

# Gifts from the Garden



## Log Cabin Tote Bag

approx 15" x 15"

By Tracy Aplin

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A beautiful and useful tote bag made using log cabin blocks

Seam allowances SA all  $1/4$ " or otherwise stated.

Right Sides Together= RS Tog

Width of fabric= WOF

## Requirements

- Up to 28 assorted fabrics fat  $1/4$ 's or 25cm strips
- One fat  $1/4$  for centre Wiltshire shadow Pink Rose
- Lining and binding Wiltshire shadow Aquamarine 1.50m  $1 3/4$  yard
- Piping cord. 2.25M 3 yard
- Interfacing medium weight iron-on 25cm  $1/4$  yard
- Matching cotton thread to the lining fabric, a neutral beige cotton thread as it will blend.
- Quilting use a crochet thread #8 A running stitch to keep all the three layers together and is also decorative.

## Cutting Out

- Cut one strip of each of your assorted fabrics  $1 1/2$ " wide WOF
- Centre square -  $2" \times 2"$  - x 8. Traditionally this is red, this indicates the heart of the home.
- Handle  $12" \times 3 1/3"$  -x 2, fabric and fusible interfacing.
- Lining and Wadding for gusset  $4" \times 44"$  WOF or join if need be.
- Binding for inside bag lining  $2"$  wide cut on bias about  $123"$ , 3.10 meters
- Piping  $2"$  wide cut on bias  $90"$ , 2.30 meters
- Binding for top of bag cut straight of grain  $2"$  wide  $38"$  97cm

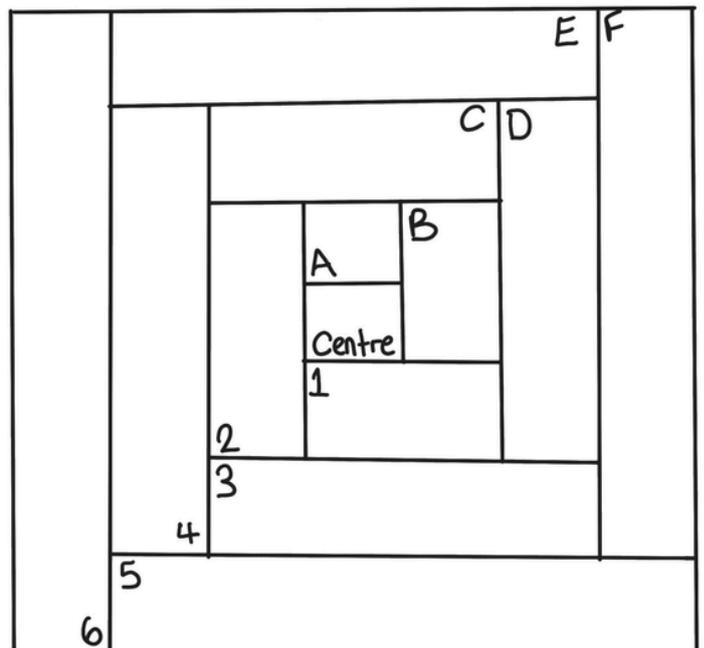
## Block 1

### Lights

1. Strawberry picking C- 01667493C
2. Wiltshire Shadow Mint- 01666556A
3. Polka Fruit A- 01667490A
4. Fruit Twist C- 01667492C
5. Emily Belle Lilac- 01666425A
6. Strawberry Picking B-01667493B

### Darks

- A. Wiltshire Shadow Aquamarine- 01666553A
- B. Flower Blossom C- 01667491C
- C. Fruit Twist A- 01667492A
- D. Polka Fruit B- 01667490B
- E. Flower Blossom B- 01667491B
- F. Wiltshire Shadow Marmalade- 01666511A



Block image reference

## Block 2

### Lights

1. Wiltshire Shadow Lemon- 01666509A
2. Fruit Twist D- 01667492D
3. Lasenby Silhouette White Maddsie Blossom- 03386404P
4. Polka Fruit C- 01667490C
5. Strawberry Picking B- 01667493B
6. Wiltshire Shadow Rose Pink- 01666518A

