14 in.

Cut three rectangles from the white batiste:

C: 4 3/4 x 24 1/2 in.

F: 4 3/4 x 8 1/2 in.

I: 12 1/2 x 14 in.

Cut the bias tape into four pieces (each 13 1/2 in. long).

Instructions

The outside

- 1 Fold in half and iron pieces **A**, **B**, and **C**, with the right sides out.
- 2 Pin **C** onto the linen for the outside, right sides together; 10 in. from the top edge, and sew it on 3/8 in. from the edge of **C**.
- 3 Iron the seam, folding it in the other direction.
- 4 Pin **A** along the bottom edge of the linen and **B** along the top edge, right sides together. Fold **B** underneath **C**.
- 5 Oversew all the sides with a zigzag stitch. Sew two strips of bias tape onto the right side of the outside, 8 1/4 in. from each side.

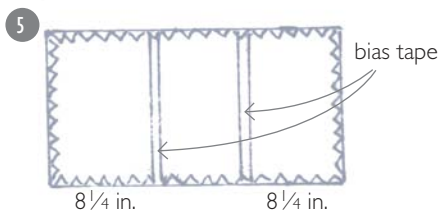
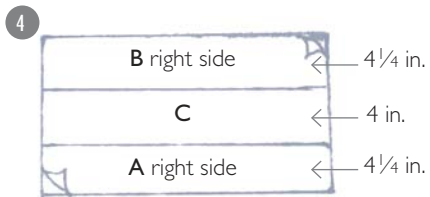
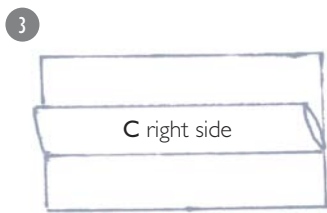
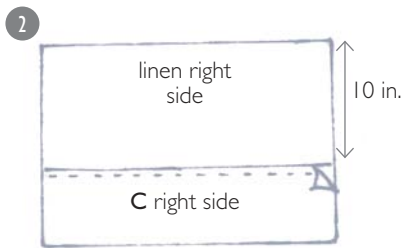
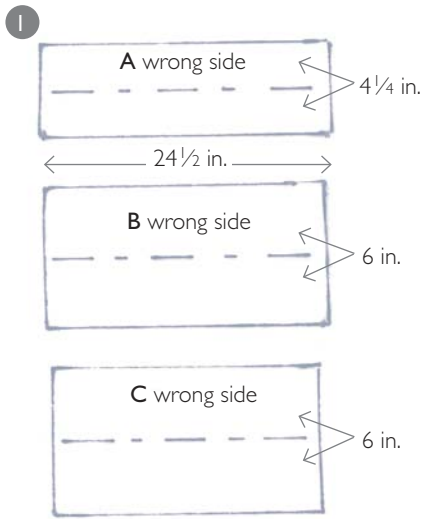
The inside

- 6 Fold pieces **E** and **F** in half with the right sides out and iron.
- 7 Pin **E** onto the linen for the inside in the bottom left corner, right sides together; and oversew the bottom edge with a zigzag stitch. Pin and oversew **F** to the top left corner in the same manner.
- 8 Fold piece **D** in half, long sides together; and sew 3/8 in. from the long edge. Turn the piece inside out and iron it to flatten it.
- 9 Place **D** on the linen, right sides together; between **E** and **F**. Sew down the middle of the piece.
- 10 Fold pieces **G** and **I** in half with right sides out.
- 11 Place **G** over the part already sewed, with the edge projecting past it toward the center of the piece, and sew along this edge (3/8 in. from the edge).
- 12 Fold **G** back in the other direction and iron. Pin **I** to the opposite side.
- 13 Fold **H** in half with the right side out and sew along the long side, 3/8 in. from the edge. Turn the piece inside out and iron to flatten it.
- 14 Place **H** on the linen, right sides together; between **G** and **I**, and sew down the middle of **H**.
- 15 Oversew around the entire outer edge with zigzag stitches.

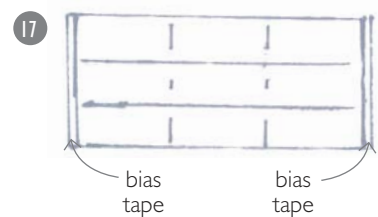
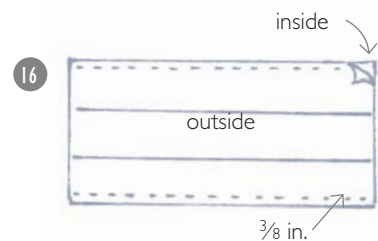
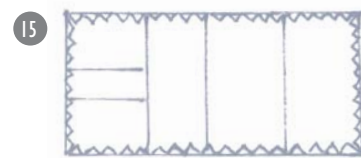
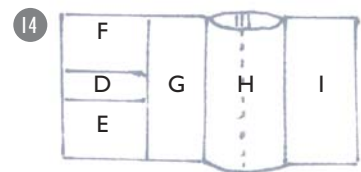
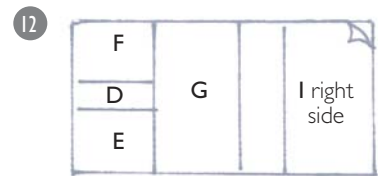
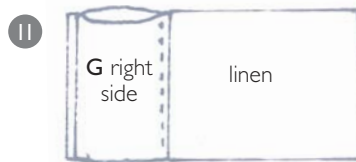
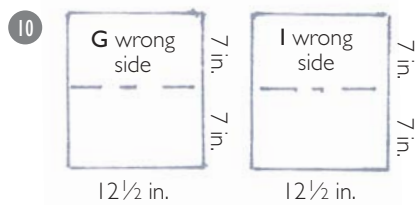
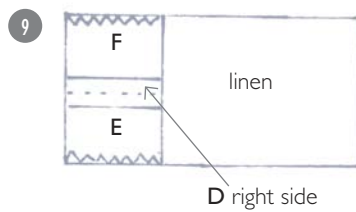
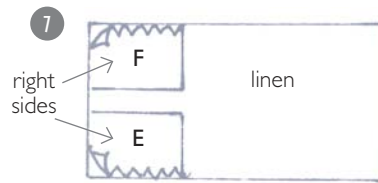
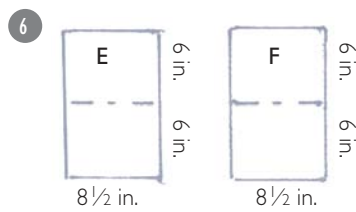
Assembly

- 16 Put the inside and the outside together, right sides together; and sew along the two long sides, 3/8 in. from the edge. Turn the piece and iron the seams.
- 17 Sew the remaining two strips of bias tape along the short sides of the pocketbook. Fold the piece in thirds.

OUTSIDE



INSIDE



Dimensions of the finished piece:
4 x 4 in.

Materials

- 20 x 8 in. Japanese fabric with traditional motifs
- $4\frac{3}{4}$ x 12 in. red linen for the inside
- 4 in. of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide red grosgrain ribbon
- 2 in. of leather ribbon
- 1 button $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in diameter
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle $4\frac{3}{4}$ x 12 in. from the Japanese fabric.

Cut one rectangle $4\frac{3}{4}$ x 12 in. from the red linen.

Cut two pieces 4 x 3 in. from the Japanese fabric for pockets **A** and **B**.

Cut one piece 4 x 2 in. from the Japanese fabric for the flap on pocket **A**.

Instructions

The pockets

Fold over and iron down $\frac{3}{8}$ in. of cloth along the sides and bottom edges of the two pockets. Sew a double hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along the top edges.

Fold over and iron down a simple hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along one long edge of the cloth for the flap and a double hem of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. along the other long edge.

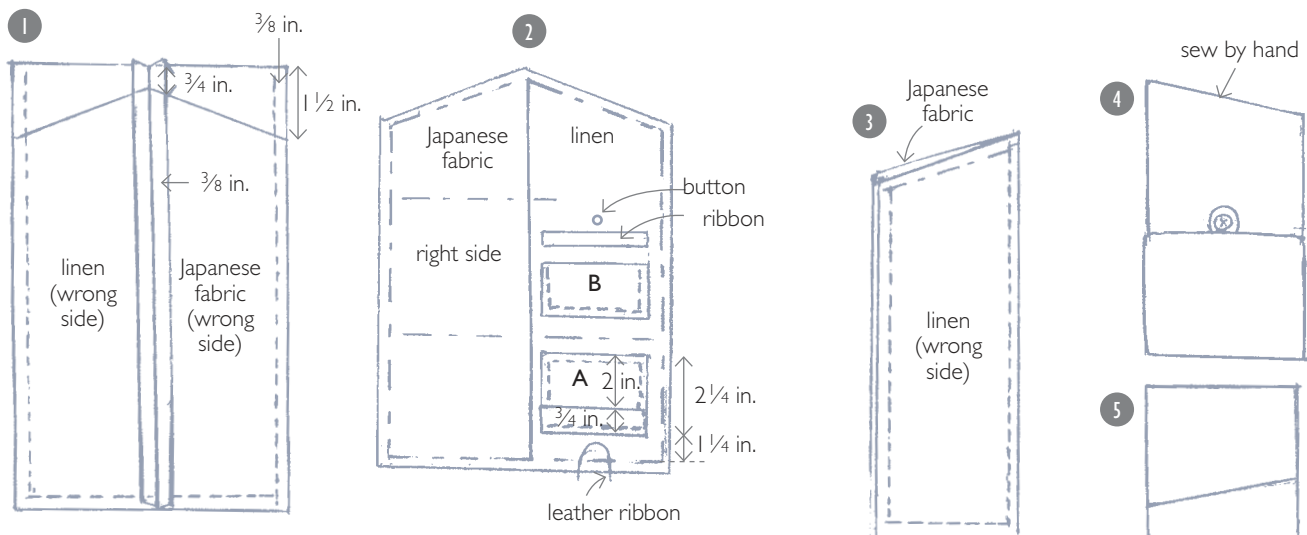
Assembling the bag

- 1 Put the cloth for the outside of the bag and the cloth for the lining together, right sides together, and sew along one long edge. Iron the seam flat. Fold over to the wrong side and iron down $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along the two sides and the bottom edge. Fold over the top edge of the bag and cut it on a slant.
- 2 Place the large part of pocket **A** on the right side of the red linen, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the bottom edge, with the hemmed edge down, and pin the sides and top edge (leave the bottom open). Pin the flap so that it overlaps the main pocket piece by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. Sew all four sides of the entire pocket, $\frac{1}{10}$ in. from the edge.

Pin pocket **B** onto the right side of the red linen, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from pocket **A**. Fold over and iron down the edges of the ribbon and sew it $\frac{3}{8}$ in. above pocket **B**. Sew the button at the top, even with the center of the ribbon.

Sew on a loop of the leather ribbon so it will go around the button to close the inner flap of the bag.

- 3 Fold the outside and the lining together again, right sides together, and sew along all sides except the top, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Turn the piece right side out and iron it.
- 4 Iron $\frac{3}{8}$ in. of cloth along the top edge to the inside, then sew it up by hand. Fold the bag in thirds and iron.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
7½ x 10 in.

Materials

- 11 x 16 in. of *oshima* kimono silk for the outside of the bag
- 11 x 16 in. of red silk lining for the inside of the bag
- 4 x 48 in. of *oshima* kimono silk for the strap
- 2 x 2 in. of silk *shibori* for the button
- One button 1 inch in diameter
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Each piece should be cut to the dimensions indicated in the materials list.

Instructions

The button

- 1 Put the button in the center of the square of *shibori* and trace the outline. Sew by hand ⅛ in. outside of the traced circle. Center the button in the middle of the piece of *shibori* and glue it down. Pull on the thread to cover the button with the cloth.

Note: This button is for decoration only; you can omit it if you want to wear the bag under your clothes.

