



Lavender Tea Cozy and Coasters



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To make this project, head to your scrap bags and gather up all those purple and green fabrics that make you think of spring time, warm weather, fresh air and perky flowers such as violets, pansies, crocuses and lavender. But if you're a fall person, maybe you'll want to make your tea cozy and coasters out of reds and golds, with a bit of dark green and eggplant and create your baskets on a rich tan background. In either case, you won't need much fabric to create the basket blocks for the tea cozy or for the coasters and you'll be glad to use up some of those favorites in this charming collection.

Cutting Directions

For the Tea Cozy

Fabric	Cutting
Scraps of Purple and Green to foundation piece basket base.	If you would rather not make your basket bases scrappy, you can use a single fabric and simply cut a 6" square in half on one diagonal.
Light Background Fabric	Cut 1 square 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " then cut in half once diagonally (can be cut to 4" x 4" and then trimmed after block is complete)
	Cut 1 square 6" x 6" then cut in half once diagonally (these are oversized and will be trimmed to fit after sewing and pressing are complete)
	Cut 4 rectangles 2" x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Dark Purple Fabric	Cut 2 squares 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " then cut in half once diagonally for basket feet
	Cut 2 bias strips 1" x 7" for basket handles
Medium Purple Fabric #1 for first inner border	Cut 4 strips 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Cut 4 strips 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Light Green Print Fabric for second border	Cut 4 strips 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Cut 4 strips 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Medium Purple Fabric #2 for corner sections	Cut 2 squares 6" x 6" then cut in half once diagonally (these are oversized and will be trimmed to fit after sewing and pressing are complete)
Lining Fabric	Cut 2 rectangles measuring approximately 13" x 16"
Batting use 100% cotton low loft batting	Cut 2 rectangles measuring approximately 13" x 16"

For Each Pair of Coasters

It is easiest to construct the coasters in pairs as you will only be needing to use one triangle from each of the different squares that are cut for each one little block. So if you make them in pairs you can use both.

Fabric	Cutting
Light Background Fabric	Cut 1 square 4" x 4" cut in half once diagonally
	Cut 1 square 3" x 3" cut in half once diagonally
	Cut 2 rectangles 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Coaster cutting continued on the next page . . .

Coaster Cutting Instructions Cont.

Fabric	Cutting
Basket Fabric	Cut 1 square 4" x 4" then cut in half once diagonally
Basket Feet and Handle	Cut 2 squares 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " then cut in half once diagonally
	Cut 2 bias strips $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Borders Fabric	Cut 4 rectangles 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Cut 4 rectangles 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6"
Backing Fabric	Cut 2 squares 7" x 7"

