

# Doggie Bag by Joanne Gourlay

## **FINISHED SIZE - approx**

Body of bag should measure 40 x 34cm

Dog, from tip of nose to top of back legs, 26cm, from top of ear to bottom of front leg 20cm, and top of tail to bottom of back leg, 20cm.

## **MATERIALS**

1/3 metre patterned fabric

1/3 metre plain fabric for lining (we used cream Osnaberg for contrast)

1/3 metre wadding, we used 100 percent cotton

Assortment of leftover wadding strips and scraps for stuffing dog

Quarter-inch quilters' masking tape

Two lengths of ribbon 37cm each long and approx 3cm wide for top of bag

Two pieces of matching ribbon for bag handles approx 60cm long

Neutral thread for main fabrics, matching or contrasting thread for ribbon decoration as required.

Small decorative jewel that has attachment to sew it on

### **(For Scottie dog)**

X metres black fluffy fabric

Black thread, sewing or embroidery floss

Two matching buttons for eyes

Ribbon for around neck

Ruler and/or quilting ruler

Sewing machine walking foot

## **CUTTING LIST**

Cut six rectangles, two from each of your three different fabrics, each 40 x 47cm.

If you have directional fabric, make sure that the designs are the right way up for each side of the bag

Cut six strips of Osnaberg 70 x 7cm for handles

Cut two Scottie dog shapes from template, from fur fabric, making sure you cut it folded with right sides outside on both sides (wrong sides together inside!)

## **1 MAKE A SANDWICH**

Place rectangle of wadding on work surface, place lining fabric exactly on top and pin at regular intervals. Turn both over so lining at bottom and place printed fabric on top, smooth out so all sides match exactly on all three layers and pin at regular intervals (every few centimetres). Turn over sandwich and check there are no wrinkles. If there are, repin from front (feature fabric) and take out all back pins. Repeat with the other three pieces of fabric. You should now have two identical fabric sandwiches, with three layers: feature fabric on top, wadding (sometimes called batting) in the middle and lining fabric at the bottom.

## **2 PREPARE FOR QUILTING**

With the quarter-inch tape, mark diagonal lines in one direction going across the printed fabric. Bear in mind that the bag is a rectangle, so work out where you want your diagonal lines to go and at what angle – I measured out a rough square working up from the bottom left corner and then put the first line of tape on, using the diagonal of the square as my guide. With a ruler I then did corresponding lines every 3.5cm along (or you could do 4cm).

You could also use your favourite marking pen/pencil and or chaco liner to do this.

## **3 QUILTING THE TOP**

I used neutral thread for my top thread and bobbin here, and it's very forgiving if you're new to machine quilting as mistakes generally 'disappear'. But more experienced quilters might prefer a contrast colour.

Change your sewing machine foot to a walking foot (if you haven't already). It's worth buying one if you don't have one as they are so versatile, as they push greater thicknesses of fabric through the machine – and I used this one for the rest of this project. Remember to go for a longer stitch (as a 3.0) so that the quilting is visible. When quilting, start from the centre and work outwards to ensure a smoother, flatter finish. Start at one of the corners, anchor carefully with a locking stitch, and sew along and clearly outside the tape strip (it doesn't matter which side, as long as you are consistent and use the same one every time, otherwise your final quilted diamonds won't be square and will look odd). Go slowly, as accuracy is important here, and work outwards to the end, then do the other side, again outwards from the

centre diagonal line. Important: make sure you keep slightly away from the tape as if you sew into it the threads can become caught up and pulled out when you remove the tape. To remove tape, use your nail to gently ease it up on the side away from the stitches and pull carefully.

#### **4 REPEAT THE PROCESS**

When all the diagonal lines of tape have been removed, you should have a neat row of diagonal lines across the doggie fabric in neutral-coloured large stitches. Now do the same but in the opposite direction, so that the strips across the stitched lines create a diamond pattern. When your sewing is complete and these strips are removed, you should have an eye-pleasing quilted diamond pattern that even Chanel (think those quilted designer handbags!) would be happy with!