The strap

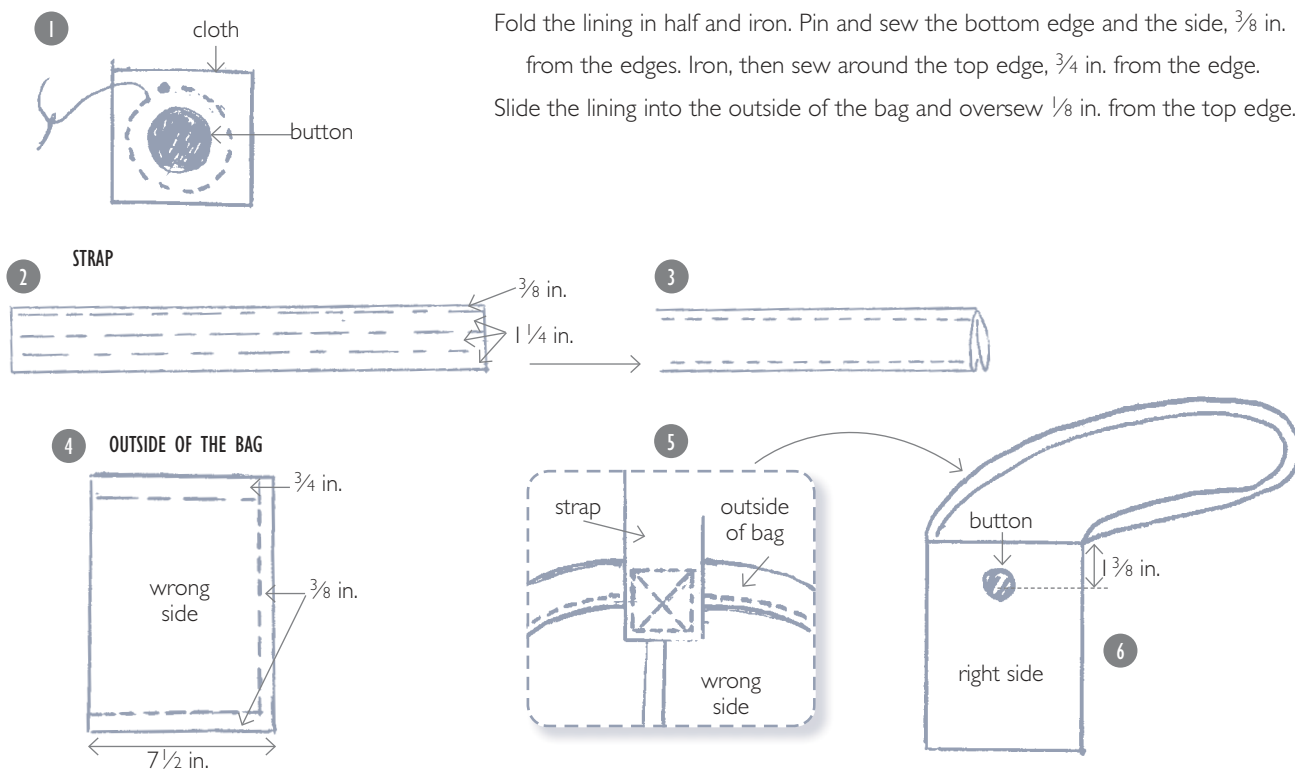
- 2 Iron down a triple hem of 1¼ in., then a single hem of ⅜ in.
- 3 Sew along the two long edges.

The outside

- 4 Fold the *oshima* kimono fabric in half and iron it. Pin and sew the bottom edge and the side, ⅜ in. from the edges. Sew around the top edge, ¾ in. from the edge.
- 5 Attach the two ends of the strap to the sides of the bag, on the wrong side of the fabric.
- 6 Sew the button to the outside of the bag, 1⅜ in. from the top edge.

The inside

Fold the lining in half and iron. Pin and sew the bottom edge and the side, ⅜ in. from the edges. Iron, then sew around the top edge, ¾ in. from the edge. Slide the lining into the outside of the bag and oversew ⅛ in. from the top edge.



Knitting needle roll

The **rabbit** is a symbol of good luck; this "messenger of the moon" assures success. The **crane** is a symbol of longevity.

Dimensions of the finished piece:
12½ x 19 in.

Materials

- 13 x 43 in. of *tenugui* printed with a crane (or rabbit) pattern for the outside and the pockets
- 16 x 20 in. of gray corduroy for the inside of the roll
- 24 in. of grosgrain ribbon ⅝ in. wide
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 13 x 20 in. from the *tenugui*

Cut one rectangle 13 x 20 in. from the corduroy.

Cut four pieces from the *tenugui* for the pockets:

- A** 4 x 4¾ in. (for scissors)
- B** 6 x 6 in. (for crochet hooks)
- C** 4 x 8 in. (for circular needles)
- D** 6 x 8 in. (for straight needles)

Instructions

The pockets

- 1 Fold to the back and iron down ⅜ in. around the two sides and the bottom of each pocket.
- 2 Sew a double hem of ⅜ in. along the top edge of each piece. Fold to the back and iron the two corners of piece **A**, then cut off the corners as illustrated.
- 3 With the remaining side flaps folded back, the bottom edge of **A** should come to a point.

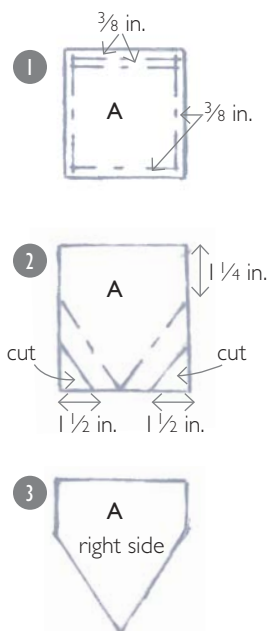
The roll

- 4 Put the two rectangles together, right side to right side. Pin, then sew one of the long sides, ⅜ in. from the edge.
- 5 Iron the seam. Fold to the back and iron the two short edges of the new piece (formerly the remaining long edges of the separate pieces).
- 6 Pin the four pockets onto the right side of the corduroy as indicated in the drawing, then sew them on. Sew vertical seams on **B** and **D** every ¾ in.

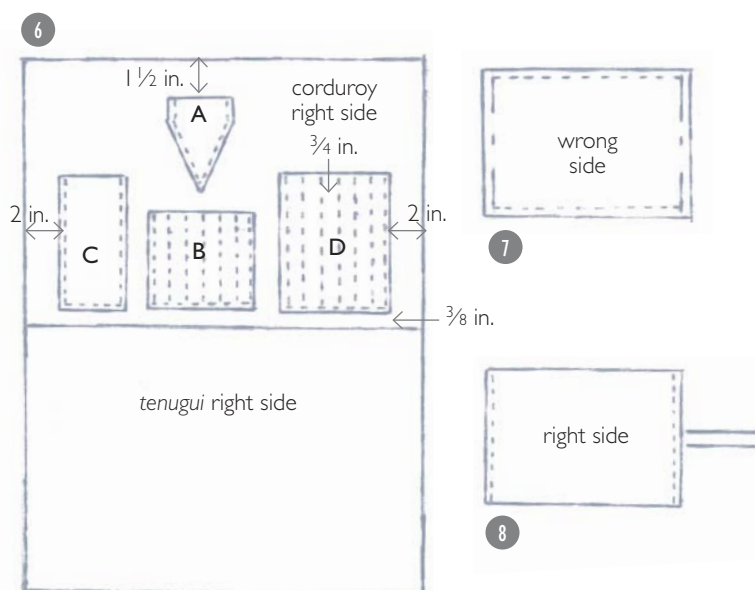
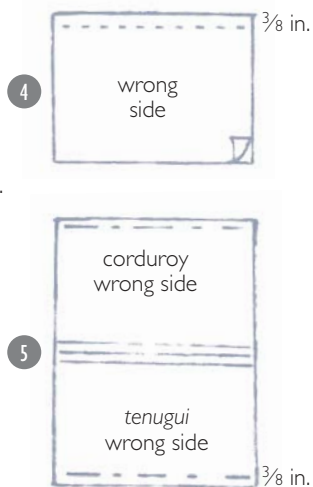
Assembly

- 7 Fold the two rectangles together, right sides together, and pin them. Sew along the long side, ⅜ in. from the edge. Fold over and iron down a simple hem of ⅜ in. along the two short sides.
- 8 Turn the piece right side out and iron the seams. Pin the end of the ribbon between the corduroy and the fabric for the outside, in the center of the right edge. Sew along the two short sides. Roll the piece up and use the ribbon to close it.

MAKING THE POCKETS



MAKING THE ROLL



Calabash sewing kit

Calabash: traditional symbol, brings luck in the areas of health and business.

Instructions

The extra elements

- 1 Iron the fusible web to the wrong side of the linen. Cut the piece to obtain a 6 in. square and a rectangle 2 in. by 6 in.
- 2 Iron the fusible web to the wrong side of the cotton.
- 3 Fold both squares in half with the right sides on the inside, and cut a calabash shape out of each of them, using the pattern from page 64.
- 4 From the smaller piece of linen and fusible web, cut one circle 1 1/4 in. in diameter (for the pincushion) and one 1 1/2 in. in diameter (for the flat pincushion).

The inside

- 5 Open the piece for the inside (the cotton) and lay it out with the right side facing up. Make a cut 2 3/4 in. long in the middle of the left side of the piece. Sew around this opening with the buttonhole stitch.
- 6 Place the larger circle on the lower part of the right side of the piece, with the right side of the fabric up, and sew around the outside with a zigzag stitch. Place the smaller circle on the upper part of the right side of the piece, with the right side of the fabric up, and sew almost all the way around it with a zigzag stitch, leaving a small opening. Use this opening to stuff the pincushion with fiberfill, then stitch it closed.

The outside

- 7 Fold the small piece of ribbon in half and pin it to the top of the left side of the outside piece (with the wrong side of the linen piece up). Pin the longer piece of ribbon to the inner left edge of the right side of the piece, as shown in the drawing.

Assembling the piece

- 8 Put the inside and outside together, with the wrong sides together, and oversew around the edges with a zigzag stitch.
- 9 Thread the end of the ribbon through the hole of the button and knot the end of the ribbon once to keep it from sliding off. Wrap the ribbon around the middle of the piece like a belt.

Dimensions of the finished piece:

5 x 2 3/4 in.

Materials

- 6 x 8 in. of tan linen for the outside and the two pincushions
- 6 x 6 in. of plum cotton for the inside
- 6 x 14 in. of fusible web
- 15 in. of plum lacing or thin ribbon
- Pattern from page 64
- Patterns for two circles: one 1 1/4 in. in diameter; the other 1 1/2 in. in diameter
- One button 1/2 in. in diameter
- A small amount of fiberfill
- Sewing thread

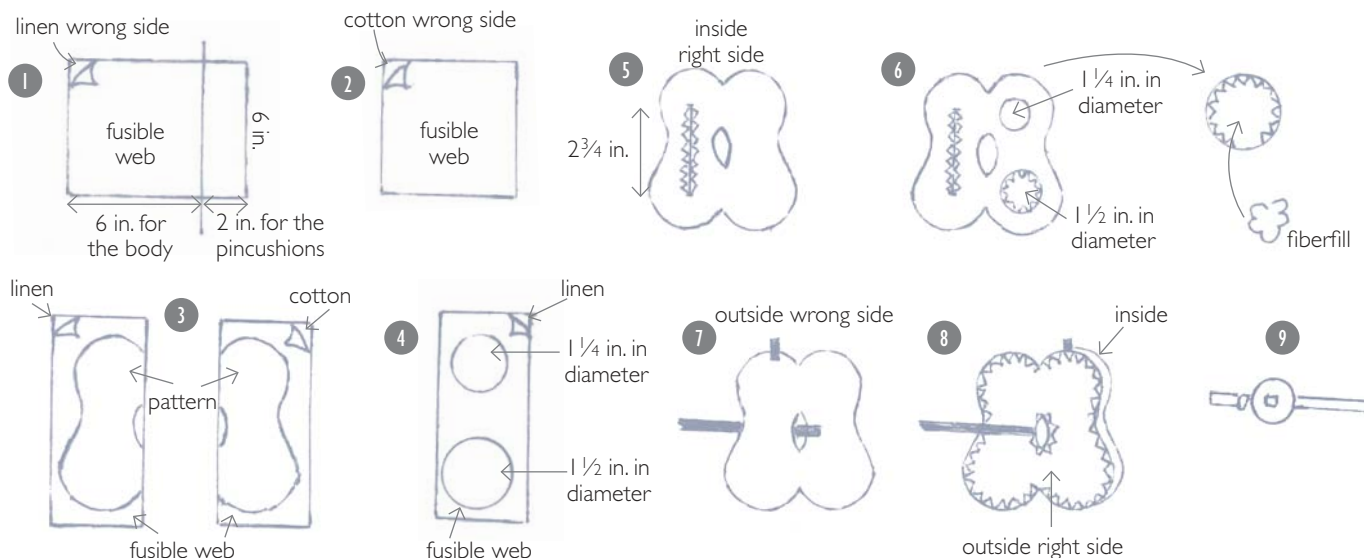
Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 6 x 8 in. and one square 6 x 6 in. from the fusible web.

Cut one rectangle 6 x 8 in. from the linen for the outside and the two pincushions

Cut one square 6 x 6 in. from the cotton for the inside.

Cut 14 in. of lacing for the closure and 1 1/4 in. for the tip.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
8 x 11 in.

Materials

- 8 x 30 in. of *yukata* fabric
- 4 x 24 in. of viscose rayon fabric
- 30 in. of grosgrain ribbon (3/8 in. wide)
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut each fabric to the size indicated in the materials list; no further cutting is required.

