Sew Sweetness

Clydebank Tote

Sara Lawson

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This tote features cut-out handles and comes in two different sizes; size small is a great handbag size, and size large would make a great large work tote or a bag for a day at the beach!

Seam allowance is 1/4" (6mm) unless otherwise noted.
Please read all instructions before beginning.

Finished Size: small - 9-1/2" long x 14" tall x 3" wide   (24cm x 35.5cm x 7.6cm)
large - 13" long x 21-1/4" tall x 5" wide   (33cm x 54cm x 12.7cm)

All cutting measurements given throughout the pattern are *width x height***.**

SUPPLIES
- 1 yard/metre of exterior fabric **OR** 1-1/2 yard/metre if fussycutting for size large
- fat quarter of fabric for the exterior side panels
- 1 yard/metre of lining fabric (please increase to 1-1/2 yard/metre for size large or if fussycutting size small)
- 1 yard/metre of foam interfacing (By Annie's Soft and Stable, Pellon Flex Foam, Bosal In-R-Form, or automotive headliner; if purchasing Flex Foam, please purchase at least double the amount as it is only 20" wide)
- 2-1/2 yard/metre 20" wide Pellon SF-101 Shape Flex fusible woven interfacing (medium-weight fusible)
- Optional: 15" x 6" piece of Pellon #71 Peltex ultra-firm fusible interfacing (for a firm bottom)
- 20" handbag zipper
- Two 12" zippers

Design Idea: If you prefer, you can use fusible fleece or Pellon Thermolam instead of foam if you prefer a slouchier bag.

NOTIONS
- Clover Wonder Clips or pins
- Iron
- Pressing cloth
- Rotary Cutter and Cutting Mat
- Scissors
- Disappearing Ink Fabric Marker
- Dritz Wash-Away Wonder Tape
- Turning tool: Hemostat or tube turner

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Please cut your fabric pieces in the order listed, so that you will have plenty of fabric for the bag. When printing pattern pieces, always make sure your printer is set to scaling at 'none' or 'actual size' so pieces print at correct size.
IMPORTANT: Measure the tester 1" or 4cm square to make sure that your pattern pieces printed at the correct size.

For Size Large, please print out template pages 1-4; for Size Small, please print out template pages 5-8.

Helpful Hint: If you plan to quilt your exterior pieces to interfacing, I recommend rough-cutting them approximately 1" (2.5cm) larger to account for shrinkage when machine quilting.

Cut from Exterior Fabric, Lining Fabric, foam interfacing, and Shape Flex:

(2) Main Panel, using the Main Panel pattern piece, cut on the fold

(1) Bottom Panel -   small - 13" x 4"   (33cm x 10.1cm)

large - 15" x 6"   (38cm x 15.2cm)

Cut from Side Panel Fabric, Lining Fabric, foam interfacing, and Shape Flex:

(2) Side Panel, using the Side Panel pattern piece, cut on the fold

Cut from Lining Fabric and Shape Flex:

(4) Zipper Panel -   small - 14-1/2" x 1-1/2" (36.8cm x 3.8cm)

large - 16-1/2" x 1-1/2" (41.9cm x 3.8cm)

Cut from Lining Fabric:

(2) Zipper Pocket - 10" x 14"   (25.4cm x 35.5cm)

(1) Zipper Tab, 4" x 2-1/2"   (10.1cm x 6.3cm)

Cut from Optional Fusible Peltex:

(1) Peltex Bottom -   small - 12-1/2" x 3-1/2"   (31.8cm x 8.9cm)

large - 14-1/2" x 5-1/2"   (36.8cm x 14cm)

Instructions are the same for both sizes unless otherwise noted. Size small is pictured.

ATTACH THE INTERFACING

1.   If you are using the optional Peltex, center the Peltex on the Foam Bottom Panel and fuse in place. Place the Exterior Bottom Panel on the side of the foam **without** the Peltex; pin in place, then baste using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.

2.   Place the fusible (tacky) side of the Shape Flex against the wrong side of the Lining Bottom Panel. Fuse according to manufacturer instructions. Repeat for the Lining Main Panels, Lining Side Panels, and Zipper Panels.

Helpful Hint: To fuse Shape Flex, first place the fabric face down, followed by the interfacing (tacky side down), then the pressing cloth. I lightly spritz the pressing cloth with water, then iron, overlapping each area, for approximately 10 seconds on each spot. When finished, it should be firmly attached to your fabric.

