

Kasuri Musubi Handbag

(Japanese Ikat Knot)

This patchwork bag is inspired by a 1930s Japanese *meisen* silk *kasuri* (ikat) kimono, which were the height of informal chic. The shot cottons in the Oakshott Gemstones collection were perfect for capturing the subtlety of these glowing vintage silks. It is easier to piece than it looks, using Seminole patchwork to simplify creating the knot design on both sides of the bag.

Preparation

Cut the following pieces from the fabrics, following straight of grain:



ruby tiger eye

2, 3" x 2" strips
3, 8" x 1" strips
2, 4" x 1" strips



ruby coral (background)

3, 8" x 1" strips
9, 4" x 1" strips
8, 3½" x 1½" strips
8, 2½" x 1½" strips
8, 1½" x 1½" squares



ruby opal blue

14, 4" x 1" strips



ruby peridot

6, 8" x 1" strips
7, 4" x 1" strips



ruby jade

4, 4" x 1" strips



ruby moonstone

6, 4" x 1" strips

plus

ruby purple diamond

4, 9" x 1½" strips
2, 10" x 1" strips
1, 10" x 3" strip
1, 1" x 5" strip (button loop)
4, 2" x 3" strips (handle loop)

ruby amethyst

keep for lining bag

“Sew” = “machine sew” throughout the instructions. Use ¼” seam allowances unless instructed otherwise. Start and finish all bag assembly seams with a few backstitches.

Make the two patchwork panels:

1. Arrange the strips and sew together to make units, as shown, **Figures 1 & 2.**

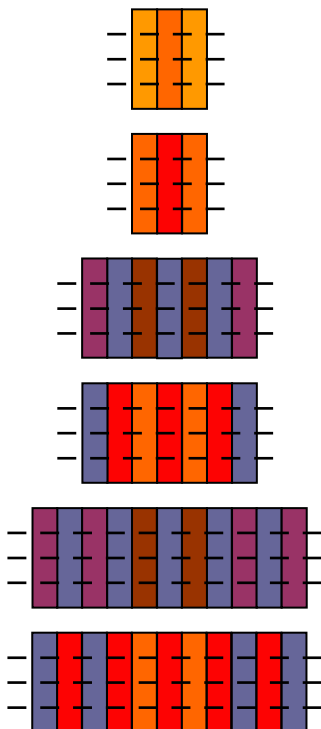


Figure 1

From the first diagram (**Figure 1**)

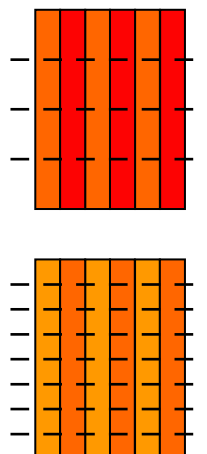


Figure 2

downwards, press the seam allowances towards the centre strip on the first set of three, away from the centre strip on the second set. Press the third and fifth set towards the opal blue strips and the next set in the opposite direction.

In **Figure 2** press seam allowances towards the peridot strips.

2. Cut the patchwork units into equal strips, as shown by the dashed lines. The shorter units, **Figure 1**, are each cut into four 1" wide sections. The longer units, **Figure 2**, are cut into four 2" sections and eight 1" sections respectively, as shown by the dashed lines.
3. Arrange the strips cut in step 2 with the $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips and squares cut from the coral colourway to make the two identical patchwork panels, **Figure 3 & 4**.

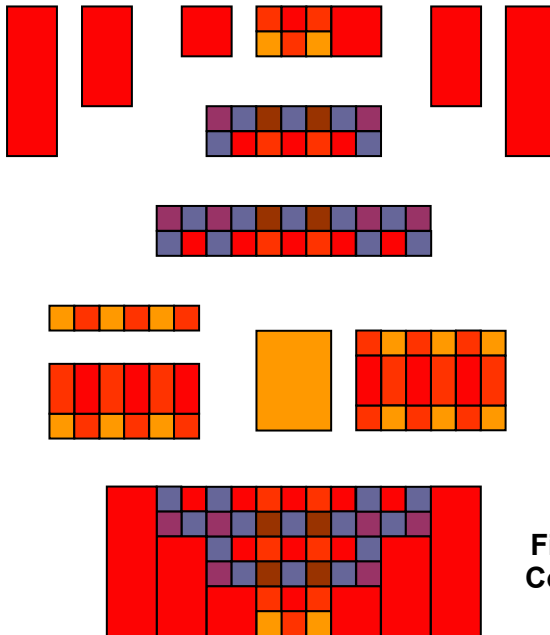


Figure 3 - Panel Construction

4. Press seams in alternate directions throughout, so the patchwork seams butt together neatly:
 - Sew the pieced strips together in pairs.
 - Sew a square to each end of the first set of pairs, as shown.

- Sew the second set of strips to the section made in the previous step.
- Sew the 2½" x 1½" strips to each end of this patchwork.
- Continue to finish the top section. Repeat these steps three more times.
- Sew the centre sections, as shown.
- Sew one top and bottom section to the centre section to complete the block.