### Darks

- A. Fruit Twist B- 01667492B
- B. Wiltshire Shadow Marmalade- 01666511A
- C. Wiltshire Shadow Aquamarine- 01666553A
- D. Flowering Blossom D- 01667491D
- E. Strawberry Picking D- 01667493D
- F. Flower Blossoming A- 01667491A

## Block 3

### Lights

1. Polka Fruit D- 01667490D
2. Wiltshire Shadow Rose Pink- 01666518A
3. Polka Fruit A- 01667490A
4. Polka Fruit B- 01667490B
5. Lasenby Silhouette White Maddsie Blossom- 03386404P
6. Strawberry Picking C-01667493C

### Darks

- A. Flowering Blossom B- 01667491B
- B. Fruit Twist B- 01667492B
- C. Wiltshire Shadow Aquamarine- 01666553A
- D. Flowering Blossom C- 01667491C
- E. Wiltshire Shadow Marmalade- 01666511A
- F. Flowering Blossom D- 01667491D

## Block 4

### Lights

1. Polka Fruit C- 01667490C
2. Wiltshire Shadow Rose Pink- 01666518A
3. Strawberry Picking B- 01667493B
4. Fruit Twist D- 01667492D
5. Polka Fruit A- 01667490A
6. Wiltshire Shadow Mint- 01666556A

### Darks

- A. Flowering Blossom D- 01667491D
- B. Strawberry Picking D- 01667493D
- C. Flowering Blossom C- 01667491C
- D. Emily Belle Lilac- 01666425A
- E. Strawberry Picking A- 01667493A
- F. Fruit Twist A- 01667492A

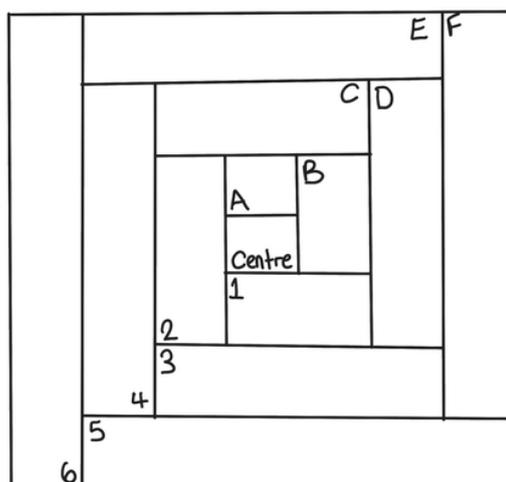
## Making the Log Cabin Blocks

- Make two sets of four blocks.
- Using the diagram cut your WOF strips into the lengths accordingly, looking at the diagrams to see the placement of the fabrics
- Use your 2"x2" square for all the centres of the log cabins.
- Be sure to stitch each block in the same way, starting with the centre square, adding 'A', then 'B', '1' and then '2' continuing around in a clockwise direction.



From centre piece 2" x 2"

- A 2" long
- B 3"
- 1 3"
- 2 4"
- C 4"
- D 5"
- 3 5"
- 4 6"
- E 6"
- F 7"
- 5 7"
- 6 8"



Once cut out, lay out as you would sew and work on one block at a time. Use the list to see what fabrics are sewn where.



- Finger press the seam allowances away from the centre, or you can use an iron too.
- Make all 8 blocks.
- Divide up the blocks and lay together in their 4 as shown
- With a 1/4" seam allowance join in pairs, press seams open.
- Pin centre seams together then sew the two pairs together 1/4" seams.
- Press seams open
- Repeat for the other side of bag



- Lay on to your wadding and cut wadding about 1" bigger all round of both bag front and back.
- Then lay on lining fabric, cut the same size as wadding.
- Secure all three layers together.
- Make sure all layers are flat on a table, press if need be.



This can be done with big tacking stitches, a spray base glue or quilters safety pins.