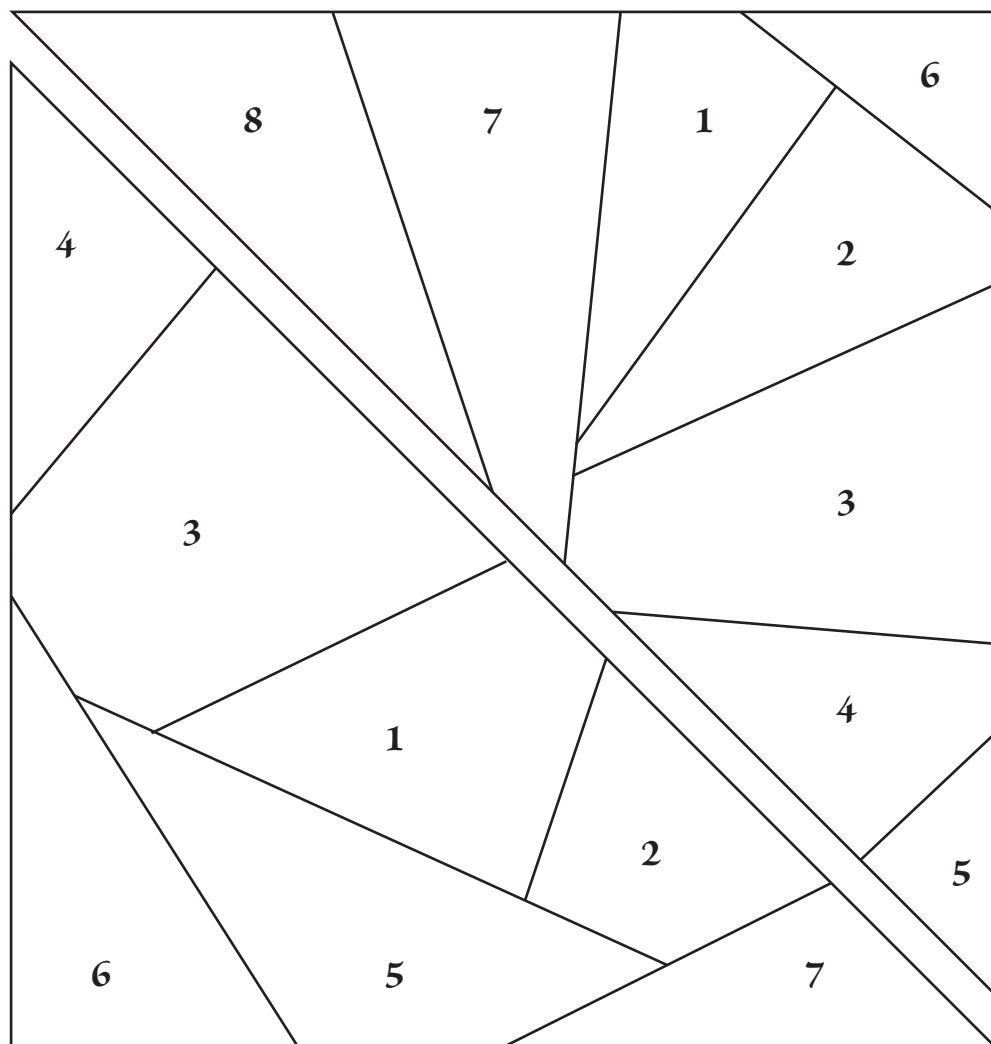
Assembly of the Tea Cozy

Step 1 - Foundation piece. The first thing you will need to do is to create the "crumb pieced" basket sections of the block. You can do this in one of two ways. Use one or both of the paper foundation patterns included with these directions to make the two basket bases required, or create a free form oversized square that you can cut in half once diagonally to make your basket bases. If making the free form basket bases, begin with a cut 6" square of muslin or non fusible interfacing and actually "sew and flip" scraps of fabric in a crumb piecing process to create a one of a kind fabric square. This oversized square can then be cut in half to create the two basket bases needed. If using the patterns for traditional paper foundation piecing, refer to one of the many books currently written on construction techniques. If using the free form process keep these few things in mind:

- Start in the center of your square and work outwards.
- Trim away excess fabric from underneath as you go.
- Always stitch with straight lines.
- When adding triangles, always stitch the longest edge to the already sewn inner sections in order to avoid awkward piecing sequences.
- Press as you go.
- Always start with the foundation square a bit larger than is necessary so you can be a bit flexible with your placement for the basket base.

Step 2 - Cut. If using the free form construction for the bases, cut the square in half once diagonally to create the two large oversized pieced triangles needed. If using the foundation patterns, trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond outermost line.

Step 3 - Sew. For both methods, sew a 6" light background half square triangle to each of the foundation pieced basket bases along the long diagonal. This will make oversized squares that will need to be trimmed. See diagram on next page.

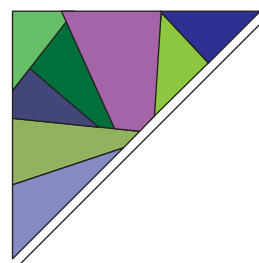


Step 1 - Paper Foundation Patterns

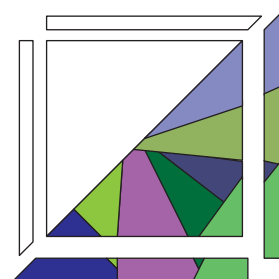
Step 4 - Press these diagonal seams toward the basket bases. Note that the seams are not going to want to go in that direction, but they must be pressed toward the base for future insertion of the bias handles.

Step 5 - Trim the squares to measure exactly 5" x 5". I like to use my **Tucker Trimmer™** tool to do this, but any ruler that has a 45° diagonal line going into a corner will work here. See diagram.

