



the Pepper tote



A little patchwork and an exposed zipper add a lot of charm to this basic tote bag. Instead of being square, the tote is gently angled toward the top to give it a little bit more style. Inside is a divided pocket to help keep things organized.

Featured Fabric: *Wishes* by Sweetwater for Moda & Moda Cross Weave in Aqua.

Materials:

- 6 – 6” hexagons – such as Moda Honeycomb (see last page for template)
- ½ yard linen/solid fabric – such as Moda Cross Weave (Bag Body)
- ¾ yard print (Lining and Pockets)
- ¼ yard print (Binding and Handles)
- ½ yard prewashed cotton flannel
- 1 ¼ yard interfacing – such as Pellon® 931TD Fusible Midweight (20” wide)
- 1 – 9” purse zipper

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner

Notes:

- Read all directions before beginning.
- All fabric is estimated at 42" wide and interfacing at 20" wide (WOF = Width of Fabric).
- All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise noted.
- RST=Right Sides Together; WST=Wrong Sides Together
- Visit <http://www.cloverandviolet.com/pattern-corrections> to check for any corrections or updates.
- Please e-mail questions to: office@cloverandviolet.com
- **Why flannel and interfacing?** We have tried a variety of different types of interfacing and methods. The combination of interfacing and flannel is our favorite because the quilting doesn't make the bag look puffy (as with fusible fleece or batting that is quilted), but still reinforces it and provides a quilting medium. It also makes the bag sturdy, yet still soft and flexible.

Cutting Instructions:

From Body Fabric:

- One $14\frac{3}{4}$ " x 30" rectangle (body)

From Lining & Pocket Fabric:

- One $14\frac{1}{2}$ " x $29\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle (body)
- One 10" x 20" rectangle (zipper pocket)
- One 10" x 14" rectangle (slip pocket)

From Handle & Binding Fabric:

- One 4" x WOF strip (handles)
- One 4" x WOF strip (binding – optional)

From Interfacing:

- One $14\frac{3}{4}$ " x 30" rectangle (body)
- One 7" x 10" rectangle (slip pocket)
- Two 4" x WOF strips (handles)

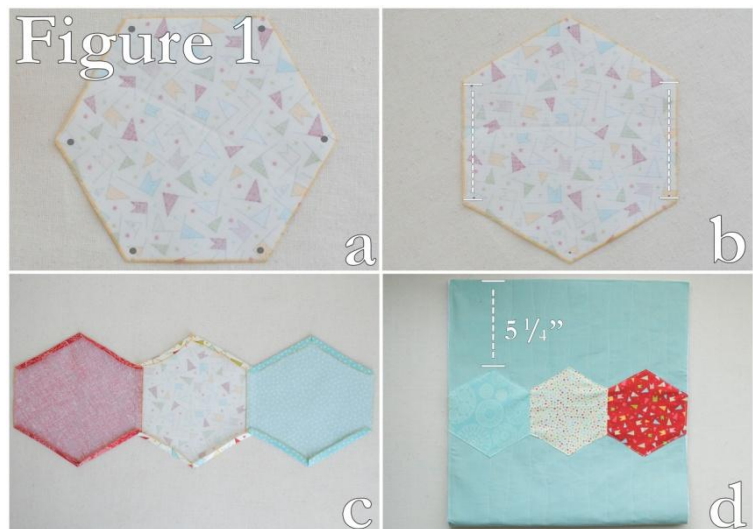
From Cotton Flannel:

- One $15\frac{1}{4}$ " x $30\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle (body)
- Two $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x WOF strips (handles)
 - Optional: use one $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x 42" strip of batting instead of flannel

1. Bag Body & Hexagons

Fuse the bag body interfacing to the wrong side of the bag body piece. Place the flannel on the wrong side of the bag body with $\frac{1}{4}$ " overhang on each edge. Quilt as desired. We quilted with vertical, wavy lines. Trim flannel to size of bag.

Mark each hexagon $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each point using the template on the last page (Figure 1a). Sew three hexagons together, starting and stopping at the marked dots (Figure 1b). Use the dots to press a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance along the top and bottoms of the hexagons (Figure 1c). Position the hexagons $5\frac{1}{4}$ " from one $14\frac{3}{4}$ " edge of the bag body and sew them to the bag with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance (Figure 1d). Repeat for other side of bag.



2. Zipper Pocket:

On the 10" x 20" zipper pocket piece draw a 8" x $\frac{3}{8}$ " rectangle on the **wrong** side of the pocket piece 1" below and centered on one 10" edge. Center and pin the pocket piece, RST, 2" from the top of the bag body (Figure 2a). Stitch on the drawn rectangle, through both layers of fabric. Cut a straight line down the center of the stitched box, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each short edge, then clip towards the corners (Figure 2b). Push the pocket fabric through the opening (Figure 2c) and press to create a window for the zipper (Figure 2d).

Tip: For easier placement, use a fabric adhesive (such as Steam-a-Seam®) to keep the zipper in place while sewing (Figure 3a).

