

# #ps008 “Bow Tucks Tote”

This is a great bag for all your needs. Mine is filled with all the basic supplies, and still I find room for a bottle of water, camera and even a spare pacifier and diaper! It has a great pocket for keys on the outside! The bag is very sturdy, with a rigid bottom and straps that fit over the shoulder.

The bag is about 13” wide x 11” tall x 5” deep

Fabric Requirements:

- Top main section 1/3 yd
- Contrasting bottom, handles, side ties, button loop, and front pocket lining 2/3 yd
- Front pocket, one fat quarter
- Lining for the entire inside 1/2 yd
- Inside pockets 1/3 yd
- Cover for bottom insert-use scraps from above pieces, or a fat quarter
- 1-1” or larger button to match fabric design or a covered button
- Pellon fusible fleece 987F is the best! You will need about 2 yards.
- Thread to match.
- Heavy cardboard or matte board for the bottom, cut to fit finished size.

Shoulder handle is a 5” x WOF piece, if not using contrasting bottom fabric

If you have questions or comments, please

email: [quiltillustrated@yahoo.com](mailto:quiltillustrated@yahoo.com)

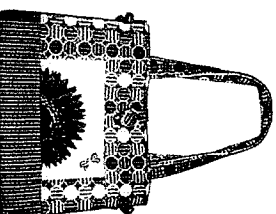
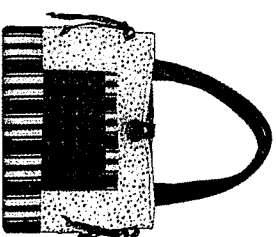
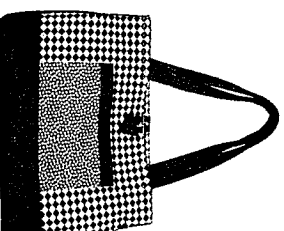
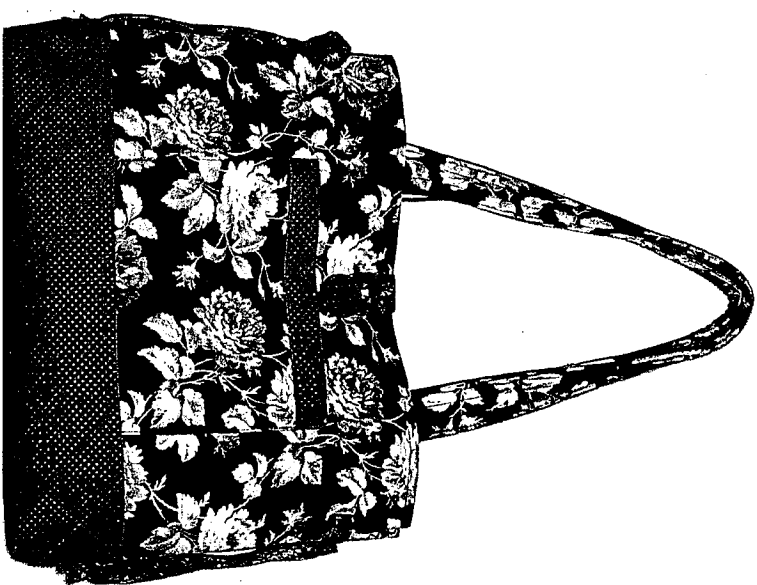
Thanks, Penny



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## Quiltillustrated

### Bow Tucks Tote



Designed by Penny Sturges

#ps008

*Anatomy of the Bow Tucks Tote.* This bag has a contrasting fabric band at the bottom of the front and back of the bag and a pocket with contrasting trim on the front. When tied, the ties form tucks at each side, and add to the styling. The handles can be made with either the main fabric or the contrasting fabric. I usually make the lining with an entirely different fabric, this goes for all the pockets!

All seams are 1/4 inch. WOF means width of fabric. RST mean right sides together. WST means wrong sides together.

