



Market Square Bag

Pattern with step-by-step pictures
to show you how to make this easy and
practical quilted bag
Designed by Helen Howes

Market Square Bag

You will need

Six Fat Eighths of cotton fabric

Plus a Fat quarter for the lining/backing

Finished size approximately 8 by 8 by 8 inches
(20 by 20 by 20cm) plus the handles

Batting and backing about 18 by 22 inches -
make sure this is big enough to see all round
the edges.

I used a slightly stiff felted polyester wadding as it gives the bag a good
shape, but any flat wadding will be fine

Cutter with a sharp blade, mat, and a square ruler
Sewing machine with straight and zig-zag stitches

Threads to match for piecing and perhaps a fancy thread for quilting
Scissors, pins etc.

I try to make my patterns as well as possible, but as materials and
procedures can vary, I cannot guarantee the final result.
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Designed and made by Helen Howes,
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www.helenhowestextiles.co.uk

Fabrics were originally from Oakshott Fabrics sadly no longer
available - lovely in your choices, of course

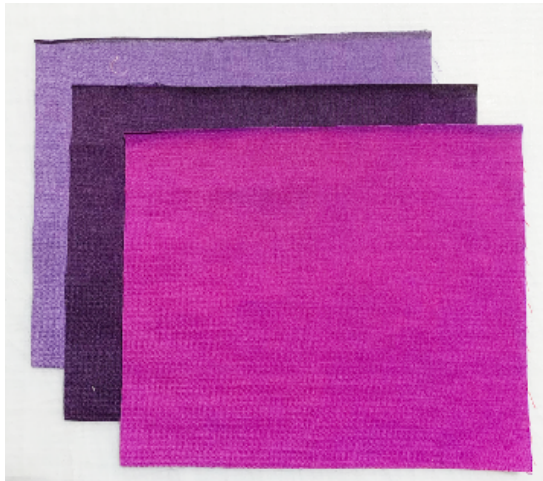
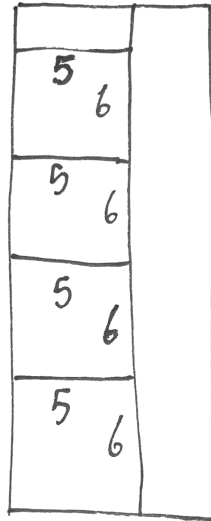


Start by making Spiral Nebula blocks

From each of your six fat eighths, cut four pieces 6 by 5 inches as shown. This will give you twenty-four pieces for the blocks. Reserve the rest for binding and handles.

Arrange these into sets of three varying the colours in each set.

When making these blocks, as Oakshott fabric is double-sided, be careful to keep everything the right way up and the right way round - it really helps to work with the mat next to your machine and to press each block only when it is sewn together. Make and check the first set of three blocks but do not trim the rest until you are ready to assemble the bag panel



Lay the first three pieces on your mat, exactly on top of each other and Right Sides Up (yes, I know, it's two-sided, but pay attention anyway)