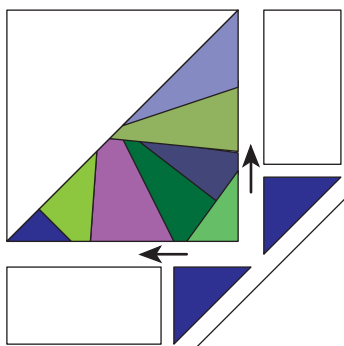
Step 6 - Stitch one dark purple basket foot to the end of a 2" x 3 ½" rectangle as shown. Note that one triangle needs to be sewn in one direction and the other needs to be sewn in a mirror image. See diagram.



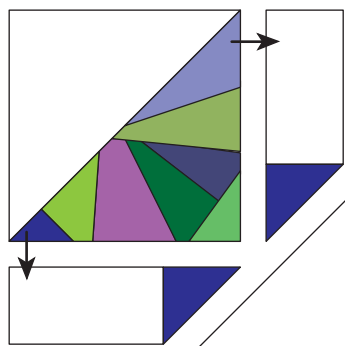
Step 3 & 4 - Sew and Press



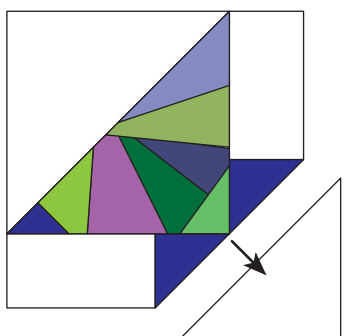
Step 5 - Trim



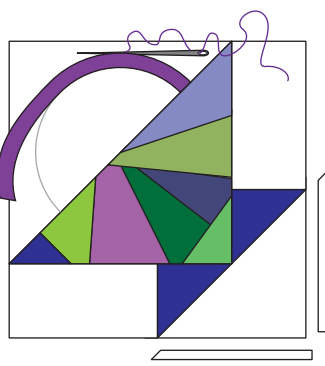
Step 6 & 7 - Stitch and Press



Step 8 & 9 - Sew and Press



Step 10 - Center and Stich



Step 11 & 15 - Trim and Stich the Handle

Step 7 - Press seams toward the light rectangle.

Step 8 - Sew step 6 units onto the basket.

Step 9 - Press seams toward the rectangle/feet sections.

Step 10 - Center and Stich the remaining light 4" half square triangle to the feet section of the basket. See diagram.

Step 11 - Press and Trim. Press the seam toward the light background triangle and then trim to create a basket block that should measure 6 ½" x 6 ½" at this time.

Step 12 - Repeat all of the construction steps 1 through 11 again to make two blocks the same size.

Step 13 - Make basket handles. You can use one of several methods to construct the basket handles. The 1" bias strips can be pressed approximately into thirds along the length to create folded edges to be applied into position, or you can use Celtic bias bars. If using the bars, you can machine stitch your strips wrong sides together and then insert a metal bar into the tube for pressing to provide very accurate strip width.

Step 14 - Baste the basket handles into position. I like to mark a curve line using something circular like an embroidery hoop, small plate or large can and then simply use a wash out glue stick to temporarily anchor the strip into position.

Step 15 - Stitch the handle into place permanently by hand or machine. To finish off the ends, simply unsew the diagonal seam where the handles need to be inserted, and tuck the raw ends of the bias strip into the opening and machine stitch closed to secure.

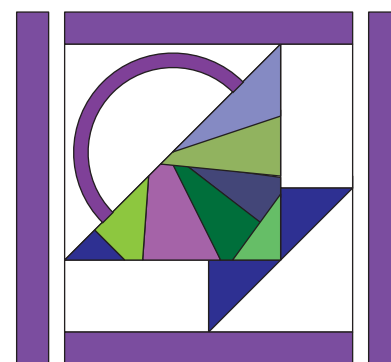
Step 16 - Border Add the 1 ½" x 6 ½" light purple border strips to two opposite sides of the pieced block and press toward the strips. Then add the 1 ½" x 8 ½" light purple strips to the remaining sides and again press toward the border strips. Repeat for both basket blocks, as shown in the diagram..

Step 17 - Border Again Add the light green 2 ½" x 8 ½" border strips to two opposite sides of the pieced block and press toward the light green strips. Then add the light green 2 ½" x 12 ½" border strips to the remaining two sides and again press toward the green border strips, as shown in the diagram on the next page. Repeat for both baskets.

Step 18 - Sew the oversized medium purple triangles to the bottom edges by centering the triangle in the middle of the bordered block as shown in the diagram on the next page. Press seams toward the triangle corners. Repeat for both blocks.

