

Simple Drawstring Bag

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen



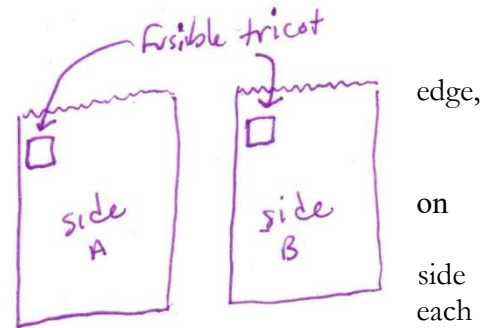
I like making these bags in all sizes for all kinds of uses: gift giving, game pieces, travel shoe bags, camping ditty bags, even large ones to hold the rolled up banners at church. Oh, and here's a new use for the small size: this year, to keep the squirrels from eating off our peach tree, we covered each baby peach with a small drawstring bag. It worked! And all 9 peaches were delicious 😊

Lately I've been saving scraps in a new way. Besides strips, squares, and selvage, if the scrap is big enough, I cut it into 2 rectangles and stash for

eventual drawstring bags.

The idea behind the construction here is we will create the casing AROUND the drawstrings in place, instead of fishing the drawstrings through the sewn casing.

1. **Cut the fabric:** your rectangles can be any size!
2. **Sew 3 sides, RST:** I use my serger to sew together 2 sides and the bottom of the bag
3. **Optional: box the corners:** if the bag is big enough, you may want to box the corners
4. **Serge/pink/hem the top edge:** however you want to finish the top edge of the bag to make a pretty top/inside edge
5. **Press 2 squares of fusible tricot/interfacing:** to stabilize the drawstring holes, cut and fuse 2 squares about 1.5" square up in the corners where the drawstring holes will be. About 1" from the top right up against the side edge.
6. **Create holes with eyelets or buttonholes:** I really like my eyelet maker, but this might also a good time to use that buttonhole maker your machine.
7. **Cut 2 pieces of cord for drawstrings** Measure across the bag top, to side, multiply by 2 and add 3-5". (if the bag is 10" from side to side, drawstring piece will be 23" to 25")
8. **On each drawstring, tie the 2 ends together with a simple overhand knot**
9. **Fold the drawstring in half and poke the fold thru the eyelet, leaving the knot on the pretty side of the fabric.**
10. Each drawstring goes in a separate hole
11. **HERE'S THE TRICK:** wrap each drawstring around the top of the bag, where the casing will be
12. **Adjust drawstrings and fold down the top edge of the bag**
13. **Sew the edge of the casing down:** Since I don't have a free-arm on my sewing machine, I like to sew with the bag wrong side out, but sewing with the pretty side touching the pressure foot (kinda like sewing on the edge of a teacup)
14. **Optional:** while sewing down the casing, sew down some trim like rick-rack or fringe on the pretty side.



Uses for Fusible Tricot

by Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

Fusible tricot is a fusible, stretchy knit fabric that is light in weight. French Fuse is one brand. It can be used to add stability to a fabric. It comes in three colors (white, black and ecru). I recommend you have at least a yard of each color on hand. When you get it home, cut some 1.5" wide strips which saves time when you need just a little patch. There are many uses for it:

Quilting:

Mending **holes in quilts** – especially when the piecing has left a small or no seam. Use a little fusible tricot patch on the back, iron into place, and mark with a safety pin so you know to really FMQ that area down well.

Use to stabilize loosely woven or **fraying fabric**. Also good for **t-shirt quilts**.

Use as a lightweight fusible **appliqué backing** (sew the shape right sides together with glue side of the fusible. Cut a slit in the middle of the fusible and turn right sides out. Press to a Teflon sheet to get the shape looking good, then peel off and transfer to its final place and press to make it a permanent applique). Stitch in place by hand or machine.

“Tape” together **pieces of batting** to make a larger piece.

Clothing:

Buttonholes and eyelet stabilizing – press to the back of the fabric before sewing the buttonhole or applying an eyelet.