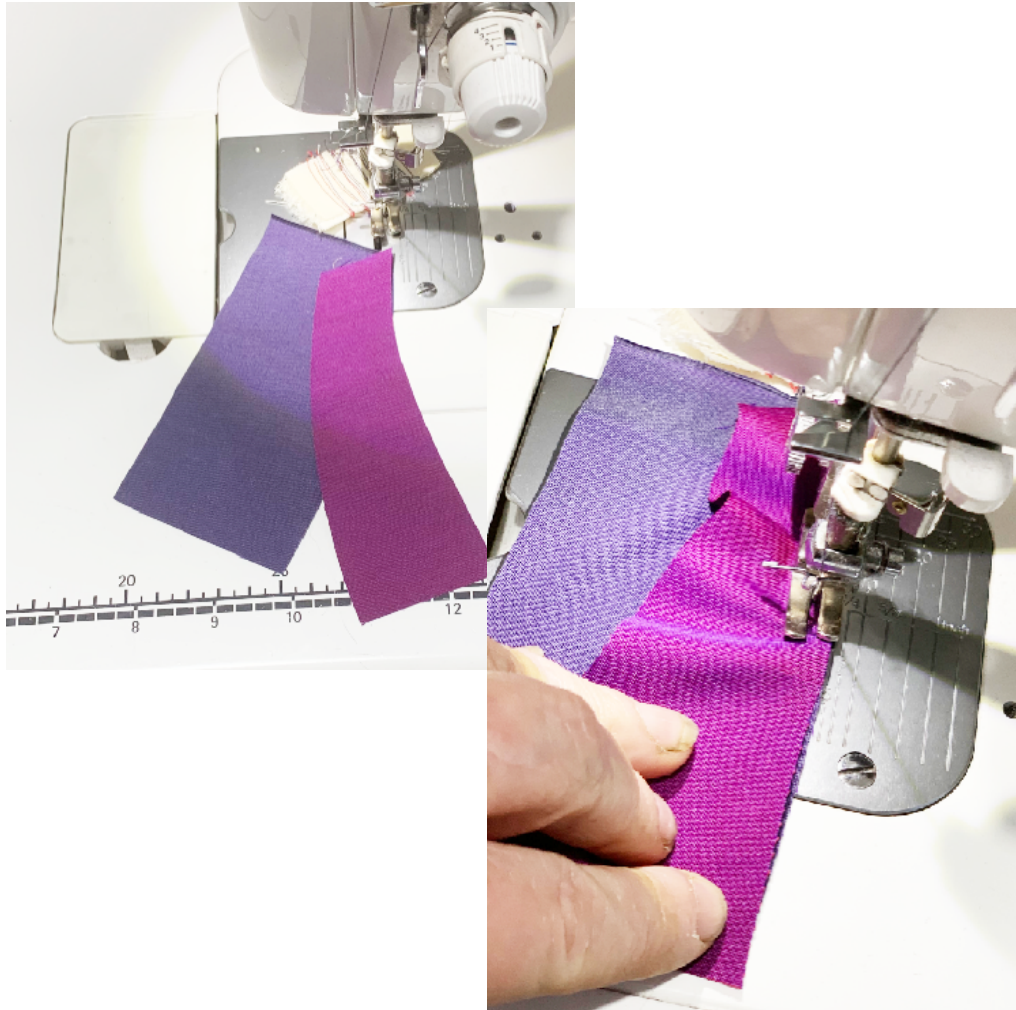
Cut twice with a gentle curve from bottom to top, and making a gentle swirl shape as shown - do not attempt a more complex curve, it will make you unhappy when you come to sew...



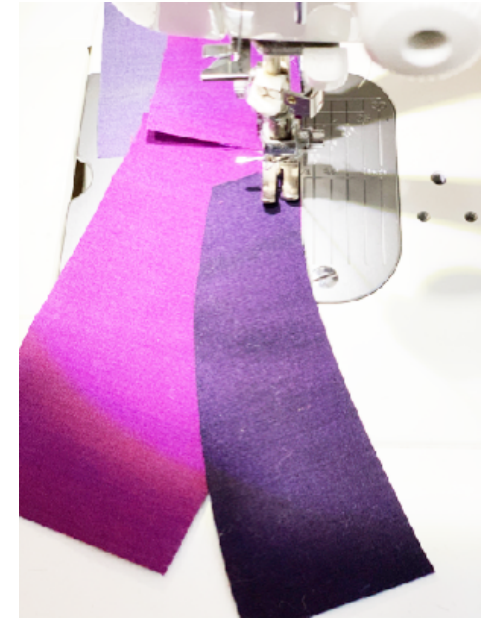
Re-arrange the pieces so that you have three blocks with alternating colours, like so...

