



# Touring Tote Bag

By Colleen Tauke

Approximately 18-1/2" W x 15" H x 3-1/2" D

**Yardage**

1 package 5" charm squares  
1/2 yd. coordinate A sides/bottom  
1/2 yd. coordinate B binding/handles  
1 yd lining fabric

**Supplies**

Rotary Cutter  
Cutting Mat  
8-1/2" X 24-1/2" or similar  
Fabric glue stick  
Walking Foot or Dual Feed Foot  
Thread  
Scissor  
Pins  
Iron and pressing mat  
Batting - 20" x 40" - I used a polyester Fusible style - select your favorite  
Peltex 71F (4) 1" x 30" strips  
Crafter's Choice - 1750-1 or similar interfacing - 7" x 24" piece (for optional pocket)



NOTE: WOF - Width of fabric  
RST - right sides together

**Cutting**

1. You will use (40) 5" Charm squares OR cut your own 5" squares.
2. Coordinate A - cut (4) 2-1/4" x 15-1/2" rectangles (bag sides)  
- cut (1) 4" x 22-3/4" rectangle (bag bottom)
3. Coordinate B - cut (2) 3" x 31" strips (handles)  
- cut (2) 2-1/2" x WOF (binding)
4. Lining - cut (1) 22-1/2" x 34" rectangle  
- cut (2) 6-1/2" x 22" rectangle (optional interior pocket)

**Construction**

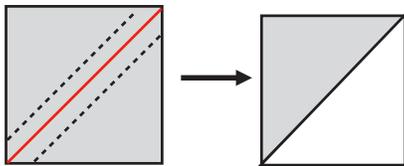
1. Sort the (40) 5" charms to create (20) sets of 2 squares. Make a two-color hourglass block from each set of two, following this process.

**Hourglass blocks -**

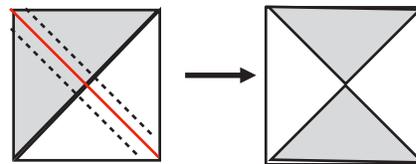
Step 1 Mark one square with a diagonal line using a fabric marking pen/pencil. Place the 5" squares RST - stitch 1/4" on each side of the marked line. Cut on the parked line. Press both units open, press seam allowance toward the darker fabric.

Step 2 Next, mark one of the pair with a diagonal line corner to corner. Place units RST, but mismatching fabrics. Stitch 1/4" on each side of the marked line. Cut on the marked line. Press both units open with the seam allowance to one side. This will yield (2) matching hourglass blocks.

Repeat this process with all (20) pairs to yield (40) blocks.

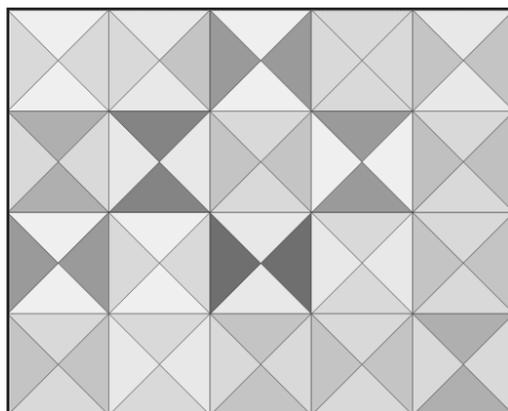


First step = 2 HST units



Second step = 2 hourglass units

2. Divide the (40) blocks into two groups. One group will become the front of your tote, the second, the back of your tote. Arrange the blocks in a 5 x 4 grid as shown below to make the front panel. Join blocks into rows, pressing seam allowance in even numbered rows to the right, odd numbered rows to the left. Join rows. Repeat to create the back panel of the tote.