Button stabilizing – press to the back of the fabric before sewing on the button. If you have a torn button, this will mend the fabric before sewing the button back on.

Used as a large piece, it can be pressed to the inside of a lightweight silky jacket to **add weight** and drapeability.

Mend clothing, even tears in fabric by carefully closing up the tear and applying the fusible tricot to the back of the fabric.

When making t-shirts or any other garment with a **double needle hem**, press a strip of fusible tricot to the inside of the shirt. Then the double needle stitching will not ‘tunnel’.

Can be used in the **seam of knit garments** to add enough bulk to get a good thread tension.

Use behind **patch pockets** to support the base fabric. No more torn patch pockets. Use a little square behind the top corners before sewing on the pockets.

Embroidery:

Use to **stabilize embroidery** on knit fabric. You can also press fusible tricot onto the **back of the finished embroidery** in case it is scratchy against tender skin.

Misc:

Use as a **base for weaving** (fabric strips or pin-weaving yarns). Press when you're happy with the result to make it permanent.

Use in the top section of **the Snap Happy purses** to keep the metal from poking through.

Spiral Geese

by Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

These geese are made with ONE SEAM EACH! Take a look at the real quilt and see they are 3-D. You can watch a video to see Ricky Tims make these here: www.TinyURL.com/MJOneSeam. (However, I believe Jackie Robinson gets the original credit) Using a very light fabric as the background, I arranged the floral flying geese in a spiral design.

Fabric needed:

- Lots of floral fabrics/scrap
- Light fabric(s): 4 yards
- Batting : don't forget to buy white batting if your light is very white
- Backing and binding fabrics.



Cut your geese fabrics into rectangles, 6.5" x 3.5".
Cut your light fabric into squares, 3.5" x 3.5".

Fold the rectangle in half, RS out, and sandwich with the light squares like this:

- Lay down 1 light square, RS up.
- Lay down the folded rectangle with the fold at the top. Match up all the raw edges left, right and bottom. The fold will not reach the top of the square. It should be a quarter inch short
- Lay down the second light square, RS down.

Sew the left or right side seam. Doesn't matter which.

Press open the back seam. To make this easier, clip the goose fold inside the seam allowance.

Press: the new goose open, matching up the corners so the diagonal goes all the way to the corner of each square.

