

Fly-a-Way Tote

from
Connecting Threads

Quilting Basics

We encourage breaking the rules, but here are a few things you might want to keep in mind:

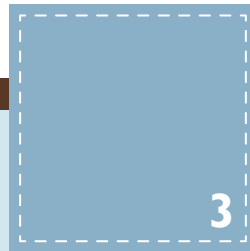
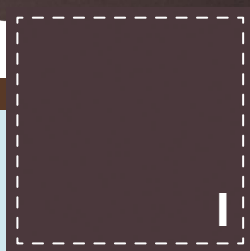
- We know you're excited to start but read through all the instructions before beginning a project.
- All instructions use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance
- Press seams after piecing each strip
- You can pre-wash your fabric if you choose, but make sure it's either all washed or all not. Also, be sure to press before cutting no matter what.
- A fat quarter measures $18" \times 22"$ —it's the same amount of fabric as a $\frac{1}{4}$ yard, just cut in a different orientation so it's "fat" and not long and skinny.



fat quarter



$\frac{1}{4}$ yard



We've designed a basic tote pattern and embellished it with appliqué and embroidery. This tote is so simple to whip up in an afternoon and so inexpensive to make, you'll want to make more! Our Fly-a-Way tote features machine appliqué to keep your new feathered friends in place and give you a cleaner, crisper look.

Supplies

- Steam-A-seam or other double sided fusible webbing
- Slate Blue thread (20895) and embroidery thread of your choice, we used DMC 3031 and 727
- Pen or pencil
- Cutting tool like sharp scissors or a rotary cutter

Helpful (but not required)

- Cutting mat, pins, ironing surface

Yardages (finished size $15" \text{w} \times 14" \text{h}$)

If you don't see a fabric listed on our website (when we sell out, it's gone!) pick out any substitute that strikes your fancy.

- 1** 1250 – $\frac{1}{2}$ yard
- 2** 1754 – $\frac{1}{2}$ yard
- 3** 1248 – 1 fat quarter
- 4** 1687 – 1 fat quarter



Step One

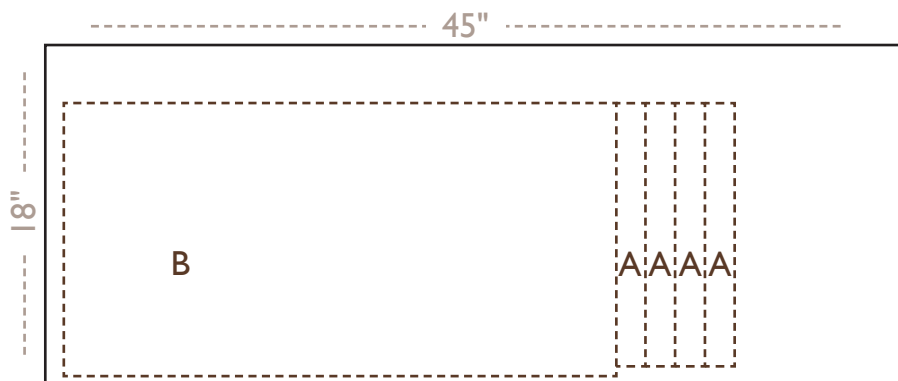
Press your fabric and start cutting! If you cut it all at once your quilt assembly will go really quickly. We recommend cutting with a mat, ruler and rotary cutter for best results.

The following diagrams will help you figure out where to position everything for maximum efficiency. Start by trimming off the selvages (the edges of the fabric where the name of the company appears) to ensure uniform edges.

Fabric 1

A – $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x 15" cut 4

B – $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x $28\frac{1}{2}$ " cut 1

