

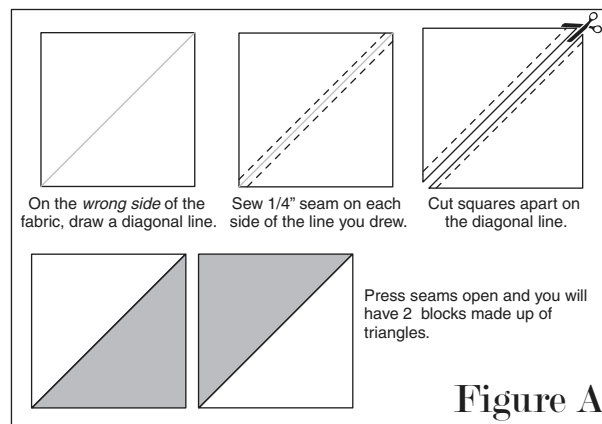
# SUMMER IN THE CITY tote



**General Instructions:** All patchwork seams are ¼" indicated. All other seams are ½" unless otherwise indicated. Press open all seams.

## Ingredients:

- 1 *Summer in the City* sampler kit (available for purchase at [www.sophiaaster.etsy.com](http://www.sophiaaster.etsy.com))
- ½ yard 44" wide coordinating fabric
- 2 white jelly roll strips OR 2- 2 ½" x 44" strips of coordinating fabric for straps
- Coordinating thread



## Tools:

- Rotary cutter and mat OR sharp fabric scissors
- Ruler
- Fabric marker OR tailor's chalk
- Pins

## Instructions.

### 1 Create the Straps.

If you are not using jelly roll strips, you will need to cut your fabric strips. You will need two strips that measure 44" wide and 2 ½" tall. With right sides together, sew a ¼-inch seam along the long edge of the strips. (Keep the short ends open.) Turn the strap right side out. Press the strap. Top stitch along the edges of both sides of the strap. Fold the strap in half and finger press the crease. Unfold the strap and cut in half along the crease you just made. You now have 2 straps for your tote. Set aside.

### 2 Make the Patchwork Squares.

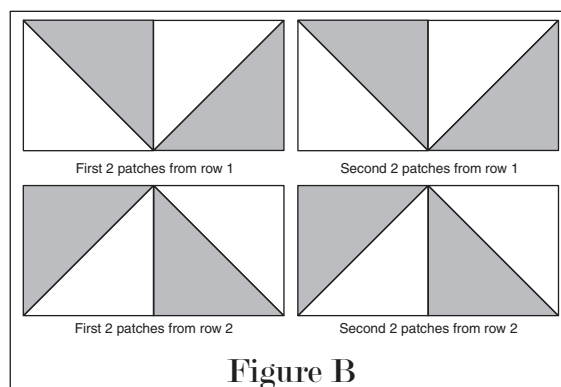
Choose 8 patterned fabric swatches from the kit for the outside of the tote. You will also need 8 solid brown fabric swatches.

To create your patchwork squares, start with 1 brown square and 1 patterned square. On the **WRONG** side of one of the swatches, use your fabric marker to draw a diagonal line from corner to corner of the swatch. (see **Figure A**)

Place the squares right side together, and sew a seam ¼-inch away from each side of the line you drew. Cut the square along the line. You will have two squares made up of two triangles each. Press open the seams. Repeat for remaining fabric squares. You will end up with 16 4 ½" x 4 ½" squares.

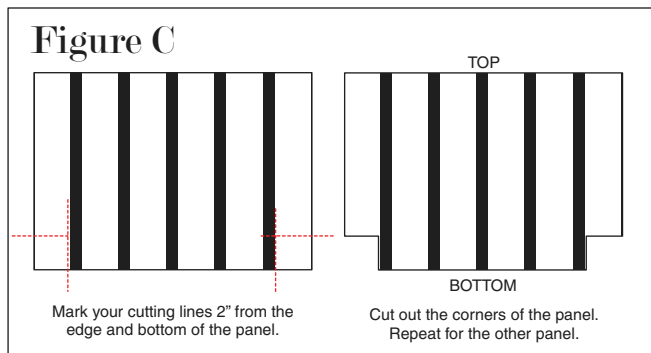
### 3 Attach the Patchwork Squares.

