

Scallop Square Quilt Rag Bag

A Tutorial From Julie Edmonds, Independent Stampin' Up! Demonstrator



Stampin' Supplies

Accessories and Tools

- Sizzix Big Shot®
- Scallop Square Bigz Die
- Button
- Fabric
- Cotton Batting

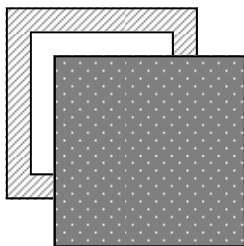
For the Flower

- Flower Folds Bigz XL die
- Ribbon

This purse is created by using 19 squares. You can alter the size of the purse to be bigger or smaller, just adjust the amount of squares.

Getting the Fabric Ready

1. Begin by die cutting your squares. For this bag you'll need 19 scallop squares for the outside and 19 for the inside. You can cut up to 8 layers of fabric at once using the Big Shot. I usually cut strips of fabric 5" wide and fold it so it will fit on the die then cut all the layers of fabric. It goes really fast.
2. Cut 19 squares (Measuring 3" on each side) from your batting using a quilting ruler and rotary cutter. (You can use scissors to cut these by hand. It doesn't matter if these are cut perfectly.)
3. Stack your fabric together, following the stack diagram below, then pin each square together.



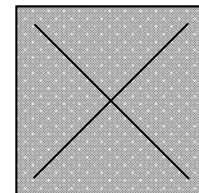
Each Stack should be the same.

- Interior Fabric right side down, wrong side up
- Batting Centered on fabric
- Exterior Fabric right side up

Pin the layers together with a pin along the center of each edge.

Quilting the Squares

1. Sew all three layers of each square together in a cross pattern, leaving a 3/8" seam allowance.
2. Remove all the pins from your squares



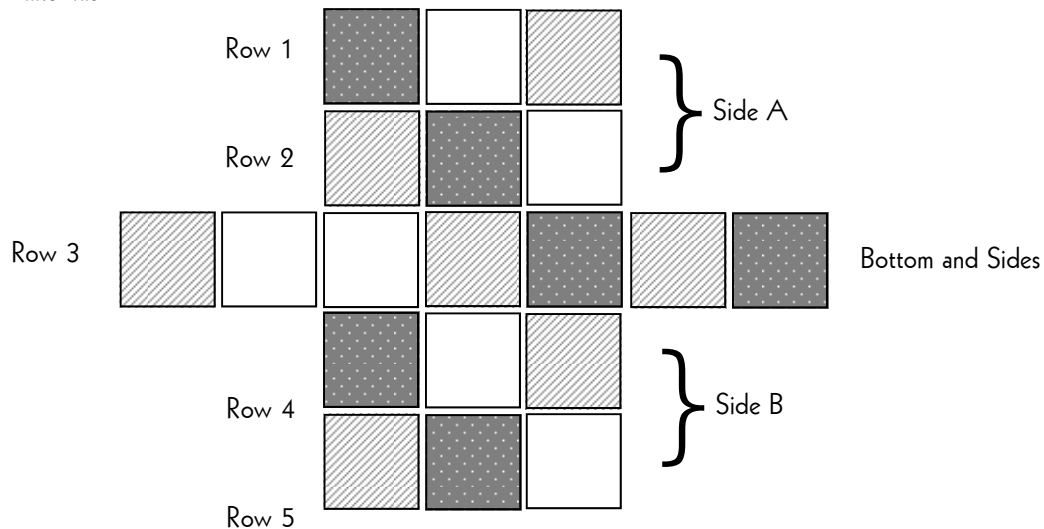
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Lay out your Bag Pattern

1. Once your squares are all quilted you'll want to lay them out to decide on a pattern for your bag. For the 19 square bag you'll have 6 squares each for the front and back and 7 squares for the sides and bottom.
2. Lay your bag out like this:



Sewing the Purse Together

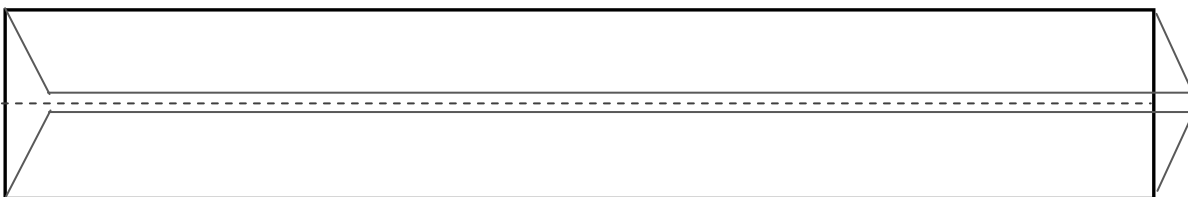
Use a 1/2" Seam Allowance for all of your sewing on this purse

1. Pin each row of squares together so you can sew them. Always pin with interior sides facing each other.
2. Sew each row together. When you're finished you'll have four rows of three squares and one row of seven squares.
3. Next pin Row 1 and 2 together (interior sides facing) and pin Row 4 and 5 together (interior sides facing).
4. Sew Row 1 and 2 together, creating Side A. Repeat for Row 4 and 5 to create Side B.
5. Pin Side A and Side B to the center of the Bottom and Sides strip of squares (interior sides facing). Sew together. (You'll have 2 squares on each side of the bag that are not sewn to anything. These will form the sides)
6. Pin the Sides together (interior sides facing) and sew up each of the 4 sides.