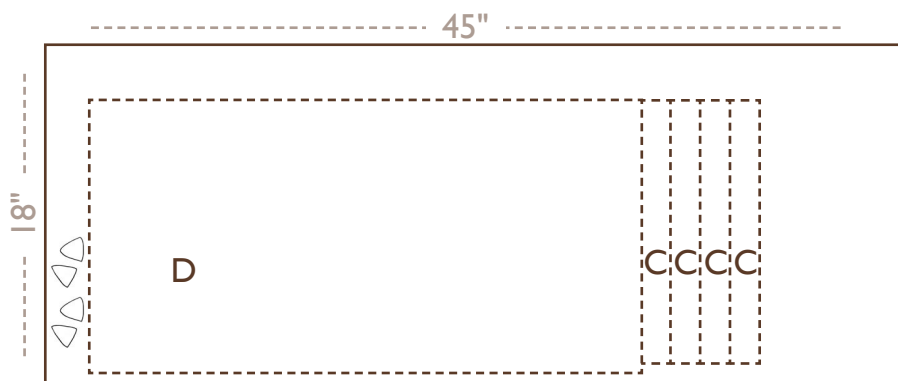


Fabric 2

C – $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x 15" cut 4

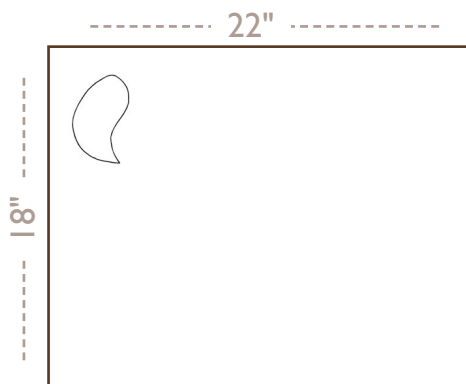
D – $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x $28\frac{1}{2}$ " cut 1

cut out birdie wings with full size template on pg. 4



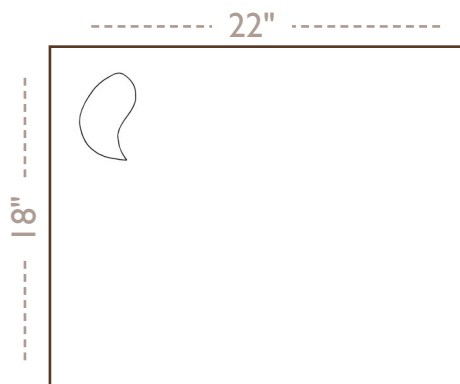
Fabric 3

cut out birdie body with full size template on pg. 5



Fabric 4

cut out birdie body with full size template on pg. 5



2 Step Two

Now let's sew on your appliqué. Since the tote has a layer of lining, it's easiest to work with the applique now, when you have access to the outer most layer. Using the templates provided, trace each shape onto your fusible webbing, cut out the rough shape around the pattern, you don't have to cut on the lines yet.

3 Step Three

Remove one side of the paper backing (the side not drawn on) and iron the backing to the wrong side of your bird body and wing fabric to fuse it.

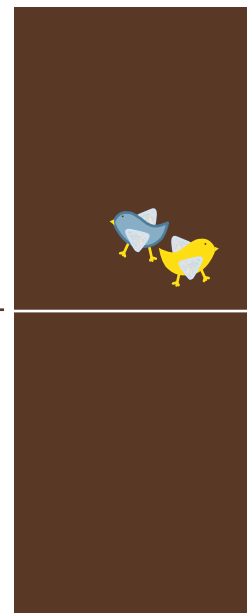
4 Step Four

Now cut out your shapes by following the lines you traced onto the backing in step 2.

5 Step Five

Now the fun part! Remove the remaining paper layer from the fusible web. Play around with positioning and layering until you find a combo that you like. After deciding where you want everything to go, steam them in place. The diagram at right shows where we placed the birds. Be sure to keep them at least two inches from the edge to save room for seams.

midway point that will
become the bottom
of the bag later



6 Step Six

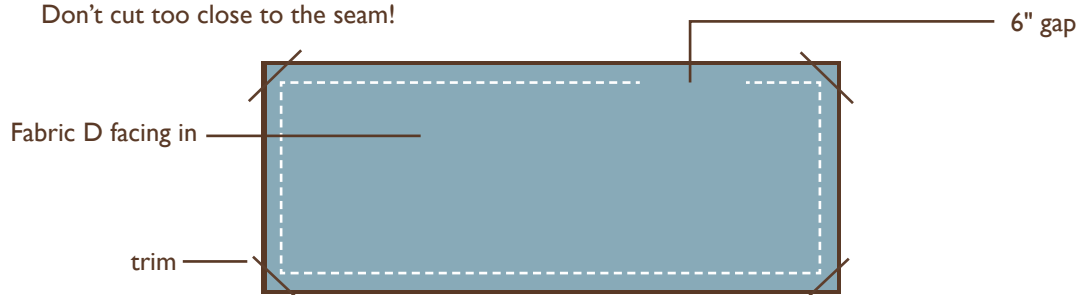
Machine sew along the inside of each shape as close to the edge of the fabric as you can. You may want to play with different decorative stitches on a scrap piece of fabric before you decide on which one you want to use. The fusing will hold the shapes in place if you don't sew them on, but if you wash your bag frequently, the edges might start to peel off eventually so it's a good idea to secure your appliqué by sewing it on.

