



# Hello Spring!

## Tote Bag Pattern



©2012 Charise Randell – [ChariseCreates.blogspot.com](http://ChariseCreates.blogspot.com), for personal use only

## **Things to remember:**

Pattern measurements for bag **do not** include seam allowance. I added  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to all seams.

The Ruffle Pocket pattern includes a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and is a full size pattern.

Read through the instructions before cutting your fabric.

**This is a large bag :) –  $15\frac{3}{4}$ " Wide x  $18\frac{3}{4}$ " Tall. If you want a smaller bag you can reduce the height measurement from the bottom.**

## **Materials:**

$\frac{3}{4}$  yard shell fabric

$\frac{1}{2}$  yard lining fabric

4 pieces  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " fabric for pockets. 2 shell, 2 lining

28" decorative trim (optional)

10" length of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " elastic

1 set oval bag handles. The ones I used measure  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Quilt block of your choice (6" to 12" block will work for this tote).

This block is available as a free download from my website: [ChariseCreates.blogspot.com](http://ChariseCreates.blogspot.com)

Water soluble marker or pencil

## **Cutting your fabric**

### **Shell Fabric**

Cut 4 – A Flap

Cut 2 – B Facing

Cut 2 – B + C Bag Body (This is ONE piece)

The front side will include your block

The back will be solid shell fabric

### **Lining**

Cut 2 – C

### **Pockets**

Cut 2 shell

Cut 2 lining

### **Ties**

Cut 2 –  $16$ " x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " pieces from lining or contrast fabric



## Create the Quilt block

Create the quilt block. Add borders if desired.

This block measures

8" x 10" with the addition of 1 5/8" borders.

This block's total measurement is 11 1/4" x 13 1/4".

## Add the Shell Fabric Borders

Add borders to increase the panel to at least the size of the front shell panel (with seam allowance) -

$B + C = 16 \frac{1}{4}"$  wide x  $19 \frac{1}{4}"$  high (this includes a  $\frac{1}{4}"$  seam allowance).



## Cut Shell Fabric Front and Back Panels

Using  $B + C$ , cut your panels from shell fabric.

## Stitch Pattern piece A- Flap to top of front and back panels (B + C)

Press seams.

## Stitch Trim to top of Flaps

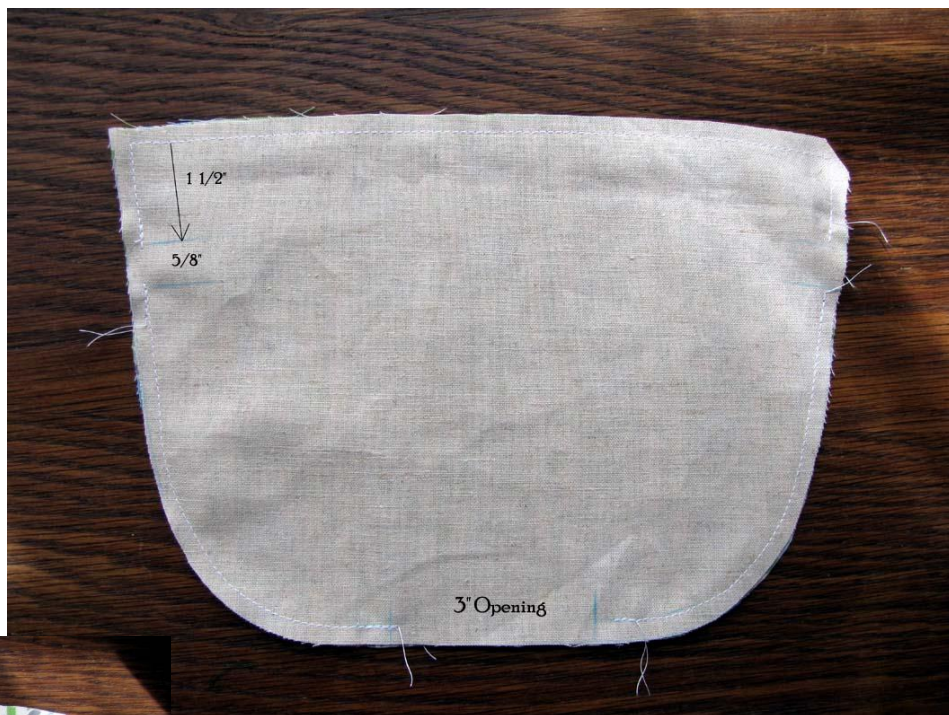
If desired, baste your trim to the right side edge of front and back of pattern piece A. Lace or ric rac would be a cute trim too!