Sew the Handles

(You can make the handles out of Ribbon. If you choose to do that simply cut two lengths of ribbon and skip to the next step.)

1. Cut two handles for you bag 4" Wide by 24" long for a hand bag, or (longer if you want a shoulder bag).
2. Fold each handle in half, wrong sides together, and iron. Open the handles and fold each side of the fabric into the middle fold mark, wrong sides together. Iron again.



3. Cut a piece of fusible batting 1" Wide by 24" long (or length of handles). Place the fusible batting on top of one of the folded sides of the handle and then fold the handle over the batting along your original fold line. Iron again.

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Sew the Handles

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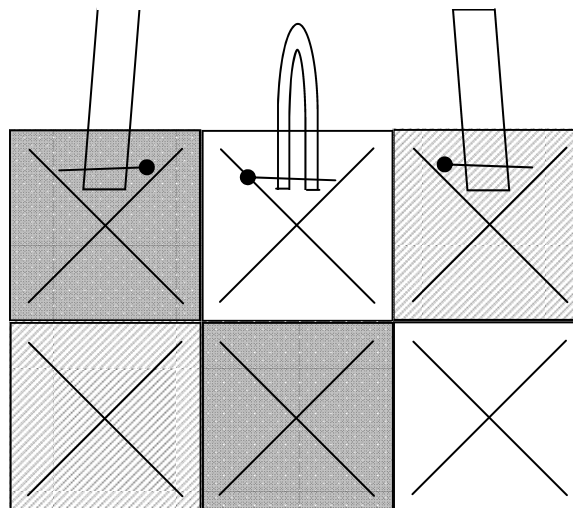
4. Pin the handle to hold everything together smoothly.
5. Now take the handles to the sewing machine and stitch up each side about 1/4" in from the edges. Stitch the open side first and the folded side second.



Attach Handles and Closure to the Purse

Use a 1/2" Seam Allowance for all of your sewing on this purse

1. Pin the handles onto the purse. (See Diagram Below)
2. After you have pinned a handle onto each side of the purse, hold the purse up to make sure your handles are even. If it seems that one side is longer than the other, remove the pin, adjust the handle and pin again.
3. Next Cut a ??? Long piece of grosgrain or narrow ribbon for the closure on your purse.
4. Choose which side of the purse is going to be your front and which will be your back. Create a loop out of your grosgrain ribbon and pin the ends of the ribbon onto the purse. (See Diagram Below)



Pin Handles and the Closure between interior fabric and batting layer. Insert each down as far as you can before you hit the sewing for the X in each square.

5. Sew around the top of the purse leaving a 1/2" seam allowance. Sew all found sides of the purse. You'll be closing up the top as well as sewing in the handles and closures. I usually reverse and go forward again over each spot where the handles and closures are to help give them extra strength.

Snip Your Bag to Rag the Seams

1. Very carefully snip all the seams of your bag. Snip straight in from the edge stopping before you hit your sewing. If you snip into the sewing you'll need to take the bag back to your machine and repair by sewing again. Snip about 1/4" - 1/2" apart, whatever you think looks good.
2. When you have finished snipping the entire bag take your purse to the washing machine and wash on gentle cycle. Keep in mind new fabric can bleed. I usually add a few older towels to the load so it's ok if they get stained.
3. Dry your bag in the dryer. This is when it will REALLY rag up!

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4. When the bag is dry pull it out of the dryer and turn it inside out.
5. Iron the bag. This will help it stand up. Sometimes I'll use a little spray starch to help the bag have some structure but this depends on the fabric I've used. Sometimes the bag will stand up very well on it's own, other times the fabric is very floppy and it's need some help.
6. When you're finished ironing turn the bag back to right side out.

Attach Button and Decorate Purse

1. Sew a button to the front of your purse for your closure loop to hook over. Pull your closure loop down to test for placement of the button. Simply sew on with needle and thread.
2. Decorate your purse with any additional embellishments you want. I like to die cut a flower from fabric and batting and create a flower to be tied onto the handle.

I Hope You Enjoyed This Tutorial!

If you would like to order the Stampin' Up! Supplies used to create this project

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