7 Step Seven

Embroider on any details you want to add to your appliqué. We used a French knot for the birds' eyes, and a running stitch for the beak and feet.

8 Step Eight

Now we'll put together the bag. Lay your fabrics out so that one is on top of the other and the right sides of fabric D and fabric B are facing each other. Sew all the way around the edges of your fabric on all 4 sides using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, leaving a 6" gap on one of the longer sides. You need the gap so you can flip your bag inside out. Clip the corners to reduce bulk and make the corners neater. Don't cut too close to the seam!



9

Step Nine

Turn your bag right side out, iron the seams flat, and hand or machine sew your gap shut.

10

Step Ten

Fold the piece of fabric you just created in half so that the two right sides of the tote are facing each other and the lining is facing out. Stitch down the sides, using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, be sure to back stitch at the beginning and end of your seam to hold it in place. Turn your bag right side out and iron.



11

Step Eleven

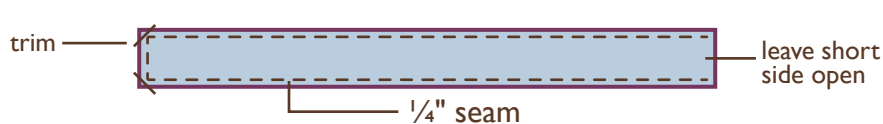
Take two fabric strip As and sew them together on one short side only with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Repeat for the other pair of fabric strip As and the fabric C strips as well. You'll have two long strips of each measuring $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x $29\frac{1}{2}$ "



12

Step Twelve

Take one of the long fabric strip As and line it up with a long fabric strip C, right sides together and sew around 3 sides, leaving one of the short ends open. Trim off the corners like you did in step 8. Turn it right side out and press into a long flat strip. Turn under the open side a $\frac{1}{4}$ " and whipstitch it shut. Repeat with the other two strips, resulting in two finished handles.