Pattern Pieces Cut from FABRIC

Top portion for front and back	Cut two 8 1/2" x 19"	from main fabric
Bottom contrasting portion-front and back	Cut two 6" x 19"	from contrasting fabric
Bag Lining	Cut two 14" x 19"	from a third print fabric
Front Pocket	Cut one 5" x 8 1/2"	from main fabric or contrasting
Front Pocket lining (also makes trim)	Cut one 7" x 8 1/2"	I use the bottom contrast fabric
Inside Pockets for lining	Cut one 12" x WOF	from a fourth print fabric
Handle	Cut one 5" x WOF	usually from main fabric
Button loop and Ties	Cut two 1 1/2 x WOF	from main fabric or contrast.
Cover for cardboard bottom	Cut one 14" x 7"	any print you choose
Cardboard or matte board for bottom	Cut two 12" x 5 1/2 "	

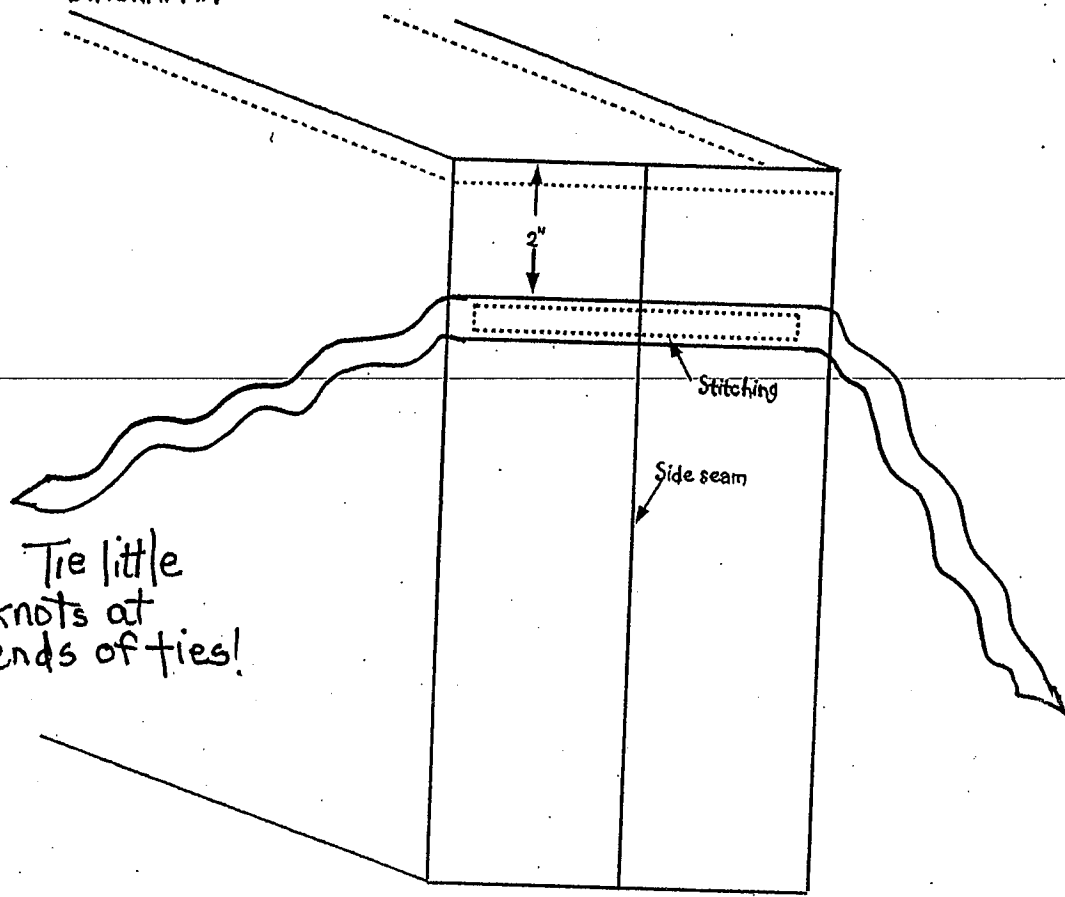
Pattern Pieces Cut from FUSIBLE FLEECE

Body and lining	Cut four 14" x 19"
Pockets for lining	Cut one 5 1/2" x WOF
Cardboard bottom	Cut one 12" x 5 1/2"
Handle	Cut one 5" x WOF
Front Pocket	Cut one 5" x 8"