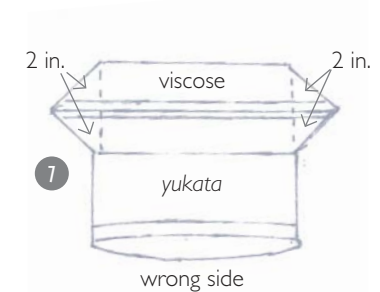
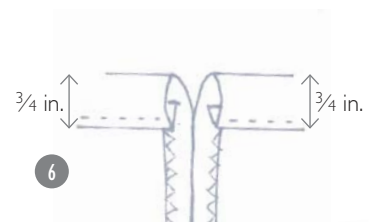
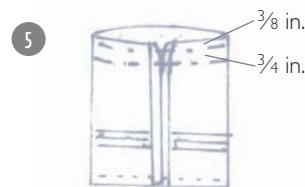
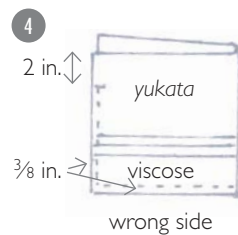
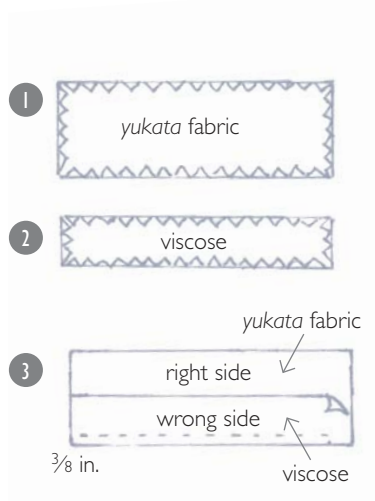
Instructions

Assembling the pieces

- 1 Oversew around the outside edge of the piece of *yukata* fabric with zigzag stitches.
- 2 Oversew around the piece of viscose with zigzag stitches.
- 3 Put the two rectangles together; right sides together; pin, then sew along the long edge, 3/8 in. from the edge.
- 4 Open up the piece and iron the seam, then fold the piece in half, with the wrong side out. Pin and sew the bottom and the side, 3/8 in. from the edge, stopping on the side 2 in. from the top edge for the casing. Iron the seams.

Finishing

- 5 Fold over and iron 3/8 in. around the top edge, then 3/4 in.
- 6 Sew around the bottom edge of the folded-over portion.
- 7 On the wrong side, sew across the two angles at the bottom of the bag, 2 in. from the points. Turn the bag right side out.
- 8 Thread the ribbon through the casing along the top edge and sew the two ends of the ribbon together so it doesn't come out. Knot the ribbon to close the bag.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
10 x 5 1/2 in.

Materials

- 10 x 12 in. of *yukata* fabric
- 4 3/4 x 12 in. of pink linen
- 24 in. of pink grosgrain ribbon
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut each fabric to the size indicated in the materials list; no further cutting is required.

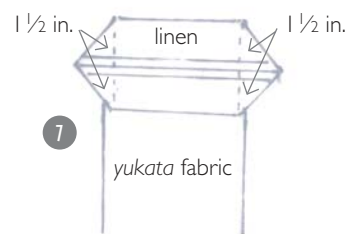
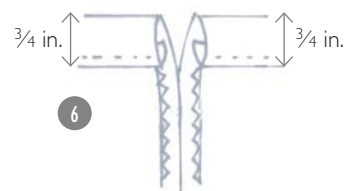
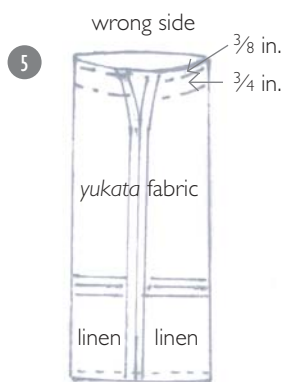
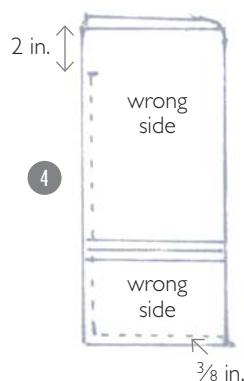
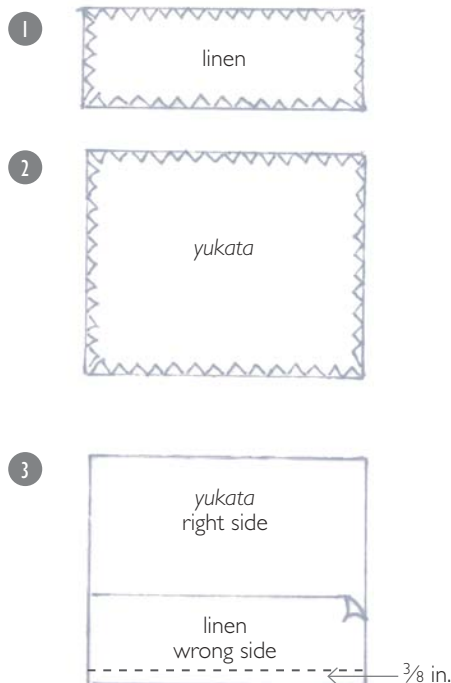
Instructions

Assembling the pieces

- 1 Oversew around the outside edge of the piece of linen with zigzag stitches.
- 2 Oversew around the piece of *yukata* fabric with zigzag stitches.
- 3 Put the two rectangles together; right sides together; pin, then sew along the long edge, 3/8 in. from the edge.
- 4 Open up the piece and iron the seam, then fold the piece in half, with the wrong side out. Pin and sew the bottom and the side, 3/8 in. from the edge, stopping on the side 2 in. from the top edge for the casing. Iron the seams.

Finishing

- 5 Fold over and iron 3/8 in. around the top edge, then 3/4 in.
- 6 Sew around the bottom edge of the folded-over portion.
- 7 On the wrong side, sew across the two angles at the bottom of the bag, 1 1/2 in. from the points. Turn the bag right side out.
- 8 Thread the ribbon through the casing along the top edge and sew the two ends of the ribbon together so it doesn't come out. Knot the ribbon to close the bag.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
16 x 16½ in.

Materials

- 4¾ x 35 in. of *tenugui* printed with a *mamé-shibori* pattern for the outside
- 4¾ x 35 in. of red patterned batiste for the inside
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut each fabric to the size indicated in the materials list; no further cutting is required.

Instructions

For the outside

- 1 Bring together the two sides marked with an ○ on the diagram, with right sides together. Pin them, then sew, ⅜ in. from the edge. Do the same with the two sides marked with a ▽ on the diagram. Open the piece to obtain two interlocking triangles (see drawing for step 3).

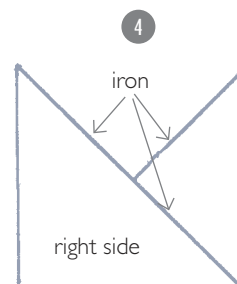
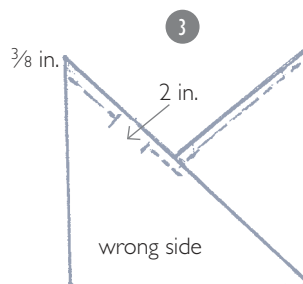
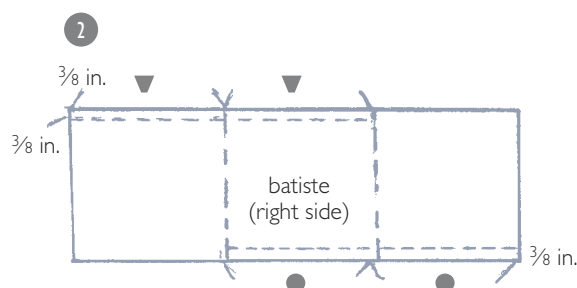
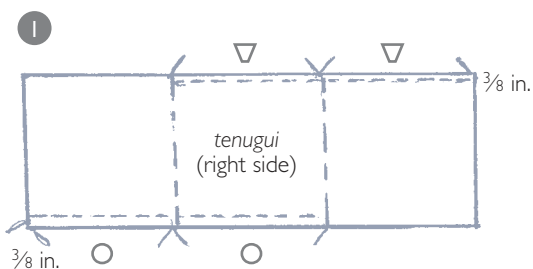
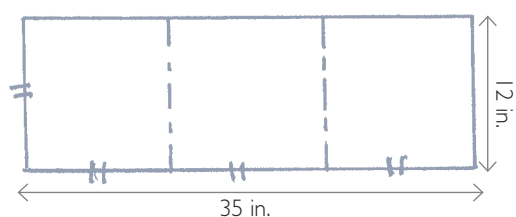
For the inside

- 2 Bring together the two sides marked with a ● on the diagram, right sides together. Pin and sew along the edge, ⅜ in. from the edge. Repeat with the two sides marked with a ▼. Open the piece to obtain two interlocking triangles, as before.

Assembly

- 3 Open the outside of the bag and slide the inside into it, right side to right side. Pin the pieces, then sew along the edge, ⅜ in. from the edge, leaving an opening of 2 in. to turn the piece.
- 4 Turn the piece right side out and hand sew the opening closed. Iron all the seams.

ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM



Dimensions of the finished piece:
20 x 21 in.

Materials

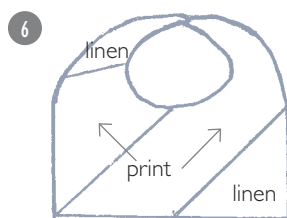
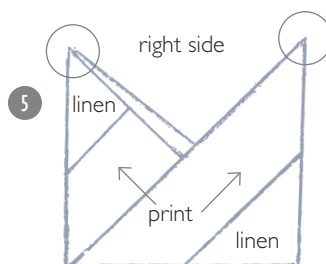
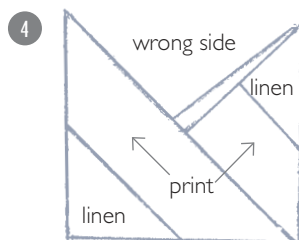
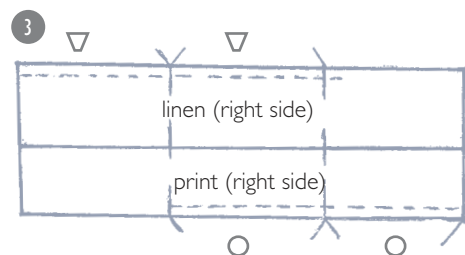
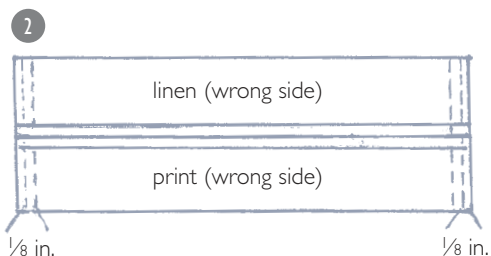
- 8 x 40 in. of Japanese fabric printed with flowers
- 8 x 43 in. of gold linen
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut each fabric to the size indicated in the materials list; no further cutting is required.

Instructions

- 1 Oversew the two long sides of each piece with zigzag stitches. Put the two pieces together, right sides together, and sew along one of the long edges, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge.
- 2 Open the piece and iron the seam. Iron, then sew a double hem on each of the short ends of this rectangle.
- 3 Bring together the two sides marked with an $\bigcirc$, right sides together. Pin and sew, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Do the same with the two sides marked with a ∇ .
- 4 Turn the piece to form two interlocking triangles, with the right side of the fabric on the inside. Fold over and iron $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along the whole top edge, then sew this simple hem.
- 5 Turn the piece right side out and iron all the seams.
- 6 To make the handle, bring together the two points and sew them together as shown in the bottom right diagram.



Biwa shoulder bag

Dimensions of the finished piece:
25 x 11 in.

Materials

- 12 x 51 in. gold felt for the outside
- 18 x 51 in. olive felt for the inside and the sides
- 8 x 43 in. printed Japanese fabric for the decorative stripe, the pockets, and the bow
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut out the pattern from page 64 from the piece of gold fabric folded double.

Cut the same shape from the olive fabric.

Cut a piece of olive fabric $5\frac{1}{2} \times 24\frac{1}{2}$ in. for the sides.

Cut two pieces $2\frac{1}{4} \times 25$ in. from the Japanese print for the stripe.

Cut two pieces of Japanese print 3×8 in. for the two ties.

Cut two pieces $6 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the Japanese print for the two pockets.

Instructions

The pockets

- 1 Fold over and iron $\frac{3}{8}$ in. on the sides and the bottom edges of both pocket pieces.
- 2 Iron, then sew a double hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along the top edge.

The sides

- 3 Fold the $5\frac{1}{2} \times 24\frac{1}{2}$ in. piece of felt in half lengthwise, and sew along the long edge, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge.
- 4 Iron the seam.
- 5 Turn the piece right side out.

The ties

- 6 Sew a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. on each of the long sides of a 3×8 in. piece of the Japanese print. Sew a simple hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. on one of the short sides.
- 7 Fold the piece in half widthwise and sew along both sides, right along the edge.
- 8 Fold over $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. on the end of the strip on an angle to form a point, and sew along the bottom edge of this triangle. Repeat these steps with the other piece for the bow.

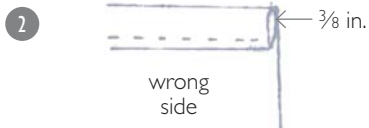
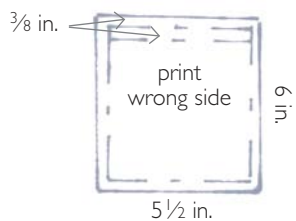
Putting the sides and the bow together

- 9 Slide the end without sewing of each piece of cloth for the bow in one end of the tube that will form the bottom and sides of the bag. Sew with zigzag stitches.