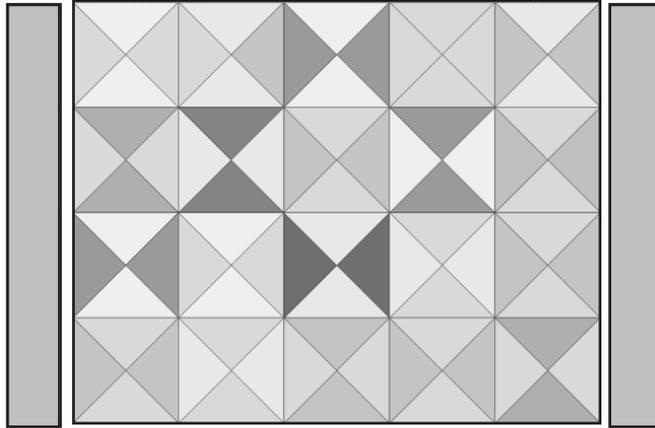
Row 1

Row 2

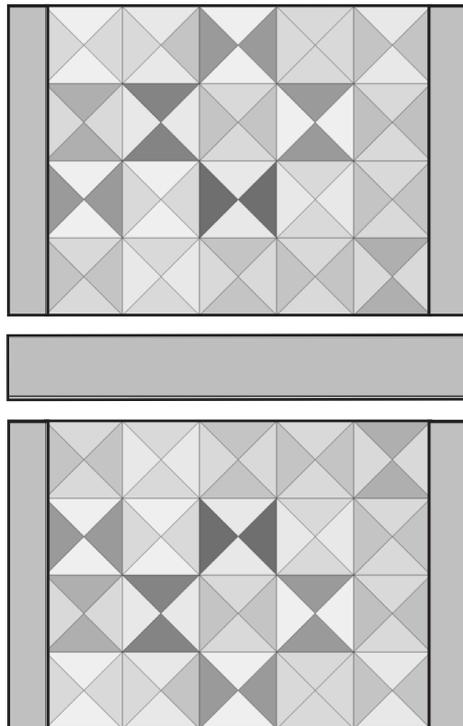
Row 3

Row 4

3. Join (1) coordinate A 2-1/4" x 15-1/2" rectangle to the left and right sides of each tote panel created in Step 2. See the Diagram below.

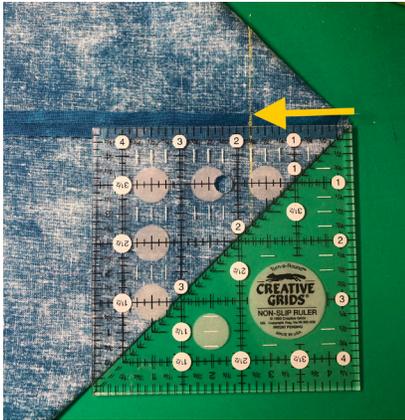


4. Now, join the front and back with the 4" x 26-1/4" rectangle. As shown here to create the outer bag portion.

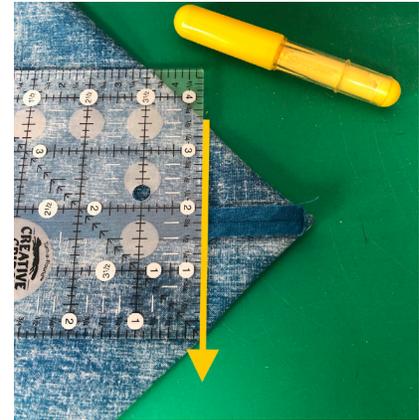


5. Layer the outer bag with batting and quilt as desired. Trim batting even with outer bag, along the long sides. Trim short ends, leaving 1/8" of batting extending beyond pieced outer bag. (This will leave some batting to fill the binding applied in a later step.)

6. Fold outer bag RST and stitch a 1/4" seam along the left and side sides. Fold and realign seam to box the bottom with a seam that is 3-1/2" long and 1-3/4" from tip of fold. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". See video for specific details. Turn bag right side out.



Measure in 1-3/4" from tip of corner.



Mark 3-1/2" long seam line.

7. Fold lining fabric in the same manner as the outer bag portion, RST. Stitch a 1/4" seam long each short side. Box the lining in the same way as the outer bag section. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". **Do not** turn lining.

8. Place lining down into outer bag. Align the side seam allowances and pin along the top edge of the bag. Stay stitch with long stitch length the entire upper edge.

9. Apply binding to the outer upper edge of the bag. Turn binding toward the interior of the bag and hand stitch binding fold.

10. Handle Construction - Working with the 3" x 31" handle, fold the strip lengthwise, WST and press. Turn under all outer edges 1/2" and press toward the wrong side. Stack the 1" handle straps and fuse as one. Place the handle straps inside the folded handle fabric strip. Wrap fabric around strap. Use fabric glue to hold fabric in place. Machine stitch around all four sides.

11. Determine the handle placement on the bag, Stitch handles in place.

12. Your Touring Tote is ready for your next adventure!