1. **PLEASE READ THROUGH ALL THE STEPS FIRST!** Sew the front pocket piece to the front pocket lining piece, along the 8 ½ inch length, the pocket is 8 ½ inches wide. Fold in half RST matching raw edges, and press, open and fuse the fleece to the wrong side of pocket along the line you just created by pressing, then stitch along sides, turn and press. See photo, the lining makes the contrasting trim border at the top of the pocket. Quilt this in any fashion you choose, see step #2. Sandwich the pocket between the top front piece and bottom contrasting piece along the 19" edges, **center it here**, pin and sew all three pieces together. Do the same for the back top and bottom, minus the insertion of the pocket. If you decide to quilt the outer bag, see step #2. Point the pocket toward the top of the bag, press, and topstitch the pocket to the bag front on each side to anchor.
2. Fuse the fusible fleece to both wrong sides of the bag front and back, and to the two pieces of the lining, that will use all four pieces of the 14 x 19 inch pieces of fleece. Quilt if desired. Do not panic. This can be really simple, or as ornate as you choose. Sometimes I just follow the pattern of the fabric loosely!! Take care to quilt around the pocket. Not on it. Do not make this brain surgery! The lining can have much less quilting, or none at all. Your choice. This is a tote bag, not an heirloom quilt! This bag works great with no quilting at all, just on the pocket. The front and back are complete.
3. Now for the inside! Fold the inside pocket piece in half WST lengthwise and press. Open with wrong side facing up. Fuse the 5 ½" x WOF piece of fleece to the wrong side of the 12" x WOF pocket, do not center this, and just place up near the fold line fusing to just one half. Then refold the pocket wrong sides together and topstitch ¼ inch from the fold. Cut this section in half! You will now have two pocket sections, one for each lining piece. These pockets are now ready to sew to the lining.
4. Take both pieces of the lining, measure down 10" from the top edge, draw a line on the right side of the fabric from side to side, I just use regular ink pen, it will not show. Place the pocket; raw edges just at the line, with the finished topstitched edge pointing downward, sew from edge to edge, using a ¼" seam, see **DIAGRAM #1**. Flip the pocket up and press well. There should be a 4 inch space from the top of the pocket to the top of the bag, if this is a little less or more, it is OK. Pin on each side near the seam line to keep the pocket from shifting. Repeat with other lining piece.
5. Now anchor the pockets using divider seams to create pocket sections in any size you desire. I divide this section in half with one seam. Then measure in about 2 inches from each edge and stitch for dividers for pens or lipstick. Repeat so both lining pieces are the same, back stitch at the top of each divider seam for added strength. If desired you may add an extra row of stitching in the side pen area as a "stop". See **DIAGRAM #2**.
6. For a fabric handle to match the bag, fuse fleece to the wrong side of the handle fabric, do not quilt this. Press the handle with both raw edges to the middle, fleece to the inside. You may have to use a few pins along the way to hold. Now fold in half (first folded edges together) pressing and pinning along the way, and stitch a scant ¼", catching both folds in the seam. Do this on both sides. For a more dramatic effect I run additional stitches parallel to the first rows. Now cut this in two, so you have now made both handles. Be sure to trim the selvage, fold completed handle in half before you cut to make them the same size!

