

Acrylic Ruler/Mat Tote Bag



Outside Pocket holds 12 1/2' and 16" square up rulers
Inside pockets hold 6" x 24" ruler, 6" x 12" ruler, 6" x 6" ruler
Plus the inside has pockets for other rulers, notions, glasses, and marking pens.
Slip your mat into the center and you're all set to go!

When sewing with *Fast2Fuse*, it's a good idea to use a walking foot.

Requirements for pieced block/outer pocket:

- 1/8 yd dark fabric for stars*
- 1/8 yd medium fabric for stars*
- 1/4 yd light fabric star background and patches*
- (*or substitute promo pack for the above three fabrics.)
- 1/8 yd dark tonal for folded border
- 1/2 yd light fabric for outer borders/backing
- 16" square muslin
- 1/2 yd cotton batting

Requirements for tote bag:

- 1 3/8 yds fabric for outer bag/handle/binding
- 2 yds non-directional fabric for lining/inside pockets
- 1 1/3 yd Fast2Fuse interfacing
- 1/3 yd of 1/4" elastic
- 3 sets of non-sticky Velcro circles
- thread to match outer bag fabric
- four gold rings 1 1/2 - 2" (optional)

Start creating your tote bag by making the outside pieced pocket. Instead of a pieced outer pocket, you could use a 15 ½" square of fabric and quilt as desired. Your choice.

Cutting instructions for Pieced Star Block for Outside Pocket:

(Any finished 15" block will work, just add the borders to it as shown below.)

1/8 yd dark color for star

Cut six – 4" squares

1/8 yd medium color for star

Cut six – 4" squares

¼ yd light fabric for star and patches

Cut thirteen – 4" squares

Cotton batting:

16 ½" square

two – 2" x 15 ½" strips

two – 2" x 19" strips

16 ½" square of muslin

(for variety and ease, sub a charm pack for above three fabrics. Separate into light, medium, dark.)

1/8 yd dark fabric for folded border

Cut two – 1 ½" strips. Subcut into four 1 ½" x 15 ½" strips

½ yd light fabric for outer borders and backing

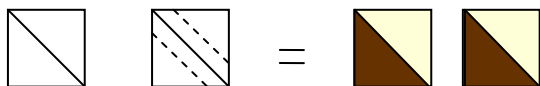
Cut one 18" square for backing

Cut four – 2" x 15 ½"

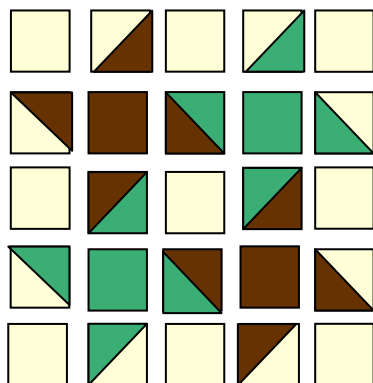
Cut four – 2" x 19"

To Make Pieced Block:

Layer a dark square and a light square, right sides together. On wrong side of lighter square, draw diagonal line from corner to corner. Sew a scant ¼" on both sides of drawn line. Press. Cut apart on drawn line. With darkest fabric on top, press triangle open.



Repeat above steps with one more dark/light pair, two medium/light pairs, and two medium/dark pairs. Square up patches to 3 ½", making sure diagonal line on square up ruler rests on diagonal line of patch.



Arrange half-square triangles and patches as shown.

Chain piece by sewing two left columns together. Clip apart, add next column.

Repeat until all columns have been added. Press seams to one side alternating direction for each row.

Sew top row to second row. Press seams towards top of block. Add next row. Repeat until block is finished. If necessary, square block to 15 ½".

Layer muslin, batting, and pieced block face up. Pin. Using walking foot, quilt by stitching in ditch around stars.

