

CARDINAL TOTE

This project is a great time to use up those odds and ends of beige and red fabrics. See, there really was a reason to keep them. Both foundation piecing and plain piecing technique are used.

Materials

1 yard total of 8 or more different beige mini prints
½ yard green batik for bird background
¼ yard total of 6 different bright red prints for bird body
¼ yard total of 6 different light red prints for bird chest
Scrap of black print for bird trim
Scrap of bright yellow print for beaks
¼ yard brown print for binding and trim
2 yards webbing
6 6mm black beads
Black sewing thread
Sewing needle
Heavy cardboard or foam board 18" x 3 ½" for base of tote
Beige thread for sewing and quilting
Green thread for quilting birds

Cutting Guide

1. Cut a total of 90 2 ½" squares from the mixed beige prints
2. Cut 2 strips 18" x 1" for the piping trim
3. Cut strip totaling 38" x 2 ½" for top binding

Construction

1. Construct 6 cardinal blocks using the paper piecing techniques shown on page XX using the dark reds for the top of the bird and the light red prints for the chest.
2. Sew 3 birds together and add a 1" wide strip of green to each end.
3. Sew 9 2 ½" squares together forming rows.
4. Sew the rows together forming a panel 9 squares wide by 10 squares long.
5. Fold the piping strips in half wrong sides together and press.
6. Baste piping to bottom edges of cardinal panels, right sides together.
7. Sew a bird panel to each end of the block panel.
8. Quilt panel. Stitch around the birds with green thread. Using beige thread stitch 1/8" from all seams forming a checkerboard quilting pattern.
9. Finish all raw edges except top edge with an overcast stitch.
10. Sew side seams together using a ¼" seam. Press seams open.
11. To form the box bottom, turn the tote inside out. Fold a diamond shape with the end of the side seam making the top of the diamond. Stitch across the diamond making the bottom of tote 2 squares wide. (See illustration XX) Repeat at other end. Press seam and tack top of diamonds down to the bottom seam.
12. Fold binding strip in half wrong sides together and press.

13. Apply binding by matching raw edges with right sides together. Stitch and finish ends.
14. Hand stitch binding to the inside at the seam line.
15. Cut two pieces of webbing 30" long. Turn up 1" at each end.
16. Attach to the center of the top of the tote sewing the handles 9" apart beginning just under the banding strip.
17. Sew bead for eye on each cardinal.
18. Place cardboard in bottom of tote to hold box shape at bottom, if desired.