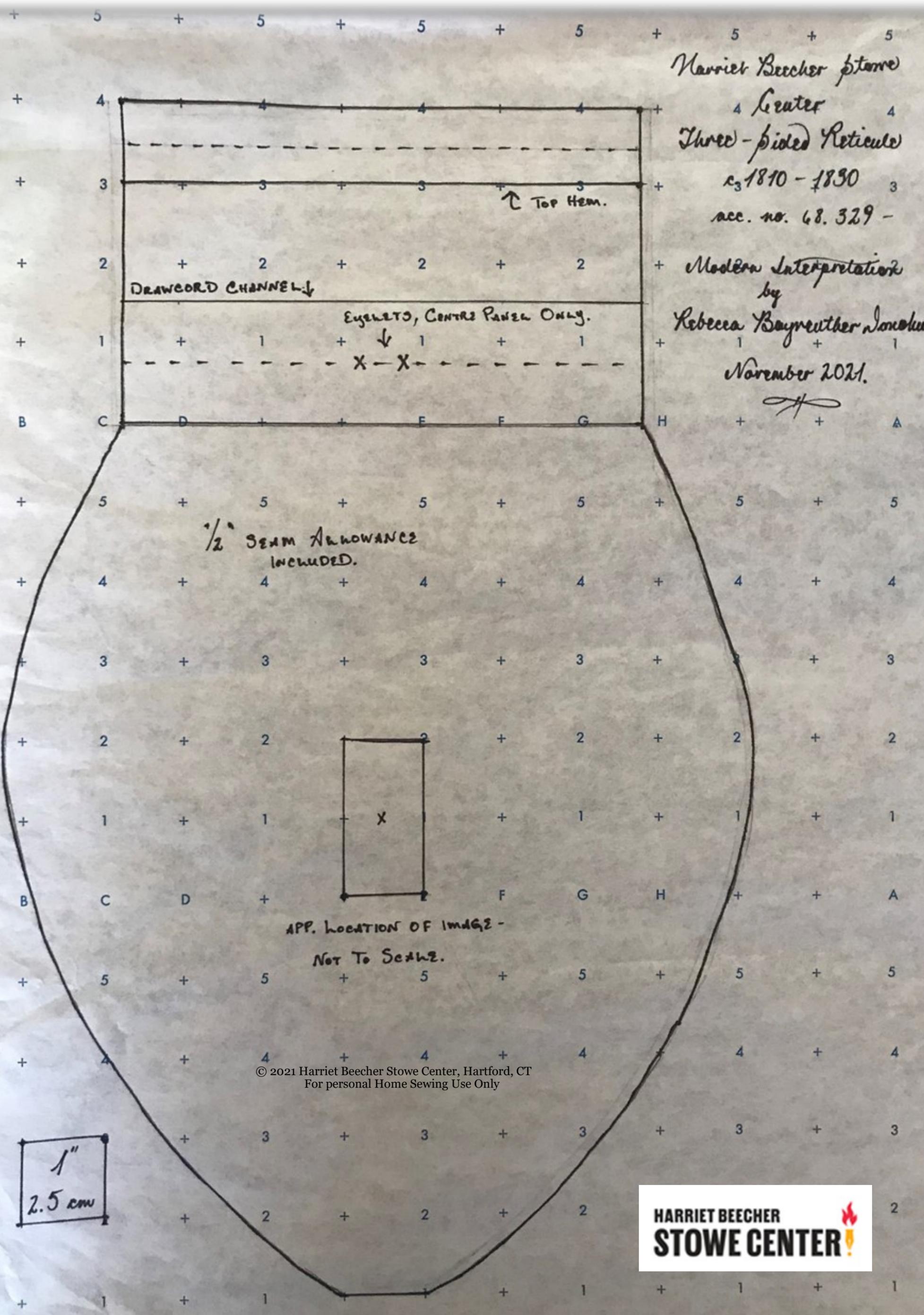
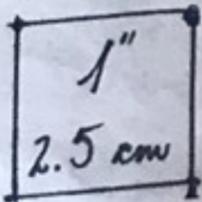


Harriet Beecher Stowe
 4 Greater
 Three-sided Reticule
 c. 1810 - 1830
 acc. no. 68.329 -

Modern Interpretation
 by
 Rebecca Bayreuther Jones
 November 2021.



© 2021 Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT
 For personal Home Sewing Use Only





Three-Sided Reticule

Acc. no. 68.329 c. 1810-1830.