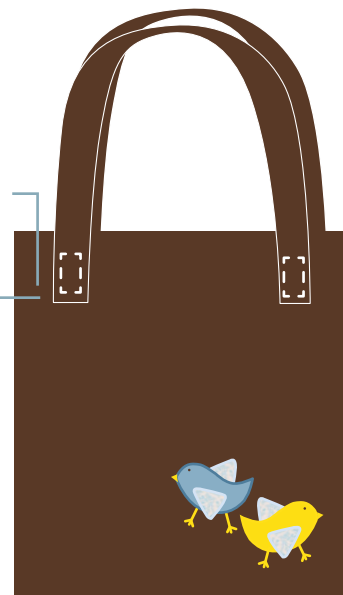
13

Step Thirteen

Sew the handles to the top edge of the totes front and back, 1" in and 2" down

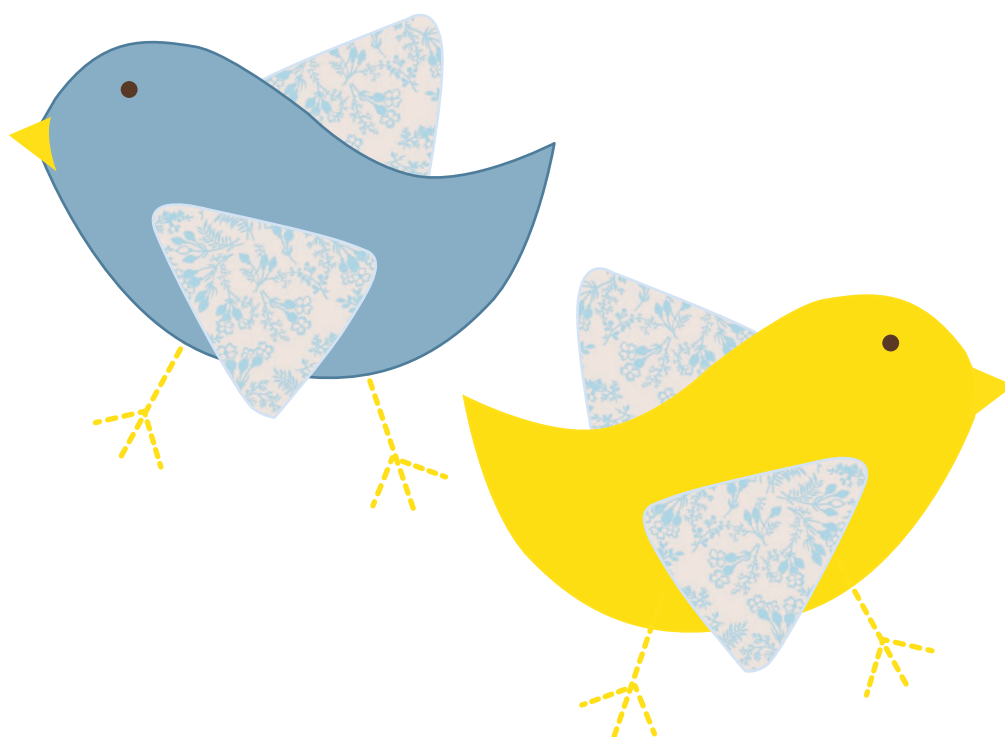
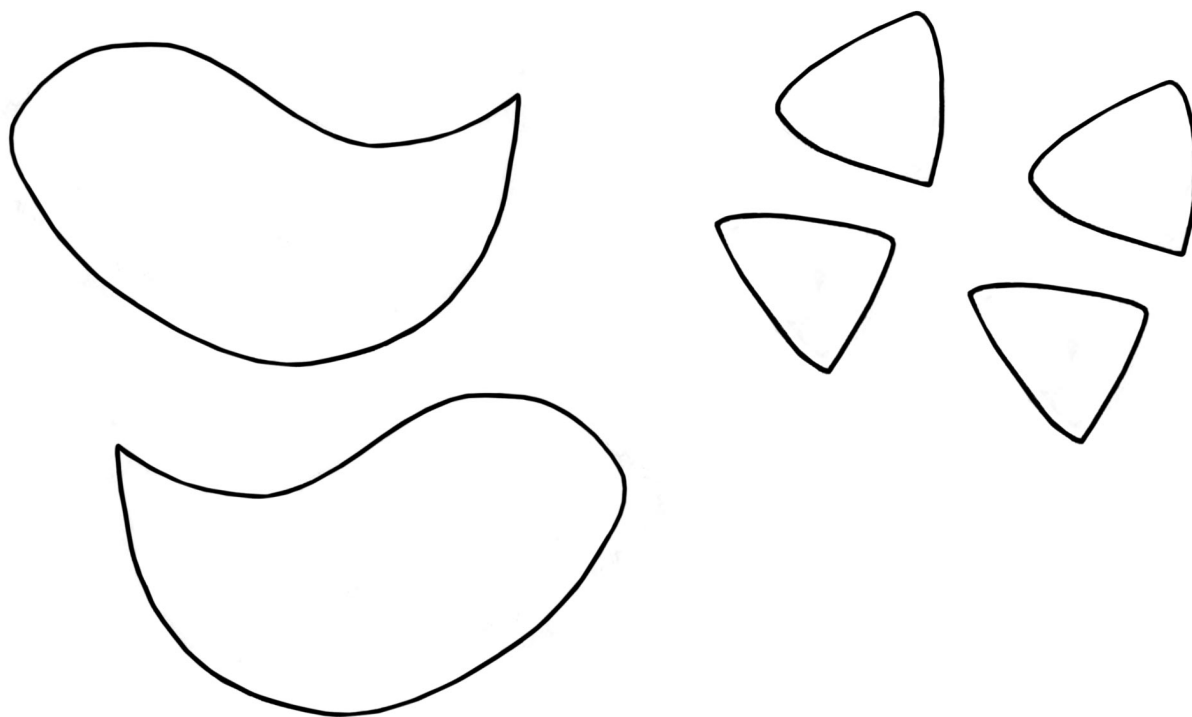
2" down

1" in



Admire your handiwork before tossing your wallet and keys inside and taking your new Fly-a-Way tote out for a night on the town!

Full size templates



Please read the entire pattern carefully. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this pattern. Use a 1/4" seam allowance unless otherwise stated. Measure your quilt before cutting border strips. Make adjustments as necessary. © *Connecting Threads*. All rights reserved. For private, non-commercial use only. Please see our website for terms of use.

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