3.   Place the Exterior Main Panel with the wrong side of the fabric against the foam interfacing. Pin in place. Baste Panel using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance. Repeat for the remaining Exterior Main Panel and Exterior Side Panels; also Exterior Bottom Panel (if you're not using the optional Peltex).

Helpful Hint: I like to gently pull my fabric taut as I am basting it to the foam interfacing for a tight, crisp finish. If you would like, machine quilt the foam interfacing pieces at this time; if you rough-cut, cut to the final size in the instructions.
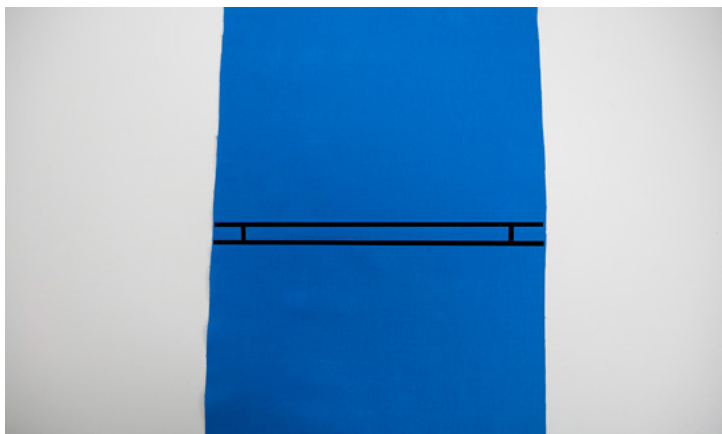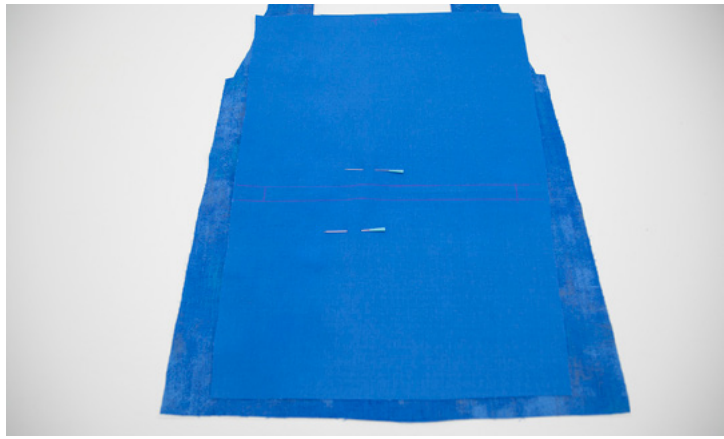
MAKE THE ZIPPER POCKETS

4.   On the wrong side of one Zipper Pocket, measure and mark a horizontal line that is 7-1/2" (19cm) down from the short 10" (25.4cm) edge.

Draw another horizontal line that is 1/2" (1.2cm) below the first one.

Helpful Hint: I usually like to draw a little 'T' at the top edge so that I don't get mixed up while I am marking the lines for the pocket.
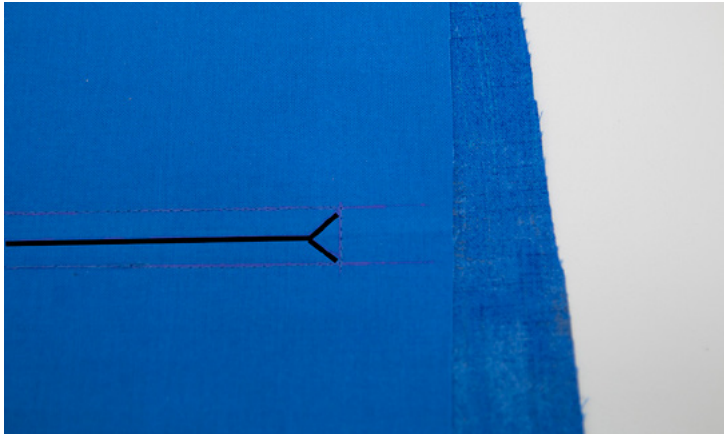