You will need 8 patches for each side of the tote (two rows of 4 patches). Lay your patches on a flat surface and arrange in a pleasing manner. (The bag shown features a pinwheel design.) To sew the patches together, take the first two patches from the top row and with right sides together sew a ¼" seam on one edge, matching the seams where the patches join. (See **Figure B**) Open the seam and attach the next fabric square. Repeat for the second row of patches. Iron open all seams. Place the two rows of patches with right sides together, matching up at seams. Pin carefully to hold in place. Sew together using a ¼-inch seam. Press.



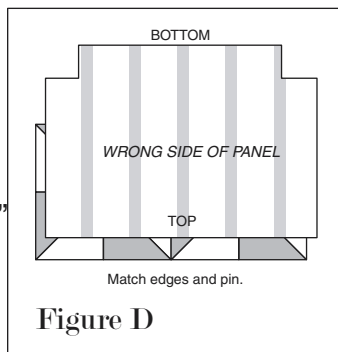
### 4 Cut the Bottom Panels.

Measure the width of your patchwork panels. You will need to cut 2 bottom panels this width that are also 9" tall. (Your patchwork panels should be about 16.75" - you can use them as a guide when cutting the width of your bottom panels. When you have the panels cut the correct size, you will need to cut the corners - this will give your bag shape. Measure 2" from one edge of the bottom panel and make a mark. Measure 2" from the bottom of the panel and make a mark. Cut out the square you just drew. (See **Figure C**)



## 5 Attach Patchwork & Bottom Panels.

Place the TOP side of the bottom panel, *right sides together*, on top of 1 of the patchwork panels. (see **Figure D**) Pin together and sew 1/4" seam along the length of the panels. Press open the seam. Repeat for the other patchwork & bottom panel.



## 6 Attach the Straps.

Take the straps you created in step 1 and pin them right sides together to the top edge of your outer panel. Choose the strap location based on how long you want the straps to be - straps closer together will be longer. Attach the straps using a 1/4" seam.

## 7 Attach Outer Panels.

Place your outer panels right sides together and sew the left, right, and bottom edges using a 1/2" seam. To sew the cut out corners, pull them open like a milk carton (see **Figure E**), pin in place, and sew a 1/2" seam. Press all seams. Set aside.



## 8 Create Lining.

Use the remaining fabric squares to create the lining of your tote. Sew 16 swatches together for each lining panel (4 rows of 4 swatches each). You will have some extra brown swatches which you can use to create pockets on the lining panels. Just sew a 1/4" seam around 3 sides of the swatch, leaving the top open. (see **Figure F**)

Press open all seams and use the outer panels as a guide to trim the lining panels to the correct size. Repeat step 4 to cut out the corners of the lining panels. Repeat step 7 to sew the lining panels to each other, *right sides together*, BUT leave a 6" opening centered in the bottom of the lining so that you will be able to turn the bag.



## 9 Finish the Tote..

Turn the lining and outer panels inside out. Place the lining inside of the outer panels, tucking the straps down in between the lining and outer panels. Pin along the top edge of the tote bag. When you look down into the tote, you should see the *wrong side* of the lining. Stitch 1/2" seam around the top edge of the tote bag.

Reach down into the bag and pull the lining out. Use the opening you left in the bottom of the lining to pull the outer panels through, turning the bag right side out. Close the hole in the lining by turning the raw edges in 1/2" and edge stitching along the length of the opening. Push the lining down into tote. Top stitch along the top edge of the bag, making sure to keep the straps to the right of the needle. Your tote is finished and ready to use! **Questions?** Email [lisa@sophiaaster.com](mailto:lisa@sophiaaster.com).