



## Patchwork Tote



By Faye Graham, Baby Lock Education Consultant

Travel to and from sewing and craft class in style with this delightful patchwork tote. Rotary cutting, strip piecing and serger sewing are the speedy elements that make quick work of this clever tote. If you're new to serger piecework you'll be pleased to discover how easy it is to create what looks like complicated patchwork.

Once they see how organized you are, don't be surprised if family and friends ask for a patchwork tote of their own for carrying anything from schoolwork to library books to gardening supplies.

Skill Level: Beginner

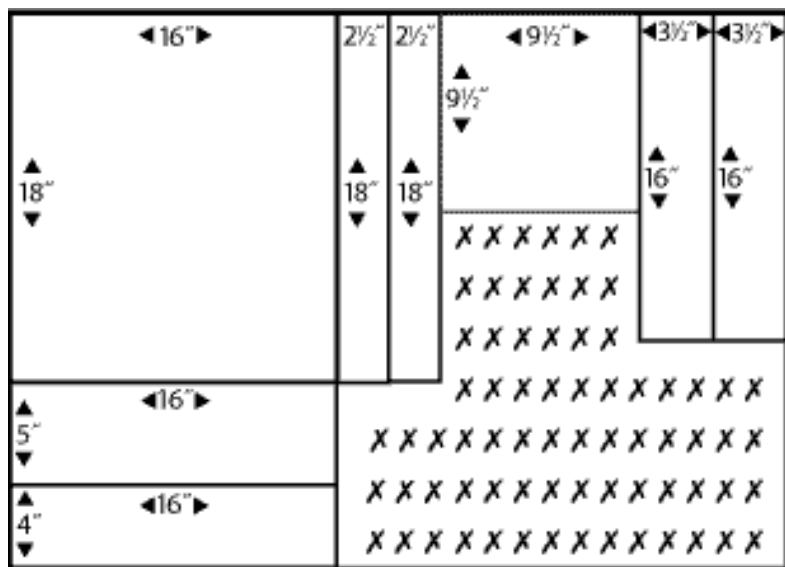
### Supplies:

Baby Lock Serger  
Baby Lock Sewing Machine  
3/4 yd. – solid denim or canvas fabric for tote  
1/4 yd. – solid cotton fabric for center quilt square color 1  
1/4 yd. – solid cotton fabric for center quilt square color 2  
1/4 yd. – printed cotton fabric for center quilt square  
4 cones all-purpose thread  
1 spool all-purpose thread  
Rotary cutter  
Cutting mat

### Cutting Directions:

Cut the following pieces for tote from denim or canvas. (See diagram A for layout.)

- Cut 2 – 2-1/2" x 18"            tote handles
- Cut 1 – 16" x 18"                tote back
- Cut 1 – 16" x 5"                  tote top
- Cut 1 – 16" x 4"                  tote bottom
- Cut 2 – 16" x 3-1/2"            tote sides
- Cut 1 – 9-1/2" x 9-1/2"        tote center



**DIAGRAM A**

Cut the following strips for the patchwork square.

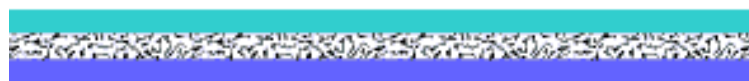
Cut 1 - strip 45" x 1-1/2" from each cotton fabric (2 solids and 1 print) 3 strips total.

**Patchwork Square Construction:**

**Serger Settings:**

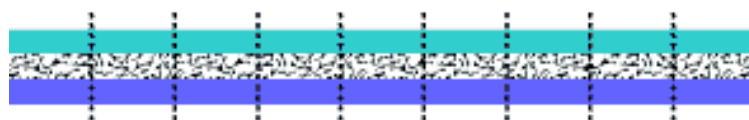
- Stitch: Four-thread balanced stitch
- Stitch Length: 2-3
- Stitch Width: 3.0 (may need to adjust for a perfect 1/4" seam)
- Differential Feed: N
- Blade: Locked

1. Using the edge of the needle plate as a guide, test the stitch on the serger to make sure it is a balanced four-thread stitch and a perfect quarter inch seam.
2. Using the 45" x 1-1/2" fabric strips, place the printed fabric in the center of the two solid strips, wrong sides together. Sew strips together and press seams to one side. (See Diagram B.)