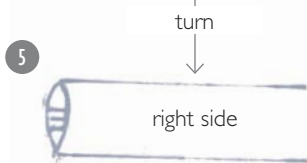
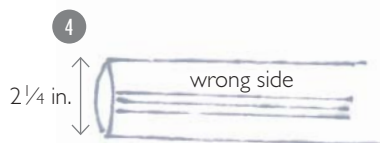
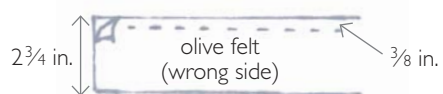
Putting the bag together

- 10 Place the two pockets in the middle of each end of the bag piece in the olive felt, right sides up. Sew the pockets on.
- 11 Put the two pieces of Japanese print for the stripe together, right sides together. Sew them together on one short end, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge, to form a strip of fabric 50 in. long. Fold over and iron down $\frac{1}{8}$ in. on both long sides of this strip.
- 12 Place the strip down the middle of the piece of gold felt, right side up, and sew along the two long sides. Press the ends of the strip to the back and sew them down.
- 13 Put the two large pieces of felt together, wrong sides together, and pin. Oversew all the way around the outline with zigzag stitches.
- 14 Fold the main bag piece so that the inside is on the inside. Pin the strip of olive felt to the sides to form the bag as shown in the diagram.
- 15 Sew the sides and main bag piece together with zigzag stitches around the outside. Tie the ties in a bow to close the bag.

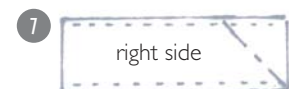
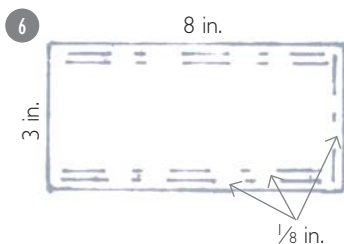
1 MAKING THE POCKETS



3 MAKING THE SIDES



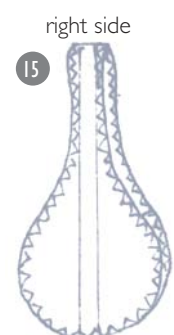
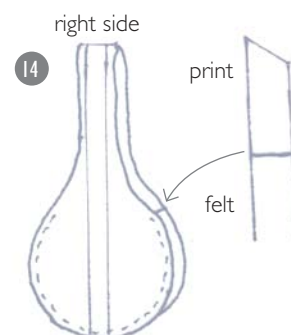
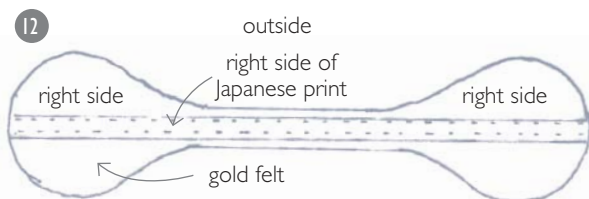
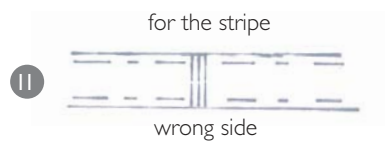
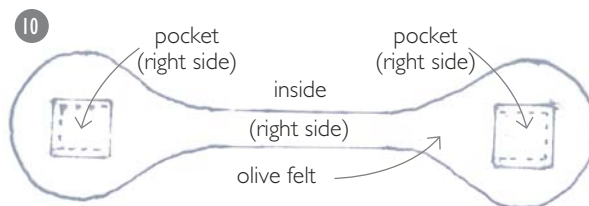
6 MAKING THE TIES



9 PUTTING THE SIDES AND THE TIES TOGETHER



10 MAKING THE BAG



Dimensions of the finished piece:

Small pocket: $7 \times 1\frac{3}{8}$ in.

Medium pocket: $8 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Materials

Small pocket

- *Hoso-obi* ($2\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide)
- 6 in. brown leather cord
- One wooden button ($\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter)
- Sewing thread

Medium pocket

- *Minsa-obi* ($2\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide)
- 6 in. navy blue leather cord
- One navy blue button ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter)
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the *hoso-obi* for the small pocket

Cut 26 in. of the *minsa-obi* for the medium pocket

Instructions

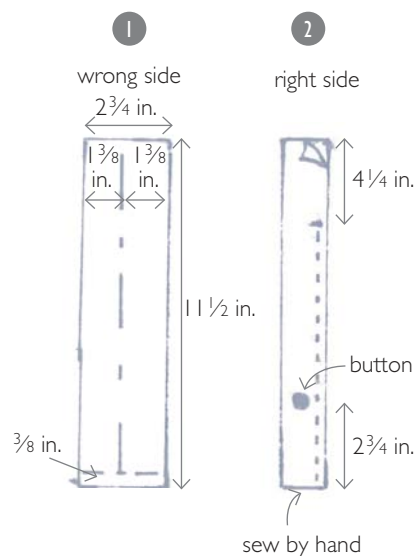
The small pocket

- 1 Iron a simple hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. to the back on the bottom edge of the piece of *hoso-obi*.
- 2 Fold the piece in half, right side out, and sew the bottom edge by hand. Sew the long side by machine, stopping $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the top edge. Sew on the button $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the bottom.
- 3 Fold over the top 4 in. for the flap. Knot each end of the cord and sew it onto the flap, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Wrap the cord around the base of the button to close the pocket.

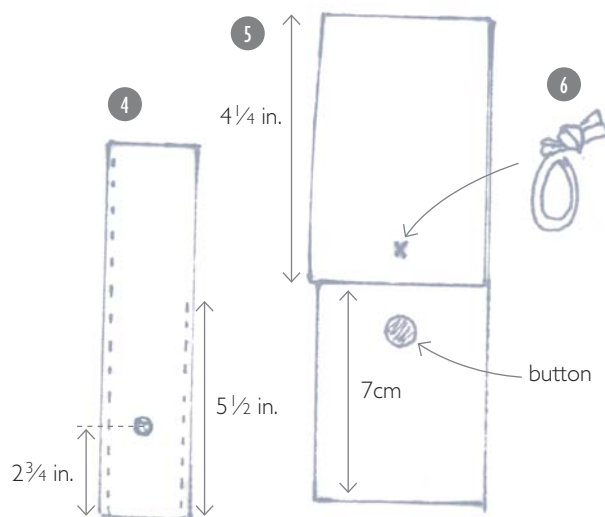
The medium pocket

- 4 Sew a double hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. on the two short ends of the length of *minsa-obi*. Fold the piece in two crosswise, with the right side out, and sew all the way along the left side, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Sew along the right side, stopping $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the bottom. Sew on the button $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the bottom edge.
- 5 Fold over the top $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. for the flap.
- 6 Fold the cord in half and knot the edge together to form a loop. Sew this loop onto the flap, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge.

MAKING THE SMALL POCKET



MAKING THE MEDIUM POCKET



Sashiko shoulder bag

Dimensions of the finished piece:
10 x 10 in.

Materials

- 12 x 24 in. blue felt
- 10 x 48 in. dark blue denim for the pocket and strap
- 6 x 6 in. fusible web for the pocket
- 10 yards beige embroidery floss for the *sashiko* embroidery
- Black Velcro circle ($\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter)
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut two circles 10 in. in diameter from the blue felt.

Fuse the fusible web to the wrong side of the denim and cut one circle $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter for the outside of the pocket.

Cut one circle $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter from the denim for the lining of the pocket.

Cut one piece $48 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the denim for the strap.

Instructions

The strap

- 1 Fold over a simple hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. to the wrong side on each side of the long strip of denim and iron down. Fold the piece in half widthwise, with the right side out. Sew along the long side and the two short sides. Embroider two lines of running stitch down the strip in beige embroidery floss.

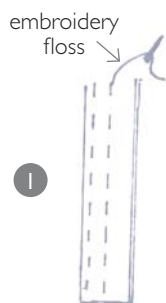
The pocket

- 2 Embroider a spiral in running stitch on the pocket, following the shape of the piece.
- 3 Place the hook side of the Velcro circle near the top on the right side of the denim lining.
- 4 Put the pocket and the lining together, wrong sides together, and sew around the edge with zigzag stitches.

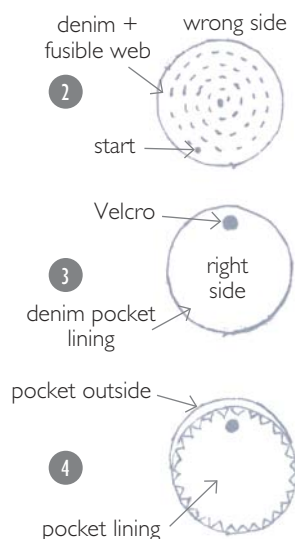
Assembling the bag

- 5 Place the pocket, right side up, on one of the circles of felt and pin in place (make sure the Velcro is on the top edge).
- 6 Sew around the edge with zigzag stitches, leaving the top 6 in. open.
- 7 Put the two circles of felt together, wrong sides together. Pin, then sew around the outer edge with zigzag stitches, leaving the top 12 in. open.
- 8 Insert the two ends of the strap and oversew them with zigzag stitches. With the beige embroidery floss, sew around the edge, just inside the seam, in running stitch.
- 9 Fold over the top part of the bag and tuck it under the top edge of the pocket to close the bag with the Velcro. If the Velcro hooks don't catch on the felt, you can add the loop side of the Velcro to the top edge of the bag where it falls under the edge of the pocket.

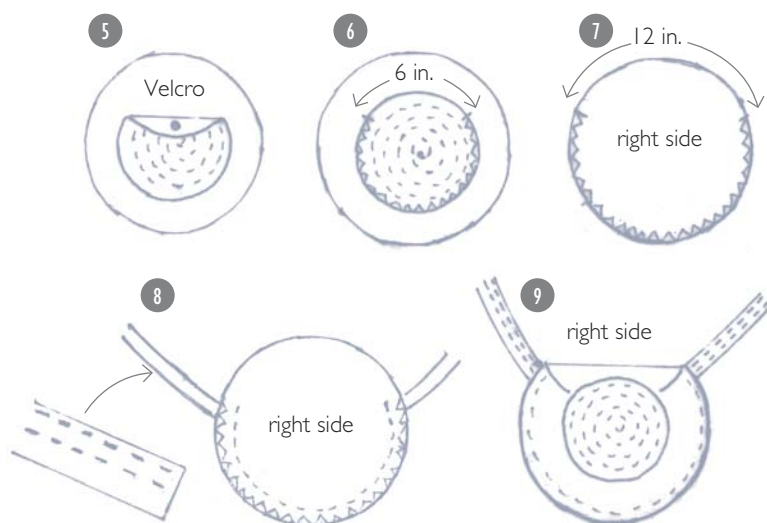
MAKING THE STRAP



MAKING THE POCKET



ASSEMBLY



Woven strip bag

Dimensions of the finished piece:
13 x 14½ in.

Materials

- 16 x 30 in. of orange felt for the outside
- 16 x 30 in. of green felt for the outside
- 16 x 25 in. cotton fabric for the inside of the bag
- 30 x 30 in. fusible web
- Pair of bamboo handles
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut the piece of fusible web in half to obtain two rectangles 16 x 30 in. and iron each to the back of one of the pieces of felt.

Cut 40 strips ¾ x 16 in. from the orange felt.

Cut 40 strips ¾ x 16 in. from the green felt.

Cut a rectangle 16 x 25 in. from the lining fabric.

Instructions

The two woven sides

- 1 Lay out 1 green strip, right side up (this will be the first weft strip). Add 20 warp strips over and under this strip, changing colors every 2 strips except for the first and last one (i.e. green, orange, orange, green, green, orange, orange . . . green, green, orange). Sew along the top edge of these strips to hold them on the weft strip.
- 2 Weave in 13 more weft strips in the same pattern (i.e. another green, then orange, orange, green, green . . .).
- 3 After the 14th strip, leave out the 4 strips on either side and weave 5 more weft strips through the 12 remaining warp strips in the center of the piece. Pin all the ends of the strips in place. Cut any ends that stick out.
- 4 Sew all the way around the edge of this piece. Put the second side of the bag together in the same way.