5.   Draw a vertical line that is 1" (2.5cm) in from the left-hand side and also 1" (2.5cm) in from the right-hand side.
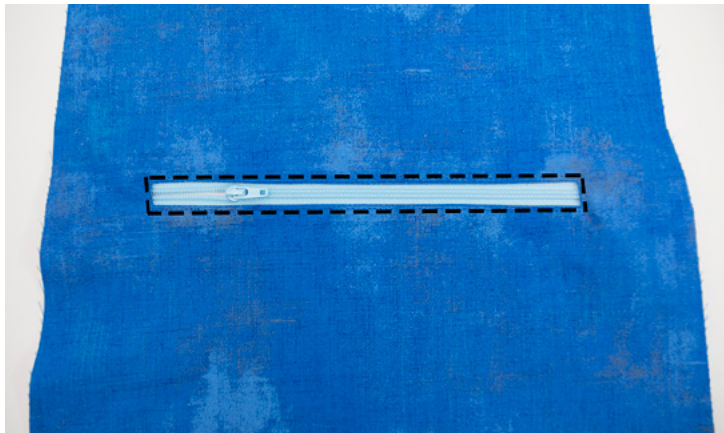
6. Place the Lining Exterior Main Panel and the Zipper Pocket right sides together. The bottom edge of the Zipper Pocket should be 1/2" (1.2cm) higher for size small **OR** 3" (7.6cm) higher for size large than the bottom of the Lining Main Panel and **centered** (fold Main Panel and Zipper Pocket in half lengthwise to mark the center).

Sew along the lines that you drew to form a rectangular box.

7. Draw, then cut a slit in the center of the box (through both layers of fabric), starting and stopping 1/4" (6mm) from the edge of the box. Cut a small 'v' at each end, cutting as far into the corners as you can without cutting your stitches.
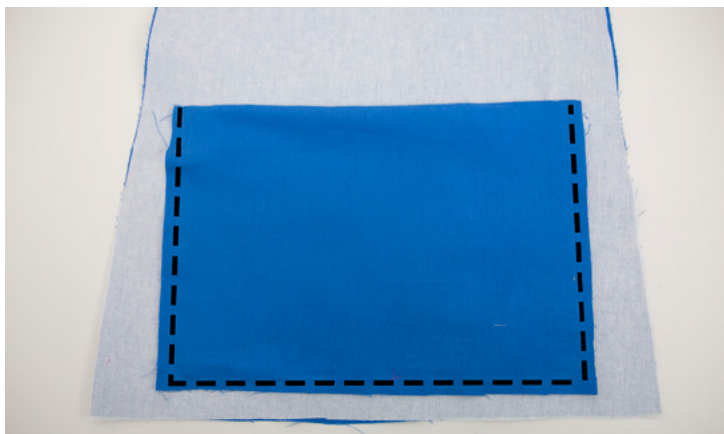
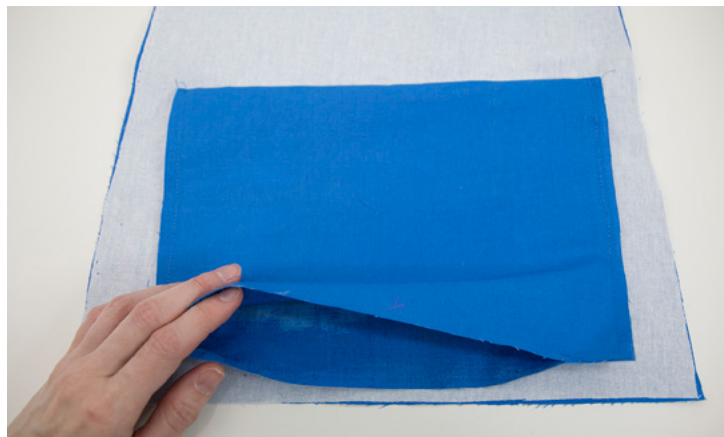Push the Zipper Pocket to the wrong side of the Lining Main Panel and press.

8. Center the 12" zipper, right side facing you, underneath the opening in the Lining Main Panel and pin in place. Make sure that the Zipper Pocket is lying flat and spread open.

Stitch along the opening, 1/8" (3mm) away from the edge of the fabric.

Helpful Hint: I like to use Dritz Wash-Away Wonder Tape to hold the zipper in place instead of pins.

9. Flip to the wrong side of the Lining Main Panel. If necessary, trim the zipper to within 1/4" (6mm) of your stitching line. Fold your pocket right sides together, raw edges aligned. Sew along the side and bottom edges (do not sew on top of the Lining Main Panel at all).