This is a great introduction to quilting and good for practising your precision and skills. Sew in any messy ends and neaten.

#### **5 ATTACH RIBBON TRIM TO TOP OF BAG**

Take one quilted sandwich, printed fabric uppermost, and pin in place wider ribbon across the top, leaving a small gap so there is a 'rim' of the printed fabric. Change the colour of your top and/or bottom threads to match and reduce stitch size if you wish. Machine invisible along both sides, inside the ribbon close to the edge. Repeat with other quilted piece.

#### **6 SEW BAG SIDES TOGETHER**

Put the wrong sides of the two quilted rectangles together **REMEMBERING IF YOU HAVE DIRECTIONAL FABRIC THAT THIS SHOULD BE THE SAME WAY UP, DOUBLE CHECK!** and, returning to the shorter stitch length (2.4), sew around the edges with a seam allowance of around 1cm.

To create a gusset to make the bag base wider, fold the bottom corners flat matching up the centre bottom seam with the centre side seam.

Measure 4cm from the corner along the seam line and mark, drawing a straight line across as if you are cutting off the corner. Either machine or hand sew across here (I hand sewed it as it was so bulky) and then either trim off the excess or leave. Turn the bag right side out and press carefully.

## **7 MAKING THE HANDLES**

Take two of the long Osnaberg or lining fabric strips, place on top of each other, and place one of the two strips of ribbon along centre, making sure same distance from each end. Pin in place, change top thread in machine and sew along invisibly inside the edge, turning in ends as you go about 6mm and oversewing them. Change thread to neutral, place third strip of lining fabric exactly on top (so ribbon is inside), pin and sew around three sides leaving one short end open. Turn to right side with the aid of chopstick, press carefully. Repeat for the other handle.

## **8 ATTACHING THE HANDLES**

Take one handle and turn ends inwards approx 6mm at short end and pin across. Place handles according to how long you want them to be. I measured 8cm in from outside of bag for the outside of the handle and lined up the ends of the strap 12.5cm from the top of the bag. Pin in place and using neutral thread, top sew a few mm in from the edge, starting at the top of the bag where the strap joins and then down, across the pinned seam, up and then back down and around the ribbon and back to the top, partly for decoration and partly for strength. Tidy thread ends then repeat for the other handle, making sure they are both in exactly the same place on their side of the bag. You can speedily attach a jewel at the bottom of the ribbon (the ribbon I wanted was a bit shorter so I put the jewel in the space).

## **9 MAKING THE DOG**

This is quick and easy; just get the two dog shapes, wrong sides together, mark where you think the eyes should be and sew a pretty coordinating button on both sides.

Then pin around the edges and hand-sew a large blanket stitch in black thread, starting from the top just before the tail and going round to the face, taking out the pins as you go. Along the way, use crumpled up bits of leftover wadding from other projects to stuff the feet, tail and body, keeping the needle and thread and sewing as you go so that when you are happy with the amount of stuffing you can just quickly close up and finish off.

If you have time and have black embroidery thread, or have used it for your blanket stitch, use satin stitch to make a shiny nose! And the final touch, add a sparkly ribbon in a bow around doggie's neck, making sure it's long enough so that when Scottie is peeping out of the bag, he can be tied onto a handle so he won't fall out and get lost!

I hope you have enjoyed making this little project that I have designed:  
Jo Gourlay  
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## **STOCKIST INFORMATION**

<http://www.clarke-clarke.co.uk> Scotties pink/grey heavyweight 100 per cent medium weight cotton, RRP £14 per metre

<http://www.willowfabricsbroadstairs.co.uk> Black fun fur fabric, £7.75 per metre

<http://www.creativequilting.co.uk> 100 per cent cotton wadding, 90in wide approx £13 per metre, other types available. Also, Osnaberg fabric.