## Create the ruffle edge pocket

Cut 1 each pocket shell and lining fabric of your choice. Stitch around top and bottom leaving a  $5/8$ " opening for the elastic tunnel on either side and a 3" opening at the bottom for turning.



Press seams open.

Turn pocket right side out and press. Mark the elastic tunnel with a water soluble pen or pencil and stitch on lines.





Thread the elastic through the tunnel.  
Adjust the elastic to desired length. I  
made mine 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".



Edge stitch the tunnel edge  
through the elastic to secure the  
elastic in the tunnel.  
Trim the elastic close to your  
stitching edge.



Position the pocket on the back  
side of the bag and edge stitch in  
place.

\*\*I also made one as an inside  
pocket\*\*





## Making the drawstrings for the Lining Closure

Cut two lengths of lining fabric – 16" x 1 ¼".

Iron in half, fold in half again towards the center and iron flat..

Edge stitch.



Mark the center top of the lining panels and pin the drawstrings in place. I added a ruffle pocket, exactly the same as the one on the outside of the bag.



## Stitch Facing and Flap to lining

Stitch the right side of B – Facing to right side of lining – C, stitching the drawstring in place.

Stitch A- Flap to top of B – Facing, right sides together.



## Stitching Tote Bag Shell and Lining

Stitch the Front and Back shell panels, right sides, together. Mark your panels at the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " intersection where you will start sewing.



Stitch the perimeter of the bag, from corner to corner.



Repeat for the lining.

**\*\*Leave a 4" opening at the bottom for turning\*\***



## Stitching the Shell to the lining

Place the lining  
inside the shell,  
**right sides together.**  
Starting at the  
opening, stitch  
lining and shell  
together at top  
edge.



Turn your bag  
right side out  
and edge stitch.





## Finishing Your Tote Bag

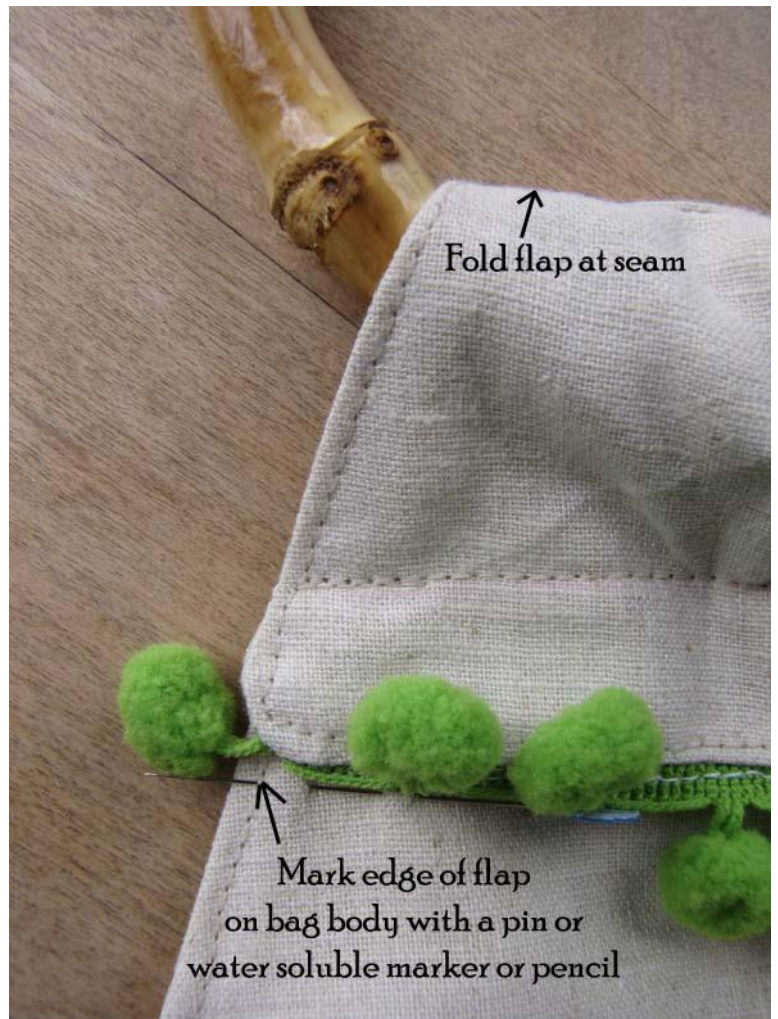
Mark  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from flap edge on the right side.



Fold Flap at seam and mark the edge of the flap on the body. Place the handle at the seam and fold the flap over. Pin the edge of the flap matching the marking you made on the bag body. Stitch along marking  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from flap edge.