10. Repeat Steps 4-9 for the remaining Zipper Pocket and Lining Main Panel except when attaching the second Zipper Pocket, leave a 9" (22.8cm) opening, centered, along the bottom edge of the pocket when arriving at Step 9.

ASSEMBLE THE BODY OF THE BAG

11. Place one Exterior Side Panel right sides together with the Exterior Main Panel along the left-hand edge, with bottom edges aligned. Pin, then sew, **making sure to stop sewing 1/4" (6mm) before you reach the bottom.**

Press the seam open.

Repeat with the remaining Exterior Side Panel and the right-hand edge of the same Exterior Main Panel.

12. Sew the remaining Exterior Main Panel right sides together with the loose side edges of the Exterior Side Panels. **Make sure to stop sewing 1/4" (6mm) before you reach the bottom. Press the seams open**.

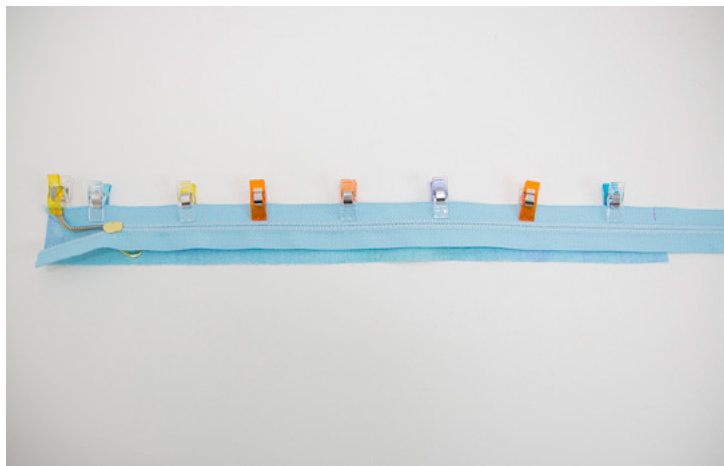You should now have a 'tube' of fabric.

This will now be referred to as the exterior.

13. Repeat Steps 11-12 for the respective lining fabrics. You will begin sewing the seams using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance, but gradually taper to 1/2" (1.2cm) seam allowance. When you reach the bottom of the seam, taper back down to 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance. **Don't forget to stop sewing 1/4" (6mm) before you reach the bottom.**
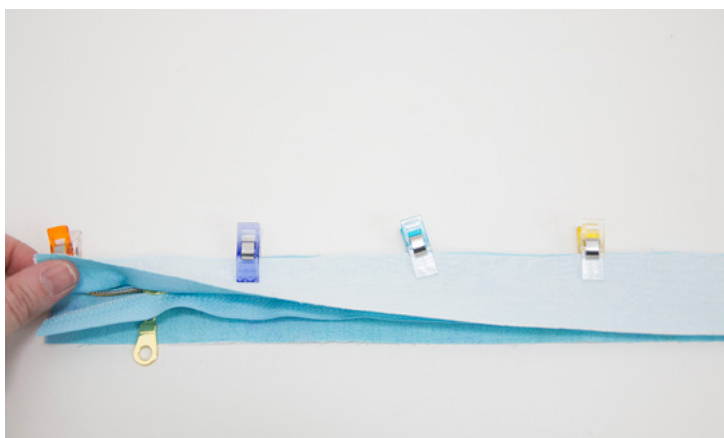
This will now be referred to as the lining.

MAKE THE ZIPPER PANEL

14.   Place one Zipper Panel piece right sides together with the handbag zipper; place the start of the zipper (where the zipper head is when the zipper is closed) 1/2" in from the left-hand edge of the Zipper Panel. **Start and stop sewing 1/2" (1.2cm) away from either end**.

Helpful Hint: If you are using a zipper roll, you will need to secure the front end of the zipper in a different way, since it is a cut edge. Instead, first fold the zipper tape on the right side of the zipper (at zipper start) back by 45 degrees on either side first, then sew in place as above (the pointed edge of the zipper tape will be placed at the 1/2" marking).

15.   Place a second Zipper Panel right sides together with the one from the previous step (the zipper will be sandwiched in between).

