BORO BORO TOTE

FREE PATTERN
BORO BORO TOTE

OBSERVER

FABRICS DESIGNED BY APRIL RHODES

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Boro Boro Tote

FINISHED SIZE | 14” tall × 12” wide × 3” deep

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>OBR-49800</td>
<td>¼ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>OBR-49804</td>
<td>¼ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>OBR-49805</td>
<td>¼ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>DEN-P-1010</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>DEN-S-2003</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>DEN-S-2004</td>
<td>½ yd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LINING FABRIC
OBR-49807 ½ yd.

OTHER MATERIALS
- Medium-weight Interfacing
- Fusible Fleece
- Craftex
- Interlining fabric (optional)
- Sashiko or Embroidery Thread

Note:
*Check your observer & denim scraps and read the cutting directions as this is a scrap-friendly bag.

CUTTING DIRECTIONS

½” seam allowances are included.

Exact Cutting Directions for bag as Pictured:

From Fabric A:
- Cut one (1) 10 ½” × 5” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 12” × 2” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 7” × 2 ½” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 2” × 5 ½” rectangle

From Fabric B:
- Cut one (1) 11 ½” × 5” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 7” × 2” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 3” square
- Cut one (1) 6 ½” × 2 ½” rectangle

From Fabric C:
- Cut one (1) 17 ½” × 2” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 9” × 2” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 7 ½” × 3” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 10” × 3” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 11” × 4” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 3 ½” square

From Fabric D:
- Cut two (2) 26” × 4” rectangles (straps)
- Cut one (1) 7” square
- Cut one (1) 4 ½” × 5” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 5” × 7” rectangle

From Fabric E:
- Cut one (1) 3 ½” square

From Fabric F:
- Cut one (1) 11” × 3” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 6 ½” × 4 ½” rectangle
- Cut one (1) 3 ½” × 2 ½” rectangle

From Lining Fabric:
- Cut two (2) 17” × 16” rectangles

From Craftex:
- Cut two (2) 5 ½” × 16” rectangles
- Cut four (4) 1 ½” × 2” rectangles

From Interfacing:
- Cut two (2) 12 ½” × 16” rectangles
- Cut two (2) 26” × 4” rectangles

From Fusible Fleece:
- Cut two (2) 17” × 16” rectangles

From Interlining fabric (optional):
- Cut two (2) 12 ½” × 17” rectangles

*CUTTING NOTE-- Except for the straps, all pieces from Fabrics A-F can also be cut improvisationally and pieced using the techniques described in the instructions should you wish to work in a more free form way or utilize scraps.

CONSTRUCTION

½” seam allowances are included.

- All pieces will be overlapped with raw edges exposed. You can arrange them on the interfacing piece for easier construction and then sew, or you can just sew each piece to each other. When finished you will trim to 12 ½” × 16” so make sure your piece measures at least that size.
- Overlap the pieces according to the diagrams and photos.
- Sew the pieces together with a straight stitch approximately ¼” from the edge.
- Trim to 12 ½’ tall x 16” wide rectangles.
- Apply the interfacing (if fusible fuse, if sew-in baste at 1/4” from the edge.)

**SPECIAL TOUCHES**

**Fray Edges:**
- Use an old toothbrush to gently fray the raw edges.
- You may also choose to wash the fabric on gentle cycle and dry on low to fray edges. This will result in a much more worn looking bag body. Lightly press out excess wrinkles and snip away excess threads. If any seams became undone or look close to becoming undone reinforce them with ragged free-motion stitching or place another small patch on top of them if needed.

**Distress Denim:**
- Take fine sandpaper and sand a spot in the denim to give it a worn look.
- If you keep sanding it will start to fray a bit.
- Free motion stitch over ragged patch as shown below.
Sashiko Stitching:

- Take your sashiko or embroidery thread and add sashiko stitches (basically large running stitches) to the bag body pieces mirroring seams or adding accents where you wish.
- Add large cross stitch details across certain seams.
- Experiment with your embroidery stitches and have fun!

CONSTRUCTION, CONT.

- Overlap the large craftex pieces ½” over the bottom edges of the front and back bag body pieces.
- Top-stitch at ¼” away from the edge of the craftex. Sew with a longer stitch (like a #4).
- Bag front/back should now measure 17” tall by 16” wide.
- Place front and back bag pieces right sides together and stitch along sides and bottom of bag at ½” seam allowance. (Diagram 4)
- Fuse fusible fleece to the wrong side of the lining pieces.
- Sew your two lining pieces with right sides together. Sew at ¼” seam allowance. (Diagram 4)

Important: Leave a small unsewn portion in the bottom of the lining to pull right side of bag through .

Creating the Straps:

- Fuse your interfacing strips to the wrong side of the 4’ x 26” Fabric D strips.
- Fold edges in ½” on each side, press, then fold in half and press again.
- We hand sewed the open edge closed with with our sashiko thread using an overcast stitch. It’s thick so use a thimble to protect your fingers!
- Alternative: If you’d prefer not to hand-sew then top stitch both sides at ¼” from edge.

Box Corners Construction:

- We want to box the interior corners to get a really nice flat bottom on the bag; this way the tote bag will have more body.
- Take the exterior of the bag (wrong side out) and pinch apart the two layers of the purse to get a little triangle on one corner. Flatten it down a little bit and make sure the top and bottom seams are lined up. Hold it tight.
- Place the bag flat on the table. Take the acrylic ruler with the 45° angle and lay it on the corner so that the 45° line is right on the edge of the triangle corner.
- We want to do a 3” gusset for this purse, so draw a line 3 long with an air-erasable marker right across the bottom of the 45° corner.
- Stitch on top of the marked line. Trim excess.
- Repeat these steps for the other tote corner and for both lining corners as well.
Attaching Straps

- Trim ⅛" off ends of straps if they need neatening.
- Take your 4 small craftex rectangles and encase the ends of the straps by folding the craftex so the ends meet on the back side of the straps. (Diagram 6a-6b)
- Place your straps on the right side of the bag exterior. Measure 1" from the top of the bag, align the top edge of craftex to this mark.
- Measure 3 ¾" in from the sides of bag, mark and align the outer edge of the craftex to this mark. (Diagram 6c)
- Secure the ends in place for sewing by either pinning, taping down or gluing down.
- Topstitch all around the craftex at ⅛" from edge. Sew with a larger stitch length, a heavy-weight needle and go slowly. (Diagram 6c)
- Add a decorative X hand-stitch with your sashiko thread. (Diagram 6d)

Final Bag Assembly

- Place exterior of bag inside lining making sure right sides are touching and that the straps are out of the way. Pin lining to the exterior of the bag and sew all the way around the top of your bag at 1/2” seam allowance.
- Pull exterior of bag through the unsewn portion in the lining.
- Handstitch or machine stitch unsewn portion of the lining.
- Press top edge of bag and top-stitch with a sashiko stitch all the way around.
- Shape the craftex corners and bottom edge so that you have the look you want. Enjoy your bag!

Interesting Notes

- Sashiko stitching is a traditional embroidery style from Japan. Originally used for repairs and reinforcements, in the present day it is more often employed for its decorative purposes. In Japanese, its name means 'little stabs'—a reference to the plain running stitch that makes up sashiko's geometric, all-over patterns.
- What does Boro Boro mean? Boro are a class of Japanese textiles that have been mended or patched together. The term is derived from Japanese boroboro, meaning something tattered or repaired.

NOTE: While all possible care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this pattern, We are not responsible for printing errors or the way in which individual work varies. Please read instructions carefully before starting the construction of this quilt. If desired, wash and iron your fabrics before starting to cut.

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