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CALIFORNIA-INTERNATIONAL FABRICS

## Skylines Big City Bag

design by  
Abigail "Gail" Baker

featuring Skylines, a digitally  
printed fabric panel,  
plus your favorite Hoffman  
Bali Watercolor hand-dyed fabric



Style #N4234  
130-Multi

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# Skylines Easy Market Bag

by Abigail (Gail) Baker

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Market bags are very easy to make and go pretty quickly. The finished bag measures 20 inches by 20 inches - but sometimes if I am a little short of material I adjust the finished size accordingly. This bag uses 3 different materials: focus material for the center outside, handles & inside pockets; a contrasting fabric for the top & bottom outside and a coordinating fabric for the lining. I also use fusible batting that I buy in bulk when it goes on sale.





**Cut:**

Center outside: 10 inches x 20 inches (2 pieces)

Top outside: 3 inches x 20 inches (2 pieces)

Bottom outside: 8 inches x 20 inches (2 pieces)

Handles: 5 inches x LOF or, if using scraps, 5 inches x 28 inches long (2 pieces)

Lining: 20 inches x 20 inches (2 pieces).

Fusable batting:

19 1/2 inches x 19 1/2 inches (2 pieces)	2 1/2 inches x 28 inches (2 pieces for the handles)	8 inches x 8 inches for the pocket
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Pockets: Sometimes I add pockets to both inside and outside, sometimes not. It all depends on what I have & how it looks. I like at least one inside pocket and cut a piece 8 inches x 16 inches.

Step 1: **Outside.** Sew the top, middle and bottom outside pieces together so you have 2 squares measuring 20 inches x 20 inches

Step 2: **Lining.** Fuse batting to the wrong side of the lining pieces.

Step 3: **Pockets.** (OPTIONAL) Fuse batting to half of wrong side of fabric.



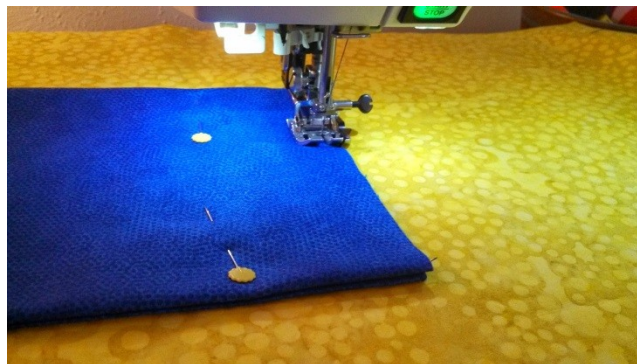
Fold the 8 x 16 inch pocket fabric in half with right sides together. Sew the sides only and turn right side out. It should measure 8 x 8 inches. The opening will be the bottom of the pocket. Make as many or as few as you want - any size you want. I like to include one for my cell phone. Decide where they will go - but stay towards the middle - not too high or too low. Measure in from the sides so they are symmetrical. I usually put the inside pockets about 2 inches down from the top and the outside pockets (if any) on the center piece only. Stay at least 5 inches from the bottom.



Mark with a horizontal line where the bottom of the pocket will go.



Sew the bottom of the pocket on the line with the opening facing the top of the bag and the top of the pocket hanging down towards the bottom of the bag.

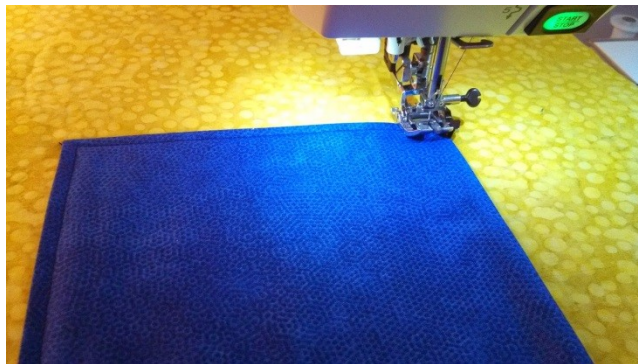




Flip the pocket up, center and sew sides and bottom.



The stitching will show so pick your thread color accordingly. I use a walking foot since you are sewing through several layers.





Step 4: **Handles.** Fold your fabric in half longways with wrong sides together and iron a crease.



Open. Fold the outer edges in to the center line and iron.



Open.



Fuse batting down the center using the ironed lines as a guide.

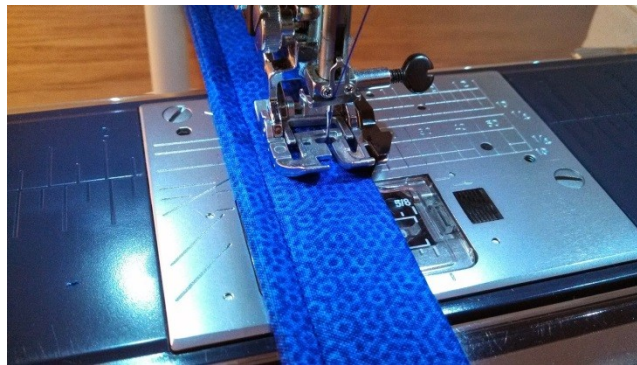




Fold the outside edges in again (over the batting and meeting in the center where your first ironed line was).



