

## Wayside Quilters Show - 2008

### MUSLIN QUILT BAGS

This year we are requiring that all quilts be delivered for the show in a muslin bag. This is new, and we are doing this as you will be delivering your quilts to a location other than the school where the show will be held, the day before they are to be hung. In order that they can be more easily transported to the show location, and that once there they can be placed in the spot that they will be displayed, we have determined this to be the best way to accomplish this. The good thing is that once made you will be able to re-use the bags for future shows, and they really are very quick and easy to make.

*Please note that the only exception is the 'Everything's Coming Up Roses' Challenge Quilts which will not require a muslin bag.*

#### **The bag requirements are as follows:**

Each quilt needs its own bag so we can place it and keep count.

The bag needs to be large enough to accommodate the quilt easily, about 3 inches larger all round than the quilt when folded.

Each bag needs a plastic sleeve sewn onto the outside, which will hold the information we need visible, and a photograph of the quilt for easy identification.

The bag needs a drawstring for easy carrying.

#### **Instructions for making a bag:**

This will work for most larger quilts. You should adjust the length of the bag according to the size of your quilt. For smaller quilts, you can modify the dimensions and make a medium size bag - about 16 inches wide seems like a good size - not so small it could get lost in the crowd!

#### **Materials:**

A full width of muslin - when folded in half it will be about 24 inches. This will be the width of the bag, minus the seam. Determine the amount of fabric you need for the length, plus 2 inches for a hem to accommodate a drawstring.

Soft cord for a drawstring - 1 1/2 yards is more than enough for this size bag. The soft upholstery piping cord 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch thick is ideal. It is soft on the hands for carrying, and is inexpensive.

One plastic sheet protector per bag. You can trim off the white part with the punched holes.

#### **Directions:**

1. Cut the muslin according to the length needed to accommodate your quilt, and allow extra for 1/2 inch seams and 2 inches for the hem on the open edge.

2. Position the plastic sleeve (both layers) in the centre of one half of the fabric, and stitch around it on three sides, leaving the short open side on the end the drawstring will be located (i.e., the top end of the bag) to slip in the page of information and a photograph.
3. Fold the fabric in half so the plastic sleeve is on the inside, and stitch around the bottom and the side of the bag. Reinforce the stitching if you like, and finish off the seam with zig-zag or serpentine stitch to strengthen it and prevent fraying as the quilt is taken in and out of the bag.
4. Turn over and press to the inside 2 inches on the open edge of the bag. Turn under and press 1/2 inch on the raw edge, and stitch down on the folded edge, and again 1/4 inch away, leaving a 1 inch opening for the drawstring. Also stitch another row of stitching 1/8 to 1/4 inch away from the top fold. This gives added strength and a professional look to your bag.
5. Turn bag right side out. Thread the cording through the hem, and knot it together. It does not need to be too much longer than the width of the bag, just a few inches - enough to get a grip on as it will draw up longer when it is tightened.
6. Using a permanent and waterproof pen (such as a Pigma) print your name, address and telephone number clearly in a corner of the bag on the same side as the plastic sheet. Done!

