

The 5-6-7 Tote

by Debby Kratovil

A little history...

Mambo by Rosemarie Lavin

This fabric collection is as colorful as the dance for which it is named. Just as the rhythm of the Mambo dance is unusual in comparison to most other dances, these vivid colors and graphic patterns are not your average fabric find. The leafy foliage prints, staccato florals and unique geometrics evoke the sensation of fluid movement, and the anything-but-subtle colorations can be compared to the hot, bold Haitian-Cuban influences that saturate the sounds of Mambo dance.



*Mambo Quilt instructions also available at
www.windhamfabrics.com*

Be sure to visit www.windhamfabrics.com to see the complete collection and download more FREE projects.

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P R O J E C T

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Featuring fabrics from the Mambo collection by Rosemarie Lavin

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TOTE SIZE: 16" wide x 15"high

Fabrics:

- 1/2 yard brown multi-print for bag top and handles (#27187)
- 1/4 yard blue leaf print (#27181)
- 1/4 yard brown swirl multi-print (#27186)
- 1 yard lining fabric
- 4" x 11" piece of Timtex for bag bottom
- 1 yard heavy fusible interfacing

Cutting

From the brown multi-print (#27187), cut:

- one 5-1/2" x 36" rectangle
- two 3-1/2" x 27" strips (handles)

From the blue leaf print (#27181), cut:

- one 6-1/2" x 36" rectangle

From the brown swirl print (#27186), cut:

- one 7-1/2" x 36" rectangle

From the lining fabric, cut:

- two 17" x 18" rectangles
- one 12-1/2" x 17" rectangle (pockets)
- one 8-1/2" x 17" rectangle (pockets)

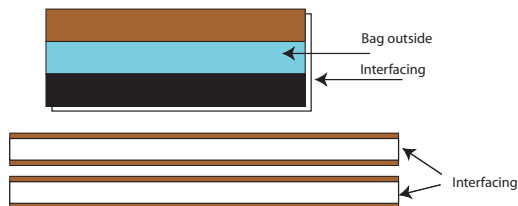
From the fusible interfacing, cut:

- one 19" x 36" rectangle
- two 3" x 26" strips

1. Sew the three bag rectangles together along their long sides, referring to the color photo for placement. Press seams open.
2. Iron the fusible interfacing rectangle to the wrong side of the bag front.

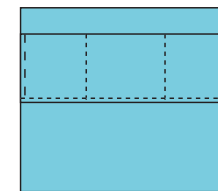
Making the tote handles

1. Iron an interfacing strip to the wrong side of each of the tote handle strips. Fold over the handle strips, right sides together, and sew into a long tube. Turn right side out and press. Leave short ends unfinished. These will be tucked into the bag top hem.



Making the pockets:

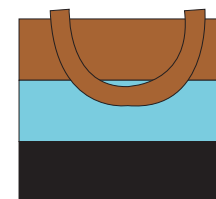
1. Sew the 12-1/2" x 17" rectangle into a long tube: right sides together, sewing along the 17" sides. Turn right side out and press seam so that it lies at the middle of the tube in the back.
2. Align the short, raw edges of this tube along the sides of one of the 17" x 18" lining rectangles, placing it 2" down from the top. Baste in place along the sides. Sew the pocket piece in place along the bottom of the pocket. Add two vertical lines of stitching to create three pockets.
3. Sew the 8-1/2" x 17" lining rectangle into a long tube as you did with Pocket #1. Turn right side out, centering the seam at the back of the tube.
4. Align this pocket piece on the remaining 17" x 18" lining rectangle, raw edges together, placing it 2" down from the top of the lining. Baste the sides; sew the pocket bottom to the lining piece. Sew two vertical lines of stitching to create three pockets.



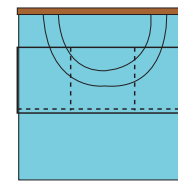
Pocket Placement

Sewing the bag together

1. Sew the one side seam of the bag front to form a tube.
2. Sew the two lining pieces together along both sides.
3. Place the bag handles 3" in from each side seam of the bag front. Pin in place.
4. Place the tote bag front piece inside the lining piece, right sides together, aligning the side seams, the top and bottom raw edges. Take care that the handles hang free as shown. The short ends of the handles will be caught in the stitching of the tote top.
5. Sew the bag front and bag lining together along the top. Turn right side out and press the bag lining so that it falls about 1/4" below the seam. Sew a topstitch along the bag top to reinforce this seam.
6. Turn the bag inside out and align the bottom raw edges of both the lining and bag front. Sew together with 1/4" seam. Finish the raw edges with a zig zag or serged seam.
7. With right sides facing, align lining side seam and center bottom seam of bag; pin across to create a triangle. Measure up 2" from each corner and sew a short perpendicular seam to form the bottom boxed corners. These will fold down into the bag bottom and be covered by the Timtex.
8. Place the Timtex rectangle on the bag bottom, covering the last seam. This reinforces the bag bottom.



Handle Placement



Bag Inside



Finished Tote