

# Scrappy Pinwheel Charm Tote

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## Fabric and Other Supplies:

- 6 6 inch scrappy pinwheel blocks
- 1 3x19 inch piece of **Pellon Fleece** (or cotton batting)
- 1 3x19 inch piece of coordinating fabric (this will become the lining)
- 2 4x13 inch strips of fabric for the handles (can be a bit longer if desired)
- 2 7/8 inch strips of **Pellon Fleece** to insert in each handle
- 25 inches of quilt binding (I begin with a 2 ¼ inch strip of fabric)
- Strips of fusible web (I use **HeatnBond Lite**)
- Coordinating thread
- 3 5 inch circles of coordinating fabric for yo-yos
- 3 coordinating buttons

The tote is made from 6 scrappy pinwheel blocks. Each pinwheel has two squares that are the same, positioned diagonally opposite its twin. The pinwheel blocks are 6 inches square. Sew the blocks together to make a 12 by 18 inch rectangle.

Next, layer a slightly larger piece of thin batting (I use **Pellon Fleece**) and a coordinating backing fabric. Secure with safety pins and quilt in the ditch of every seam. I did the straight of grain quilting first, then the diagonal quilting. If you plan your quilting route, you may be able to do the diagonal lines without stopping (called ricochet quilting, see the reference in the Google book link):

<http://tinyurl.com/mbhdf9>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=dzjGL7cMGOsC&pg=PA161&lpg=PA161&dq=ricochet+quilting+diagonal+lines&source=bl&ots=dgKeZG68c6&sig=CqNIMnprwFjW3V\\_5OM3W-F14SYA&hl=en&ei=dG2oSrWwG5CqswPLh\\_2LBQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=ricochet%20quilting%20diagonal%20lines&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=dzjGL7cMGOsC&pg=PA161&lpg=PA161&dq=ricochet+quilting+diagonal+lines&source=bl&ots=dgKeZG68c6&sig=CqNIMnprwFjW3V_5OM3W-F14SYA&hl=en&ei=dG2oSrWwG5CqswPLh_2LBQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=ricochet%20quilting%20diagonal%20lines&f=false)

Trim the batting and backing fabric even with the pieced blocks. Since I have a serger, I used that to secure the raw edges of my little quilt even with the blocks. I used regular double fold quilt binding on the short ends, attaching to the right sides first and then positioning the handles on the lining side. The short ends of the little quilt will become the top edges of the bag.

The handles are 1 inch by about 13 inches (were fabric strips cut 4 inches wide by about 13 inches). They were folded into quarters, raw edges to the center then in half so the folded edges meet. I cut a 7/8 inch wide by 13 inch piece of **Pellon Fleece** to insert inside one of the quarter folds. Then I fuse the handles together with **HeatnBond Lite** (make sure you use the stuff in the purple package). Then I topstitch 1/8 inch from each side of the handle. Fusing them keeps them from rippling when you topstitch. Note: I use **Pellon Fleece** because I can press it and it does not become melted and stiff.

The handles are centered so they span about 5 1/2-5 3/4 inches total (they fit just inside two 3 inch blocks of two pinwheel blocks). The ends of each handle are sewn in securely when the binding is flipped to the wrong/back side but I baste them in place first. I fuse the binding down. Stitch in the ditch from the right side to secure the binding to the back side of the little quilt. Then flip the handles so they extend beyond/above the binding, and stitch them in place. I used a zig-zag stitch on top of the binding with matching thread.

Next, fold the quilted rectangle in half, matching the serged edges and aligning the bound edges. Sew from the bound edges to the fold (bottom of the bag) using a 1/4 inch seam allowance and securing well. If you really want to make these seams look nice, you can bind them but since I serged them, I didn't.

Next, square the bottom of the bag. This is done by matching the fold of the bottom of bag (actually a seam between pinwheel blocks) to the side seams. This will form a triangle on each side. You can choose how wide you want your bag but since I used pinwheel blocks, I discovered that there was a pattern formed from the outside so the width I chose for the base of each of the triangles is about 2 3/4 inches.



Design made by squared base of bag.

I embellished one side of the bag with three yo-yos with buttons in the center. The finished size of the yo-yos is 2 1/4 inches in diameter. They were attached in the center of the gathered side with a button.

I finish up by pressing creases to define base of the bag. You can make a firm insert with **Peltex**, **Timtex**, or **Stiffy** (all brands of similar very heavy interfacing) covered with matching fabric. Some create a sleeve where the base of the bag will be to hold the stiff interfacing. I like to round the edges so it doesn't cut into the fabric.

This bag is just about the right size for a Bible and small notebook.