



Technique:	English Paper Piecing, Sewing, Quilting
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting Time:	Longer term
Finished size:	15½" (39.37cm) x 14½" (36.83cm) x 4" (10.16cm)

Featuring Coats Dual Duty XP®

If you love handwork, you'll be delighted with these hand stitched hexies to trim this fun tote. Garner some scraps, and get out the needle, thread, and thimble.

Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread in coordinating colors
- ¾ yd (30.48cm) Designer Essentials Solids, Mist CSFSESS.MISTX
- Assorted scraps for hexagons; featured: Tokyo Milk Collection
- ⅝ yd (57.15cm) lining fabric
- ⅓ yd (11.43cm) binding fabric
- 1½ yds (1.22m) faux leather handle strapping, 1" (2.54cm) wide
- 1¼ yds (1.14m) medium-weight fusible interfacing
- ⅔ yd (60.96cm) batting
- 1½" (3.81cm) paper piecing hexagons
- Pattern tracing cloth
- Heat-removable marker

Preparation

Draw a 19" (48.26cm) wide x 20½" (52.07cm) tall rectangle on pattern tracing cloth. Cut out a 2" (5.08cm) square from each lower corner. This is the tote pattern. Using the same size rectangle, draw a second one onto pattern tracing cloth and trim 2½" (6.35cm) from the top. This is the lining pattern.

Cutting

From the Designer Essentials Solids Mist, cut:

(2) Tote patterns

From the lining fabric, cut:

(2) Lining patterns

From the binding fabric, cut:

(1) strip, 1½" x width-of-fabric (WOF) (3.81cm x WOF)

From the assorted scraps, cut:

(18) hexagons, each ¼" (.64cm) larger than the hexagon template on each side

From the fusible interfacing, cut:

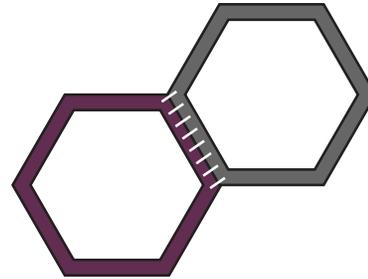
(2) lining patterns

From the batting, cut:

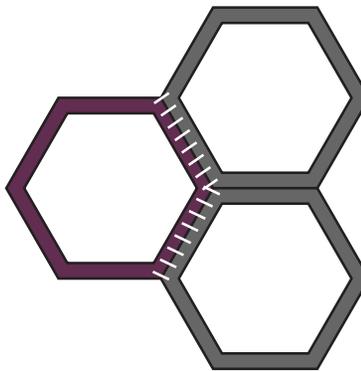
(2) tote patterns

Making the Hexagons

1. Fold and press each edge of the hexagon fabric around a template.
2. Lay out a pleasing arrangement of two rows of hexagons at least 20½" (52.07cm) tall.
3. Whipstitch the straight edge of one column of hexagons together (**Figure 1**). Repeat for the second column. Remove the templates from inside the hexagons.



4. Nest the hexagons together and hand-stitch the long edges together (**Figure 2**) to form a single row.



Assembling the Tote Front

1. Measure in 4" (10.16cm) from the left edge of the tote front and mark a vertical line parallel to the edge.
2. Align the points of the left hexagon row along the line and pin in place.
3. Hand-stitch both edges of the hexagon row to the tote front.
4. Using the hexagon templates, nest them against the appliquéd hexagons and draw vertical rows parallel to the hexagon edges. Repeat across the remainder of the tote front and sides.
5. Lay the tote front over the batting tote, then quilt along the drawn lines, pivoting at the corners. Baste the remaining tote front edges to the batting.
6. Quilt ⅛" (11.43cm) on each side of the hexagon chain to highlight it.

Assembling the Tote Back

1. Draw a line down the center length of the tote back.
2. Center a row of hexagon templates along the line and mark both edges. Building out from that center row, mark additional rows of hexagons across the tote back width.
3. Lay the tote back over the batting tote, then quilt along the drawn lines, pivoting at the corners. Baste the remaining edges of the tote back to the batting.

Seam allowances are ¼" (.64cm).

Assembling the Tote

1. Place the tote front and tote back right sides together. Sew the side and bottom seams. Press the seams open.
2. To box the corners, fold the bottom seam over the side seam and sew across the straight edge.
3. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the interfacing to each lining tote section. Repeat Steps 1-2 to construct the tote lining.
4. Press under a 2½" (6.35cm) hem at the tote upper edge.
5. Mark 3½" (8.89cm) from the upper tote front and back center. Cut two 24" (60.96cm) pieces of handle strapping. Place the strapping along the marked line and sew both ends in place, matching the tote and strap cut edges. Repeat for the tote back. Stitch along the handle edges for 2" (5.08cm), just below the upper tote hem fold.
6. Bind the upper tote hem edge, encasing the ends of the strapping. Using a single layer of fabric, match the cut edges, stitch, then flip the binding to the underside and stitch in the ditch of the binding seam. Trim the excess binding fabric close to the stitching.

Finishing the Tote

1. With wrong sides together, slide the lining into the tote matching the seams and sliding it under the top hem allowance to the pressed fold.
2. Hand-stitch the binding to the tote lining, catching just a small amount of batting with each stitch.