Sewing Pattern Instructions

Materials for Historic Reproduction (original size).

1/2 yd. Ivory cotton (original was glazed cotton) (Colchester Mill Fabrics)

2 1/2 yds. 2 mm Mauve (pink around a brown core) braided silk cord (Atelier Miyabi via Etsy)

Aurifil natural white cotton thread (Colchester Mill Fabrics)

12-pack Tulip Fine-Tip Fabric Markers in “Rainbow” (Michael’s)

Materials for Modern Interpretation (slightly larger/project bag-sized).

1/2 yd. 36” or wider fashion fabric: white or light-coloured cotton (no loose weaves)

Fabric markers, ideally in a couple of different colours

Piece of cardboard or other firm surface to stabilize fabric while drawing

3 yds. 3 mm or 4 mm braided nylon (think faux silk) cord in a coordinating colour

Thread to match fashion fabric

Thread to match braided cord

Assembly: Drawing the Images.

- 1) Draw three pattern shapes on the fashion fabric. Use the remainder of the fabric to practice with your fabric markers. You may want to secure the fabric with weights, safety pins, or clothespins on top of a piece of cardboard, a clipboard, or another hard surface, while you draw. Be advised that the longer the pen tip rests on the fabric, the more the ink soaks into the surrounding area.
- 2) The original reticule features a different image on each of its three sides. On its front panel, a wreath of golden flowers and sweet peas encircles the monogram "OB." An open-worked basket holds a jumbled array of multi-coloured blossoms on the second panel, and on the third panel, a cornucopia brims over with ears of wheat and purple grapes. If it's been a while since your private drawing lessons at the academy, try drawing (or printing) your image in dark colours on a piece of white paper and then putting it between the fabric and the hard surface so you can see through the fabric to trace it.
- 3) You can either draw your image onto the pattern pieces, being mindful of the seam allowances, and then sew them together, OR you can sew the pieces together and then slide a hard surface into the bag and draw your images on afterwards. Either way, be aware of the marker manufacturer's instructions regarding washing or heat-setting.

Assembly: Sewing the Bag.

- 1) Cut and sew the three panels together, right sides to right sides, OMITTING the 1 1/2" of the drawcord channel at the back seam only. This will be the entrance & exit of a drawcord. Press seams and clip curves as needed. 1/2" **seam allowance is included**. The seams in the original reticule are worked with a fairly loose running stitch and the edges left raw.
- 2) On the original reticule, a braided silk cord is tacked on top of the seams below the drawcord casing. One continuous length runs around the entire front panel shape, and an additional piece is tacked onto the back seam between the two other panels. Where the cord stops, the ends are folded under themselves and bound with sewing thread. As nylon cord tends to fray while you're working with it, consider pre-cutting your lengths and securing all ends before beginning to tack. The cord gives important structure to an otherwise very lightweight bag.
- 3) If you want a double drawcord like the original reticule, work the two eyelets as marked in the fabric of the drawcord channel by pushing the threads apart with an awl (2 mm cord or smaller) or cutting a buttonhole and whipping around the edges of the holes. Make sure your eyelets are big enough to fit **twice** your drawcord through. At the open 1 1/2" of the back seam, tack each edge open, folding each seam allowance back into its own channel.

- 4) If you want a single drawcord, just tack each edge open, folding each seam allowance back into its own channel, at the open 1 1/2" of the back seam. Be sure not to sew through this opening in the next step.
- 5) Fold the top of the bag inside itself along the dotted drawcord channel line, forming a tuck on the outside of the bag. Sew along the solid line. This is done with a tiny running stitch on the original reticule, and it does show through on the right side. Remember not to sew through any eyelets!
- 6) Turn the raw edge at the top of the bag under 1/2" twice and sew in place. The incredibly tiny and neat whip (possibly stab) stitch on the original also shows through on the right side.
- 7) To run the double drawcord, start at one set of eyelets and run the cord all the way around the drawcord channel, leaving about 8-9" of tail at each end. This may be easier if you wrap a piece of tape around the fluffy end of the cord and thread a safety pin through the taped end. Now do the same thing at the other set of eyelets. You should have four loose ends of cord. Tie a half-hitch at least 1" from each end and then loosely tie each set together. Remove the tape, and let the ends fluff out into tassels.
- 8) To run the single drawcord, just do this once – you'll have a lot of extra cord.

You're done! Fill your reticule with your own treasures or fill it with love and gift it to somebody dear.