

SCHLEP BAG

Jane Jacobson

Saturday morning



The bag to the right is made with 6½ inch squares, and is a great size to carry my crochet supplies, or my lunch to work. I made the strap extra-long so I could sling it over my shoulder when my arms are full with other stuff.



It can easily be made with other size squares, from 2½ inch squares for the little wine-bottle cover all the way up to 8½

inches. Or bigger! Think grocery paper sack size! Do you need a large bag to carry a quilt? The bag on the left is made with 8½ inch squares and shorter handles. Customize how you wish! Four inch charm squares make a cute small bag suitable for small gifts...

You can also make the bag deeper than I chose to. My example is lined in the exact same colors as on the outside, so it used 8 purple, 8 green, and 8 blue squares, 8 purple triangles, and two 22 inch long strips of fabric for the handles. I could have easily added another square instead of the purple top triangles, THEN put the triangles on. That would have made the bag about nine inches deeper. Need a horse nose-bag?

Any of your squares can be swapped out with a quilt square or focus fabric, like the rose blocks in the bag to the left. Do you have any 6 inch finished orphan quilt blocks that need a home? The blue squares in the bag above could easily have been swapped with a 6½ quilt square. Or four if you wanted to go all the way around the bag!

You Need:

Basic sewing supplies. Sewing machine, ruler, rotary cutter, pins, etc.

Fabric. At least three colors. Fat quarters are good for the bags pictured. You may want yardage if you want long handles. Remember, to line the bag, you need squares for the inside too! If you're going to make a HUGE one, you may need more fabric.

For handles: Two batting or denim strips as long as you want your handles. I used strips left over from old jeans-legs. You'll cover it with fabric.

Quilt blocks if you wish to use them, as described above.