

GO! Op Art Tote Bag

Finished Size 17" x 17" x 4"





Fabrics are Soho Solids provided by Timeless Treasures

Like optical illusion art, this tote bag grabs your gaze with bold contrasting colors. An alternating checkerboard is topped with split-peel appliqués, then turned on point and trimmed square.



GO!® Dies Used, Number of Shapes to Cut & Fabric Requirements

Note: *Apply fusible web to the wrong side of asterisked fabrics following manufacturer's instructions before cutting appliqué shapes.

Fabric Color	Shape	GO! Dies Used	Number of Shapes to Cut	Fabric Required
Green		GO! Square-5" (4½" Finished) (55010)	Cut two 10½" x WOF strips. Fan-fold the strips at 5½" and cut 24 squares. Cut four 6" x WOF strips for handle/gusset.	1 1/2 yard
Blue		GO! Square-5" (4½" Finished) (55010)	Cut two 10½" x WOF strips. Fan-fold the strips at 5½" and cut 21 squares.	3/4 yard
Black		GO! Orange Peel-4½" Finished (55455)	Cut nine 2" x WOF strips using GO! Strip Cutter-2" (1½" Finished) (55025) for the Orange Peel shapes. Cut one 2¼" strip using GO! Strip Cutter-2¼" (1¾" Finished) (55053) for panel binding and button loop. Sub cut into two 18" lengths. Save remaining strip for button loop.	3/4 yard
White		GO! Orange Peel-4½" Finished (55455)	Cut one 20" x WOF strip. Sub cut into two rectangles for front and back panel backings. Cut one 11" x WOF strip. Sub cut into two 18" x 11" pockets. Cut nine 2" x WOF strips using GO! Strip Cutter-2" (1½" Finished) (55025) for the orange peel shapes.	1 1/2 yard

Additional Fabrics & Notions Needed

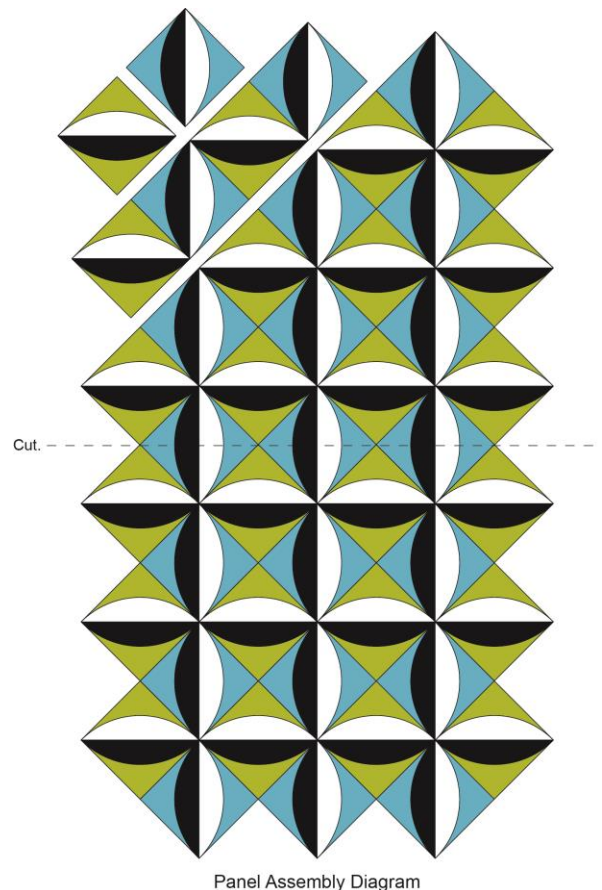
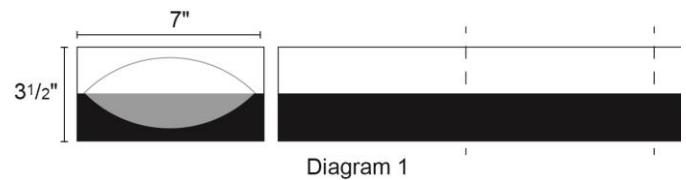
- Batting—40" x 36"
 - Cut two 19" squares for front and back panels. Cut two 6" x 40" rectangles for gusset/handle.
- Fusible Web—2½ yards (based on 17" width)
- One large button

Sewing Directions

Note: Press all seams open and use a 1/4" seam allowance unless otherwise indicated.

Make the Front and Back Panels

1. Sew pairs of 2" x WOF black and white strips right sides together along one long edge. Make 9 strip sets. Press the seams open.
2. Following the manufacturer's instructions, apply fusible web to the wrong side of each black-and-white strip set.
3. Cut the strip sets into forty-five 3-1/2" x 7" rectangles. Cut 45 orange peel shapes, aligning the strip set seam with the orange peel points as shown in Diagram 1.
4. Place each orange peel shape diagonally on either a green or blue square, with the points of the orange peel shapes 1/4" from the square's corners. Fuse the orange peel shapes in place according to manufacturer's instructions.
5. Referring to the panel assembly diagram, arrange the blocks into 9 diagonal rows. Make sure that the orange peel shapes are oriented correctly. Join the blocks in each diagonal row together, then join the rows together, matching seam lines.
6. Cut through the horizontal center of the panel, creating two outer panels as shown in Assembly Diagram.
7. Layer each 19" batting square between a panel backing and an outer panel, with the wrong sides facing the batting. Pin or baste the layers together. Quilt each panel as desired, making sure to stitch around the edges of each orange peel shape to secure the fused shapes to the blocks.
8. Trim each quilted panel to 17-1/2" square.