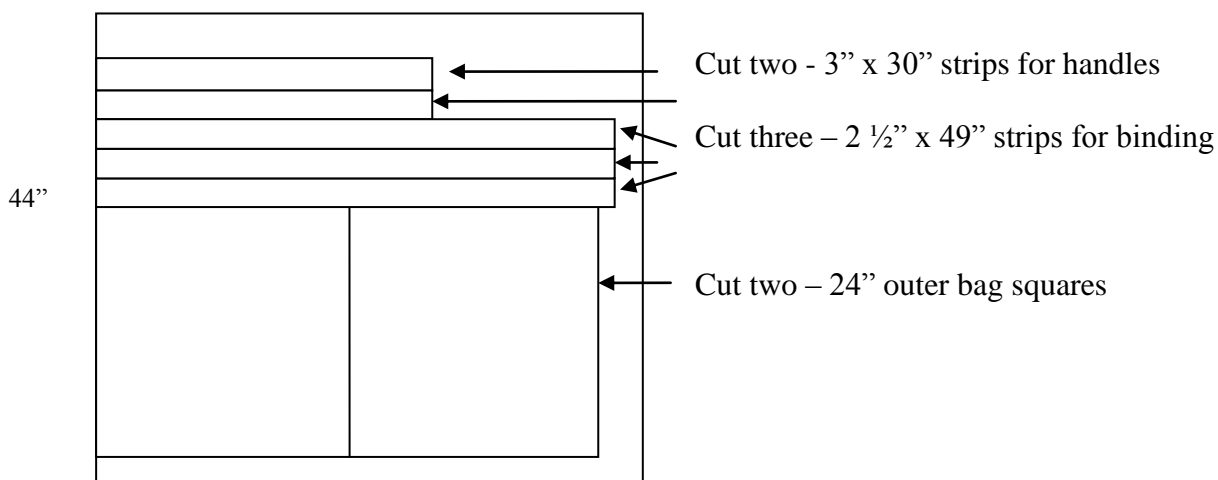
Adding border: Press folded border strips lengthwise in half, wrong sides together. Baste folded border strips to each side of block. Baste folded border to top and bottom of block. If necessary, trim excess muslin and batting.

Layer 15 ½" outer border strip face down, add batting strip, add another outer border strip face up. Sew to side of block. Repeat with other side. Repeat with 19" strips for top and bottom of block. Trim block to 18".

With right sides together, pin 18" backing fabric to finished block. Sew ¼" around outside edges, leaving an opening at bottom for turning. Clip corners, turn right side out. Press edges. Fold opening in ¼". Pin and whipstitch opening closed.

Cutting Directions for *Outer Bag*:

1 ⅜ yard Outer Bag Fabric – cut as shown below



First Side of *Outer Bag*: (this will hold your 12" and/or 16" square up ruler)

Center the pieced block face up on one of the 24" outer bag squares. Edges of pieced block should be 3 ¼" from side and bottom edges of bag. Pin.

Sew ¼" around sides and bottom of pieced block, reinforcing the top of block with added stitches.

On *front* of outer bag, underneath the pieced block, align Velcro circle so that it would be at the top center back of pieced block. Reinforce wrong side of bag with a scrap of fabric positioned underneath where the Velcro will be sewn on. Stitch Velcro in place. Align other half of Velcro on back of pieced block. Hand sew the Velcro in place. Set aside.

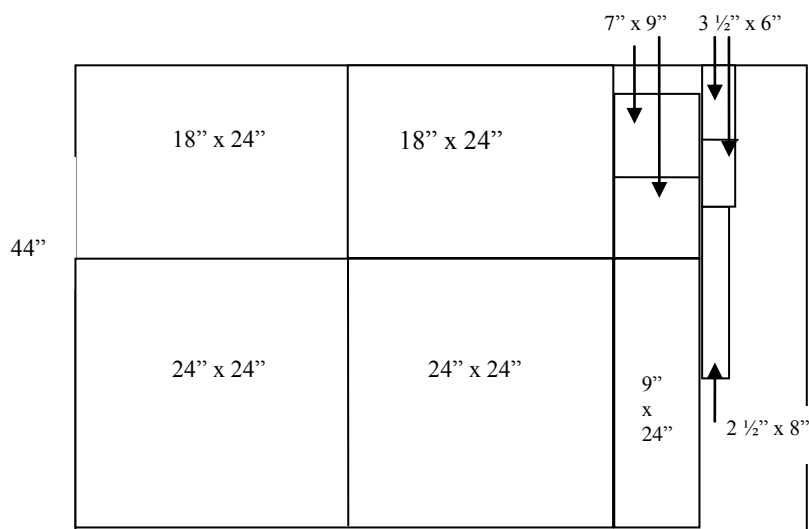
Cutting Directions for *Bag Lining*

Fast2Fuse interfacing – Cut two 23 ¾" x 23 ¾" pieces

Cut two – 1" x 24" pieces for handles

Cut one – 4 ¼" x 18" for top pocket

2 yards non-directional fabric (a tonal or all over print is best) - Cut as shown below:



- Cut two – 24" x 24" for lining
- Cut two – 18" x 24" for top pocket and bottom pocket
- Cut one – 9" x 24" for bottom pocket
- Cut two – 7" x 9" for bottom pocket
- Cut two – 3 1/2" x 6" for top pocket
- Cut one – 2 1/2" x 8" to hold ruler

First Lining Side:

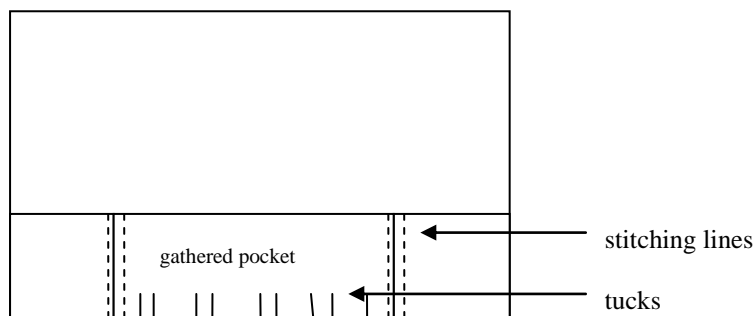
For Bottom Pocket Use:

- One - 9" x 24" for gathered pocket
- Two - 7" x 9" side pockets
- One – 10" piece of 1/4" wide elastic

Center Gathered pocket - Press one long edge 1/4" under on the 9" x 24" rectangle. Press again 1" under towards the wrong side. Piece now measures approx. 7 3/4" x 24". Topstitch bottom of the turned under edge. Stitch again 1/2" from top edge forming a casing. With small safety pin attached to one end of elastic, thread elastic through casing. Stitch end of elastic (without safety pin) to fabric edge. Pull elastic to gather fabric until pocket measures 10". Remove safety pin and stitch elastic to fabric edge.

Side pockets - Press 9" top edge 1/4" under on the 7" x 9" rectangles. Press under again 1" toward wrong side to form cuff. Piece now measures approx. 7" x 7 3/4". Top stitch cuff. Repeat with the other 7" x 9" rectangle. Attach one of the pieces to each side of the gathered pocket. Press seams towards flat pockets.

Pin pockets to sides and bottom of one 24" lining piece, making tucks along bottom of elastic pocket to ease in fullness. Baste along outer edges. Where the flat pockets meet the gathered pocket, topstitch close to seam line and then 1/4" away.



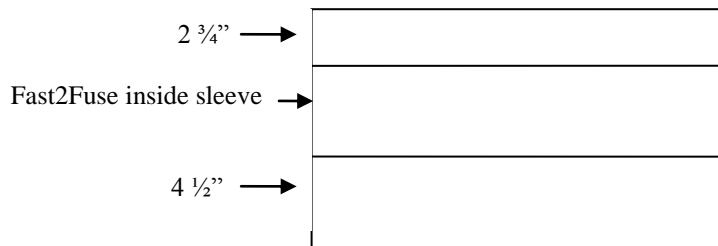
For Top Pocket Use:

One - 18" x 24"

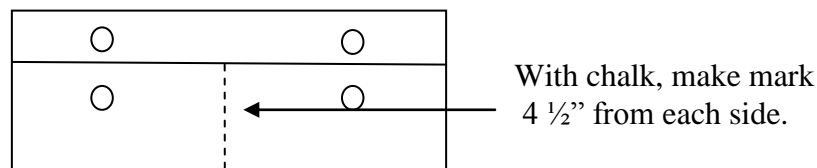
Two - 3 1/2" x 6" side pieces

Fold the 18" x 24" piece in half, right sides together, so that piece measures 12" x 18". Sew a 1/4" seam along the 18" raw edge to form a sleeve. Turn right side out and press so that the seam is in the middle of the sleeve. (This will be the wrong side.)

