



with you all the way...

Among Brenda's Quilts

Teacher's Notes

My MONSTER BAG

This large bag is a great way to use 2 ½" strips. A full pack of 40 Bali Pops™, a Jelly Roll™, Roll Ups™, your shops precut packs or the customers stash fabrics can be used.

My Monster Bag makes a terrific tote for bulky lightweight items like quilts headed for guild Show & Tell. It's perfect for fabric shoppers taking part in Shop Hops or use the bag as a class carry- all when attending quilting classes. There are divided pockets inside and out to keep you well organized.

Because of the large size of the bag you will need to schedule five 2 hour classes to finish the project. Schedule four 2 hour classes if you feel that your class has the ability to finish the fifth class as a homework assignment.

When you scroll down you'll find the full class schedule including homework and construction tips. There are also some general notes to help you plan before class as well as advertising copy and downloadable pictures of the bag for your newsletter, email or ads.

Ad Copy for Copy and Paste

Simply select the following description to copy and paste into your own shop advertising. Pictures can be directly downloaded for your use. Follow the links below the pictures. The picture on the left has been made with Hoffman California Fabrics Green Tea Bali Pop™ and the bag at right has been made with the Pink Lemonade Bali Pop™.



Green Tea

http://www.amongbrendasquilts.com/img-store/photo/image/101/regular/Green_Tea_version.1web.jpg



Pink Lemonade

http://www.amongbrendasquilts.com/img-store/photo/image/103/regular/Pink_Lemonade.1_web.jpg

My MONSTER BAG

The name says it all! It's been called "The Mother of all Bags", "Humongous" and "So big it's scary". If it's true that the gal carrying the largest bag is the winner then owning this bag means you've hit the jackpot! Use 2 ½" strips to make this bountiful, beautiful bag.

Size: 23" x 19" not including straps. Intermediate level. Lots of pockets.

Date & Time:

Cost:

Location:

Teacher:

Book the Class on your Calendar

The lesson plan is set up in five 2 hour segments with homework assignments given. If you feel that your group has good sewing skills you may choose to assign class 5 as homework. Demonstrate the strap construction and attachment in your last class to ensure good results at home if you choose this option.

Fabric and Interfacing Selection:

Students will need forty 2 ½" strips. The strips are used outside as well as inside for pocket construction.

Follow the suggestions for interfacing, stabilizer and batting on the cover. Using the recommended brand will ensure good results. The Pellon® brand name can also be purchased under the Legacy® name. Legacy and Pellon products are identical to each other.

I highly recommend making the bag base although it is listed as optional in the pattern.

Prior to Class

Be sure to mention to your class that they should not wash and dry their 2 ½" cut strips. Some pieces cut for this bag are very large. Tell your students to bring a selection of their largest rotary rulers (like the 20 ½" square) and their largest (24" x 36") cutting mat. They will need the large cutting mat to cut the front and back lining and inner pockets. If students are using stash fabric for their 2 ½" strips, they should cut their strips at home prior to class.

Notions Hints

I have used chunky plastic rings for my straps. If you carry the Clover Brand 1 5/8" plastic rings they will be too lightweight for this project.

In Canada you can order the Elan brand rings through H.A. Kidd. Go to their catalogue, pg. 17 and see the Allure Rings. These rings come in 4 colors, black, white, gold and silver. Go to: http://www.hakidd.com/pdfs/Elan_Accessories.pdf

The Dritz Glamour Ring 2 1/8" will also work and is available through Checker Distributing in the USA and Canada. These rings are available in soft gold.

The larger Clover Brand metal rings under the Nancy Zieman™ brand name will also work and are available worldwide.

Lesson 1 (2 hours)

1. Cutting: Let the students have about 1 hour to cut out their pattern pieces. They'll need their large cutting mats to cut the inner lining, inner pocket lining and the large interfacing pieces.
2. Outer Bag: Follow steps 1 to 3.



