

How to Make a Simple Reversible Tote Bag

Any similar tote bag you know how to make is acceptable. We have directions for three standard size bags, large and medium for adults, and a small pediatric size for children. Any similar size will work with this pattern. Just make sure your lining and outside fabrics are the same size. Pockets, if you choose to add them following this pattern, should be the width of your bag. You can also sew on patch pockets of any size on either the inside or outside instead. Just sew them on before you begin construction of the bag. In general use $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Use a 2.5 stitch length, or 8-10 stitches per inch.

Supplies

	Large bag	Medium bag	Pediatric
2 pieces of fabric for outside of the tote	18" x 20"	16" x 18"	16" x 16"
2 pieces of fabric for inside	18" x 20"	16" x 18"	16" x 16"
2 pcs fabric for handles (or use strapping)	4" x 22"	4" x 22"	4" x 18"
1 pc fabric for inside pockets	18" x 14"	16" x 14"	16" x 12"

For the bottom: 1 piece of 5" x 12" corrugated plastic
1 piece of fabric 11" x 13" to cover the plastic

Optional embellishments to personalize the bag

Directions

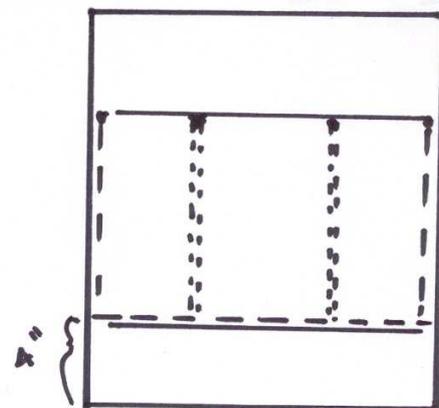
Straps

1. Fold strips in half lengthwise and press.
2. Open fabric and fold each edge to center line and press again. Fold again on centerline.
3. Topstitch both sides of straps about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge.

Inner Pockets (optional)

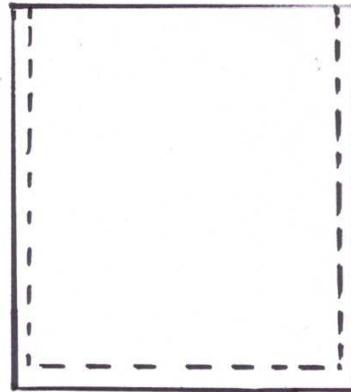
1. Fold pocket fabric in half lengthwise, right sides together.
2. Sew along long edge.
3. Turn right side out. Press.
4. Take one piece of inside lining fabric.
5. Align pocket 4" from bottom. Your pocket should be the same width as your lining.
6. Pin to sides of lining and along bottom edge of pocket. Sew pocket along sides and bottom.
7. Add dividers to your pocket. Decide on pocket divisions, fold and press to mark.

8. Sew a double seam along folded markings, and reinforce at top edge.

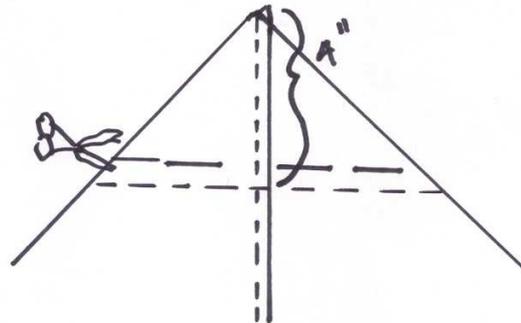


Bag

1. For coarsely woven fabrics, such as upholstery fabric, use a wide zig-zag stitch to finish your edges.
2. If you wish to add outer pockets or other embellishments to the bag surface, you can machine stitch them onto the right side of the bag fabric now. Note the bag orientation.
3. Line up outer bag pieces, right sides together, with a vertical orientation. Sew along the two sides and bottom.
4. Repeat step 3 for lining.



5. Pinch bottom corner of bag lining with right sides together so the side seam aligns with the bottom seam to form a point. Do both corners.
6. Mark a line at a right angle to the seam line, 2.5" from point for large bag, 2" from point for small or pediatric bag.
7. Sew along marked line and cut off excess fabric on the point.
8. Repeat steps 5-7 for outside of bag.



9. Place lining fabric inside the bag fabric with right sides together.
10. Mark 3.5" from side seams (4 places). Place straps down inside the bag between the right sides of the fabric, one strap on each side of bag. Place strap ends on your marks. (The ends should be sticking out from your double sack). Pin well at top edge.
11. Stitch around the top of the bag 1/2" from the edge, but leave a 4"-6" opening to turn the bag.
12. Turn the bag right side out, then push the lining into the bag.
13. Top stitch all the way around the top of the bag, 1/4" from the top. Repeat top stitching 1/2" from top.
14. Reinforce the locations where straps are attached with extra stitching.
15. Sew a pillow case around the plastic bottom with the fabric provided.
16. Optional: add additional embellishments to personalize the bag.
17. Finished! Please sign a volunteer card. This allows the person who receives your bag to have an individual connection with a caring volunteer.

Thank you so much for helping support the loving tote project. Your care and support will make a difference.