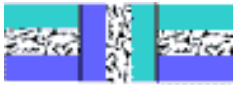
**DIAGRAM B**

3. Using a rotary cutter, cut the strip into nine 3-1/2" blocks (See Diagram C.)



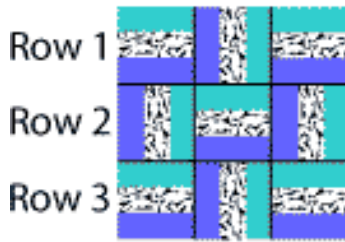
**DIAGRAM C**

4. To create the first row of the square, sew three blocks together, rotating the center block 90° (See Diagram D.) Repeat this process for row #3.



**DIAGRAM D**

- To create the second row, sew three blocks together rotating the center block 180°. Sew three strips together (See Diagram E.)



**DIAGRAM E**

### Tote Construction:

**Sewing Machine Settings:**

Stitch: Straight stitch, basting

Stitch Length: 5

- Center the patchwork square on top of the 9-1/2" canvas square and baste together along all sides.

**Serger Settings:**

Stitch: Four-thread balanced stitch

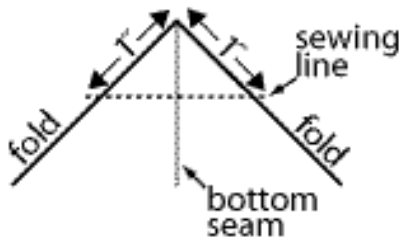
Stitch Length: 2-3

Stitch Width: 3.0 (may need to adjust for a perfect 1/4" seam)

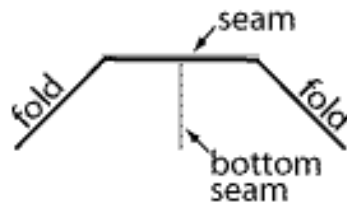
Differential Feed: N

Blade: Unlocked

- With right sides together, using the serger, sew the 16" x 3-1/2" strips to the right and left sides of the square. With right sides together, sew the 16" x 5" strip to the top of the square. With right sides together, sew the 16" x 4" strip to the bottom of the square, yielding a 16" x 18" rectangle.
- Place the pieced front and the back piece right sides together, sew across the bottom and up both sides. On the bottom corners, position tote so that the bottom seam and the side seams are aligned. Mark a guideline 1" from both sides of the seams. Draw a line connecting these marks. Sew on this line. (See Diagrams F and G.) Trim off corners. Turn the tote right side out.



**DIAGRAM F**



**DIAGRAM G**

**Serger Settings:**

Stitch: Two-thread flatlock

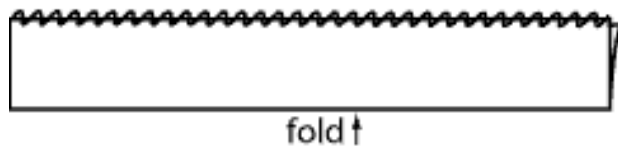
Stitch Length: 2-3

Stitch Width: 3.0 (may need to adjust for a perfect 1/4" seam)

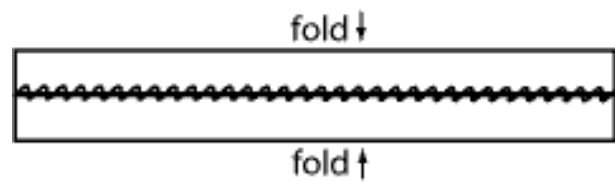
Differential Feed: N

Blade: Unlocked

- Fold the handle pieces lengthwise, wrong sides together. Using a two-thread flatlock, sew this seam together. (See Diagram H.) When finished, pull the seam apart to flatten. (See Diagram I.) Center the flatlock seam to the back and press. Place the handles on the front and back with the flatlock seam to the back, 3-1/2" from the outside edge. Sew around the top of the tote, matching raw edges and catching the handles in the stitch.



**DIAGRAM H**



**DIAGRAM I**

*Topstitching*

**Sewing Machine Settings:**

Stitch: Straight Stitch

Stitch Length: 3

*Reinforcement Stitch*

**Sewing Machine Settings:**

Stitch: Zig zag

Stitch Length: 1/2 - 1

Stitch Width: 2

5. Fold down the top edges 1-1/4" and topstitch in place. Using a zig zag, reinforce the handles by sewing across the bottom.