

The Oakshott 'Handi-Bag'

designed by

Sue Hazell



This delightful patchwork bag came about when the fabrics glistened in the spring sunlight! The OAKSHOTT 'Colourshott' fabrics lent themselves to a variegated cotton quilting thread found in the sewing box & it just defined the patchwork pieces. The top stitching over the vertical seams is simply a 'decorative stitch' found on most sewing machines. Using strip joining, along with some chunky joining on the bias, the bag comes together easily using each of the eight colour shades of your choice.

Needs & Notions: ALL the below are available to purchase on the day

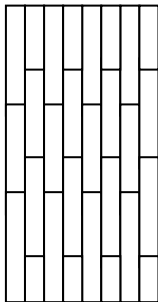
- 1 x pack of OAKSHOTT 'fat 1/8ths' in shade of your choice (included in workshop fee & choose as you arrive)
- Matching sewing machine thread – Guterman recommended
- Variegated top stitch machine thread for quilting
- Contrast matching OAKSHOTT fabric or similar for lining 18" x 24" (45cms x 60cms) (use a light shade so that you can find things in bottom of bags!) The size can be made up from several pieces
- 20" x 24" (50cms x 60cms) 'JEFFYTEX' polyester interfacing
- Set of magnet fasteners with 'washers' – or you may want more
- ♥ Seam allowances = ¼ " (.75cms) throughout (unless specified) - reverse stitch start & finish to stop your work coming undone
- ♥ Try not to cut through any reverse sewn ends as this may come unravelled
- ♥ Read through instructions, then cut out all pieces first & label them – bag, handles, top band etc.

Cutting Plan

- 3 pieces in each shade cut to 2½" x 9¼" (6cms x 24cms) for main bag (make sure strips are taken from short sides of OAKSHOTT fat eighths)
- 1 piece in each shade cut to 6" x 9¼" (15cms x 24cms) for top band
- 1 piece in each shade cut to 3" x 9¼" (7.5cms x 24cms) for handles
- Cut two pieces of Jeffytex to 2¼" x 13¾" (6cms x 35cms) for top bands
- Cut 2 pieces of Jeffytex to ¾" x 24" (2cms x 60cms) for handles
- Cut 2 pieces of Jeffytex to 2" square (5cms square)

Main bag

1. You will need a total of 3 strips per unit (can be halves in places - cut one in half to make 2½" x 4 5/8" (6cms x 12cms) to make up 8 units)
2. Lay out strips in desired order of shades before sewing with a half piece alternating to offset seams later – repeat with 7 other units – see below



3. Sew with ¼" seams – press one way - chain sew them without snipping threads in between – see below

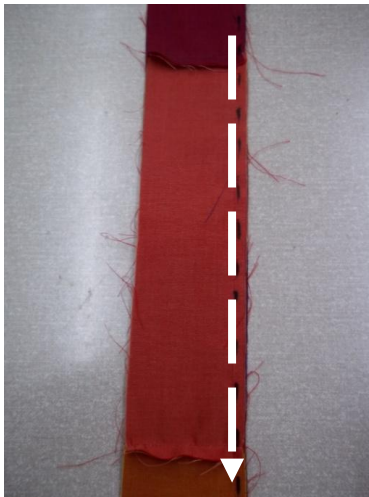


4. Sew the pieced units together - press seams in alternating directions throughout
5. With right sides together, offset joins & sew down one long edge – repeat again to make it approx. 21½" x 15" (approx. 55cms x 37cms) press
6. Put fabric wrong side to Jeffytex, pin edges & machine down long seams starting at centre so to keep flat as you work towards the sides

7. Sew decorative stitches over these



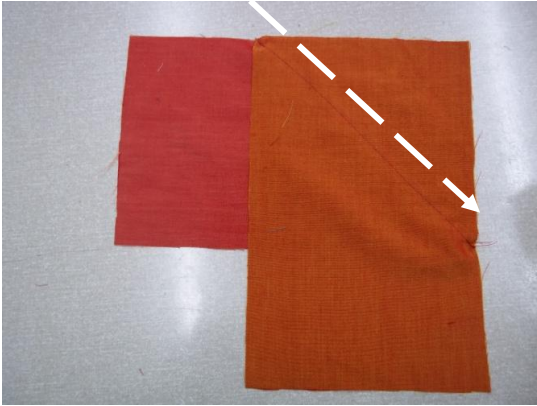
8. Straighten any wobbly bits at edges & trim loose threads, but do not cut through any reverse sewing
9. Use the finished main bag panel, when topstitched, as the pattern to now cut the bag lining as this will be more accurate (piece the lining as desired to make required size)