Be sure to stitch the opening on the lining. You can do this with a narrow edge stitch or slip stitch by hand.

**Congratulations ~~~ Your tote bag is complete!!!**

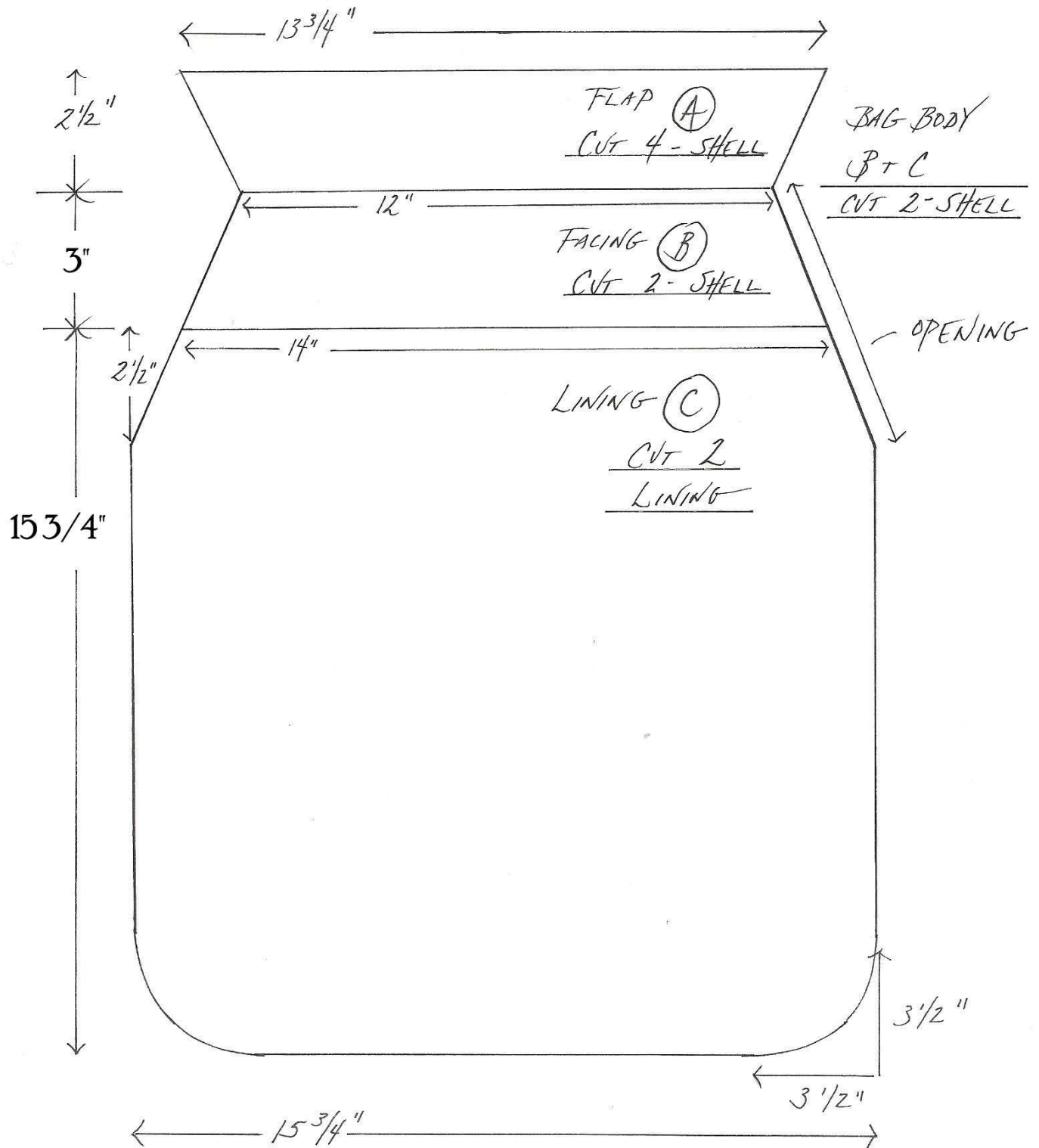






## Hello Spring Tote Bag Pattern

**\*\* Please note, measurements DO NOT include seam allowance \*\***







## Ruffle Edge Pocket

$\frac{5}{8}$ " →  
TUNNEL  
FOR ELASTIC

←  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "

3" OPENING

\*  $\frac{1}{4}$ " SEAM  
ALLOWANCE  
ALL SEAMS

1" Test Square



You can find the block pattern at [ChariseCreates.blogspot.com](http://ChariseCreates.blogspot.com)  
I'd love to see your version! Please add to my Charise Creates Flickr group:  
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1905750@N23/>

