

## How To

# Make a Easter Hen Bag

By Juliet Bawden & Amanda Russell (R&B Consultants)



## Equipment Needed

- \* Selection of recycled shirt fabrics in a variety of colours
- \* 60cm Decorative Fringe
- \* Interfacing/Fusible Webbing
- \* Crewel/Embroidery Needles
- \* Embroidery Floss
- \* Sewing Thread
- \* Dressmaking Pins
- \* Craft Scissors
- \* Safety Pin & Button

### Step One

#### To make the bag

Cut two strips of each in the following dimensions, this includes a 1cm seam allowance:

- Top strip: L 4.5 cm x W 30cm
- Background: L 16cm x W 30cm
- Grass strip: L 4cm x W 30cm
- Handle strip: L 30cm x W 6cm
- One base strip: L 15 x W 30cm
- Bag lining: L 54cm x W 30cm



### Step Two

Stiffen all the fabric strips by ironing interfacing/fusible webbing onto the reverse.

Take the base strip and sew all the strips to both sides to form a long mosaic piece measuring L54cm x W30cm.



### Step Three

#### To make the embellished hen

Draw a template for the hen and its wing, cut them out from both fabric and fusible web. Iron the fusible webbing to the reverse of both pieces of fabric. Place wing on the hen body and fuse in place. Then iron the hen body into place on the exterior of the fabric bag.

### Step Four

Stretch the fabric over an embroidery hoop. Using a contrasting colour embroidery floss, sew around the hen and wing with a running stitch and then add legs using a backstitch.

Add beak and wattles using a dense satin stitch. Sew on a button for the hen's eye. Cut two 30 cm lengths of bobble fringe to decorate the bag, pin and then stitch in place using a running stitch with floss in a contrasting colour.



### Step Five

Take the 2 handle strips and iron fusible webbing onto the reverse. Fold in half along the length, pin in place and then sew to form a tube. Turn the tube right side out using a safety pin. Press the handles and then pin in place on the top edge of the bag.



### Step Six

#### To construct the bag

Right sides together, pin and sew the outside and the lining of the bag together along the top edge. Working on the reverse side of the fabric, pin the side seams together making sure the fabric joins match. Then sew the sides together leaving an 8 cm opening in the lining of one of the side seams.

### Step Seven

#### To make the base of the bag

Go to the base of the side seam and press the corner out, so the seam meets the centre of the base. Measure 4.5cm from each side of the seam, then sew across and trim the excess fabric. Repeat on the remaining three corners. To turn the bag the right way out, push the bag through the seam opening left in the side seam.



### Tips

\*Experiment different stitching techniques.