Step 19 - Layer pieced cozy front together with batting and backing and add quilting stitches either by hand or machine. I simply stitched in the ditch around the basket and border strips.

Step 20 - Make a freezer paper template using the tea cozy pattern on the last page of the directions.



Step 16 - Border

Step 21 - Align the center of the paper template with the center of the fabric front and the bottom edge approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the seam intersection of the first purple border. Cut out both sections in the same manner.

Step 22 - Optional Piping - I used a ready made piping in the seam and at the base of my tea cozy. You may want to do the same or not. If you are going to use the piping, it will need to be basted into place, using a zipper foot, to one of the prequilted sides of the tea cozy. Stitch as close to the round edge of the piping as possible. This basted line will act as your future stitching line.

Step 23 - Layer the two quilted baskets right sides together and pin all raw edges.

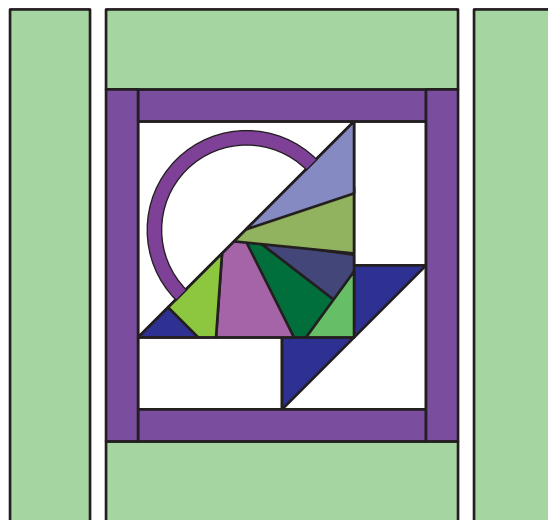
Step 24 - Stitch around the curved edge using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. If you've added the piping, make sure to stitch with the visible basting line on top and continue to use your zipper foot to stitch exactly on the basting line.

Step 25 - Once the straight stitching is complete, you may want to either serge or zig-zag the edges for a more finished seam.

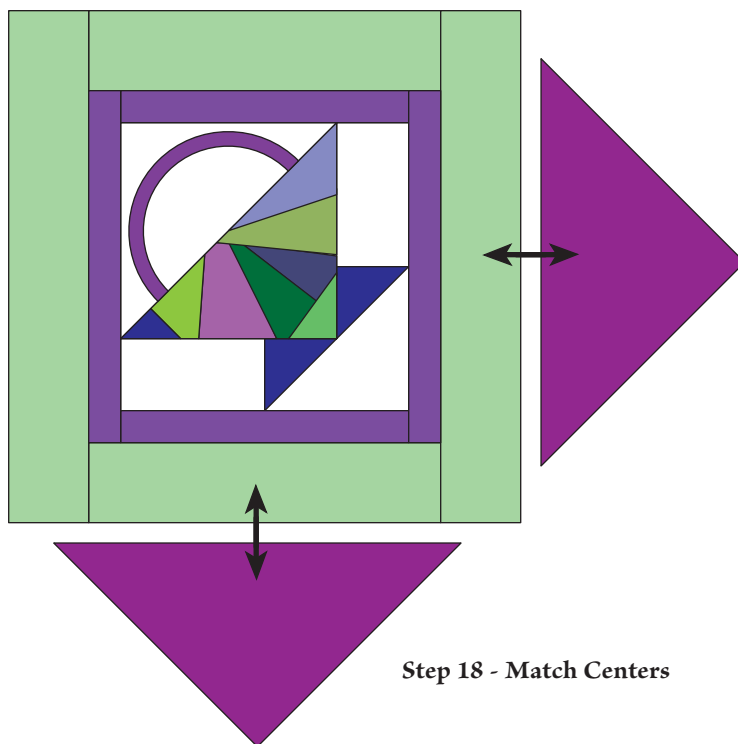
Step 26 - Zig-zag or serge the bottom edges of the tea cozy, as seen on the diagram on the next page.

Step 27 - Fold the bottom edge in approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " to form the hem and stitch into place with a double line of stitching. If using piping see step 28.

