

## MARLENE'S BAG of SQUARES

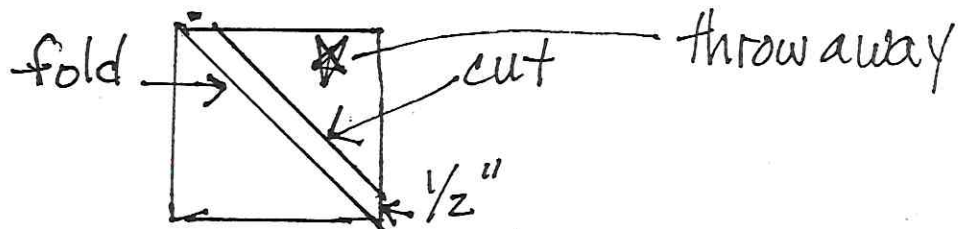
Outside Fabric - Cut 16 squares either 4", 5", 6" or 8". The larger the squares, the larger the finished bag. (design option cut 4 squares in one color, 4 squares in a coordinating color and 8 squares in yet another coordinating color)

Lining Fabric - Cut 16 squares the same size as the outside fabric OR after sewing the outside fabric squares trace around the pieced squares for the lining to be all one piece of fabric. If you choose to do the second lining option, be sure to make a mark where each "arm" is to be sewn to next.

Handles - Cut 2 strips of outside fabric 22" x 4" and 2 strips of lining fabric 22" x 1.5". If longer handles are desired cut the fabric accordingly. Interfacing or headliner may be required to give the stability required for handles.

NOTE: 1/4" seam allowances unless otherwise indicated

Square #4 - will need to be cut at an angle prior to piecing. Fold square in half diagonally; crease it with your thumb nail. Open the square and measure 1/2" from the fold on one side, draw a line and cut on that line. Throw the smaller triangle away. The altered square #4 should look like this:



Starting with the outside fabric squares divide into four piles with four squares in each pile. Think of them as pile #1, #2, #3, #4. (if you have coordinating fabric definitely do this as it will be easier to keep the design in the correct order). Start by sewing the #1's together. When sewing the first #2 square to the #1 square stop stitching 1/4" from the outside edge. This is the only square you will do this on. Continue with the rest of the #2 squares. Add #3's and then #4's. Be sure the #4's diagonal is facing the direction as shown in diagram. Backstitch the beginning and end of each seam. The piece should look like the illustration. Press seams open.

As shown each of the "arms" are listed as A, B, C and D. Sew A to B matching the seams, then C to D matching the seams. Then sew B to C and D to A matching the seams. If not sewn in this order your mind will play tricks on you - ignore how crazy the edge looks until you sew all for arms together. Press seams careful not to stretch the top edge of the bag. Fold down and press 1/2" around the top of the bag.

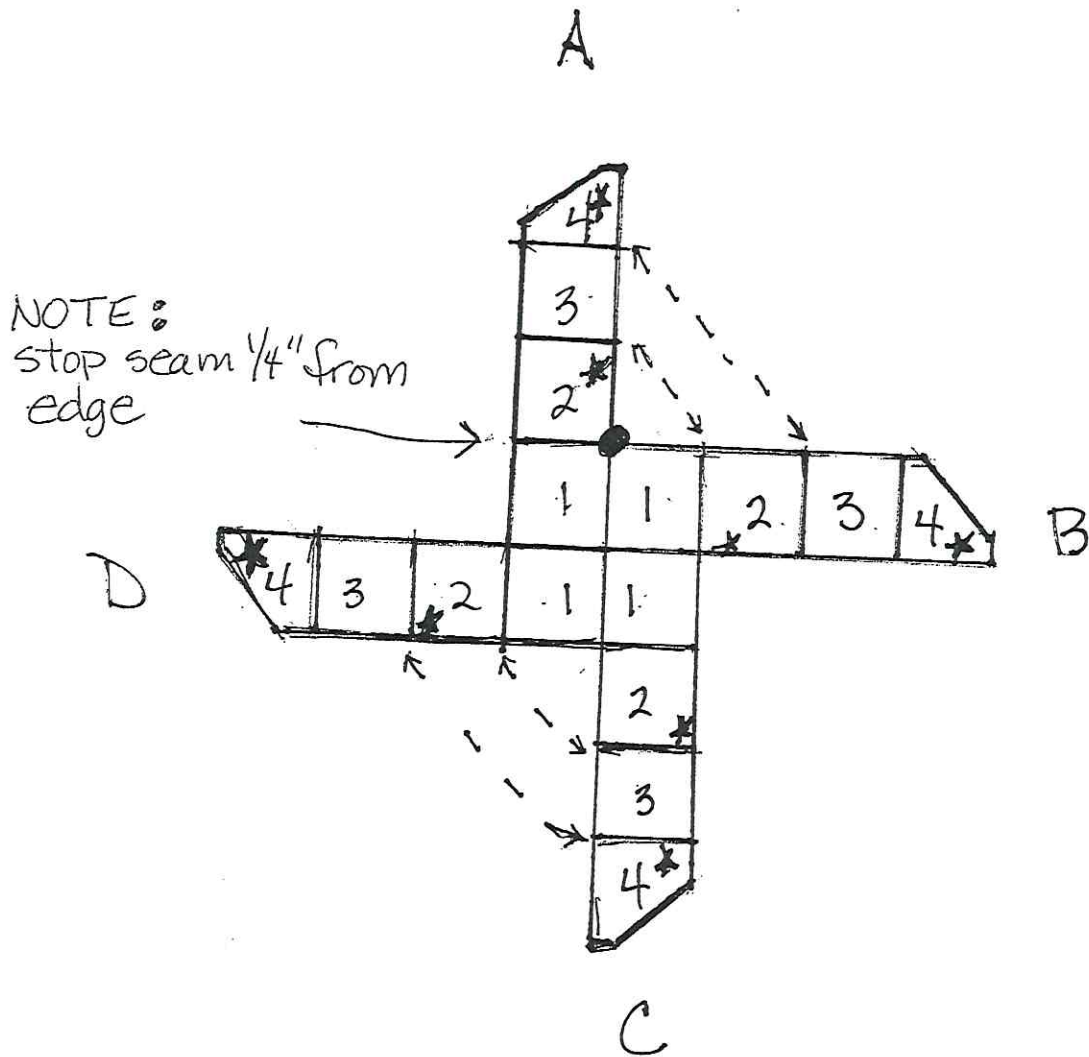
Sew the lining. Press. If you want a pocket inside, this is the time to make and install it.

NOTE: Make sure the pocket is positioned correctly in relationship to the handles so the pocket is on the side of the purse below the handles not the end.

When lining is completed, place the two pieces wrong sides together. Pin around the top of the bag leaving openings in the middle of the triangles for the handles.

Handles: Iron piece in half lengthwise. Place the lining snugly against the fold and turn under both long edges. Top stitch close (1/8") to the edge. Do the same on the other side. A decorative stitch is an option that works well and adds strength. Carefully center the ends of each handle in the middle of the triangles - be sure to not twist them. Pin and top stitch (1/8" - 1/4") around the edge of the bag. You may choose to use the same decorative stitch as for the handles.

Illustration on back.



- = starting point
- = matching seams to sew purse together.
- \* = coordinating squares for design around purse