7. Do the button loops and side ties just like the handle, but with no fleece. Using the 1 1/2 inch x WOF pieces, fold both raw edges to the middle lengthwise and press. Then fold in half and press. Now stitch catching both the folded edges. Cut one 7 1/2 inch length for the button loop, and two 3/4 inch lengths for the ties. Set ties aside until step 12.
8. Mark the top middle of the bag and place the button loop here, pin and sew in place. Then measure 3 inches in both directions from this mid point and place the handles. Do this for the front and back; be sure the handle is not twisted. Pin. The distance between the handles is 6". Stitch the handles with a scant 1/4" seam. This will secure the handle without leaving the pins in. See *DIAGRAM #3*. Place the bag - back on top of the completed front section (RST) and stitch around, leaving only the top open. Leave the bag in this position; "inside out". Set aside.
9. Now, place the lining pieces RST and stitch together leaving the top open and an 8" opening at the middle bottom for turning. See *DIAGRAM #4*. Leave the lining in this position, "inside out". Be sure if using a directional print, they are facing the right way.
- ~~10. This step is the same for both sections (bag and lining) you have just completed, and left "inside out". See *DIAGRAM #5*. Cut out the template pattern, see page 3, and place it in the bottom corner aligned with the outside corner edge and bottom of the bag and trace onto the fusible fleece with a marker. Do this in each bottom corner on BOTH sides of the bag and lining. This means you actually trace the template 8 times!!~~
11. With the bag and lining still "inside out" align the side seams with the bottom seam to "box" the bottom of the bag. See *DIAGRAM #6* stitch on the lines you traced as a guide. Then repeat the same procedure on the lining. Trim the points, leaving about a 1/2 inch seam. Turn the *lining* right side out, leave the *bag* "inside out" (this will keep the handles out of the way) put the lining inside the bag matching the side seams first and pin. Be sure the right sides of the bag are right sides together. Then pin all the way around the top opening, it should all be nice and smooth, no tucks. Now stitch the lining to the bag, around the entire opening at the top.
12. THIS IS THE FUN PART!! Reach inside and put your hand through the 8" opening in the lining, grab the bag bottom and pull through the lining opening. Now push the lining back into the bag, pushing all the corners out. Tug on the handles a little. Now press the top edge of the bag, nice and crisp, so the lining is all to the inside of the bag. I put the bag over the pointed end of the ironing board and press with steam, paying attention to press the side seams too. Topstitch at the top opening of the bag being careful to keep the lining to the inside. Sew the ties about 2 inches from the top of the bag, parallel to the topstitching, sewn down about 4 1/2 inches all together. See *DIAGRAM #7*.
13. You will want to have a firm bottom for your tote bag. I have been using scrap pieces of matte board. I cut two pieces the same size 5 1/2" x 12" and glue them together. I think a piece of Masonite would work also. The fabric for the cover that fits over the matte board is 14" x 7". Place the fusible fleece piece over the cardboard, and glue the raw edges over to the back side of the matte board, pulling it tight for a smooth fit. Let dry and slip it inside to the bottom of the bag, covering the 8" open seam in the lining. You can also slip stitch the open seam in the bottom of the lining closed if this bothers you, I just let it be! If you remove the matte board, the entire bag is washable; I think air-drying would be best. It will have to be steamed and pressed, and will never be quite the same as when it was new. I like to use a lot of dark colored fabric for most of the bags I make, and surface cleaning works well! Sew button and admire!

DIAGRAM #7



Tie little knots at ends of ties!

TEMPLATE

Hint: Cut out of matte board and save with pattern for next time

DIAGRAM #1

Measure down 10 inches from this top edge of the *Lining*.

Raw edge of *pocket*

Place the finished pocket raw edges up, and finished edge down, stitch, flip up and press well.

DIAGRAM #2

*Lining*

*Pocket*

Backstitch at top of all 3 divider seams

Stop for pens

*Lining*

DIAGRAM #3

6" between

Handle placement for the front and back of the main bag.

*Front and Back of bag*

DIAGRAM #4

Leave this top section open

*Lining*

Leave an 8" opening here

DIAGRAM #5

Using template trace the square shape at each bottom corner of the wrong side of the *bag lining* and the wrong side of *bag body*

Trace here

DIAGRAM #6

Cut here

Sew here

Sew here

Cut here

Bottom of bag