Add the Pockets and Panel Binding

1. Press one long edge of one pocket 1/4" to the wrong side. Fold the pressed edge 1/4" to the wrong side, and press again. Topstitch along the pressed edge.
2. Place the pocket wrong sides together with one of the quilted panels, with the hemmed edge toward the panel top. Pin, then baste, the pocket in place around the outer edges, sewing 1/8" from the outer panel edge.
3. Optional--To create a divided pocket, sew a vertical line from the pocket's upper edge to the lower edge of the panel, backstitching at the pocket's upper edge to secure.

Tip: Sew with the panel's front side facing up, to avoid placing a stitch line in a conspicuous place.

4. Trim any excess pocket fabric even with the edge of the outer panel.

Repeat steps 1-4 with the remaining pocket and outer panel.

5. Press the button loop in half lengthwise, with wrong sides together. Open the strip, and fold the raw edges to the crease. Press, then refold the strip along the first crease, encasing the raw edges. Press again. Topstitch along each long edge of the strip to secure.
6. Fold the button loop in half. Center the loop ends along the top edge of the right side of one panel, aligning raw edges. Pin, then sew, the loop in place, using a 1/8" seam as shown in Diagram 2.
7. Press one 2-1/4" x 18" binding strip in half lengthwise, with wrong sides together. Stitch the binding strip to the top edge of one panel front, matching raw edges. Fold the binding to the back of the panel, encasing the top raw edges of the panel. Hand stitch the binding to the panel back. Repeat for the remaining panel.

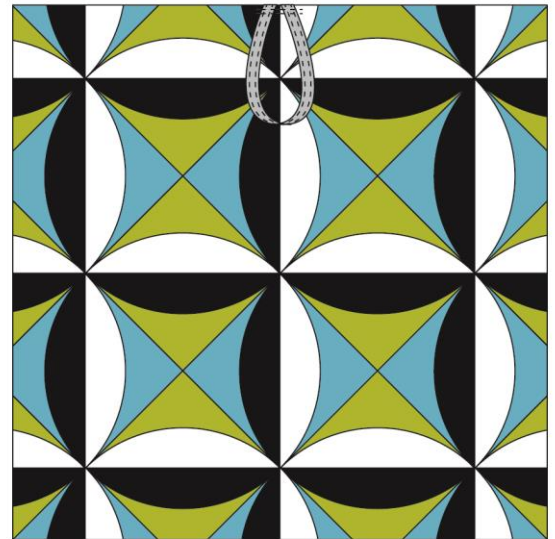


Diagram 2

Make the Handle/Gusset

1. Join two 6" x WOF handle/gusset strips along one short edge and press the seam open. Repeat for the two remaining handle/gusset strips. About the two short edges of the two 6" x 40" batting strips and zigzag the short ends together.
2. Place the two handle/gusset strips right sides together, aligning all raw edges. Place the strips on top of the batting strip, and pin in place. Sew along each long edge of the handle/gusset strips. Trim the excess batting along each sewn edge, very close to the stitching. Turn the handle/gusset right side out.
3. Quilt the handle/gusset strip as desired, to secure the batting in place and strengthen the strip.

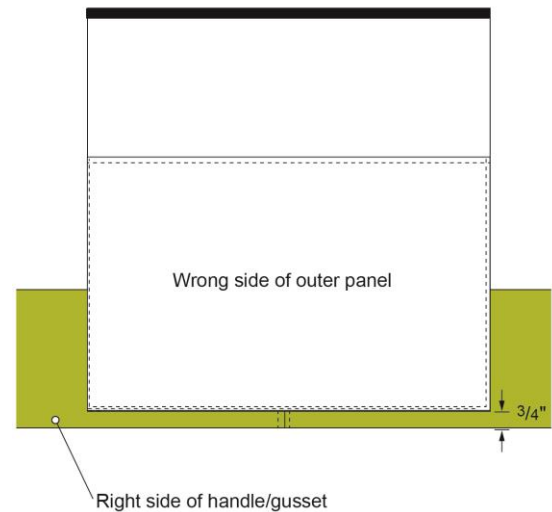


Diagram 3

Assembling the Tote

1. Designate one side of the handle/gusset as the 'right' side. Making sure that the handle/gusset isn't twisted, place the short raw ends right sides together. Sew along the short ends together, using a 1/2" to 3/4" seam, forming a large loop. Fold the seam allowances open. Sew each seam allowance to the handle/gusset, 1/4" from the end seam. Trim any excess fabric and batting close to the stitching.
2. With right sides together, place the bottom edge of one outer panel parallel to one long edge of the handle/gusset, with the panel edge 3/4" from the edge of the handle/gusset. Stitch the panel to the handle/gusset, starting and stopping 1/4" from the panel edges and backstitching at each end as shown in Diagram 3.
3. Clip the 3/4" edge of the handle/gusset perpendicular to the long handle/gusset edge, cutting to but not through the seam at each end of the stitch line made in step 2. Turn the handle/gusset so that it lies parallel to each side edge of the panel, with the panel edge 3/4" from the handle/gusset edge. Pin, then stitch the side edges of the panel to the handle/gusset, using a 1/4" seam allowance,

and backstitching at the beginning and end of the seam as shown in Diagram 4.

4. Working with one seam at a time, fold the handle/gusset seam allowance over the raw edge of the panel, encasing the raw edges. Sew the seam allowance in place, stitching just to the inside of the seam line.
5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 with the remaining panel, making sure to align the second panel with the first.

Finishing the Tote

1. Measure and mark 5" to either side of the center top of the handle. Fold the outer edges of the handle to the underside, abutting the outer edges. Pin, then sew the folded edges in place to make an easy-to-grip section of the handle.
2. Fold the button loop over the upper edge of the tote to place the button. Hand sew the button in place.