Using a crochet thread #8 or your favourite quilting thread, quilt in the centre of all the logs. You can quilt your own design if you wish.

The quilting gives the piecing a real hand made look and feel.

You can also machine quilt the front and back too if you want.



Once the quilting is all done, using a long ruler and rotary cutter to trim up the sides. Scissors can also be used.

Trim the bottom two corners to give a lovely curve, as shown.

Look and see what plates or a bowl you may have. Draw round it and cut the corners.

Back to your machine and if you have a walking foot use it for this stage. With a longer stitch, stitch around the edge of your bag front and back about 1/4" away from the raw edge.

This helps keep all the seams neat and reduces any stretching or stitches coming undone.

Put to one side.

## Gusset

- Place the wadding on top of the lining fabric with lining RS down to the table. Secure with a few pins and roll up one end and pin.
- With lots of fabrics that you have left over cut to about 4", no smaller. Great way to use up all the left over pieces.
- Walking foot on. This helps while we sew though lots of layers. Or you can make your stitch length a bit longer.
- Matching thread and bobbin thread to the lining fabric top.
- We are going to 'Flip and Stitch'.... Quilting the wadding and lining at the same time as piecing.
- Start with two pieces of your fabrics Right Side together.



Place on top of the wadding/ lining At the unrolled end, as shown.

Stitch across the fabric edge further away from the end 1/4" SA

Fold the top strip of fabric over to show the right sides of the fabric.

With the next strip lay RS tog on top of the sewn piece, stitch.... Flip.

Finger press as you go...make sure the piece you are flipping is laying flat before you add another piece to it.

Continue all the way along the gusset strip to the end.

Rolling and unrolling as you go along to help you under the machine.



Once sewn, you will see the lining side is all machine quilted.

You can leave it there or hand quilt in between all the strips you have sewn.



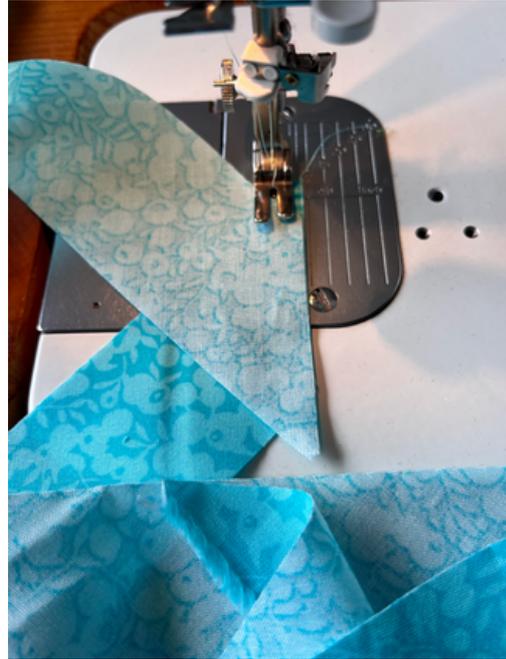
Trim the gusset to 3" wide once all quilted.

Machine a stay stitch along the long edges to keep all the seams from popping open.

Put to one side.

## Piping

This needs to be cut on the bias, 45° to give the fabric some 'give'. This helps to sew better round the curves.



Join any cut strips together if need be..... see photo.

This means it will sew around the piping cord and corners much nicer than if cut straight.

With a piping foot or a zipper foot, place the piping cord on the centre of the bias strip wrong side up. Bring up the raw edges together to encase the cord.

Sew really close to the cord on the right side of the fabric.



