

Pinwheel Magic Tote

Half-Square Triangles on the Serger

Have you ever looked at a pattern and thought, "If there were an easier way to make this, I might try it?" This project provides you with a way to create half-square triangles faster and easier than ever. Plus, you won't have to use a rotary cutter! Sound intriguing? Read on.



MACHINE & ACCESSORIES

- BERNINA L 890
- Left Seam Guide on Shaft (108124.70.00)
- Right Seam Guide
- Standard Overlock/Combo Foot #C11
- Cover-/Chainstitch Foot #C13

FABRIC & INTERFACING

- Lining and half-square triangle fabric:
1 ½ yd print
- Coordinating fabric: (4) colors solid cotton, ½ yd each
- 1 yd Essex Cotton linen blend
- 2 yd single-sided fusible ByAnnie's Soft and Stable®
- 1 ½ yd heavy fusible interfacing, such as Shape Flex 101

NOTIONS & SUPPLIES

- (4) cones Mettler Seracor Serger Thread, gray or other neutral color
- (2) spools Wonderfil Spagetti™ 12 weight thread, color to coordinate with the project
- Fusible thread
- 80/12 ELx705 needle
- 90/14 Topstitch needle
- Leather purse handles in desired length
- (2) sets of ¾" magnetic snaps
- 7-count plastic mesh canvas (for bag bottom)

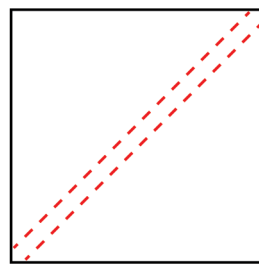


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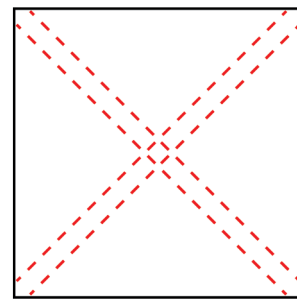
PREPARE FABRIC

- Cut fabric pieces:
 - 20 ½" x 27 ½" piece ByAnnie's Soft and Stable® (tote front)
 - 22" x 30" piece ByAnnie's Soft and Stable® (tote back)
 - 22" x 30" piece Essex Cotton (tote back)
 - (2) 4 ½" X 16 ½" strips Essex Cotton (tote sides)
 - 4 ½" X 28" strip Essex Cotton (tote bottom)
 - (2) 21" x 28" print fabric for lining
 - (2) 21" x 28" pieces heavy fusible interfacing
 - (7) 6 ½" squares of print (small half-square triangles)
 - (2) 6 ½" squares each of three solids and (1) 6 ½" square of solid used in borders (7 total for small half-square triangles)
 - (4) 5 ½" squares each of print and one color of the solid color cottons (large half-square triangles in top and side borders)
 - 7" x 30" solid color cotton (inside pocket)
 - 9" x 30" solid color cotton, different color from the 7" above (inside pocket lining)
- Fuse the 22" x 30" piece of Essex Cotton to the 22" x 30" piece ByAnnie's Soft and Stable®.
- Fuse the heavy interfacing to the wrong side to each print lining piece.
- Prep the 5 ½" squares (top and side borders):
 - On the wrong side of the solid squares, draw a line ¼" to the left and right of the center diagonal points (2 lines) (Fig. 1).
 - Place the solid 5 ½" squares right sides together with the print 5 ½" squares. 4 pairs.
- Prep the 6 ½" squares (small half-square triangles):
 - On the wrong side of the solid squares, draw lines ¼" to the left and right of both center diagonal points (4 lines) (Fig. 2).
 - Place the solid 6 ½" squares right sides together with the 6 ½" print cotton squares. 7 pairs.



Diagonal marks on the
5 ½" squares

Fig. 1



Diagonal marks on the
6 ½" squares

Fig. 2

INSTRUCTIONS

DECORATIVE TOTE BACK

Decorative lines of chain- and/or coverstitch will be applied to the back section of the tote. There are many different ways to stitch these lines; the pattern we chose spaces them 1 ½ inches apart using the same stitch, but it still appears different.

Machine Setup

- Place the Left Seam Guide in the small red opening on the presser foot shaft. Slide the seam guide 1 ½ inches from the center of the coverstitch needle position; this is an approximate distance.
- Insert the Topstitch needle in the Center Coverstitch (CC) position.
- Select Stitch #32.
- Set the Needle Stop position to Down.
- Adjust Stitch Length to 4.0 (Fig. 3).
- Place Wonderfil Spagetti™ in both Chain Looper and the needle. Remember, there is a Guided Mode if you are unfamiliar with how to properly thread for this stitch.
- Attach Cover-/Chainstitch Foot #C13.

