



Wrap-it-Up!



a FREE pictorial piecing technique from StudioKat Designs, featuring our new pattern for 2014

The Wrapsody

Absolutely no pattern templates are required to accomplish a pieced look similar to this for your Wrapsody! The only thing you need is something you already have... a healthy dose of creativity!

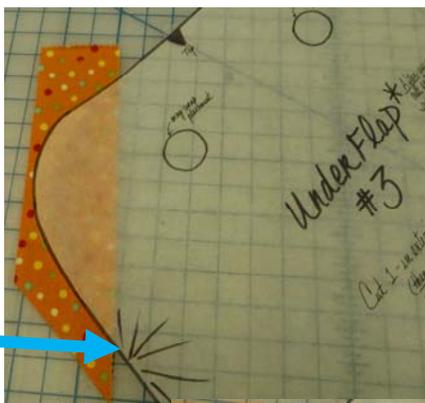
- 1) The first thing to do is always the hardest for me, and that would be choosing my fabrics.



In this instance, I chose 13 prints all from Pat Sloan's new fabric line for 2014, "One for you, One for me". You can choose more or less fabrics if you choose to.

- 2) We'll begin our process on the UnderFlap for a very important reason! We want to avoid having any segment seams being positioned over the invisible sew-in magnetic snaps, because additional layering of fabric WILL have an adverse effect on how tightly our Flap snaps closed, and that's not good. We want those magnets to have a nice strong SNAP to keep our stuff inside the bag where it belongs! (This is NOT going to be a problem on the OverFlap, because the magnets will face toward the lining, not the pieced exterior.

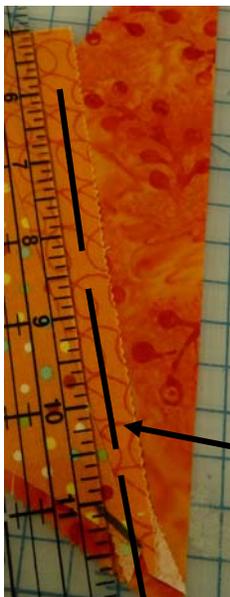
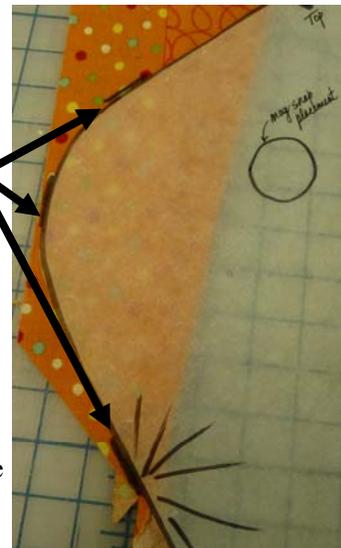
- 2) Since I know that I want my fabrics to "converge" on the left side of the UnderFlap, I've sketched some converging lines right on my pattern piece to indicate roughly where I want this spot to be and have lined up the edge of my first segment with that first line.



- 3) I wanted my 2nd color to line up just to the left of the mag snap (so the seam can be pressed AWAY from the snap). Once I've created a pleasing wedge-shape with my fabric, I can mark a line ~1/4" to the left of my Fabric #1's edge. (This allows for the 1/4" seam which we'll consistently be using.) Now you can line up your ruler along these two lines and cut your wedge free with a rollerblade. Place your fabric #1 wedge RST between these 2 marks and stitch 1/4 from edges. Press seams toward 1st segment.

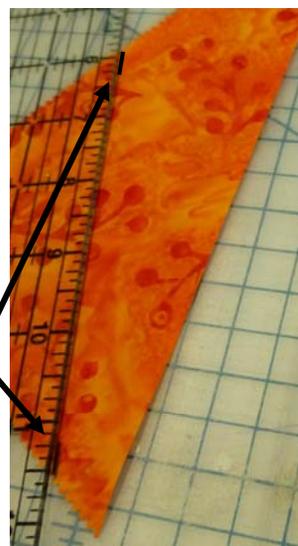


- 4) Here's how my new piece looks once it's sewn in place. As you can see, the next seam I make will be safely out-of-range of the sew-in magnet. You also notice that I've used a Sharpie to outline the edges of my pattern piece. This is important in order to keep everything lined consistently as we proceed up the bag. :)

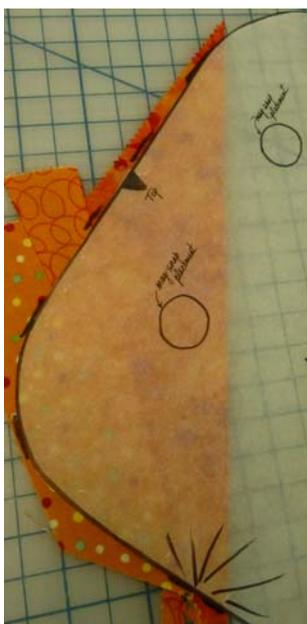


- 5) Now we can cut our next segment and we know already that we want to make it pretty wide in order to scoot that next seam edge to the opposite side of that magnet.

