



Tote Bag Instructions

Requirements:

- 50cm of fabric for outside the bag
- 50cm of fabric for lining
- 15cm of fabric for handles
- 50cm interfacing

Cutting:

- Outer bag: 16"x15" (x2)
- Lining: 16"x15" (x2)
- Inner Pocket: 5½"x8" (x2)
- Handles 2 pieces 5"x20"
- Interfacing iron on for bag 15.5"x14.5" (x2)
- Interfacing iron on for handles 19"x1" (x2)

Instructions:

1. Iron on the interfacing to wrong side of the bag fabric.
2. Put the outer pieces of the bag right sides together and stitch a ¼" seam around the bag (leaving the top open). Back tack at the top on each side.
3. Pinch the bottom of the bag and fold it so that the seam is in the centre and it looks like a point and pin. Measure 1½" from the point and draw a line across the width (photo a). Stitch along this line, back tacking at both ends. Cut off the point leaving a ½" seam (photo b).



(a)



(b)

4. Fold the handles in half along the length and iron it, then unfold and fold from the edge into the middle along the length from both sides and iron (photo a). Then unfold one side and put the interfacing down the strip (photo b), re-fold the handle and iron the interfacing in (photo c). Fold it again down the centre fold and stitch down both sides with ¼" seam.



(a)



(b)



(c)

5. Turn the outer fabric of the bag the right way round and position the handles at 3.5" in from the sides of the bag (making sure the handles are not twisted). Sew the handles to the right side of the bag, back tacking at each end.



6. Iron a ¼" double turned hem at the top of each pocket piece and sew.
7. Iron a ¼" seam on the other three sides of the pocket and pin into place in the middle of the lining. Repeat for the other pocket.



8. Stitch around the pocket making a triangle tack at the top left and right corners.



9. Put the lining pieces of the bag right sides together and stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam around the bag, leaving the top open and a 6" opening in one of the side seams. Back tack at the top on each side.
10. Pinch the bottom of the bag lining and fold it so that the seam is in the centre and it looks like a point. Measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the point and draw a line across the width. Stitch along this line, back tacking at both ends. Cut off the point leaving a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. See photo for the outer lining of bag.
11. Put the outer bag (as it is, right side out) inside the lining (which is still inside out) so that the bag and lining are right sides together, making sure the handles are inside. Match up the side seams around the top of the bag and pin in place.
12. Stitch around the top of the bag, back tacking over the handles to give it strength.
13. Turn the bag through the lining and sew the opening in the lining closed.
14. Top stitch around the top edge of the bag.

Enjoy.

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Date May 2020