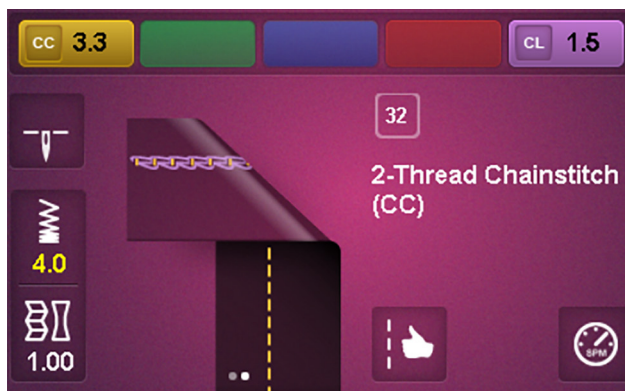


Fig. 3

Sew Decorative Back

Decorative stitching will be parallel to the short edge. The back will be trimmed to size in a later step.

1. Stitch the first set of lines with the fabric RIGHT side up. Roll the fabric and position it on the bed of your machine with the roll to the right. Align the fabric edge with the seam guide and stitch the first line. Slide the fabric to the left and place the stitched line underneath the seam guide for accurate spacing and stitch the next line. Stitch the entire back.
2. Stitch the second set of lines with the fabric WRONG side up. Re-roll the fabric and place it back onto the bed of your machine. Stitch the first line of stitching ¾" away from the first line of stitching toward the outside edge. TIP: It may be helpful to mark this first line.
3. With the seam guide still positioned 1 ½" from the needle, stitch the remaining stitches, guiding along the previously stitched lines. These lines of stitches will be centered between the lines sewn in Step 2. Notice how the Chain Looper stitches have more texture than the needle stitches on the right side of the fabric.
4. Set this piece aside.

POCKET ASSEMBLY

1. Place the 7" pocket and 9" pocket lining right sides together, aligning long edges on one side.
2. Sew together, guiding along the right edge of foot.

3. Press pocket lining toward the seam and then fold lining over the seam allowance to the back side of the pocket front and press again. The pocket lining will show on the right side as a faux binding. Topstitch in place close to the seam with the needle side of the Chainstitch on top. For a more decorative stitch, use 12 weight thread.
4. Trim the pocket lining even with the pocket front.
5. Place the pocket right sides together with one lining piece, aligning the finished edge of the pocket with the bottom edge of the lining piece.
6. Stitch along the long raw edges of the pocket with the chainstitch, guiding the raw edges of the pocket along the right edge of the foot.
7. Fold the pocket up and press, covering the seam, and stitch in place along the sides to hold the pocket in position. Trim excess fabric.
8. Divide the pocket into sections as desired.
9. Set the Stitch Length to 2.0 and begin stitching at the bottom of the pocket.
10. Increase the Stitch Length to 2.5-3.0 and sew to the top of the pocket. Shorten the stitch as you reach the pocket top and stitch just off the pocket. Lock the stitch at the top of the pocket with the CS Lock Tool. This takes the needle thread to the wrong side and locks the stitch. With a hand needle, take the thread tail at the beginning to the wrong side. For extra security, knot the thread tails on the back.

HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLE MAGIC

Machine Setup

- Re-thread the Chain Looper and needle with Mettler Seracor thread.
- Insert the 80/12 ELx705 needle into the right needle position.
- Select stitch #16.
- Set Stitch Length to 2.5.
- Set Needle Stop position to Down (Fig. 3).
- Ensure the Cutting Width is set to 5.0 and the cutting knife is DOWN (this will be important later).
- Attach Standard Overlock/Combo Foot #C11.

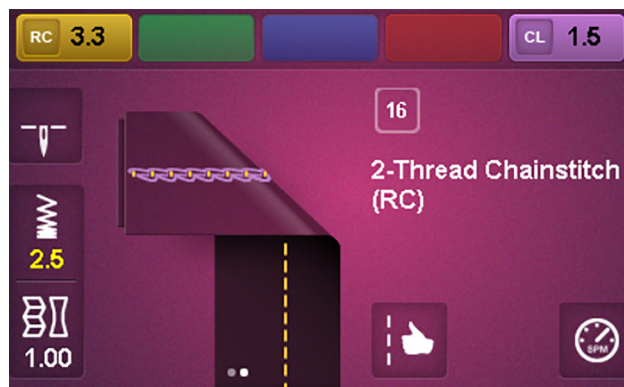


Fig. 4

Top and Side Borders (5 ½" Squares)

1. Sew on the FAR RIGHT diagonal line, guiding the drawn line under the raised notch on the presser foot that is even with the RC needle (3rd from left).
2. Raise the knife. Do NOT rotate your fabric.