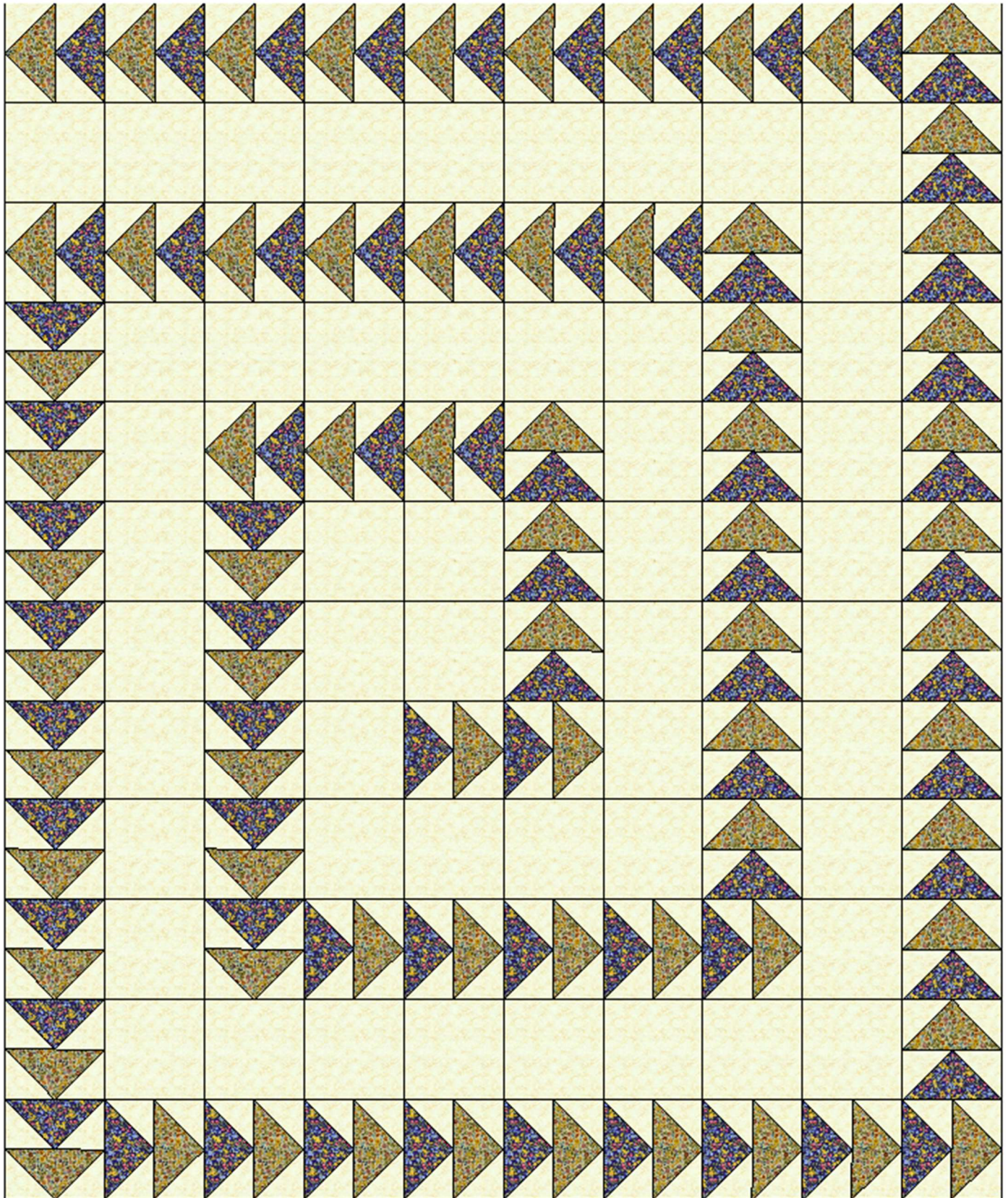
You'll have one flying goose! If you assembly-line these, make sure you are orienting them the right way so you sew the correct seam.

To create the spiral effect, you'll also need additional plain light squares measuring 6.5" x 6.5" (see layout on other side).

Note: Once you understand how this block goes together, you can make them any size!

Spiral Geese (one seam flying geese)

Overall Size: 60.00 by 72.00 inches



TEN MINUTE TABLE RUNNER

By LaRae Bunnell Clark

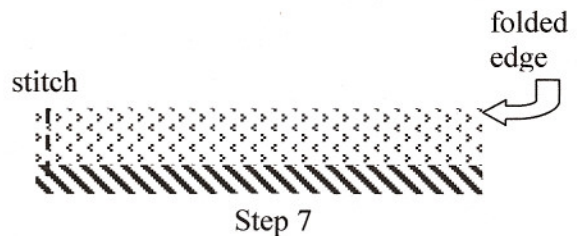
Materials:

10-12 inches of "theme" print, width of fabric (wof)

18 inches of a coordinating print, width of fabric (wof)

Instructions:

1. Cut fabric to size.
2. Place right sides together. Stitch long (crosswise grain) edges $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam
3. Press seam away from center fabric.
4. Turn. You now have a long tube.
5. Lay flat on ironing board and press so that the theme print is bordered evenly on long sides with the coordinating print.
6. Trim short ends even.
7. Fold fabric in half lengthwise with theme print out (coordinating print facing). Stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam on both short ends.
8. Press seams open.
9. Turn seams inside to form a point; press.
10. Stitch a decorative button or yo yo at the edge of short seam to secure in place.



ENJOY OR SHARE WITH A FRIEND!