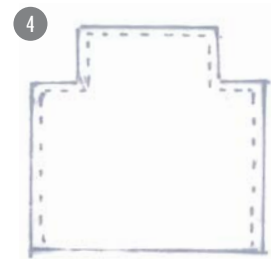
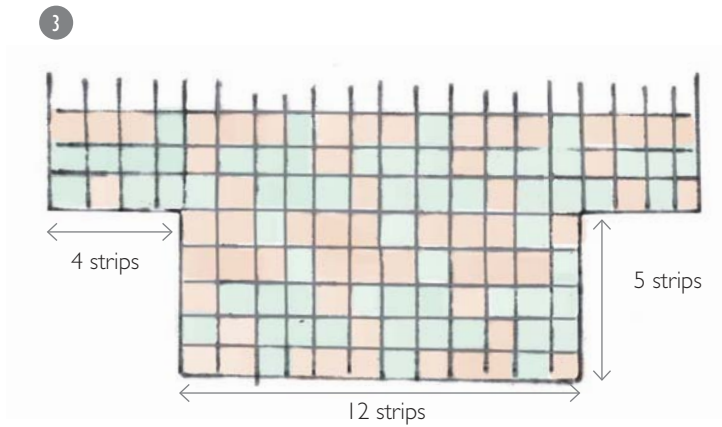
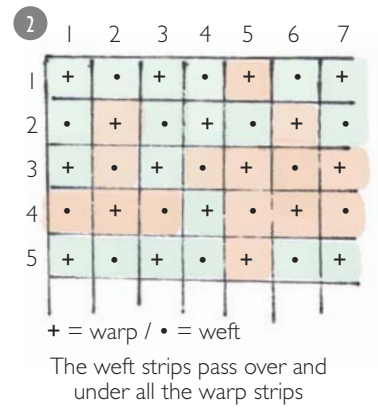
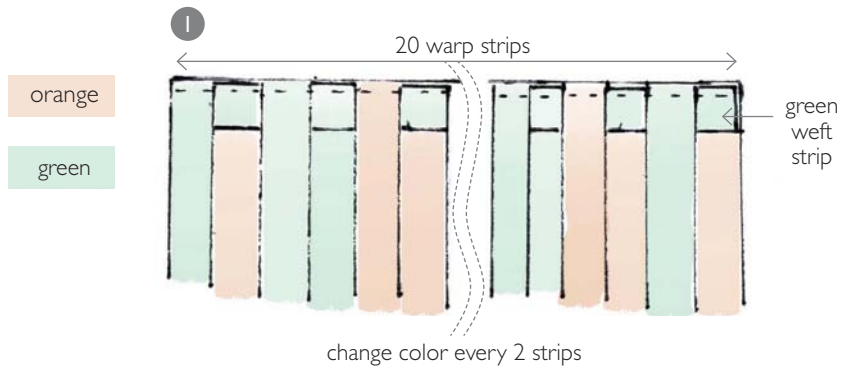
The inside

- 5 Fold the lining fabric in half with the wrong side out.
- 6 Sew the two sides, ¾ in. from the edge. Iron to the wrong side a double hem of ¾ in.

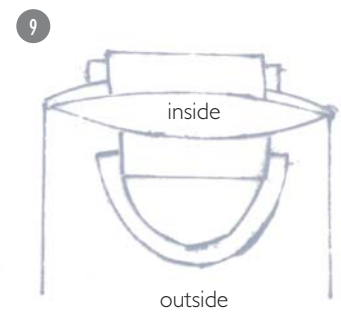
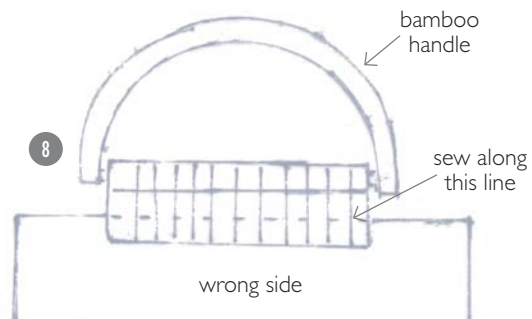
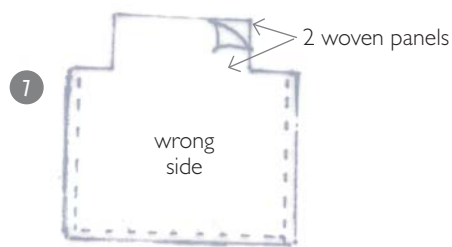
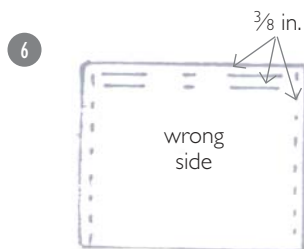
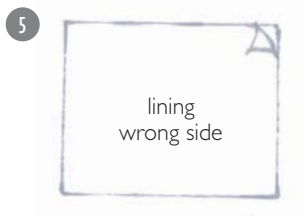
Assembling the bag

- 7 Put the two woven panels together right side to right side, and sew the bottom and the two sides. Open the seams and iron the piece.
- 8 Fold the top 3 strips along the top edge to the back on both sides of the bag. Insert a handle under each piece and sew between the 1st and 2nd strips to hold the handle in place.
- 9 Put the inside and outside together, with wrong sides together, and sew around the top edge.

MAKING THE BAG



MAKING THE INSIDE OF THE BAG



ASSEMBLY

Dimensions of the finished piece:

A: $6 \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ in.

B: $10 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in.

C: 12×10 in.

Materials

- 41 x 41 in. double-sided cotton *furoshiki* fabric (blue on right side, pink on wrong side)
- One wooden button $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter for the small bag
- One wooden button $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter for the medium-sized bag
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 12×10 in. for the small bag (A).

Cut one rectangle 20×16 in. for the medium bag (B).

Cut one rectangle 24×20 in. for the large bag (C).

Cut one piece $12 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ in. for the handle of A.

Cut one piece 16×2 in. for the handle of B.

Cut one piece $28 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ in. for the handle of C.

Instructions

The handles

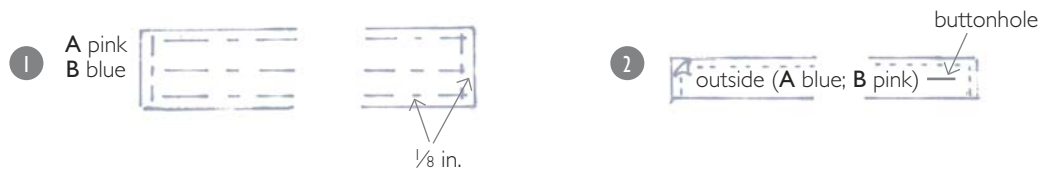
- 1 For the handle of A, iron to the back a simple hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. on each side.
- 2 Fold the piece in half, with the right side (blue) out, and sew the long side and the two short sides. Make a buttonhole $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the end. Do the same for the handle for B, but with the wrong side (pink) on the outside.

For the handle for C, iron a simple hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. on each side. Fold the piece in half, with the right side out, and sew along the long side and the two short sides.

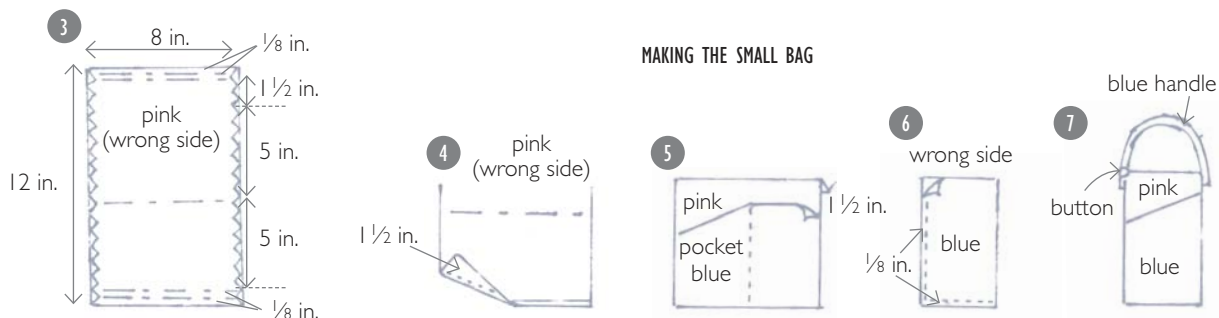
The small bag (A)

- 3 Oversew along the two long sides of the piece for A with zigzag stitches. Iron a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the wrong side (pink) on the top edge. Iron a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the right side (blue) on the bottom edge.
- 4 Fold over to the front on a diagonal $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. along the left side of the bottom edge and iron. Sew along the fold.
- 5 Fold the piece in two lengthwise, with the blue side on the outside, leaving $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the unfolded edge extending beyond the edge with the fold. Iron, then sew a seam up the middle of the pocket.
- 6 Fold in two sideways with the diagonal on the inside, and sew along the side and bottom, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. from the edges.
- 7 Turn the bag right side out and iron the seams. Sew the end of the handle without the buttonhole onto the outside, on the top of the right side. Sew the button to the top edge on the left side. Button the handle to the button to attach the handle.

MAKING THE HANDLES

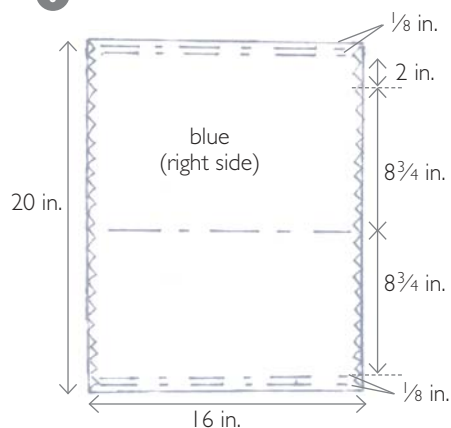


MAKING THE SMALL BAG

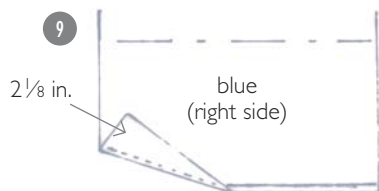


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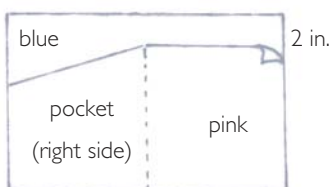
MAKING THE MEDIUM BAG



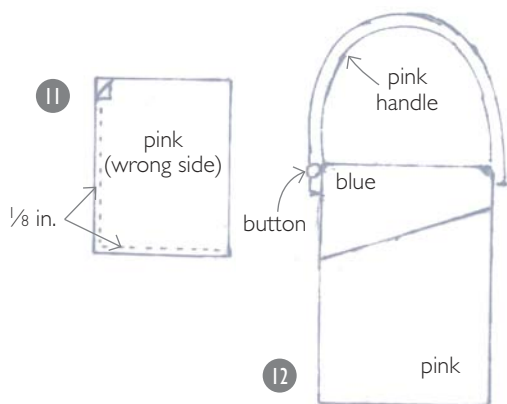
9



10



11



12

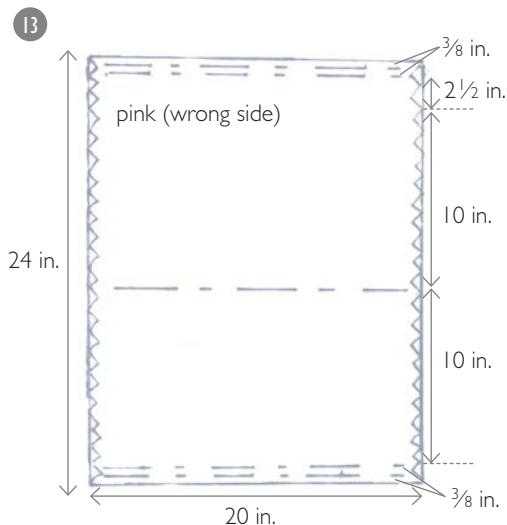
The medium bag (B)

- 8 Oversew along the two long sides of the piece for **B** with zigzag stitches. Iron a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the right side (pink) on the top edge. Iron a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the wrong side (blue) on the bottom edge.
- 9 Fold over to the front on a diagonal $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. along the left side of the bottom edge and iron. Sew along the fold.
- 10 Fold the piece in two lengthwise, with the pink side on the outside, leaving 2 in. of the unfolded edge extending beyond the edge with the fold. Iron, then sew a seam up the middle of the pocket.
- 11 Fold in two sideways with the diagonal on the inside, and sew along the side and bottom, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. from the edges.
- 12 Turn the bag right side out and iron the seams. Sew the end of the handle without the buttonhole onto the outside, on the top of the right side. Sew the button to the top edge on the left side. Button the handle to the button to attach the handle.

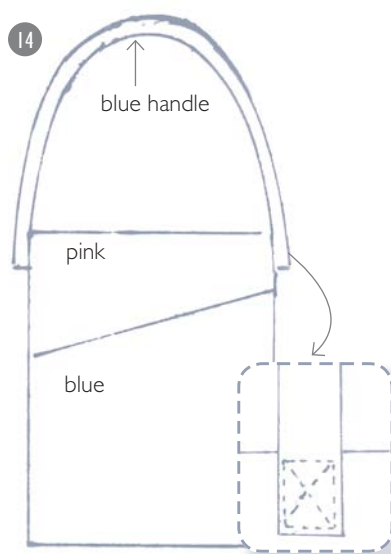
The large bag (C)

- 13 Oversew along the two long sides of the piece for **C** with zigzag stitches. Iron a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the wrong side (pink) on the top edge. Iron a double hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to the right side (blue) on the bottom edge.
- Fold over to the front on a diagonal and iron $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. along the left side of the bottom edge. Sew along the fold.
- Fold the piece in two lengthwise, with the blue side on the outside, leaving $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the unfolded edge extending beyond the edge with the fold. Iron, then sew a seam up the middle of the pocket.
- Fold in two sideways with the diagonal on the inside, and sew along the side and bottom, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edges.
- 14 Turn the bag right side out and iron the seams. Sew both ends of the handle onto the outside, on the top edge.