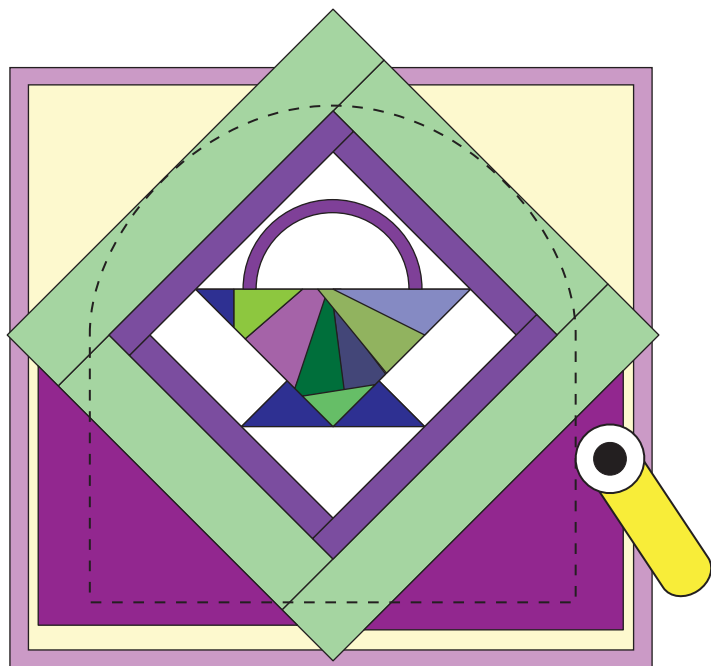
Step 28 - Optional Piping - I also added my ready made piping to the bottom edge of my tea cozy. If you wish to do this, place the piping at the $\frac{3}{4}$ " line from the bottom edge with the round edge toward the top of the tea cozy and the flat edge toward the base of the tea cozy. Stitch into place again using a zipper foot. Fold along the stitching and then proceed to double stitch the hem into place.