Tip: When piecing the 9 strips together in Step 1 have students keep the value the same to either side of the middle strip. A little pre-planning will keep the bag looking more balanced. See the diagram below. ***This would be a good time to discuss color value. Show the students how to view value by squinting at fabric or by viewing it through a red filter.***



Center Strip

Be sure that pressing is done without steam. Steam will distort the line of the stripes.

Homework: finish any cutting not completed. Complete the instructions to Step 3 if this step was not finished in class.

Lesson 2 (2 hours)

1. Follow steps 4 to 9.



Tip: Carefully pin the interfacing in Step 7 to the bag so that the stripes remain straight. Be equally careful when pressing. Do not rub the iron back and forth when pressing or the straight line of the stripes will be distorted. Keep this in mind when pressing the batting to the bag as well.

2. Demonstrate Prairie Point construction using the twenty $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.

Who Knew? Did you know that older quilts with Prairie Points usually date after 1925? Prairie points were known to be used as an edging to undergarments before that date.

Homework: Complete Step 10, the quilting, at home. Make the prairie points.

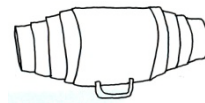
Lesson 3 (2 hours)

1. Complete Steps 11 to 25.

See Step 13. Students have the option of making a simple patch pocket or a pouch pocket. Either one looks great! Before stitching the pocket to the bag read the tip below.



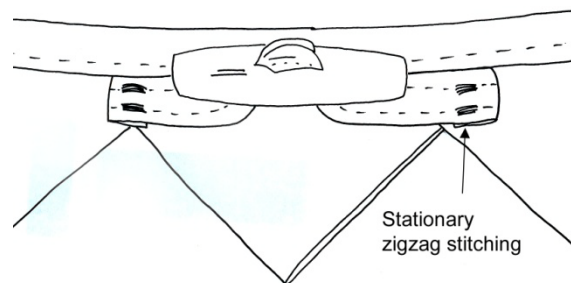
Tip: There are two types of toggle buttons. They either have two large holes drilled through the button itself or they have a shank at the back.



Shank Style

Cut a second 1 ½" x 12" toggle loop strip if the toggle has large holes like in the picture below. (Just follow Step 18 to make 2 loops instead of one.)

Try out the loop for length by threading it through the button and folding under both raw edges. Trim to fit. Using a stationary zigzag stitch sew a folded loop through the prairie points and pocket layers. **Remember to attach the button before stitching the pocket to the bag.** Thread the toggle button through the loop, fold under the end, and stitch down the opposite side. See the diagram.



Homework: Steps 26 to the end of step 30. Be sure that the students understand the diagram at step 26. We don't want them to trim the wrong side!

Lesson 4 (2 hours)

Teachers, bring a sleeve board to class or a firm rolled towel.

1. Complete Steps 31 to 43.



Tips: When sewing the dividing lines for the pocket in step 31 make sure students sew from the bottom of the pocket to the top. This will prevent any puckers from forming.

In Step 35 and 37, baste with the lining side up under the sewing machine presser foot.

In Step 36 it is next to impossible to get the ditches of the main bag and the lining lined up. This is OK, just use a matching thread in the bobbin for the lining.

Lesson 5 (2 hours)

1. Complete steps 45 to 50.



Tip: When sewing the handle tabs to the bag in Step 47 it is best to sew the lower edge of the tab first. Continue to sew in a rectangle around the area shown in Step 47 crisscrossing through the center. You will avoid having a lot of bulk under the arm of the sewing machine if you do this. Make sure your bobbin thread matches the lining.

Have the students mark 1 ½" from the ends of the finished strap to give them a stitching line to follow in Step 50.

I recommend that students make the optional bag base. See the bottom of page 1. It is very easy to stitch through all three layers for the Peltex® to create a nice firm base. The base can be easily covered by 'wrapping' fabric around it like you would wrap a present. Fold under any raw edges before stitching through all layers. Use lining fabric or just muslin to cover.