MAKING THE LARGE BAG



14



The **dragonfly** is a traditional symbol of success.
The **ginkgo** is a traditional symbol of longevity.
Snow is a traditional symbol of the harvest.

Dimensions of the finished piece:
6 x 8½ in.

Materials

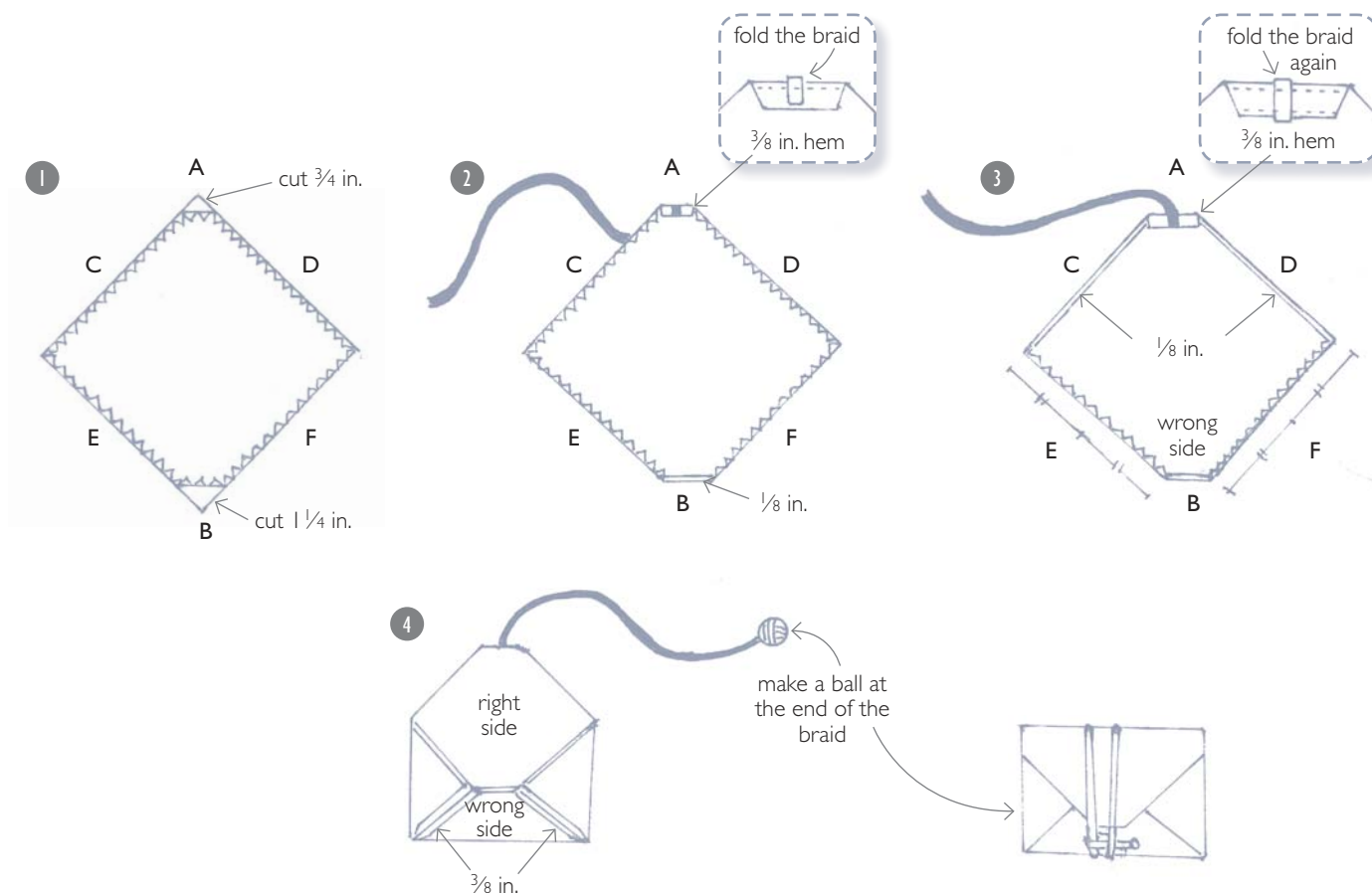
- 4¾ x 12 in. of reversible *obi* fabric with traditional patterns
- 35 in. of braided trim (¼ in. wide)
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut ¾ in. from one corner of the 4¾ x 12 in. square (A); cut 1¼ in. from the opposite corner (B).

Instructions

- 1 Oversew around the edge of the piece with zigzag stitches.
- 2 Sew a double hem of ⅛ in. on the wrong side on side B. Sew a double hem of ⅜ in. on the wrong side on side A. Sew the end of the braid to this hem.
- 3 Sew a double hem of ⅛ in. on sides C and D. Fold over ⅜ in. of fabric (and braid) along side A and sew a simple hem.
- 4 Fold sides E and F in half and sew each seam ⅜ in. from the edge. Turn the bag right side out and iron it. Make a ball from the end of the braid and sew through it several times by hand to hold it together. Close the bag by wrapping the braid around and weaving the end in, as shown in the photo on page 22.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
8 x 6 in.

Materials

- 20 x 20 in. of cotton printed with a Japanese *asanoha* (flax flower) motif for the outside and the loops
- 20 x 6 1/2 in. of fabric for the lining
- Small basket (6 in. in diameter)
- Two pieces of string 30 in. long
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 20 x 6 1/2 in. from the printed fabric.

Cut one rectangle 20 x 6 1/2 in. from the fabric for the lining.

Cut one piece measuring 20 x 1 1/4 in. and one measuring 4 x 1 1/4 in. from the printed fabric for the loops.

Instructions

The loops

- 1 Fold to the back and iron 1/8 in. along the two long sides of the two pieces for the loops.
- 2 Fold the pieces in half and sew along the long side. Cut every 2 in. for the loops (you should get twelve loops from the two pieces).
- 3 Fold each loop in half.

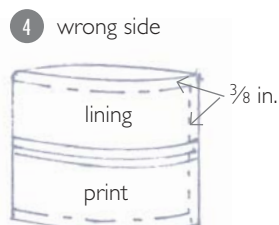
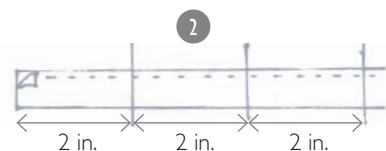
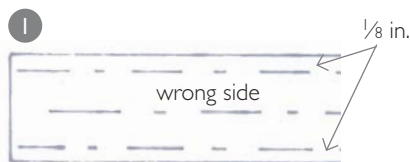
Making the bag

- 4 Put the pieces for the outside and the inside together, right sides together, and sew along the top edge. Open the piece and iron the seam. Fold to the wrong side and iron 3/8 in. along the two long sides. Pin and sew these simple hems. Iron the seams. Fold the piece in half with right sides together; pin and sew along the side 3/8 in. from the edge.

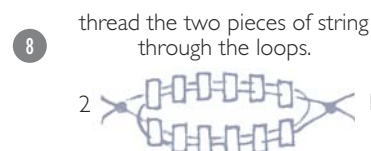
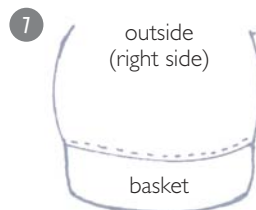
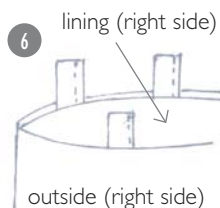
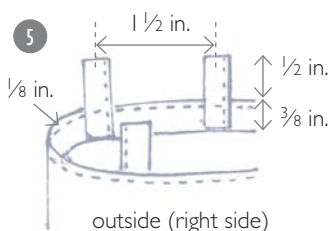
Assembling the bag

- 5 Pin a loop every 1 1/2 in. on the wrong side of the top edge of the outside of the bag. Sew around the top, 1/8 in. from the edge.
- 6 Turn the lining inside out so that it's inside the exterior of the bag, wrong side to wrong side, and iron the bag. Pin them together and sew around the top edge.
- 7 Sew the bottom of the bag to the top of the basket.
- 8 Thread the two pieces of string through the loops, crossing them and knotting them at either side of the opening.

MAKING THE LOOPS



The *asanoha* (flax flower) is a traditional symbol of good health, often used on kimonos for children.



Dimensions of the finished piece:
15 x 27 in.

Materials

- 40 x 43 in. of cotton print for the outside of the bag and the handle
- 40 x 43 in. of cotton fabric in a solid color for the inside of the bag and the handle
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 40 x 28 in. and one piece 8 x 40 in. from each fabric.

Instructions

The handle

- 1 Pin the smaller pieces of outside fabric and lining together; right sides together. Sew along each side, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge, leaving a 2 in. space to turn the piece.
- 2 Turn the piece right side out, then sew up the opening by hand. Iron the seams.

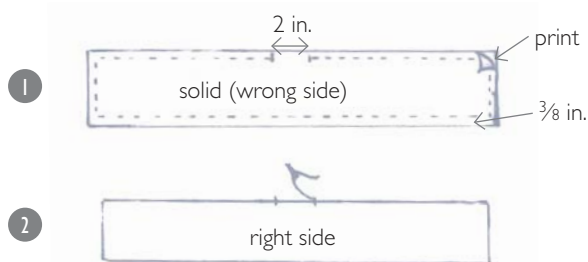
The body of the bag

- 3 Pin the larger pieces of outside fabric and lining together; right sides together. Sew along each side, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge, leaving a 2 in. space to turn the piece.
- 4 Turn the piece right side out, then hand sew the opening closed. Iron the piece.
- 5 Fold the piece in two, with the wrong side out, and sew for 10 in. along the two sides, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge.
- 6 Turn the piece right side out and make a double knot in each of the top corners.

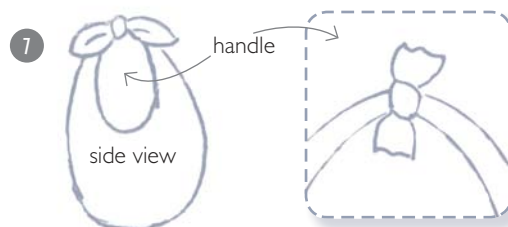
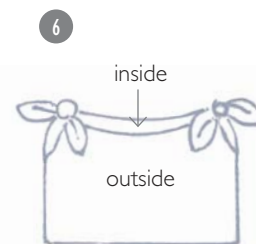
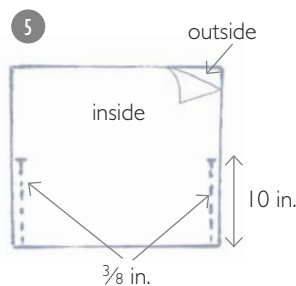
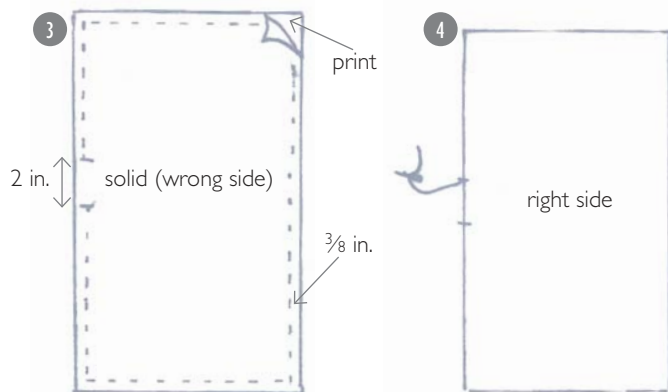
Putting the bag together

- 7 Pass the handle between the two knots and make another knot for a round handle.

MAKING THE HANDLE



MAKING THE BAG



Dimensions of the finished piece:
24 x 11 in.

Materials

- 16 x 35 in. of Japanese fabric printed with a *tachibana* motif
- 8 x 35 in. of tan linen for the strap
- Brown flower-shaped button $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter
- Brown flower-shaped button 1 in. in diameter
- 18 in. beige leather cord
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle $4\frac{3}{4} \times 30$ in. from the Japanese fabrics.

Cut one rectangle 4×30 in. from the linen.