3. Sew on the FAR LEFT diagonal line, beginning on the same side you started on in Step 1. Guide the FAR LEFT diagonal line under the third mark on the presser foot as before. The thread tail from the beginning of the first seam may be used as a handle to start, if needed. The knife will cut between the two lines of stitching as you go, resulting in two half-square triangle (HST) blocks. Magical and easy!
4. Press seams to one side and square to 4 ½".
5. Repeat with the remaining three pairs of 5 ½" squares for a total of eight 4 ½" HST blocks. Set aside.

TIP: Stitch all lines on the RIGHT side first, then engage the blade for the LEFT side of the square.

Small Half-Square Triangles (6 ½" Squares)

1. Check position of the Cutting Blade before beginning, ensuring it is lowered.
2. Sew on the FAR RIGHT diagonal line, guiding the drawn line under the raised notch on the presser foot that is even with the RC needle (3rd from left).
3. Repeat on the FAR RIGHT diagonal line that crosses this line.
4. Raise the knife. Do NOT rotate your fabric.
5. Sew on the FAR LEFT diagonal line, beginning on the same side you started on in Step 2. Guide the FAR LEFT diagonal line under the third mark on the presser foot as before. Use the thread tail as a handle to start if needed. The knife will cut between the two lines of stitching as you go, resulting in two HST blocks. Do not open.

6. With the knife still up, sew on the FAR LEFT lines of the two HST blocks to make four triangle blocks that have two sewn sides on each of them.
7. With a rotary cutter, cut each triangle in half, from the point to the unsewn long edge (Fig. 5).

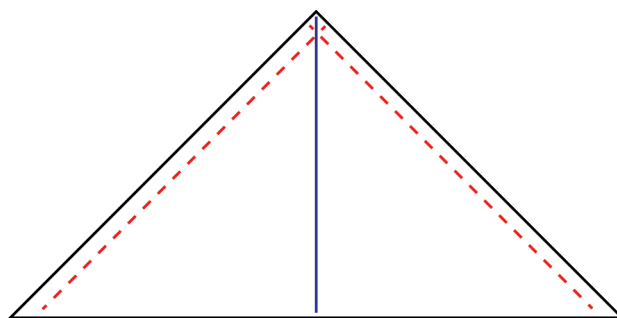


Fig. 5

8. Press seams to one side and square to 2 ½" to make eight HST blocks from one 6 ½" square.
9. Repeat with remaining 6 ½" pairs to make a total of 56 HST blocks. 48 will be used on the front panel. Choose your favorites!

FRONT PANEL LAYOUT

1. Lay the 2 ½" HST in rows on a flat surface to audition the color and orientation of each square prior to stitching. The panel is eight squares across and six squares down (48 total) (Fig. 6).

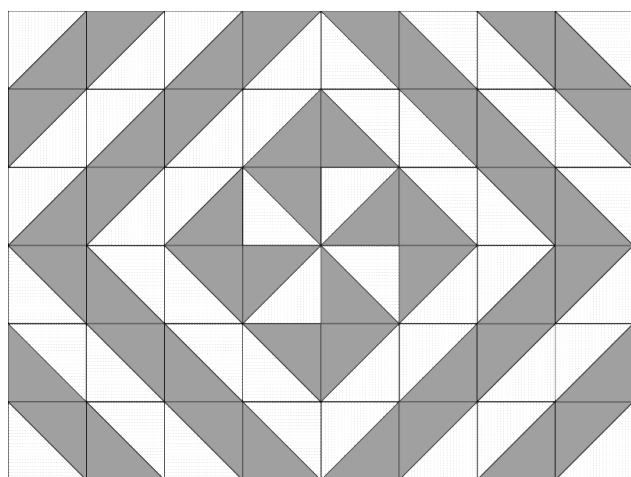


Fig. 6

2. Remove the Coverstitch Insert. Replace with the Knife Cover Insert and attach the Right Seam Guide. Slide it to the leftmost position for a ¼" seam allowance.
3. Stitch the 2 ½" HST together in rows. Press the seams open. This is possible because you are using the serger straight stitch.
4. Continue stitching rows together, pressing seam allowances open. Join rows together to complete this part of the front section of your bag.

