

Color Beat Tote Bag By Diana McClun and Laura Nownes

FABRIC

Outer Bag

White dots: ASJ-5743-2 3/8 yard 1/4 yard Black dots: AJS-5743-1 Side, bottom, straps & binding: AJS-5745-2 1/2 yard

Circle Design: Scraps (approx. 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" pieces) each of:

AJS5742-7, AJS5743-10, AJS5743-160, AJS5745-10, AJS5745-11, AJS5749-10, AJS5751-24, AJS5752-49, AJS5753-10,

AJS5754-7

Lining: AJS5745-10 7/8 yard

Also: 1/4 yard fusible web, 1 yard Fast to Fuse or any heavyweight double-sided fusible interfacing, seven 1-1/4" black

buttons, open toe appliqué foot and thread for raw edge machine appliqué.

CUTTING – From selvage to selvage

Outer bag- White dots fabric: Three 4" x 42" strips

Black dot s: Two 4" x 42" strips

Black (sides, bottom, straps & binding): Two 3-1/2" strips (sides & bottom)

Three 2-1/2" strips (straps & binding)

Lining & Interfacing – Front & back: Two 18" x 16" pieces, each

Sides & bottom: Two 3-1/2" x 42" strips, each Pocket (lining only): One 8-1/2" x 32" piece

PREPARATION

1. Sew the scraps of design fabrics together in pairs:

5743-10 and 5753-10 - small circle

- 5745-10 and 5749-10 small circle
- 5752-49 and 5754-7 large circle
- 5742-7 and 5751-24 large circle
- 5743-160 and 5745-11 large circle
- 2. Press the seams open.
- 3. (Using Diagram 1) Mark two small and three large circles (including the center line) onto the paper side of the fusible web. Cut the web circles 1/4" beyond the lines. (Note Diagram 2)
- 4. Place the glue side of the web circles onto the wrong side of the pairs of design fabric, placing the marked center lines directly over the opened seams. Press to secure. Then cut the circles out exactly on the lines. Carefully pull to remove the paper side of the fusible web. Set aside.
- 5. Sew the strips of outer bag fabric together lengthwise, beginning and ending with white dot strips. Cut this into two 18" x 16" pieces.
- 6. Refer to the photo for the placement of the design circles. Press onto the front side of the bag. Stitch around the circles using a machine blanket stitch.
- 7. Sew the two black strips for the sides/bottom together, end-to-end.
- 8. Fuse the interfacing between the outer bag pieces and lining pieces.
- 9. Cut a gentle curve in the bottom corners of the front and back bag pieces.

CONSTRUCTION:

- 1. Sew the front and back pieces with the side/bottom strip with a 1/4" seam allowance. Trim the excess length of side fabric strip, as necessary. Diagram 1
- 2. Stitch again with a tight zigzag stitch to finish the seams.
- 3. To make the pocket: with right sides together, fold the piece in half to make an 8-1/2" x 16" piece. Stitch the sides. Turn right side out. Bring the bottom folded edge up to within 1" of the opposite raw edges. Stitch close to the edges along the sides. Center the pocket on the inside front of the bag. Stitch across the top raw edge to secure.
- 4. Double fold (fold in half and then fold the edges in to the center crease) a 2-1/2" strip of binding fabric, Place over the raw edges on the top of the bag and then stitch through all layers close to the folded edge.
- 5. To make the handles: With right sides together, sew the handle strips together lengthwise. Turn right sides out. Trim to the desired length. Turn the ends in and stitch across to close.
- 6. Position the ends of the straps over the seams, approximately 2-1/2" onto the outside of the bag. Then stitch in place to secure.
- 7. Sew large buttons in the center of each design circle as well as onto the ends of each strap.