Slip the 4 1/4" x 18" piece of Fast2Fuse into sleeve so that it is 2 3/4" from top and 4 1/2" from bottom. See below. Fuse.

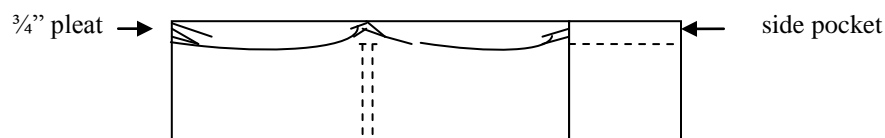


Bring bottom up to the top of the Fast2Fuse (forming a pocket). Mark placement of Velcro as shown by the circles below. Unfold pocket and sew on Velcro.



For the 3 1/2" x 6" side pieces of this pocket, press the top edge under 1/4". Press 1/4" under again and topstitch. Press bottom under 1/4". The side pieces will now measure approx. 4 1/2" tall.

To make the large pocket sides match the height of the side pockets, gather the top side edges forming a pleat. Sew side pockets to each side of the large pocket. Hand stitch to gather the center top of pocket.



Align and pin the pocket strip 6 1/2" from top of bag lining. Baste sides. Stitch bottom of pocket strip to lining. Stitch on chalk line starting at the bottom, stitch to top of pocket, turn and stitch to the bottom. Stitch in the seam where side pockets meet the center pocket. Stitch down center of side pockets to form pockets to hold marking pens or pencils.

Fusing Front of Bag to Lining:

Place front of outer bag face down, top with a Fast2Fuse square, add the *first* lining piece, right side up. Match all edges and pin to hold in place. (You might find it easier to first pin the Fast2Fuse to the front of the bag, then top with the lining and one at a time remove pins and pin all three layers together.)

Following the directions given with Fast2Fuse, fuse bag to lining. When fusing front side of bag, slip iron under pieced block pocket to fuse.

Second Lining Side:

With right side facing down, layer remaining *outer* bag square, a *Fast2Fuse* square, and the remaining *lining* square, right side facing up. All edges should be even. Pin edges to hold in place. Fuse layers together as stated in the instructions for *Fast2Fuse*.

Pockets:

18" x 24" rectangle for pocket

2 1/2" x 8 1/2" strip

On the 18" x 24" rectangle, press one 24" edge under 1/4". Bring this edge 2 1/2" to wrong side forming a cuff. Press. Pin. Stitch along bottom edge of cuff. Stitch again 1/4" away from first stitching. With right sides facing up, layer this piece on top of fused lining, matching outside edges on sides and bottom. (Refer to diagram shown on next page.) Both lining pieces should be facing up. Baste 1/8" along sides and bottom.

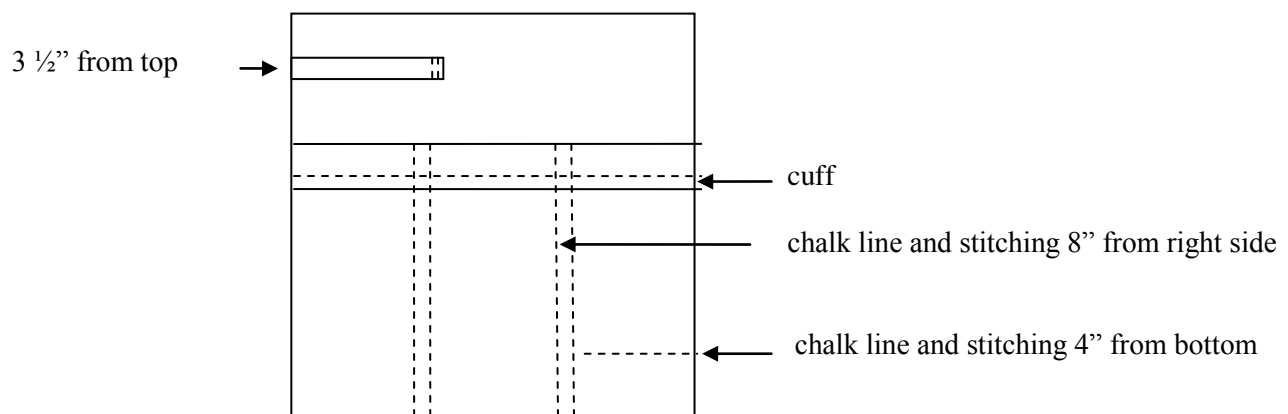
To form pockets, measure 8" from raw edges on both sides and draw chalk lines. *Using thread to match outer bag*, stitch on chalk lines starting at bottom of lining. Just before the top of pocket, turn and stitch next to first line of stitching all the way to the bottom.