BORDERS

1. Sew two large half-square triangles together to make a flying goose block. Press seam open (Fig. 7).

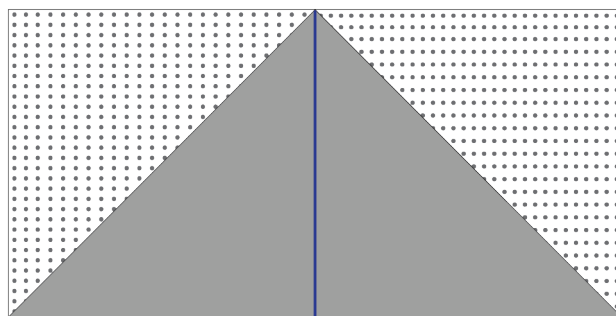


Fig. 7

2. Repeat Step 1 to make a total of three flying geese blocks.
3. Sew two flying geese blocks together. Press seam open. Sew this onto the top of the front panel (Fig. 8).

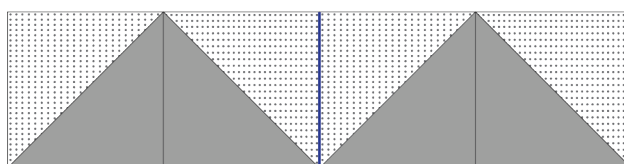


Fig. 8

4. Add a half-square triangle to each side of the remaining flying goose block (Fig. 9).

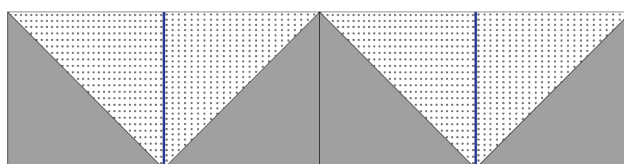


Fig. 9

5. Sew this section to the front panel along the right edge (Fig. 10).

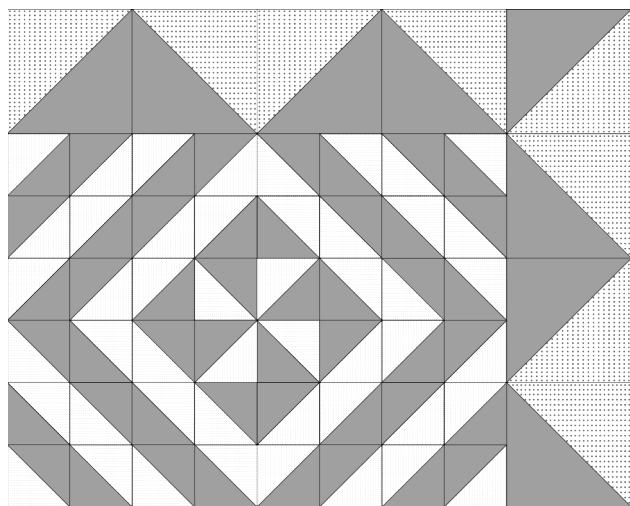


Fig. 10

6. Press seams open.

BAG FRONT

1. Stitch the 4 ½" X 16 ½" Essex linen strips to the left and right sides of front; this will create the side panel of your bag (Fig. 11).

