



## Kantha Japanese Knot Bag

Featuring Kaffe Fasset Shot Cotton and Shot Cotton Stripe

Designed by Liza Lucy



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## Materials Needed:

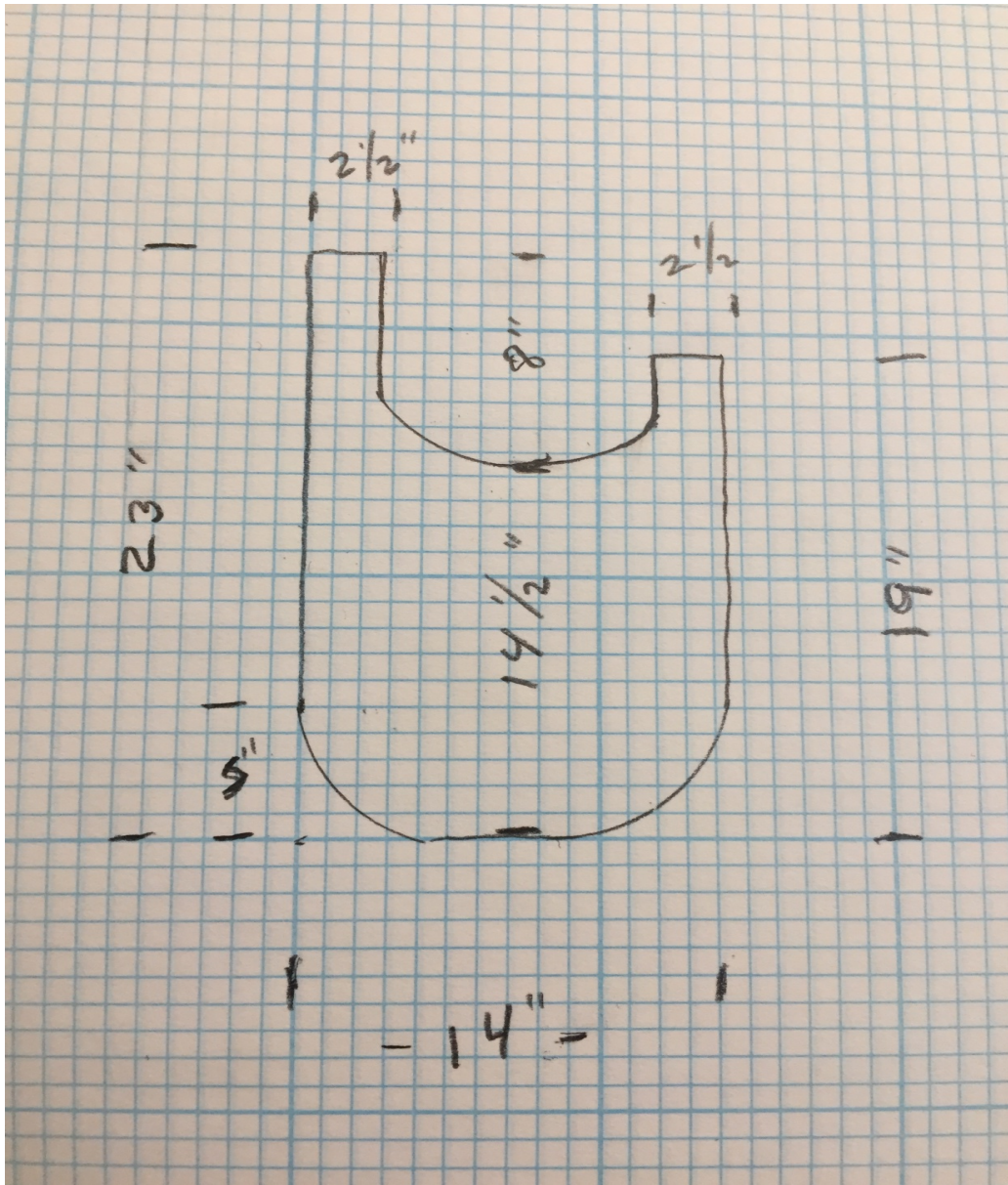
- Kaffe Fassett Shot Cotton or Shot Cotton Stripes, assorted square or rectangular pieces to create the bag shown. (This yardage should add up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard.)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  yard Kaffe Fassett Shot Cotton or Shot Cotton Stripes for **Inner Bag** Fabric.
  - This fabric may or may not be seen when project is complete, depending on how many patches you choose to cover this piece. This will be used as a base on which to hand sew your project.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of your favorite Kaffe Fassett fabric for **Bag Lining** fabric.
  - This fabric will be seen inside the bag when project is complete.
- Lightweight Cotton batting that is at least 30" x 30"
- Glorious Kantha thread by Kaffe Fassett and Liza Lucy, 100% Cotton 12 wt. Aurifil
- #7 Darner, Sashiko or Chenille Needle
- Safety Pins
- Fabric Glue
- Fabric Scissors





