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CRAFTY SEWING NEWS FROM ELLEN HIGHSMITH SILVER

RE: Benartex Fabrics presents New & Notable Handcrafted Handbags from the enduring world of printed panels

Attached is my shamelessly boastful introduction to the two new DIY handbag panels I created for Benartex Fabrics using versatile, sophisticated fabrics from Michele D'Amore's classic SONORA collection.

While it is pretty easy to be drawn to a great fabric even when it is jammed on a shelf with only the bolt's rolled edge showing, it's improbable for a craft panel in the same situation to grab your attention.

I am so pleased with what Benartex achieved with my designs that I feel the handbag panels deserve some extra efforts on my part.

Kits for both panels can be ordered from **Keepsake Quilting** via the following links: <http://www.keepsakequilting.com/productdetail/6602.htm> for: The Flapper Bag

<http://www.keepsakequilting.com/productdetail/6607.htm> :Two-fer & Bonus Bags

Now for a totally biased review:

- The sophisticated coloration of Michele D'Amore's fabrics broadens the venue choices for showing off the completed bags.
- Due to stitched structural engineering, the bags maintain their shapes compared to those that can flop and wrinkle and scream, "I made it myself."
- Benartex has printed the panels to include bag linings and handles, eliminating the maddening search for the right coordinates.
- The instructions do not assume anything. Abbreviations are explained and illustrations reinforce written instructions. Clear instructions offer a higher probability of success and less seam ripper involvement.
- Complete the project over a weekend and prepare for compliments Monday through Friday

Thank you for your indulgence and I hope to have inspired lots of handbag making.

Kindest regards,

Ellen

Benartex DIY Crafty Panel Handbags With a Twist We All Love

The Benartex team challenged designer Ellen Highsmith Silver to reinvent the concept of fabric craft panels.

Using prints from Michele D'Amore's *SONORA* collection, Ellen designed and engineered printed handbag panels complete with printed lining, pockets, handles, and illustrated instructions.



The happy twist: the bags' tailor-perfect details are all pre-printed instead of painstakingly pieced.



Of the original three styles, the TWO-FER's two sides sport subtly different details. The 14 ½" X 7" X 3" bag has one outside pocket and the two inside pockets are wedged into the two ends, keeping the bag's shape in shape.

Speaking of shape, all of the styles maintain their perfect posture shapes due to the structural stitching elements of the outer bags and their linings.



As a bonus, the TWO-FER handbag panel contains the exterior, lining and instructions for making a small and sassy GOODIE BAG.

It is a 7" X 7" rounded flat pouch on a versatile cord handle, providing the options of a short-handled bag or an across-the-body catch-all for stepping out unencumbered.

The third handbag's name, THE FLAPPER was inspired by the functional flap and strap closure. At 12" X 10" X 2", it is presented on a second panel that includes illustrated instructions and all printed fabrics for the bag's and the handle's outside and lining.