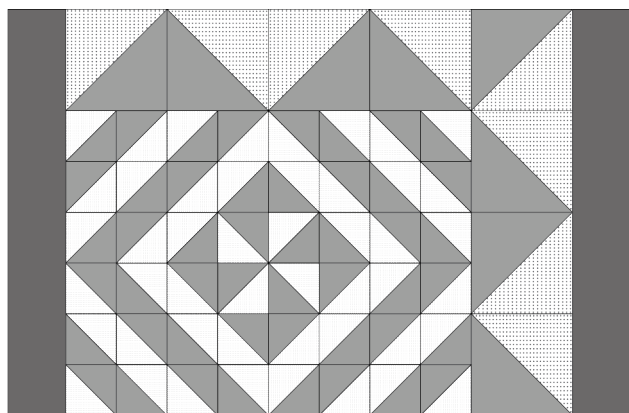


Fig. 11

2. Stitch the remaining Essex linen strip across the bottom of the front panel (Fig. 12).

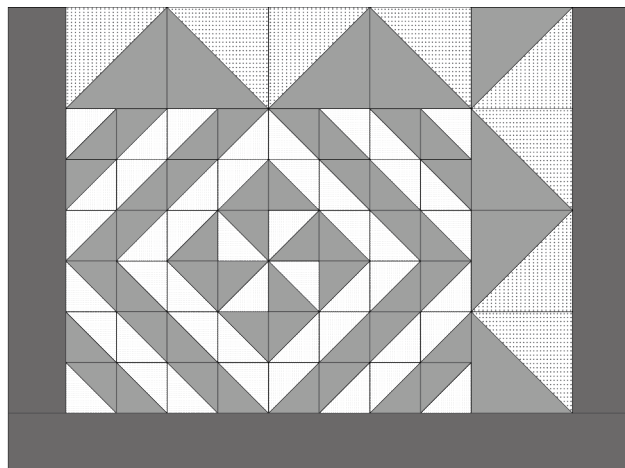


Fig. 12

3. Press the Front panel so all seams lie flat.
4. Mark the center of the top edge of the bag front. Mark the center of the long edge of the 20 ½" x 27 ½" piece of Soft and Stable. Align the top edges and match the centers of both pieces. Fuse the bag front to the Soft and Stable. Note that the bag front piece is larger than the Soft and Stable.
5. Stitch in the seam where the Essex linen meets the front panel on the sides and bottom.
Optional: Add additional quilting as desired with threads of choice.
6. Trim the side Essex linen edges that extend beyond the Soft and Stable. Do any additional trimming so that the widths of both are the same.
7. Trim the lower Essex linen piece so that the width (shorter measurement) matches the width of the side pieces.

8. Trim the back piece to match the front.
9. Cut both lining pieces to this same size.

BAG ASSEMBLY

Boxed Corners Preparation

1. On the bag front, cut a square from each bottom corner. To gauge the size, measure from the seam where the Essex linen joins the front panel to the side edge and the bottom edge.
2. Cut the same-sized square from each bottom corner of the bag back and both lining pieces.

Machine Setup

- Change to a 4-thread overlock stitch with fusible thread in the Upper Looper.
- Increase Left Needle Thread Tension to 6.5.
- Increase Cutting Width to 9 mm.
- Increase Stitch Length to 3.0 (Fig. 13).

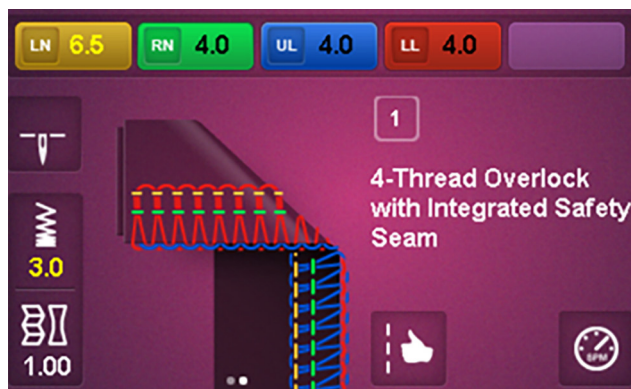


Fig. 13

Sew Lining to Bag

1. Place the lining with pocket right sides together with bag back and the remaining lining right sides together with bag front.
2. With the Soft and Stable side up, stitch across the top of both front and back pieces, joining the outer bag to the lining and skimming the knife without trimming. You will have two separate pieces. When the bag is turned right side out, the fusible thread will hold a small amount of lining in place on the outside, creating a faux binding.
3. Thread the Upper Looper with Seracor for the remaining stitches.
4. Open to separate linings from the front and back pieces (do NOT press!). Place the bag back and the bag front, right sides together, and the linings right sides together. Clip in place, aligning the seams that join the lining to the bag for an even edge at the top of your bag.
5. First, stitch across the bottom of the outer bag. Then sew both side seams, starting at the outer bag and crossing over to the lining. Stitch across the bottom of the lining, leaving 6" opening for turning.
6. Match the side and bottom seams in each corner and sew, skimming the knife. This creates the boxed corners. Nest the seam allowances to reduce bulk.
7. Turn right side out.

MAGNETIC SNAPS

1. Push the side seams in and finger press a crease at the top in line with the boxed corners.
2. Measure 1" away from the finger-pressed fold and 1" down from the top of the bag (not the seam line) and mark on the linen. Repeat on the other side of the seam. Do the same thing on the other side seam of the bag.
3. Following the package directions, attach the magnetic snaps to the sides of the bag. Be sure not to catch the lining when attaching the snaps.

BAG BOTTOM

1. Measure the bottom of the bag. Cut a piece of plastic canvas to size and place in bottom of bag between outer bag and lining.
2. Sew lining opening closed.

FINISHING

1. Tuck the lining inside the bag. Press around the top of the bag to fuse the lining top to the fusible thread.
2. Attach leather handles by hand in the desired placement.