

Hail to the Hostess of Bottle Bags

(SEWING INSTRUCTIONS)

SUSAN E. HORTON



Web Supplement

6-SHAFT

STRUCTURE

Summer and winter.

EQUIPMENT

6-shaft loom, 15" weaving width; 12-dent reed; 2 shuttles; 4 bobbins.

YARNS

Warp: 10/2 mercerized pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb; UKI), Natural, 1,066 yd. **Tabby weft:** 10/2 mercerized pearl cotton, Stone, 382 yd; Silver, 130 yd; Natural, 126 yd. **Pattern weft:** 8/2 Tencel (3,360 yd/lb; Yarn Barn of Kansas), Mineral Green, 134 yd; Azure, 44 yd; Aquamarine, 78 yd; Ruby, 46 yd; Eggplant, 44 yd; Red Purple, 44 yd; Cayenne #5213, 44 yd. (Additional 60 yd in chosen colors for twisted cord ties.) 5/2 mercerized pearl cotton (2,100 yd/lb; UKI) Dark Turk, 128 yd.

OTHER SUPPLIES

$\frac{7}{8}$ yd lining or 4 fat quarters of quilting fabric; fusible interfacing; sewing thread.

WARP LENGTH

355 ends 3 yd long (includes floating selvages; allows 8" for take-up, 28" for loom waste).

SETTS

Warp: 24 epi (2/dent in a 12-dent reed). **Weft:** 34 ppi, using Tencel pattern weft; 28 ppi using 5/2 pearl cotton pattern weft.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: $14\frac{1}{2}$ ". Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 72". Finished size after washing: 13" x 60" fabric for 4 bottle bags, 2 with matching handles.

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Note: If you choose to add a strap to the bag, it must be assembled and basted to the bag prior to inserting the lining. See Steps 14-17.

- 1** Use the cut pieces of handwoven fabric as a pattern to cut the interfacing and lining, keeping all grain lines straight. Place a pin at the top of the lining to keep track of its orientation.
- 2** Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of the handwoven fabric for both the body bags and the straps.
- 3** Fold the handwoven fabric length-wise, right sides together, matching up the edge thread markers if using and the blocks in the fabric and pin. Stitch one warp thread in from the thread markers so that the markers end up in the seam allowance. For me this was a ½" seam but it could be different depending on your draw in. Press the seam open.
- 4** Center the seam line over the 3rd thread marker or offset the seam so that it is 1½" from one edge and 4" from the other. Press well, putting a crease in both sides. The seam is offset so that the blocks and trees are lined up within the sides of the bags. If you aren't using the thread markers, check that the seam lines up with the middle of the trees, or the Red Purple rectangles in bag #3 and the Cayenne rectangles in bag #4. Pin and then sew the bottom seam ¼" to ½" wide using a weft thread as your guide. Clip the bottom seams at the corner, and press open. Carefully remove any seam marker threads that are visible on the outside of your fabric using a dull needle or tweezers.
- 5** Right sides together, fold the lining in half length-wise, press to create a crease, and pin it along the long side, marking a 4" spot in the middle with your pins. Using the same width of seam used for the handwoven fabric seams, seam the length leaving the middle 4" unstitched. Pivot at the corner and seam the bottom seam with a depth ⅛" to ¼" deeper than the body's bottom seam. Clip the corner close to the stitching and then press open the seams as much as possible without losing the crease in the length.

- 6** With the bag inside out pull open the outer bag fabric at the bottom and use a pin to match up the bottom seam and side creases. Press in the 90 degree triangle on both sides.
- 7** Use a straight ruler to measure across the point of the triangle approximately 1½" from the top of the point. Draw a line approximately 3" long. Baste along the line on both sides using a weft thread as a guide. Turn the bag right side out, check that the bottom is square in appearance, exactly square is not necessary. Stitch the seam, and trim off the points. Press as you are able.
- 8** If you are adding straps to your bag, refer to steps 14-17.
- 9** Repeat steps 6 and 7 for the lining, matching up the bottom seam to the side seam on one side and to the crease on the other side.
- 10** Turn the lining right sides out. Press the new seams flat.
- 11** Insert the lining into the outer fabric bag, right sides together, matching the seam in the lining to the mid-point marker. Pin. Sew all the way around the top of the bag. Although it is slightly more difficult it is best to sew the seam with the handwoven fabric on top. Carefully remove the center marker thread.
- 12** Use the 4" opening in the lining seam to turn the bag right side out. Press the top seam flat, rolling the lining slightly to the inside of the bag. Pull the lining right side out and slip stitch the opening closed.
- 13** Make a twisted cord using 15 threads 2 yards long. Twist the threads tightly in one direction, then, maintaining tension on the cord, fold the length in half and let it twist on itself. Tie an overhand knot at each end and trim. Attach the cord to the outside of the bag along the fabric seam line about 3 inches from the top (check on a bottle for the right spot) using thread that matches the lining and using the stitching to anchor the lining inside the bag.

- 14** Straps: Susan made two types of straps, one that is handwoven and self-lined, and the other that is handwoven with a matching lining.
- 15** For a self-lined strap, use a 3½" strip of interfaced fabric. Fold it in half and seam along the long side. Press the seam open. Turn the strap right side out. Center the seam over the middle of the strap and press. The seamed side is now the wrong side of the strap.
- 16** For a strap that has a matching lining, trim the interfaced fabric strip to 3". Cut a piece of lining the same length and 2½" wide.. Right sides together, seam the lining to the strap along one long edge. Pull the lining over to the other edge, pin and seam along that edge. Turn the strap right side out. Move the lining so that it is centered within two narrow edges of handwoven fabric. Press. The lined side is the wrong side of the strap.
- 17** Align either strap so that the ends of it are at the top of the bag, the right side against the right side of the bag, centered on a block on either side of the bag. Baste in place. The strap will hinder you slightly when inserting the lining but once the lining is sewn to the bag top and the bag is turned right side out, it will not cause a problem.

SUSAN E. HORTON is intrigued by the structure of cloth and how it relates to individual threads.