## Cutting:

Make a pattern of the bag as shown in the picture below. Draw/Draft this onto your preferred medium for pattern use. i.e. graph paper, tissue paper, drafting paper, shipping paper, etc.





Once the pattern is made, CUT:

- piece of the **Inner Bag** fabric
- piece of the **batting**
- cut (1) piece of the **bag lining** fabric.

Then **REVERSE** or **FLIP** the pattern over and CUT:

- piece of the **Inner Bag** fabric
- cut (1) piece of the **batting**
- cut (1) piece of the **bag lining** fabric.

The pieces should mirror one another.

Set aside the **Bag Lining** fabrics.

### Preparing the Bag for Stitching:

Safety pin or baste the Bag **Inner fabric**, to the lightweight cotton batting. If using smaller squares and/or triangles place them in your favorite arrangement on the Bag **Inner fabric** and pin, glue or baste in place. Space can be left between the patches; the **Inner fabric** will show or layer patches over one another to completely cover the **Inner fabric**. If you wish to completely cover be sure to overlap the patches at least 1/8" before stitching. Be sure to pin or baste along all outside edges. Remember that the Bag **Inner fabric** is a base on which to work and arrange your smaller cut pieces.

### Kantha Stitching:

Kantha is a running stitch that is bold and meant to show, don't be dainty with your stitches!

Using your preferred needle and thread, make a small knot at the end of the thread and bring needle up through the back of the project -- through the batting, **Inner fabric** and Patch arrangement. This will not show when the bag is finished. Change colors as you wish. Stitch up to about 1/4" from all outside edges, sewing as heavily as you prefer. If using safety pins to baste remove them as you work.





When the thread runs low or you wish to change colors, poke the needle into the batting and run it about an inch through the batting and out to the back side. This is to eliminate the bulk of many knots within your bag. Don't worry, the stitching will be held firmly in place. Clip thread.

When the stitching is complete on both sides of the bag, trim any loose threads and outside edge if needed. The Kantha Stitching may draw up the bag a bit, trim the lining fabric to match the new size if needed.

### **Bag Assembly:**

Place right sides of **new outside** of your bag together and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, sewing along long outside edge of bag. Back stitch at both ends. Turn right side out and press.

Put right sides of **Bag Lining** together and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, sewing along long outside edge of bag. Be sure to leave a 3"-4" opening at the bottom of the **Bag Lining**. Back stitch at opening in bottom of bag and beginning and ending of bag lining sewing. Do **NOT** turn right side out.

Place the **Outside Bag** inside the **Bag Lining** with right sides together. Line up edges to meet and pin in place. Sew all edges together, stopping 2" from the top on both handles and do not sew along handle tops.

Reach into the **Bag Lining** and pull the **Outside bag** through the hole in the bottom **Bag Lining**. Once turned stitch the **Bag Lining** closed.

Working lining side out, trim back the batting  $\frac{1}{4}$  from the top of both handles. Hand or machine stitch the raw sides under. Turn bag right side out.

Let your creative side out and add pockets, embellishments and more to further define the bag as your own!

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