My anticipated cutting line is indicated by the broken black line at left, but please note that I did NOT make that line on top of the fabric. Instead, I marked my cutting line on the fabric underneath. Now we can cut it, sew it in place, then press both seams AWAY from magnet.



I marked my cutting line on the fabric underneath. Now we can cut it, sew it in place, then press both seams AWAY from magnet.



- 6) So, here's how our project looks (at left) with the third segment sewn in place. The right raw edge will be safely out of range of that magnet, and we've outlined our pattern piece with a few more Sharpie marks on our fabric.

- 7) With my 4th fabric slid up underneath,

and with my pattern piece edges carefully aligned with the outlined borders, the two black lines indicate where I intend to cut my outer edge. Now I can transfer these marks to the actual fabric underneath with a pen, and then cut with my roller blade.





8) In this picture I've laid my ruler along my intended left-edge cutting line. Now it's a simple matter once again of just making a mark on the fabric underneath, and then cutting our fabric with our blade. At right you can see how it looks sewn in place. Remember to press those seams AWAY from where your magnet will be (toward fabric #4 this time).



9) In the frame above I've placed my pattern piece back along my marks to confirm that BOTH magnet pieces will be clear of these seams (and they are). The whole process becomes much easier now.



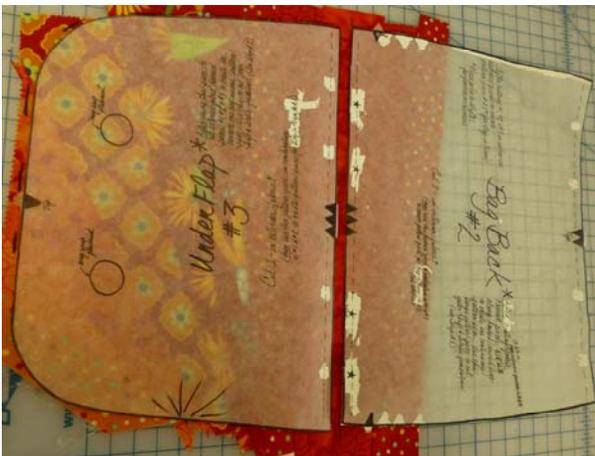
10) Using my same methodology, you might note at left that I've added two more pieces and the outline of my pattern piece is now fairly obvious on my fabric wedges.

And speaking of wedges, you might also notice that my wedges are not near as triangular as they once were. I wanted them to be straighter and less pronounced on the back of the bag where it would be less dramatic AND would reduce the possibility of lumpy, bumpy seams.

This is all a matter of preference though and that's why I like doing this. Let the fabric 'speak' to you! I sometimes change my entire strategy mid-way through the process if I "see" something developing that I like!



11) OK— so here you can see that I've added a few more segments (in the same manner), enough so that my UnderFlap is pretty much covered. The picture at right is the same view w/o the pattern piece obscuring it. :)



12) This is getting pretty easy, right? I fashioned my back pieces so that they were pretty much horizontal, but with enough variation to keep it interesting.





13) OK– in this frame you can see that now our exterior is completed up through the Bag Back and into the OverFlap. The big thing to notice here is this;

A) the edge of the segment between the Bag Back and the OverFlap is fairly straight and that was important to me because once again, I wasn't interested in a lumpy, bumpy seam along my zipper. (see arrow)

B) The segments I've been making through the OverFlap area are again getting MORE & MORE triangular in shape, similar to the way they were in the UnderFlap.



14) Here you can see that I'm continuing to build my OverFlap area.

Remember, you do NOT have to worry about placing or pressing your seams away from the Magnets (as on the UnderFlap), because they will be facing toward your Lining.



15) And finally we've got all of our segments sewn in place and we've outlined our pattern piece, so now its just a simple matter of pinning our pattern pieces in place (at left) and then cutting out our exterior pieces (at bottom left).

Notice once again that the seam between the Bag Back and the OverFlap (indicated with the arrow), (which is where our zipper will be located), is relatively straight to avoid the lumps that might result from having to sew thru a lot of seam edges.

And now... we can return to our Wrapsody instruction sheet to complete our bag. Below you can see the angled effect we accomplished for this pieced exterior. It's interesting to look at and most important, it was FUN to do!