Flip to the wrong side of the initial Zipper Panel piece and sew directly on top of previous stitching.
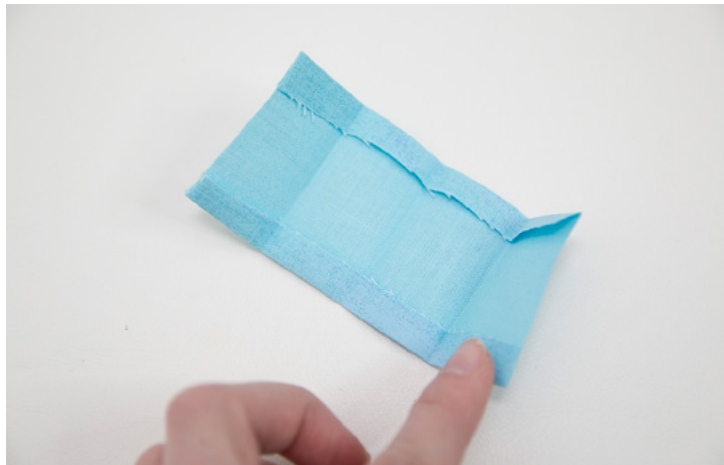

16.   Flip both Zipper Panel pieces so that they are wrong sides together. Press the seam away from the zipper. Fold one short edge of the top Zipper Panel in 1/4" (6mm) and press. Repeat for the remaining short edge. Fold the long edge opposite the zipper in 1/4" (6mm) and press. Repeat for the bottom Zipper Panel, then pin the pressed edges together.

Topstitch the entire outer edge of the Zipper Panel using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance. All raw edges should now be enclosed.

17.   Repeat Steps 14-16 to attach the remaining 2 Zipper Panel pieces to the remaining long edge of the zipper. Make sure that the second pair of Zipper Panel pieces is aligned with the first pair.

18. Press the Zipper Tab in half, wrong sides together, so that both short ends meet. Open back out, then fold the top and bottom edges in toward the center crease and press again.

Press both 4" (10.1cm) edges toward the wrong side by 1/4" (6mm).

19. Re-fold the Zipper Tab along the creases that you pressed so that all raw edges are enclosed. Slide the loose end of your zipper into the opening of the Zipper Tab until it hits the crease. Pin in place.

Sew along the outer edge of the Zipper Tab using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.

20. Turn the lining so that it is right side facing out. **Align the side seams**. Measure down 1-1/2" (3.8cm) from the center of the Lining Main Panel and draw a horizontal line straight across (the line will continue onto both halves of the Side Panels also.

Flip the lining over and do the same for the other side of the lining.

21. Place the assembled Zipper Panel (**the right side of the zipper will be face down**) with one long edge (the bottom edge) along that line and centered. Pin, then unzip and sew on top of the Zipper Panel with 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.

IMPORTANT: You will only be sewing with one side of the lining under your needle (not all of the lining layers). Be careful not to sew over the Handles.

22.   Turn the lining so that it is wrong side facing out. Zip up the zipper to check it is aligned on the front and back of the bag. Repeat the previous step to attach the remaining long edge of the Zipper Panel to the other side of the lining (you will be sewing with the wrong side of the second side of the lining against the bed of your sewing machine; unzip the zipper before sewing).
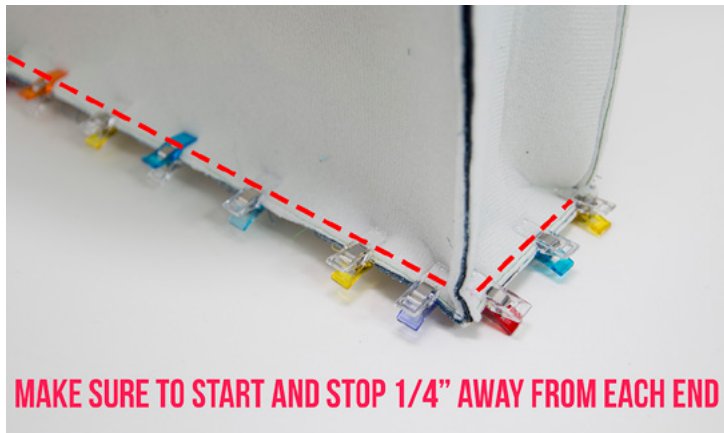
FINISH THE BAG

LEAVE THIS AREA UNSEWN

23.   Turn the exterior right side out. Unzip the zipper and the zipper pockets.

Pin the exterior right sides together with the lining, aligning the raw edges and side seams. Push the Zipper Panel down and out of the way.