Instructions

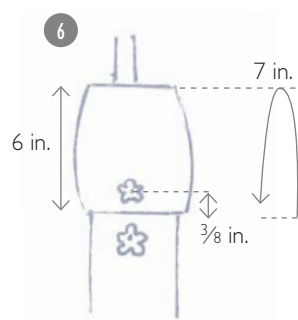
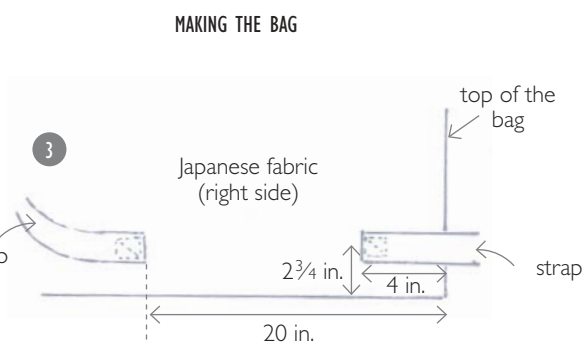
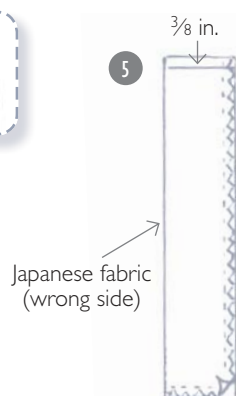
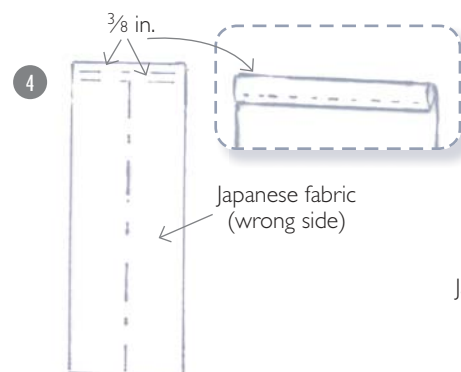
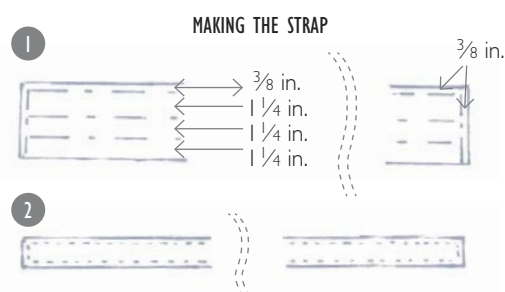
The strap

- 1 Iron a simple hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. to the wrong side on the two short sides. Iron a triple hem of $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. to the wrong side along the long side.
- 2 Sew all the sides.

The bag

- 3 Sew the strap to the right side of the Japanese fabric as indicated in the diagram.
- 4 Sew a double hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. on the top edge of the piece, on the wrong side.
- 5 Fold the piece in half widthwise, with the wrong side out. Sew the bottom edge and the long side $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge, then oversew with zigzag stitches. Turn the piece right side out and iron the seams.
- 6 Fold over the top 6 in. of the bag for the flap. Sew the smaller button to the outside of the flap, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Sew the larger button to the outside of the bag below the smaller button (when the flap is folded over), 7 in. from the top edge.

Knot the ends of the cord. Hand sew one of the ends of the cord to the inside of the bag near the top. Wrap the cord around the two buttons to close the bag.



Tachibana:
Wild orange flower, a traditional symbol of luck and longevity.

Mongiri-gata shoulder bag

Dimensions of the finished piece:

$4\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Materials

- 18 x 43 in. of black denim for the outside and the strap
- $4\frac{3}{4} \times 24$ in. of fabric for the lining
- 14 x 43 in. cotton print for the *mongiri-gata* and the strap
- $8\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ in. double-sided fusible web for the appliquéd motif
- Pattern for the appliquéd motif (page 64)
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle $4\frac{3}{4} \times 24$ in. from black denim for the outside.

Cut one rectangle $4\frac{3}{4} \times 24$ in. from the lining.

Cut one piece $4\frac{3}{4} \times 43$ in. from the black denim for the strap.

Cut one piece $4\frac{3}{4} \times 43$ in. from the cotton print for the strap.

Cut one square $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the cotton print and fuse a square of fusible web of the same size to it.

Cut one piece $4\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the black denim and fuse a $2\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. piece of fusible web to it for the fringe.

Instructions

The motif

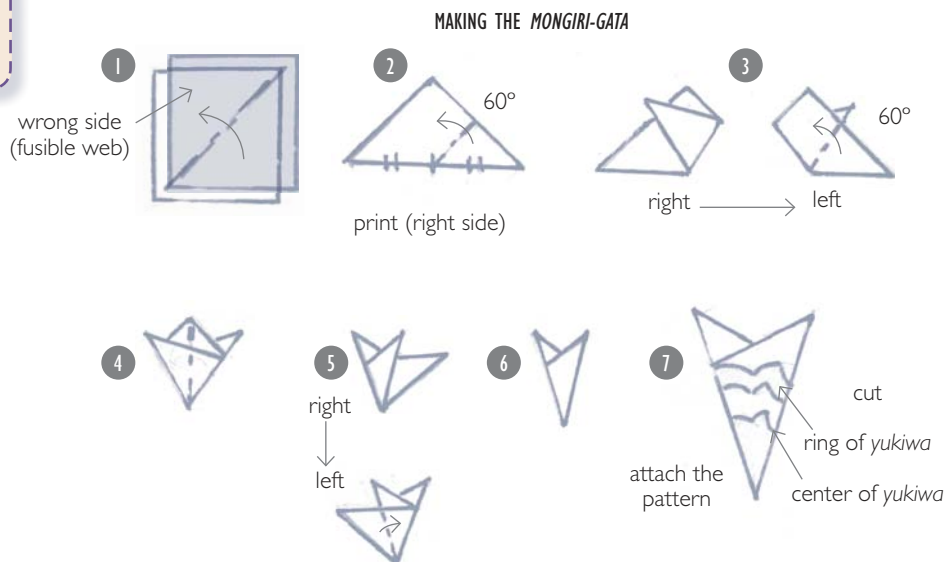
- 1 Fold the square of cotton print backed with the fusible web in half on a diagonal with the right side on the outside.
- 2 Fold the resulting triangle on a 60-degree angle.
- 3 Flip the piece over and fold again on a 60-degree angle.
- 4 Fold the triangle on the right in two.
- 5 Turn the piece over and fold the triangle on the left in two.
- 6 Attach the pattern from page 64 to this folded piece.
- 7 Cut out the two parts of the *mongiri-gata* and open the piece.

The strap

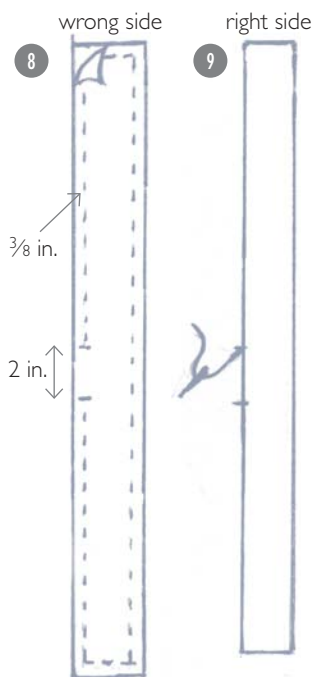
- 8 Put the strip of black denim and the strip of cotton print together; right sides together. Sew all the sides, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edges, leaving an opening of 2 in. to turn the piece.
- 9 Turn the piece right side out, hand sew the opening closed, and iron the piece.

The fringe

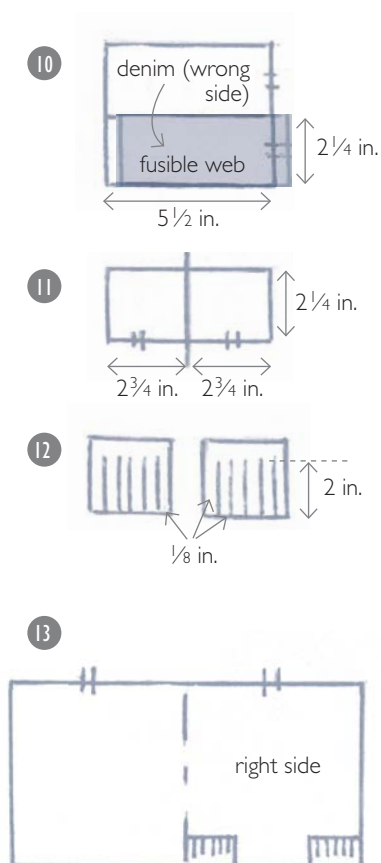
- 10 Fold the small denim square in half with the right side out and the fusible web on the inside; iron to fuse everything together.
- 11 Cut this piece in half to obtain two pieces $2\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ in.
- 12 In each piece, make cuts 2 in. long and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to create the fringes.



MAKING THE STRAP



MAKING THE FRINGE



The outside

- 13 Pin the two pieces of fringe to the right side of the denim rectangle, on the bottom edge, as indicated in the illustration.
- 14 Fold the denim rectangle in two, wrong side out. Sew the bottom and side, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge.
- 15 Iron the seams to flatten them and make a hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. around the top edge. Turn the piece right side out.
- 16 Place the *mongiri-gata* on the front of the bag and iron to fuse it in place.

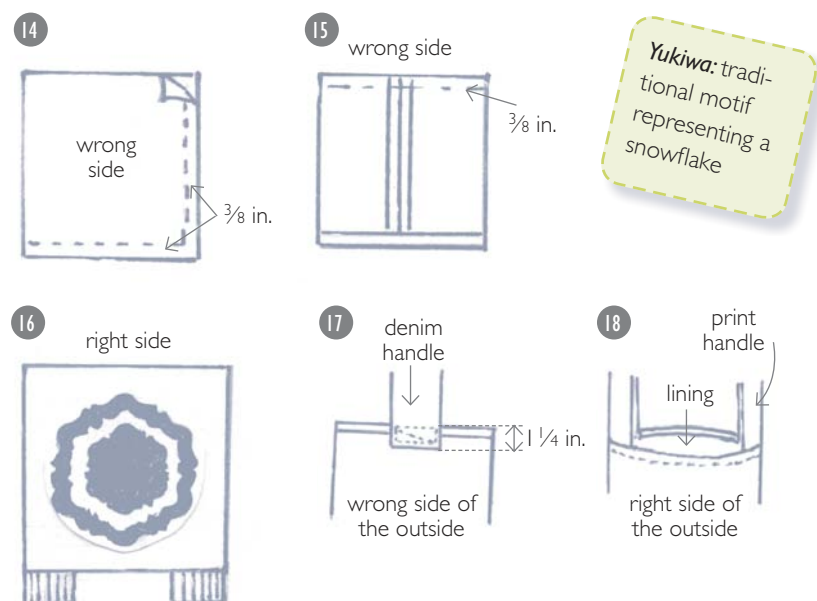
The inside

- Fold the rectangle of lining fabric in two. Pin and sew the side and the bottom edge, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Turn the piece right side out and press the seams. Iron a hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. around the top edge.

Assembling the bag

- 16 Pin and sew the two ends of the strap to the wrong side of the outside of the bag, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the edge.
- 17 Put the lining inside the bag and sew them together with a seam around the top edge.

MAKING THE BAG



Dimensions of the finished piece:
14 x 11 in.

Materials

- 14½ x 43 in. of striped kimono fabric for the outside of the bag, the strap, and the pocket
- 16 x 48 in. of pink cotton fabric for the inside of the bag and the strap
- 3 x 5 in. of thick fusible web
- 11 in. of lace, 2½ in. wide
- Fine ivory-colored silk thread
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut two rectangles 14½ x 9 in. from the kimono fabric for the outside.

Cut two rectangles 4¾ x 30 in. from the cotton for the inside and dividers.

Cut two pieces 1¾ x 24 in. from the kimono fabric for the strap.

Cut one piece 1¾ x 48 in. from the cotton for the strap.

Cut one piece 3 x 5 in. from the kimono fabric, backed with fusible web of the same size, for the shoulder pad.

Cut one piece 6 x 6 in. from the kimono fabric for the pocket.

Instructions

The pocket

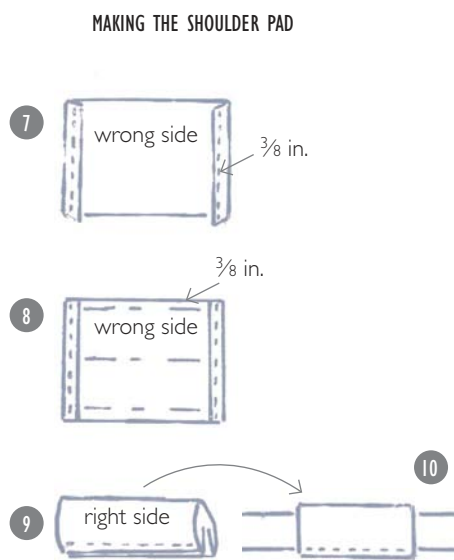
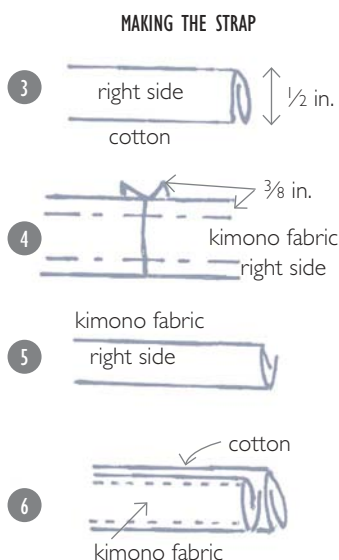
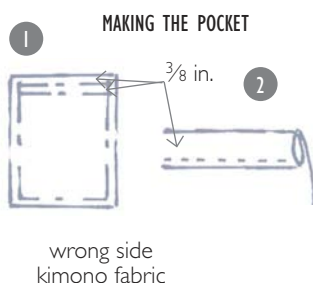
- 1 Iron to the wrong side ¾ in. along the two sides and the bottom edge.
- 2 Iron a double hem of ¾ in. to the wrong side along the top edge. Sew.