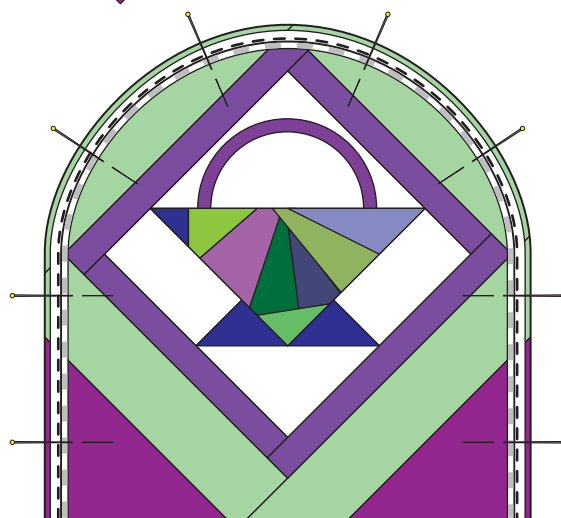
Step 17 - Border Again



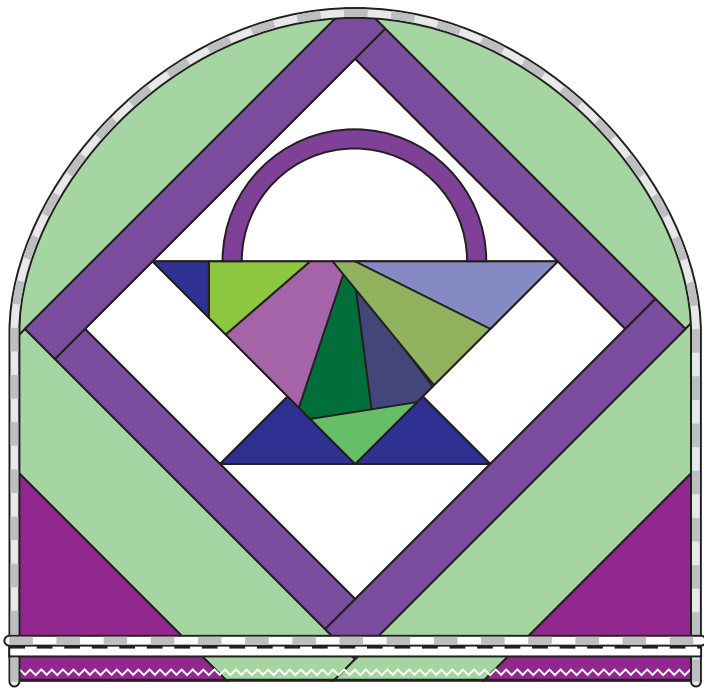
Step 18 - Match Centers



Step 19 to 21 - Align Basket, Batting and Backing



Step 22 - Add Optional Piping

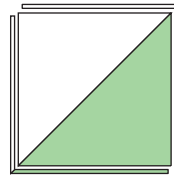


Step 26 to 28

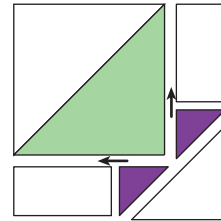
Step 29 - Add optional embellishments. I used several silk flowers, leaves and a button or two to add interest to my pieced baskets. They were simply tacked into place with a few hand stitches. You may also want to add some beading or additional embroidery stitches to your pieced baskets for a more traditional crazy quilt look.

Making the Basket Coasters

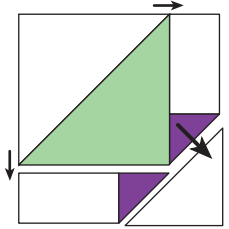
To construct the miniature baskets, you should follow the same steps as those described for the larger tea cozy baskets. See the diagrams below to review and for trim down size requirements.



Stitch, Press and Trim to 3½" x 3½"



Stitch Basket "Feet" to Rectangles



Stitch All Units Together

Step 1 - Stitch 4" basket triangle right sides together with 4" light background triangle. **Press** toward basket triangle and then trim to measure 3½" x 3½". **Add basket feet** to background rectangles as described above and then sew these to the pieced basket square. **Add the final background triangle** to complete the basket blocks.

Step 2 - Make the bias handles in same manner, hand stitch or machine stitch into position. Measure and trim if necessary to measure 4½" x 4½".

Step 3 - Add border strips, short sides first, and press toward the strips. Then add the longer strips. I chose to add different colored strips for my short and long sides. You can make them all the same or all different as you would like.

Step 4 - Layer coaster front right side together with a piece of backing fabric and a piece of **very thin** batting. You can either use a batting like Thermore or possibly use a split piece of batting or a piece of flannel. **Do not use high loft batting!** See diagram.

Step 5 - Pin layers together and stitch ¼" from the edge of the coaster front leaving approximately 1" open on one side for turning.

Step 6 - Clip the corners slightly and then turn the coaster right side out.

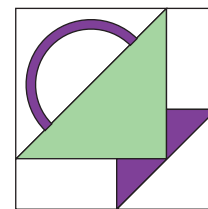
Step 7 - Optional - I added a few bits of dried lavender inside my coaster at this point to give each one a fresh fragrance that will actually be heightened when a hot cup of tea or coffee is set on the coaster. If you want to add any embellishments to these coasters, make sure that it is with needle and thread only. Beads or artificial flowers will make them unusable for functional coasters.

Step 8 - Fold the raw edge under at the 1" opening and press.

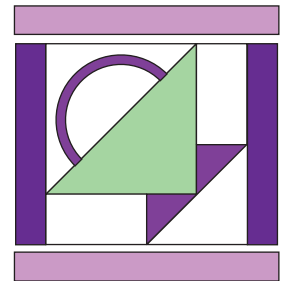
Step 9 - Edge Stitch around all four sides approximately ⅛" or less from the edge.

Step 10 - Add a few machine or hand quilting stitches around the edge of the basket and the handle.

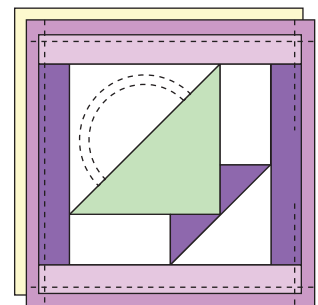
I hope you enjoy making and using your tea cozy and coasters along with a cup of good tea and an excellent book!



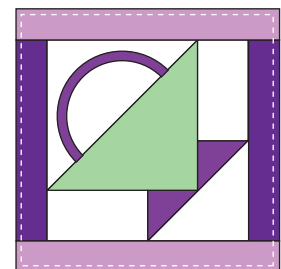
Step 2 - Bias Handles



Step 3 - Add Border Strips



Step 4 & 5 - Layer Batting, Backing and Block, Then Pin and Stitch



Step 9 - Edge Stitch

