

EVERYDAY BASKET



NORTHCOTT
Cottons that feel like silk

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Prepared by Elaine Theriault for Northcott

Finished Size: 4" W by 10" L by 6" H

Fabric requirements	Yards	Cutting Instructions
Northcott Toscana MICROCHIPS	1 pack (42 - 2 ½" pre-cut squares in each pack)	Required: Forty-two 2 ½" squares
Outer bag bottom, lining, handles, and insert cover	½ yd or TWO coordinating FQs	Outer bag bottom: cut TWO pieces 2 ½" by 10 ½" Lining: cut TWO pieces 8 ½" by 14 ½" Handles: cut TWO pieces 4 ½" by 9" Insert cover: cut TWO pieces 4 ½" by 14"
Fusible fleece	½ yd	Cut TWO pieces 9" by 15"
Décor Bond (stiff fusible interfacing)	½ yd	Cut TWO pieces 9" by 15" Cut TWO pieces 4" by 9"

Use ¼" Seam Allowance unless otherwise stated

Outer bag

- Lay out the 2 ½" squares to create two rectangles for the outer bag that are seven squares by three squares.
- Sew the squares together.
- Center one of the outer bag bottoms on the bottom of the rectangle and sew it in place. Each outer bag piece should now measure approximately 14 ½" by 8 ½" with the two bottom corners missing.
- Fuse a piece of fusible fleece to the wrong side of each of these outer bag pieces.
- Quilt the outer bag by stitching in the ditch, using a decorative stitch or a free motion design.
- Using scissors, cut the fusible fleece away from the cut-outs in the bottom of the outer bag. With your rotary cutter and ruler, trim away the excess fusible fleece from the remaining sides of the outer bag. Each piece should measure approximately 8 ½ by 14 ½". They may have shrunk slightly in the quilting process.

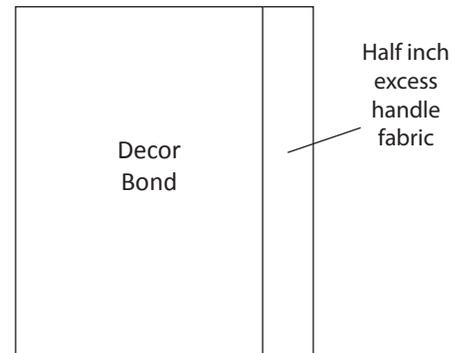


Lining

- Fuse the Décor Bond to the wrong side of the lining pieces. Make sure the Décor Bond is well adhered. Sometimes, this process requires high heat and a lot of steam.
- Using the outer bag piece as a guide, mark the cut-out squares on the bottom of each of the lining pieces and cut the corners away using scissors.
- Trim all pieces so that the two outer bag pieces and the two lining pieces are the same size with cut-outs in the two bottom corners of each piece.

Handles

- Fuse the Décor Bond to the wrong side of the handles. Note the Décor-Bond is $\frac{1}{2}$ " narrower than the width of the handles.
- Press the excess $\frac{1}{2}$ " of handle fabric back over the Décor Bond to create a folded edge.
- Fold the handle in thirds lengthwise, keeping the folded edge on the outside and the long raw edge of the handle inside.
- Using a matching or decorative thread, top stitch the folded edge in place through all layers. Stitch a matching line of stitching on the opposite side of the handle. Add additional lines of stitching if you wish.



Bag Assembly

- Place the two outer bag sections right sides together and sew along the two sides and the bottom. DO NOT sew in the cut-out corner sections. Do the same with the two lining pieces, but leave a 3" opening in the bottom of the lining.
- Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the bottom corner seam. Start by squeezing the cut-out section together so the seam from the side and the seam from the bottom are matched up. Sew the two corner seams on both the outer bag and the lining.
- Baste the handles to the ENDS of the outer bag. Make sure that they are positioned over the TWO squares on the ends and not beyond.
- Turn the outer bag right side out and leave the lining right side in. Place the outer bag inside the lining (right sides should be together) and match up the side seams. You may want to pin this. Stitch around the top of the bag and then turn the bag right side out through the opening in the bottom of the lining. Tuck the seam allowances inside the opening, matching up the edges of the opening and machine stitch (top stitch) the opening shut. The bottom insert will hide this top stitched seam. Shove the lining inside the outer basket.
- Press the top edge well and top stitch around the top edge of the bag. If you want a nice definition on the corners, you can also top stitch the corners. Making sure the lining fabric is tucked well into the corners, fold the bag along each of the four corners and top stitch a narrow seam through all layers. This gives the bag a nicely defined shape.

Insert cover

- Stitch the two pieces of the insert cover together leaving an opening in one of the narrow ends. If you want, you can hem this narrow opening. Turn right side out, insert a piece of plasticore into the insert cover, tuck in the open end and place the insert into the bag.

Enjoy!

Note about plasticore: I've seen all kinds of material used for the bottom of bags. However, the best solution I've come up with is plasticore. It's lightweight and strong (no saggy bottoms). The only downfall is that it can be costly. I've been known to recycle election signs and real estate signs which are often made from plasticore. Use a craft knife and a metal ruler to cut the plasticore. Once the basket is complete, use a ruler to measure the bottom - the bottom of this basket should be approximately 4" by 10". I would cut the plasticore 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", leaving a bit of space so it's easy to put the bottom insert into the bottom of the bag. Round the corners of the plasticore with scissors to remove the sharp edges and cover all edges with some kind of tape such as painter's tape to prevent the plastic from cutting through your bag insert. Put the plasticore inside the bag insert and put into your bag.

NOTE: It is best to NOT prewash preprinted fabrics such as panels and border prints. Fabrics go through many manufacturing processes and there may be some size variations. If you're unable to cut the strips to the size mentioned above, cut the pieces to a size that works for your panels and adjust any other measurements accordingly.