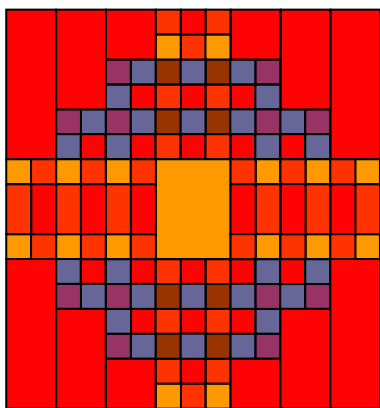


Figure 4
Completed Panel

5. Sew one ruby purple diamond 9" x 1½" border strip to either side of each patchwork block and press towards the border. Sew one ruby purple diamond 10" x 1" border strip to either side of each patchwork block and press towards the border. Join the two panels by sewing the 10" x 3" strip between them, joining the two blocks along the previously *unbordered* side. If your patchwork has come out slightly smaller than the border strips, trim the border strips to fit the patchwork as you go. Press.
6. Layer the calico backing fabric, the wadding and the patchwork panel and pin or tack through all the layers. Using the walking foot and the shaded cotton quilting thread, quilt a simple ½" grid design side to side across the panel, going through the centre of each smaller patchwork square. You may need to mark the lines in the plainer sections, but if you start with the centre line each time and work outwards across the patchwork, you will be able to use the markings on the walking foot and the previous quilting line to keep straight. Trim the

backing and wadding to match the patchwork panel edges and overlock (or straight stitch, then zigzag) all round the panel. Use the completed panel as a pattern to cut the lining fabric (the remaining eighth) to exactly the same size.

7. Fold the panel in half, right sides together and pin. Sew the side seams, with a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Fold the corners to make a point, **Figure 5**.

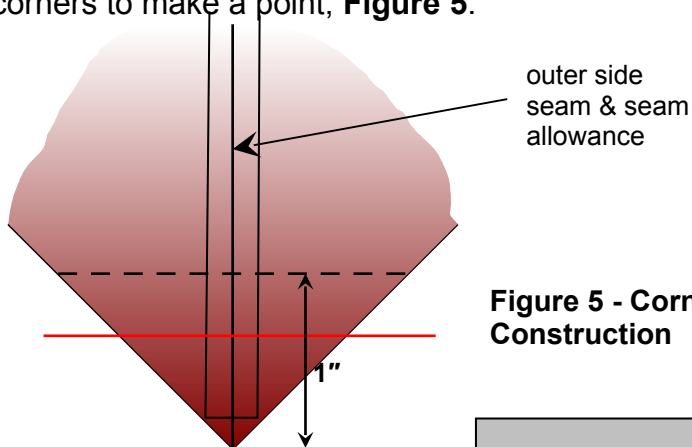
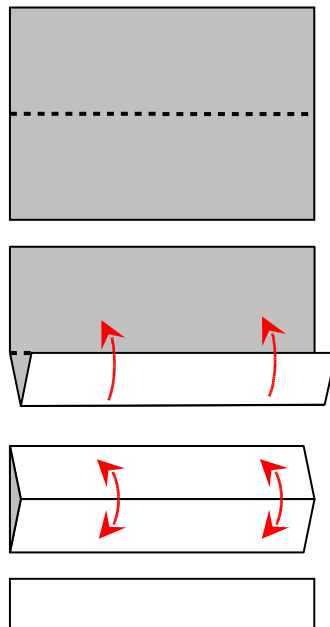


Figure 5 - Corner Construction

8. Mark a line at right angles to the seam, 1" from the point, then pin and machine sew across, sewing the bottom corner of the bag and lining together and creating a triangular flap of fabric. Cut off the triangular flap, along the red line, leaving about $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Repeat this for both bag corners. Repeat this step for the lining fabric, but leave a gap in one side seam, almost the full length of the seam, large enough to pull the bag handles through.



**Figure 6
Bag Handles**

9. Make the four bag handle loops and button loop, **Figure 6**. Fold and press the first handle strip in half lengthways. Fold the long edges inwards to the pressed line, press again, then fold the long edges into the middle and press. Machine sew along each long edge, about 1/16" (2mm) from the edge. Repeat for the other strips. Take care with the button loop, as this will be only 1/4" wide when finished.
10. Thread one handle loop through the slot at each end of each handle, fold the ends together and tack so the loop can't slip out. Line up the one handle against one side of the patchwork bag, with the loops pointing upwards and the handle downwards, and centre the handle loops along the top of that side. The loops should stick up above the top edge of the bag by 1/4". Pin and tack in place. Repeat on the other side of the bag with the other handle. Fold the button loop in half and position at the centre top on the side that will be the back of the bag, adjusting the length of the loop so it will be large enough for your button, but not too large. Pin and tack.
11. Keeping the bag turned right side out and the lining inside out, place the bag inside the lining. Line up the top of the bag with the top of the lining, aligning the side seams (pinned open). Pin the bag and lining together around the top. Machine sew, carefully manipulating the bag and handles (the rigid handles will make this step difficult to manoeuvre on the machine, so go slowly).



12. Turn the bag right side out, by gently easing the handles, then the bag, through the gap in the lining side seam. Push the bottom corners out. Pin the lining

around the top of the bag so the top edge is neat and hand sew around the top of the bag, from the inside, taking small stitches about $\frac{3}{8}$ " apart and sewing through the seam allowances only (not through to the outside of the bag), so the top edge is nicely defined. Slipstitch the lining gap closed. Position and sew your button at the centre top of the front side, about $\frac{1}{2}$ " down. Finished!

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(Finished Size: 8½" x 10" approx. without handle)

Materials Required

- One Ruby Gemstones bundle - ruby tigers eye, ruby peridot, ruby coral, ruby jade, ruby opal blue, ruby moonstone, ruby purple diamond, ruby amethyst
- One 21" x 10" piece of 2oz cotton or cotton/polyester blended wadding
- One 21" x 10" piece of plain calico, for backing patchwork

General Notions

- Shaded cotton thread for quilting
- Cotton thread to tone with fabrics
- Pair plastic bag handles & decorative button
- Sewing machine with quarter inch foot and walking foot
- Rotary cutting equipment - cutter, ruler, mat
- Basic sewing kit - pins, scissors etc.

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Disclaimer - Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of these instructions, but no guarantee can be given with regard to any finished article(s) as materials and procedures used to make the design will vary.



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