Fold in half and top-stitch along both sides.



Decide how long you want your handles. I like 28" long so I can put them over my shoulder, but my hubby likes them shorter.

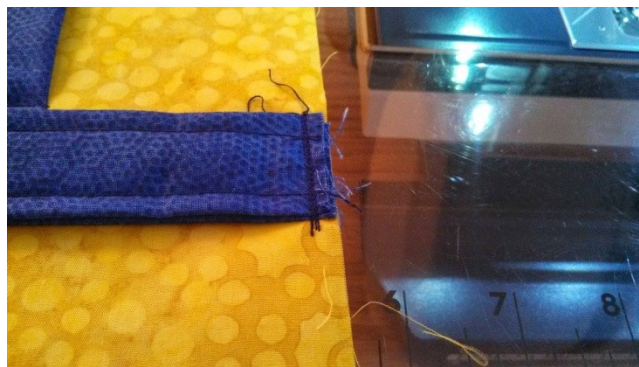
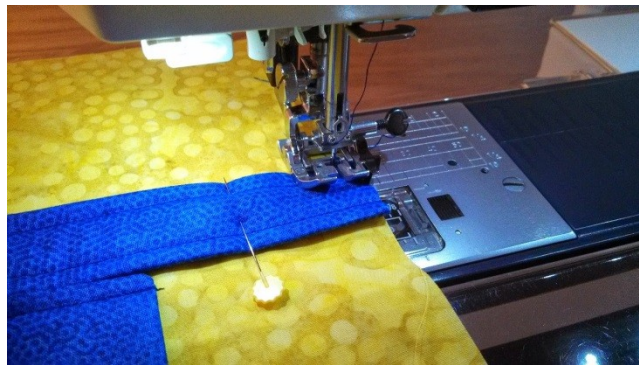
The handles are sewn to the top of the right side of the lining. I place them about 5" from the sides as shown in the pictures.





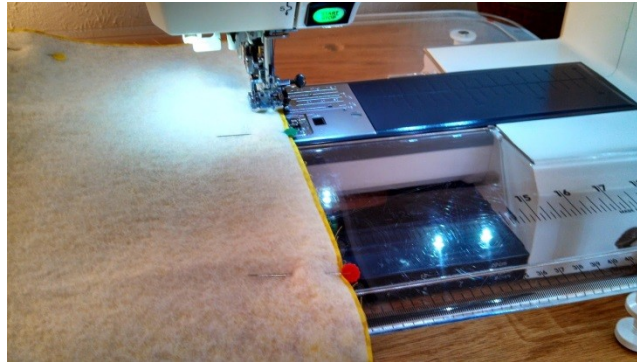


Sew 1/4 inch from the edge. I go forward and backward several times.



Step 5. Once the pockets and handles have been attached, sew the outside panels together on 2 sides and the bottom - right sides together. Set aside.

Sew the 2 lining panels together except leave a 5 inch gap in the middle of the bottom seam.



Step 6. The Bottom. Lay the lining panel flat and draw a 3" square on both sides of each corner.

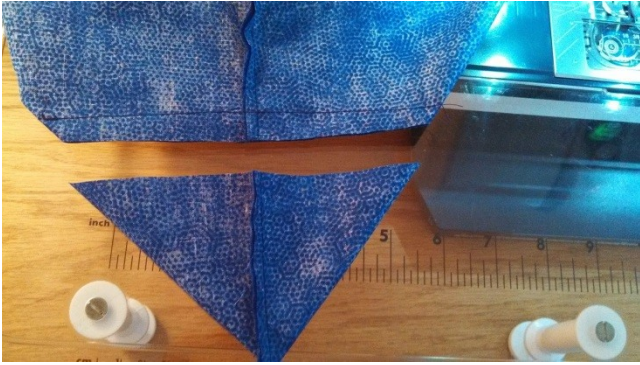


Line up the bottom seam and the side seam as shown. Sew along the line. Cut off the corner about 1/2" from the line. This squares the bottom. The line will be about 4" from the corner. If you like a smaller bottom for your bag, reduce your square to 2.5".





Repeat step 6 on the outside panels.



Step 7. Stand up the lining with the right side in. Put the outside panels inside the lining with right sides together. Make sure the handles are inside. Pin the raw tops together - matching side seams.



Sew the lining to the outside panels. I use a 1/2 inch seam to hide where the handles were sewn on. Once they have been sewn together - turn it right side out by pulling everything through the opening left in the bottom seam of the lining.







If your bag is a gift or if you are expecting the quilt police to inspect it, the opening can be hand sewn closed. Since it's on the bottom of the inside, I usually just machine stitch it closed. Finally, tuck the lining inside.



Iron the top seam and, if you like, you can top-stitch around  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the top. There, it's done!