Pick up the first two pieces from the left side of the top block

Put them Right Sides Together and sew, with a 1/4 inch seam. They won't match beyond the first 1/2 inch, so align the edges as you go, gently making the top piece follow the edge of the lower piece. They do not need pinning and will sew together neatly if you are gentle...



When you reach the bottom, pick up the first two pieces from the second block and carry on sewing without cutting the thread.



This is called Chain Piecing and is a useful skill for all sorts of reasons.

Repeat with the first two pieces from block three, then snip off the top pair, go back up to the top and sew the third piece onto each block in turn...

Press (towards the darker colour if you have a lot of contrast, otherwise in one direction.)
Do NOT press seams open.

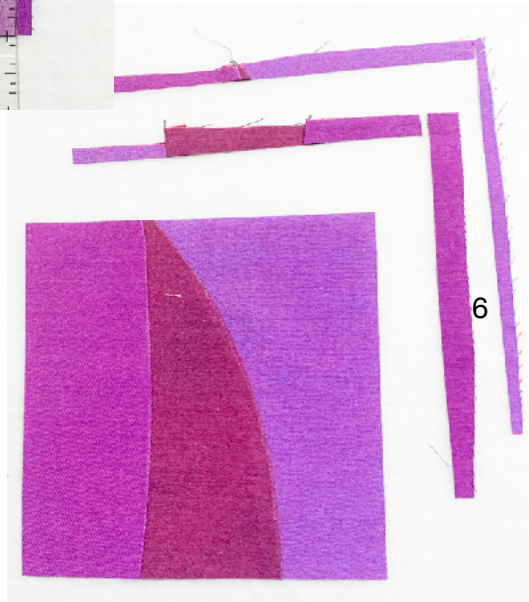
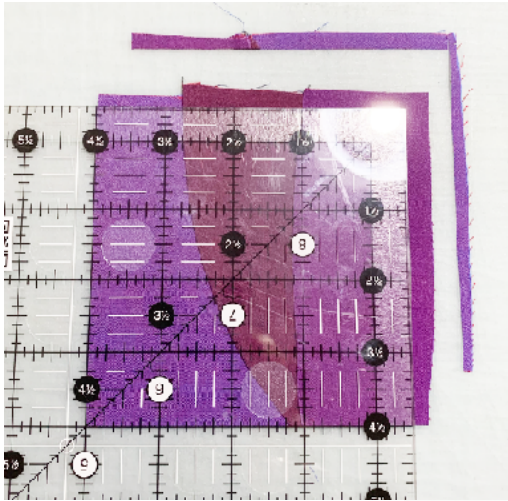
You now have three blocks ready to trim.

Check the size at this point - if the blocks are too small to trim to 4-1/2 inches you need to consider your seam allowances, they may be too big.. It's not very important, just trim so they are all the same size...

Make seven more sets of three, for a total of twenty-four blocks...

Press everything really nicely

Trim your blocks to 4-1/2 inches - lay each well-pressed block on the mat right side up and trim two sides making sure you have the 4-1/2 inch lines on your ruler inside the remaining sides, then turn the block round and trim to exactly 4-1/2 inches. This stage is essential, or your blocks will not join together accurately and will look awful...



Make a Quilted Panel For Your Bag

Trim all your blocks (see page 5)

Arrange your blocks to please your eye and sew them into six rows of four. Note that I turned the blocks round alternately to make the Nebula spiral...

Press the seams alternate ways in each row and pin and sew the rows together.

Press nicely...

Layer your backing, face down, then the wadding/batting and your quilt top and pin all over.

Quilt your panel. Use a walking foot, please, and quilt simply - I ran along the edges of the blocks then did two wobbly lines

through each row and column..