If you will be using tote to hold acrylic rulers, do the following:

Mark a chalk line 4" from bottom of right pocket. Stitch on chalk line. This will make a shorter pocket to hold your 6" x 12" ruler.

Fold the 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" strip lengthwise in half, right sides facing. Stitch along the length and along one width. Turn right side out. Press. On left side of lining, measure 3 1/2" from top. Baste raw edge of strip at this point. With the other end of strip stretched out horizontally and 3 1/2" from top, stitch finished end of the strip to lining twice. The left pocket and this band will hold your 6" x 24" ruler.

If desired customize middle pocket to fit another one of your rulers or leave as is.



Assembling Bag:

Layer bag/lining pieces together, making sure lining pieces are inside facing together. Recheck to make sure both bag pieces and lining pieces are facing upright. If necessary, trim outer edges slightly so that both pieces line up. Sew 1/4" around sides and bottom.

Binding:

Three – 2 1/2" x 49" strips

Sew binding strips together. Press strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Sew raw edge of binding to one side of bag, the bottom, and the other side of bag, mitering the corners. Sew. Turn binding to back of bag and whipstitch in place.

Matching raw edges, sew binding to top edge of bag. Turn binding to inside and whipstitch in place.

Handles:

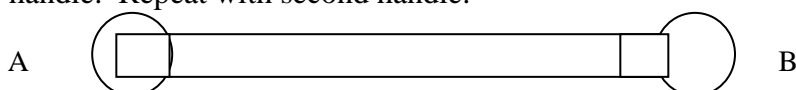
Two – 3" x 30"

Two – 1" x 24" *Fast2Fuse* interfacing

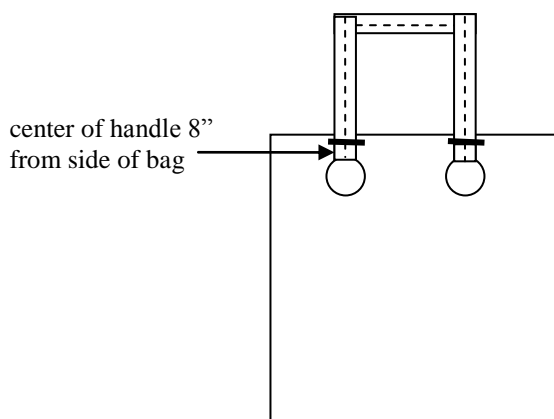
Press long edge of handle $\frac{1}{4}$ " to wrong side. Press opposite long edge $\frac{3}{4}$ " to wrong side. Insert *Fast2Fuse* strip under larger fold and 3" from each end of fabric strip. Bring the $\frac{1}{4}$ " pressed under edge up and over and fuse in place. (The pressed under $\frac{1}{4}$ " will not be fused.) Turn strip over and fuse. Stitch down middle of strip to hold the $\frac{1}{4}$ " in place. Repeat with the other handle.

Attaching the Handles:

With handle face up, lay a ring over the edge of the handle (A). If you choose not to use the rings, do the same steps without them. Bring raw edge of handle up through the ring 1" (B). Pin. Repeat with other end of handle. Repeat with second handle.



Pin one handle to one side of bag having center seam of handle 8" from bag sides and raw edge of handle at bottom edge of binding. Pin. Repeat. Slip bag over your shoulder to see how it fits. Adjust handles if necessary. Sew handle to bag using a satin stitch.



Although the rings are optional, they add to the look of the bag and they can be functional. Clip on your cell phone, pens, glass case, name tag, or whatever you want.

When not using your bag to tote your rulers to class, the bag can be hung up in a closet or on a wall to keep all your rulers safely and together.



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