Top band

10. Cut each eighth piece to 6" x 9 1/4" (15cms x 24cms)

11. Join on the bias – sew top left to bottom right



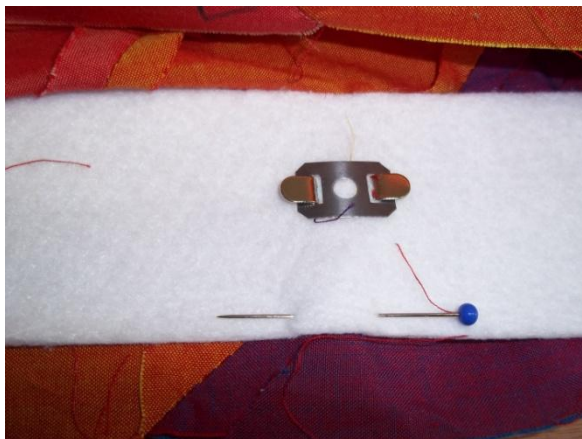
12. Continue to make a circle – trim seam to ½" (1cms) press seams open – see below



13. Press in half lengthways & mark central position for magnet fastener on what will be the inner sides (not your chosen outside when bag is finished)

14. Take the 2 pieces of Jeffytex, 2¼" x 13¾" (6cms x 35cms)

15. Insert Jeffytex to fold of band & central – insert one piece of magnet where previously marked through single layer of inner piece of fabric & Jeffytex – place 2" square (5cms square) of Jeffytex over back of magnet to cover the 'washer' side so it does not rub the fabric



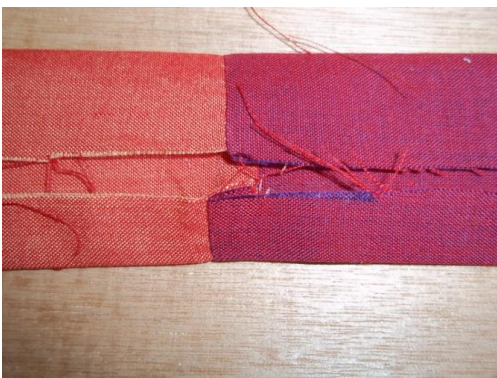
16. Bring band back to raw edges & wrong sides together. Sew $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cms) away from raw edges to hold in place – not through Jeffytex though – just to hold stiffener out of the way

Handles

17. Join 2 lots of 4 colour strips 3 " x $9\frac{1}{4}$ " (7.5cms x 24cms) to make 2 separate units - see below – save those 'scraps' for later!



18. Iron under $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2cms) down one long edge & $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cms) on other long edge on each piece – see below

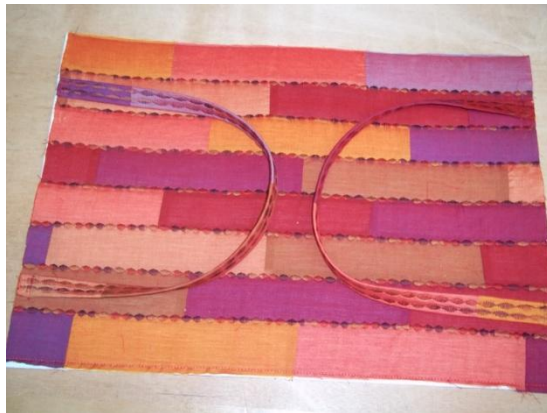


19. Take the 2 pieces of Jeffytex, $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 24" (2cms x 60cms)

20. Tuck Jeffytex into wide fold, bring other fold over & sew close to fold – machine a straight stitch close to this last fold just to hold it, then add decorative stitch – add another if desired – see below



21. Mark handle positions on bag piece & attach them with raw edges together – see below



22. Sew up the sides of the bag, right sides together, then to 'square off' bottom corners sewing about 1½" (3cms) from point of triangle - look at the decorative topstitching on your bag as a guide as to where you sew the corner to form a triangle shape - sew from the edge of decorative stitching nearest the triangle so you can see you are not sewing through it



23. Turn the bag right side out at this point as is easier than trying to do it later
24. Make sure the bottom corners of the bag are pushing right out – you will see how the topstitching shows perfectly near the corners
25. Place band right sides together (not magnet side) to bag raw edges – make sure the raw edges of bands are lined up to the raw edges of bag – see below



26. Align the side seams of the top band to the bag side seams & sew with $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cms) seam
27. For the lining, sew up the sides, then to 'square off' bottom corners sewing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3cms) from point of triangle
28. Have bag right sides out & pin lining right sides together – align the side seams of the lining to that of the top band & sew around the top edges carefully keep raw edges together
29. Unpick one side seam of lining the whole length – this was sewn up so as to leave tiny holes so you know where to re-sew later



30. Turn bag through gap to right sides out carefully & slip stitch the gap closed

31. To keep the Jeffytex in the bag flat where it meets the top band, push it downwards & top stitch ¼" (.75cms) below this seam line from right side out
32. Add decoration made from fluffing up some waste pieces
33. Stand back & just admire your work!



Designed by Sue Hazell © 2011 on 01608 644 877

www.sewing-tuition.co.uk

for

Oakshott and Company Ltd.
19 Bamel Way
Gloucester Business Park
Brockworth
Gloucestershire
GL3 4BH

Tel: 01452 371571

Fax: 01452 371573

Email: sales@oakshottfabrics.com

www.oakshottfabrics.com

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