I like a vareigated thread for most of my quilting, and these were done with soft matching colours

Don't forget that you will see the inside, so use a nice matching thread there too

Trim the quilted panel to the edges of the blocks. Bind all round using 2-1/2 inch strips from four of the remaining fabrics (see pages 8 and 9) (keep two for handles)





Make Handles

Choose two of the leftover strips and cut 3-1/2 inch strips along the length (the handles will be different colours)
Cut 1-inch strips of batting about 1 inch shorter than the handle strips

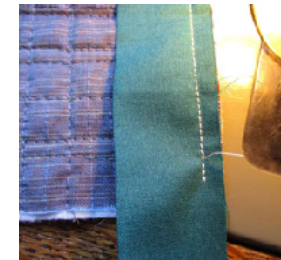
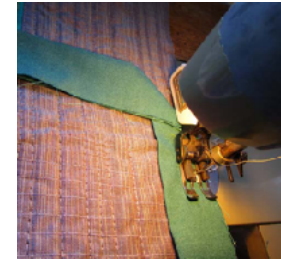
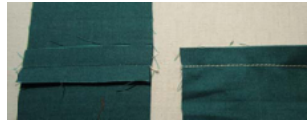
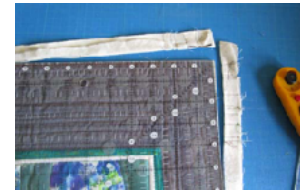
Press the handle strip so that 1/3 of the width is folded up

Then press the remaining third in half so the edges meet

Press this part down over the larger part enclosing the raw edges

Open up the channel, lay the wadding into the middle and close the folds again. Leave 1/2 inch empty at each end..

Sew along three times (a zigzag or wavy stitch is stronger)



Bind your Quilted Panel

Cut 2-1/2 inch strips from four pieces of the remaining fabric
Sew pieces end to end to make enough binding to go all around, plus about four inches, and press the seams open.

Press the binding in half, Right Side Out all along the length.

Trim the edges of your quilted panel to the edges of the blocks, making sure the corners are square

Starting in the middle of a long side, on the wrong side of the panel, put the raw edges of the binding exactly level with the edge of the quilt and, leaving a 6-inch tail, sew along 1/4 inch from the edge.

Use your walking foot!

When you get to the corner, stop 1/4 inch from the edge and back-stitch. Remove the work...

Fold the binding away from the corner like so, then down towards the next side, making a neat fold exactly on the edge of the quilt



Starting right at the corner and back-stitching for strength, sew along edge two.

Repeat for all four corners and edges.

When you get to about 6 inches from the start, back-stitch and remove the work.



Trim the binding so that there is a half-inch overlap. Sew the ends of the binding right sides together with a 1/4 inch seam and finger-press the seam open.

Re-fold the binding and sew across the last part overlapping the stitching.



Turn the binding to the front of the quilted panel; pin firmly and sew down with a straight or fancy stitch to finish - you will find the corners make a neat mitre as you go..



Pin and sew the handles
on next, this is easier while the bag is still flat

Turn under the “empty” bit at each end and pin the handles firmly into place on the short sides, then sew down really efficiently - I sew around three times for strength



Assemble the bag -

Set your machine for a wide zigzag and put threads to match the bindings in the top and bottom.

The short edges are the top of the bag and the long edges meet to make the sides

Fold one long edge in half, matching the corners as shown, and butting the bindings gently together. Don't let them overlap.

Start at the edge and sew a few zigzag stitches, then back-tack, and then sew forward again, keeping the edges together, until you are almost at the bottom of the fold.

Take your time and keep the edges nicely together. It gets a bit cramped towards the bottom, be patient...

You won't be able to get all the way down, and it's easier to back-tack a little way before you turn around and sew all the way back up to the edge again, then back-tack and finish off...

Box the bottom - Turn the bag inside out and fold the sides so



that the seam sits in the middle. Pin 4 inches up from the point right across the corner and sew firmly twice across. Push the points into the middle of the bag and tack them down by hand; they make the bottom nicely shaped. And a shapely bottom is so important...

Turn the bag the right side out and use it merrily... Make another?



Ready to catch cherries from my tree...