

Beaded Workbag

Using a combination of machine and hand stitching

By Rosemary Archer

Requirements:

1 Oakshott Colourwrap plus an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ metre for inset and handles
1.2 metres 3-fold waistband stiffening
1 sheet Jeffytex
Approx 3 square feet wadding (off-cuts will do)
42 beads or decorative buttons
Sewing machine and hand-sewing kit with toning thread



Cutting:

From the Colourwrap fabrics cut an assortment of 42 pieces each measuring 7" x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (A 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " strip from each fabric will yield 3.)

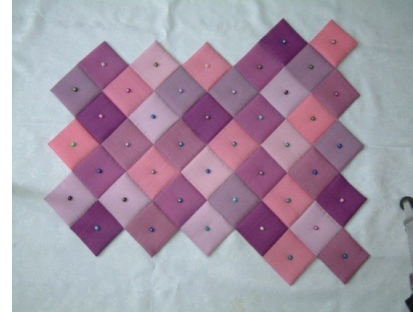
From both the wadding and the Jeffytex cut 42 x 3" squares.

From the extra $\frac{1}{2}$ metre fabric cut 2 pieces 19" x 8" for the inset, 1 x 3" strip across the whole width of fabric for the handles and 2 x 1" strips across the width of fabric for the ties.

Method:

Make 42 square pockets by pressing $\frac{1}{4}$ " turning along each of the short edges of the Colourwrap rectangles. Fold in half and pinch each end of the fold between your thumb and forefinger. This is sufficient to mark the centre. Bring the sides to the centre mark, right sides together, and machine stitch along the top and bottom using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Turn through to right side and carefully push out the corners with a pointed implement. Insert a square of wadding into each one, making sure the corners are not folded back, and then a square of Jeffytex. The easiest way to do this is to push one side in as far as it will go, slightly pinch the other 2 corners together between your fingers and begin to insert them into the other side. You can then lift the fabric over at the centre and it will slide in easily. With needle and thread oversew the back seam together as far as the centre, then bring your needle through to the right side and firmly attach bead through all layers, take needle through to the back and complete the seam.

Lay out the squares in a pleasing arrangement, as picture, and hand sew together in rows taking small stitches as in English piecing, then sew rows together making sure that the shape of your piece conforms exactly to the illustration. Sew the sides together with wrong side towards you attaching the underside of the end square at the widest end to the top of the first square on the second row of the narrow end. The rest can then be sewn as they present themselves until the whole seam is sewn.



Inset:

With sewing machine make $\frac{1}{4}$ " hems along sort sides of inset pieces, and also along one long side. Make $\frac{3}{4}$ " hem along other side leaving ends open to insert the ties. Join short sides together with small oversewing stitches as far as the open hem. Still with the inset inside out ease it over the top on the bag so it just covers the points. Hem down to the bag in a straight line just below the bottom of the "V"s. Turn the bag right side out.

Ties:

Press $\frac{1}{4}$ " in down long sides of ties, then fold sides to middle and machine stitch close to the edge. Thread through the hems of the inset so that 2 ends are on one side and 2 the other. Knot each of the pairs of ends together and cut off surplus at 45 degree angle about $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the knots. Pull ends to close opening and tie in a bow.

Handles:

Cut the handle strip in half and remove selvages. Cut 2 pieces of waistband stiffening each 1" shorter than the handles and iron onto the fabric. Iron on both sides to ensure a good bond. Fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the ends and along the fold lines and machine stitch close to the edge on all sides. Finally firmly hand stitch the handles to the inside of the bag at the points each side of the centre.