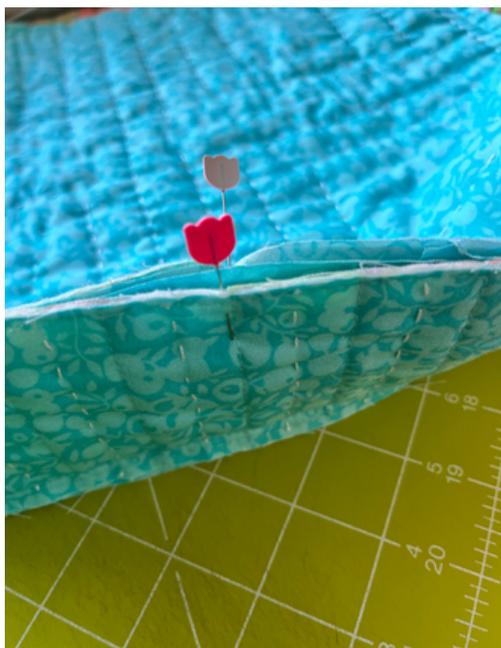
Once you have sewn the long piping strip, trim the raw edges down to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " with scissors or a rotary cutter.

Using the zipper foot, sew the piping to the side of the bag but **not** the top.

Raw edges together. Start with about 1" beyond the top of the bag. Slowly sewing round the corners.

Work all round the bag. Repeat on the other front or back.

## Joining the Gusset to the front and back



Find the centre of the bag bottom, mark with a pin. Find the centre of the gusset and mark with a pin.

Place RS together with pins matching and the piping in between.

Pin in place or use clips to secure ready to sew.

Still use a zippy foot as you'll be sewing right up to the piping. Sew the base first then stop, check it's ok.

1. Sew from base to one top edge, check it's ok.  
Then back to base again and back up to other top edge. I do this to help not twist the gusset and get an even sew.
2. Using a piping foot or zipper foot stitch round the bag..... as tight as you can to the piping. Careful round the curves.  
Note.... You may find you have to sew this a couple of times to get it tight to the piping.
3. Once you have sewn one side do the same to the other side of bag.  
Matching pins at bottom half, pin / clip in place and sew the same way.
4. Check all the piping from the right side and see if you need to 'sew again!'  
Check also that both the fronts and back are even at the top and match.
5. Trim the gusset and piping level with the bag front and back. If you can, pull out the piping cord and trim off 1/2" to reduce bulk when sewing on the final binding.

## Bindings



Bindings are also cut on the bias 45\*, use the same fabric as the lining you are using.

Cut 2" wide and the length of the seam/gusset twice and a bit more. Join the binding together if need be if not long enough. As you did before.

Press the binding wrong sides together. Roll up ready to use.



Working on the lining side of the bag, place the binding to the bag side of the seam...( once sewn will fold over to cover the raw edges of the seam and be stitched down)

Pin in place or use clips.

Still using the zipper foot, sew on the gusset side and you can see the stitch lines for a guide.

Do to both seams around the bag.

## Handles



Fuse the wrong side of the fabric pieces you have cut. This will give them extra body when being used. Fold RS tog and seam along the long side  $1/4$ " , turn RS out. Roll the seams in your fingers to get a nice flat seam. Press. Top stitch  $1/4$ " from pressed edges, long sides.



### **Attaching handles.**

Check lengths of handles, finish 10" so need to be  $10 \frac{3}{4}$ "

Find centre of the bag fronts and back. Pop a pin in.

Measure  $2 \frac{1}{4}$ " to the left and  $2 \frac{1}{4}$ " to the right of pin. This is where the inside of the handles will go.

Lay the handles to the bag main, not up wards! See picture.

Pin and Stitch to top of bag to secure,  $1/4$ " seam allowances again. Checking the front and back are the same.

Measure the top edge of the bag and add a little more to allow to over lap.

Press wrong sides of the straight binding together.

You are going to sew the binding right sides facing to the outer bag top. The handles will be down flat to the bag front and backs.



Maybe use a walking foot as there are lots of layers.

All the raw edges together at the top, start with an angle of the binding see diagram.

Stitch 1/4" all the way round back to the beginning and tuck the end of the binding in. Trim any excess off if need be.  
Sew over and secure.



Trim away any piping cord off over binding from side seams.

Fold over the binding to lining side, pin or use clips and hand stitch down to secure . Do a couple of extra stitches over the join area too.

The handles will pop up!



And once sewn you have your lovely new tote bag.  
Enjoy, love Tracy x