The strap

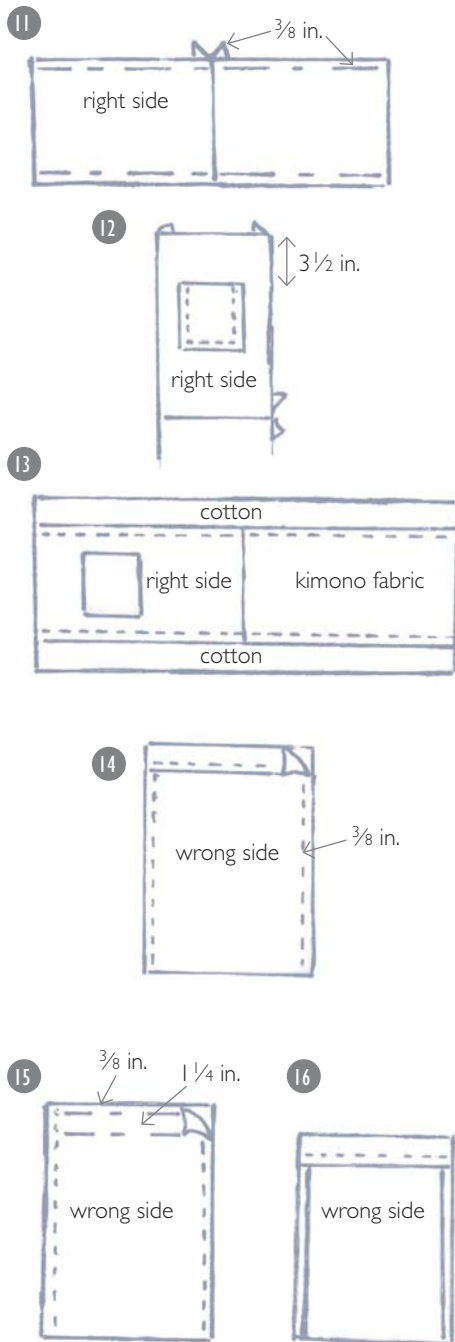
- 3 Fold the strip of cotton in thirds to form a three-layered roll ½ in. wide. Iron this piece.
- 4 Sew the two strips of kimono fabric together along one of the short ends, ¾ in. from the edge, with right sides together, to form a single strip 48 in. long. Iron the seam.
- 5 Iron to the wrong side ¾ in. along both of the long sides of this piece.
- 6 Place the strip of kimono fabric on the folded cotton strip, right sides out, and sew the strips together along the two long edges.

The shoulder pad

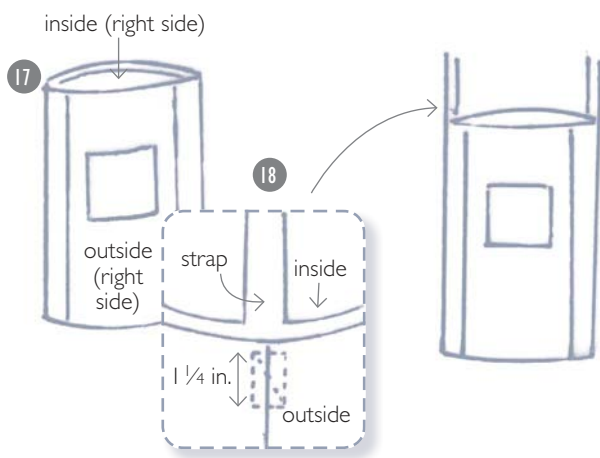
- 7 Sew a simple hem of ¾ in. on the wrong side along both short ends of the piece of kimono fabric backed with fusible web.
- 8 Sew a simple hem of ¾ in. along the top and bottom edge of this piece.
- 9 Fold this piece in two, with the wrong side on the inside, and sew along the long edge.
- 10 Slide the strap through this tube.



MAKING THE BAG



ASSEMBLING THE BAG



The outside

- 11 Put the two pieces of kimono fabric together, right sides together, and sew along a short edge. Iron the seam.
- 12 Fold to the wrong side and iron down $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along both the long sides of this piece. Pin the pocket in the middle of one side, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the top edge, and sew along the two sides and the bottom.
- 13 On the wrong side of one of the two large pieces of cotton, iron back $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along two short edges, then another $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Sew these double hems. Place the piece of kimono fabric for the outside in the middle of this piece, with the right sides of both pieces facing up. Sew along both sides of the kimono fabric.
- 14 Fold this piece in two, with the right sides in, and sew the two sides, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Turn the piece right side out and iron the seams.

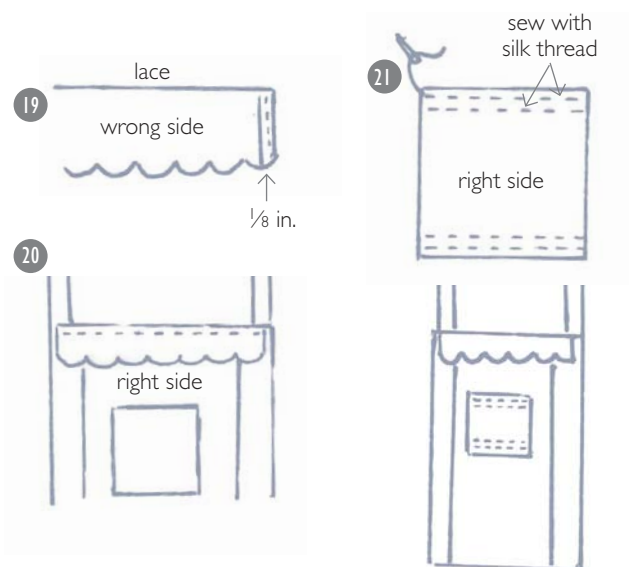
The inside

- 15 Fold the rectangle of cotton in half, right sides together. Sew the two sides, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge, and iron the seams.
- 16 On the wrong side, fold over and iron $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along the top edge, then another $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Sew this double hem.

Assembling the bag

- 17 Put the inside of the bag inside the outside.
- 18 Sew the two ends of the strap to the bag between the inside and the outside, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the top edge.
- 19 Sew a simple hem of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. on each end of the piece of lace.
- 20 Sew the lace to the top edge of the bag, on the outside.
- 21 Hand sew two lines along the top and along the bottom of the pocket with the silk thread.

FINISHING



Dimensions of the finished piece:
12 x 14½ in.

Materials

- 20 x 43 in. of cotton print for the outside and the pockets
- 16 x 24 in. of felt for the inside
- 10 x 43 in. of plum cotton for the strap
- 1½ x 43 in. of thick fusible web for the strap
- One wooden button ½ in. in diameter
- Sewing thread

Cutting the pieces

Cut one rectangle 16 x 29 in. from the cotton print.

Cut one rectangle 15 x 23 in. from the felt.

Cut one piece 9 x 14 in. from the cotton print for the inner pocket.

Cut one piece 8 x 8 in. from the cotton print for the outer pocket.

Cut two pieces 5 x 43 in. from the solid cotton for the strap.

Instructions

The pockets

- 1 For the inner pocket, iron ¾ in. to the back along the two short sides and the bottom edge. Sew a double hem of ¾ in. along the top edge. Do the same with the piece for the outer pocket.

The strap

- 2 Cut the piece of fusible web in two and iron half of it to each of the long strips of cotton for the strap, on the top edge of each piece, on the wrong side of the fabric.
- 3 Iron to the wrong side on both pieces of cotton a simple hem of ¾ in. along the bottom, then a triple hem of 1½ in.
- 4 Open up the pieces and sew them together at both ends, ¾ in. from the edge, to obtain a 42 in. loop for the strap.
- 5 Fold the loop back up along the fold lines you ironed down from the hems and sew along the long edge.

The outside

- 6 On the large piece of cotton print, iron a simple hem of ¾ in. to the back along the two long sides; iron a double hem of ¾ in. along the top and bottom edges.
- 7 Pin the outer pocket to the right side of this piece, in the middle and 3½ in. from the top edge. Sew around the sides and bottom of the pocket. Fold the piece in two, wrong sides together, on a line 11½ in. from the top edge. Mark the fold line, then unfold the piece again.
- 8 Pin the strap to the right side as shown in the diagram, 2½ in. from the edges, lining the seams of the strap up with the fold line.
- 9 Sew along both long edges on both sides of the handle along the 10 in. on both sides of the fold. End on each side as shown in the diagram.

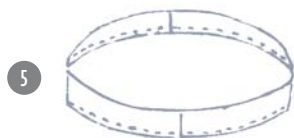
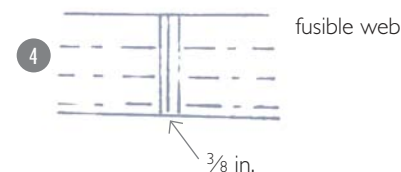
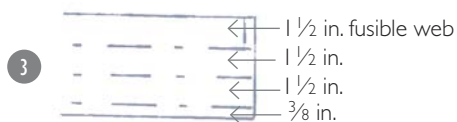
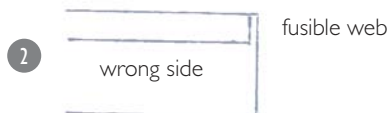
The inside

- 10 Pin the inner pocket to the right side of the piece of felt, 2 in. from the top edge. Sew the sides and bottom edge of the pocket.

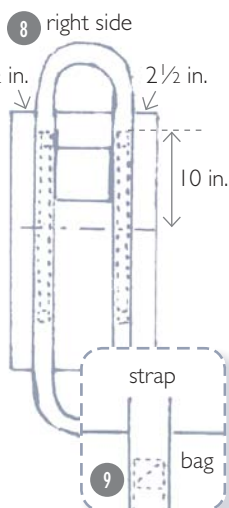
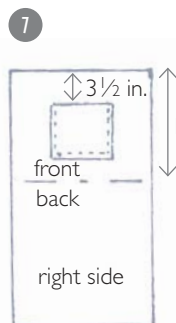
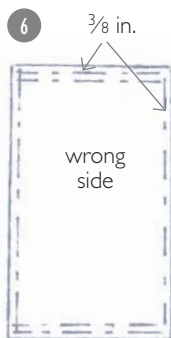
MAKING THE POCKETS



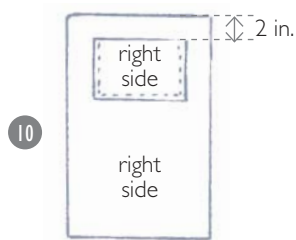
MAKING THE STRAP



THE OUTSIDE OF THE BAG



THE INSIDE OF THE BAG



Assembling the bag

11 Pin the inside and outside of the bag together; wrong sides together; lining up the bottom edge (the top front edge of the bag). Turn the cotton over the felt along this edge and sew this hem of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. along this edge and down the two sides.

12 Fold over the cotton along the top back edge of the bag to form a flap $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide.

13 Iron, then sew along the sides and bottom edge of this flap.

14 Fold the whole piece, right sides together, so that the front measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ in.

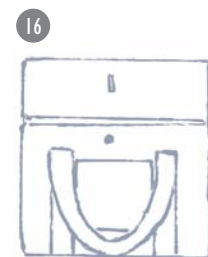
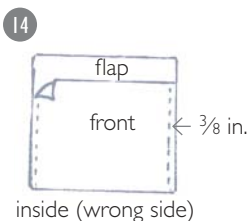
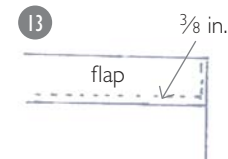
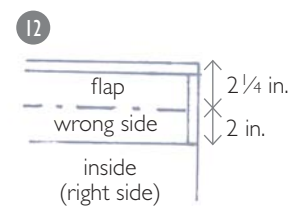
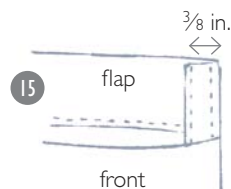
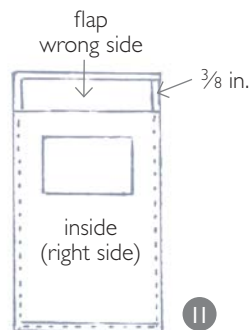
Sew the two sides, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge. Turn the bag right side out.

15 Iron the piece, then sew two seams along the two sides of the flap.

16 Iron the flap and sew a buttonhole in the middle of it, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the edge.

17 Sew the button in the middle of the front of the bag, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. from the top edge.

ASSEMBLY



Sashiko shoulder bag (page 49)
half-pattern: fold the fabric in half
and place the dotted line of the
pattern on the fold line, then cut

Sashiko shoulder bag
(page 49) pocket

Mongiri-gata shoulder bag
(page 58) motif

Biwa shoulder bag (page 46):
enlarge to obtain a circle 11 in.
in diameter

Calabash sewing kit (page 41)