Sew. **Do NOT sew the top 2" (5cm) of the outer edge of the Handle on ALL 4 sides (also do not sew the short raw edge of the Handle)**. Notch the curved edges.

MAKE SURE TO START AND STOP 1/4" AWAY FROM EACH END

24.   Pull the base of the exterior out so that both exterior and lining are wrong side facing out. Pin the Exterior Bottom Panel right sides together with the exterior. The 1/4" (6mm) at the bottom that you left unsewn in Step 14 will open up at the corners of the Exterior Bottom Panel.

Sew each edge of the bottom one at a time; **you will start and stop sewing 1/4" (6mm) away from each end**.

Repeat this step for the respective lining pieces. Push the pocket out of the way.

25.   Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the Zipper Pocket.

Helpful Hint: I used a turning tool to help push the Handles right side out (either a rod with a latch hook or a tube with wooden dowel will work; if you have a hemostat, that works even better!). If you are having trouble completing this, don't stress! You can use your seam ripper to unpick the stitches on the sides of the Handles before turning instead (these can just be pressed toward the wrong side before topstitching).

26.   Flatten out the top edge of each Handle, align the seam, then sew each pair of Handles right sides together. I recommend grading the seam for a smoother finish. Finger press the seam open, then press the top 2" (5cm) that you previously left unsewn toward the wrong side and pin.

Topstitch the finished edges at the top of the bag using 1/8" seam allowance (the inner and side edges of the handles).

Helpful Hint: When sewing the Handle right sides together, you will be sewing the Handle edges on the same side of the bag right sides together. However, if you are making this bag to hook onto the handles of a wheelchair, you may prefer to attach the front to the back instead.

27.   Press the opening in the Zipper Pocket toward the wrong side by 1/4" (6mm).

Close the opening by machine using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance, or slipstitch the opening closed by hand.

Give the bag a good press.

Congratulations, you've finished!

Need help?? E-mail me any time at sara@sewsweetness.com

Please add your finished bag to my group!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/sewsweetnessfans/

Tag your finished bag on Instagram using hashtag #clydebanktote and #sewsweetnesspattern

http://www.sewsweetness.com   Please check out my site for free tutorials on bags and bag-making techniques!
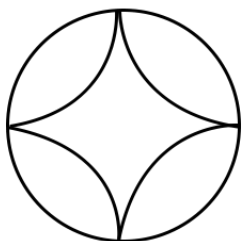
1

Main Panel pattern piece
For Size Large Bag only
cut 2 exterior fabric
cut 2 lining fabric
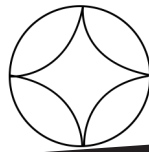cut 2 foam or fleece interfacing
cut 2 Shape Flex

Place

2

Sew Sweetness
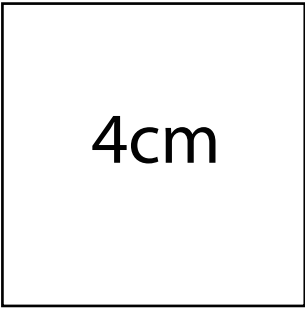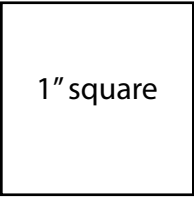**Clydebank Tote**

on the Fold

3

Sew Sweetness
Clydebank Tote

Side Panel pattern piece
For Size Large Bag only
cut 2 exterior fabric
cut 2 lining fabric
cut 2 foam or fleece interfacing
cut 2 Shape Flex

1" square

4cm

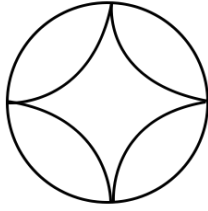Place on the Fold

Place on the Fold

1" square

4cm

Sew Sweetness
Clydebank Tote

Side Panel pattern piece
For Size Small Bag only
cut 2 exterior fabric
cut 2 lining fabric
cut 2 foam or fleece interfacing

6

7

n the Fold

Sew Sweetness
Clydebank Tote

Place o

8

Main Panel pattern piece
For Size Small Bag only

cut 2 exterior fabric

cut 2 lining fabric

cut 2 foam or fleece interfacing

cut 2 Shape Flex