Place the zipper in the opening with the zipper pull at one edge, and fuse or pin in place. Using a zipper foot, on the outside of the bag body, stitch next to the opening to secure the zipper in place, back stitching the zipper ends (Figure 3b).

Turn the lining piece over, trim zipper if necessary (Figure 3c). Fold the pocket piece in half and pin. Carefully stitch around the open pocket edges, making sure not to stitch the through to the bag body (Figure 3d).

3. Shape Bag Body

With the bag body folded in half, at the top corner, mark 1" toward the center along the raw edge. Then mark 6" down the side, along the raw edge. Draw a line to connect these marks. At each corner, mark a rectangle 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ " tall and 2" wide (Figure 4a).

Cut along the lines to create an angle toward the top of the bag and rectangles for the bag corners (Figure 4b).

Sew along the sides **with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance**, back stitching at the beginning and end (Figure 4c). Fold the corner out and sew across the raw edge to make the corner of the bag (Figure 4d).



4. Interior Slip Pocket

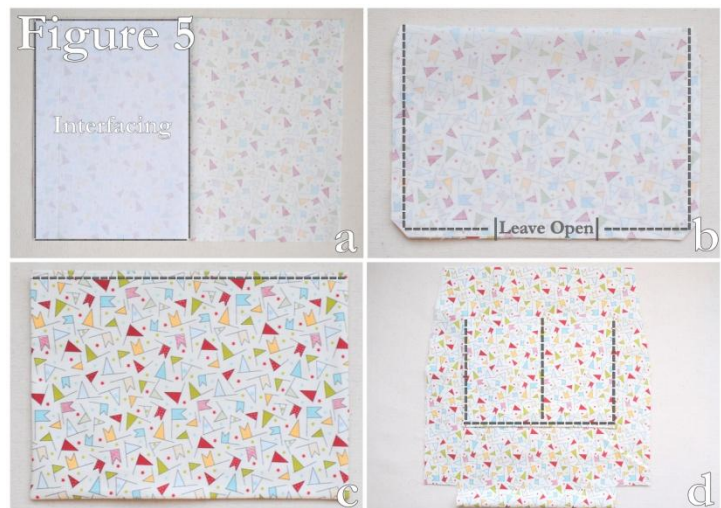
Fold the 10" x 14" rectangle in half (10" x 7"), WST, and press. Open the pocket and fuse the 10" x 7" interfacing rectangle to the wrong side of the pocket piece, from the center fold to one side (Figure 5a).

Fold in half along crease, right sides together, and sew around raw edges, leaving a 3" opening along the 10" side. Clip corners near, but not into, the stitching (Figure 5b). Turn right side out, press flat, turning opening seam allowance under. Stitch along top fold of pocket for a finished look (Figure 5c).

Trim the lining in the same manner as the bag body (Step 3).

Center 3" from the top of the second lining piece, with the opening at the bottom. Stitch around the sides and bottom using a 1/8" seam allowance, attaching to the lining piece (Figure 5d). This stitches the opening used for turning closed. If desired, sew the center of the pocket to divide it in two. Set lining aside.

Tip: The pocket will be sturdier if the stitching extends 1-3 stitches above the pocket on the sides, and is backstitched in place. For added strength, fuse a scrap of interfacing to the wrong side of lining at top of pocket before sewing.



5. Handles

Using the 4" x WOF strip, fuse two 4" x WOF strips of interfacing, end to end, to the wrong side of the handle piece, leaving an even amount of exposed fabric on either end of the handle piece.

Fold in half long ways (2" x WOF), RST, sew the long seam (Figure 6a). Turn the strap right side out, press flat. Use a large safety pin to feed the two 1 3/4" x WOF strips of flannel through strap for a slightly padded look and feel (Figure 6b).

Tip: Use a strip of batting for a firmer, more padded handles.

Top stitch strap 1/8" and 1/4" from each long edge to secure flannel in place (Figure 6c). Cut the handle piece in half to create two handles, approximately 1 3/4" x 21". Position the handles 2 1/2" from each side seam of the bag (Figure 6d).



6. Finishing Option 1 - Turn the Bag

Sew the side seam of the lining **with a 3/8" seam allowance**, leaving a 4" opening along one side (Figure 7a).

Place the lining and the bag, RST, and sew around the top of the bag (Figure 7b).

Carefully pull the bag through the opening in the lining until the lining is turned right side out. Push the lining into the bag and top stitch around the bag top. Hand stitch the opening used for turning closed.



7. Finishing Option 2 - Binding (as shown on cover)

Use the 4" x WOF strip, fold in half long ways (2" x WOF), WST, leave a 2-3" tail, and begin sewing 2" past one handle, with the folded edge down as for quilt binding (Figure 8a). Trim so that binding piece overlaps by 1/4". Join the binding at the center back and stitch, RST, making the binding a complete loop. Stitch the remaining portion of the binding down (Figure 8b). Fold the binding around to the inside of the bag and hand stitch in place (Figure 8c).

Sew handles 1/8" from edge of binding through binding and handles to secure handles in place (Figure 8d).



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Hexagon Template

