

TOTE BAG (2)

Sewing Skills You Will Learn

1. Measure and tear or cut fabric to size.
2. Stitch $5/8$ " seam allowances.
3. Backstitch.
4. Zigzag seam edges.
5. Make a machine-stitched hem.
6. Slip stitch/whip or overhand stitch.
7. Press.

Supplies Needed:

1/2 yard firmly woven fabric (such as denim, sailcloth, trigger or poplin)

Matching thread

Step 1. Preshrink fabric. If selvages puckered after washing, clip $1/8$ " diagonally into the selvage at 3" to 4" intervals.

Step 2. Cut or tear a rectangle 14" x 32".

Step 3. Cut or tear handles 15" x 4".

Step 3A. **OPTIONAL**

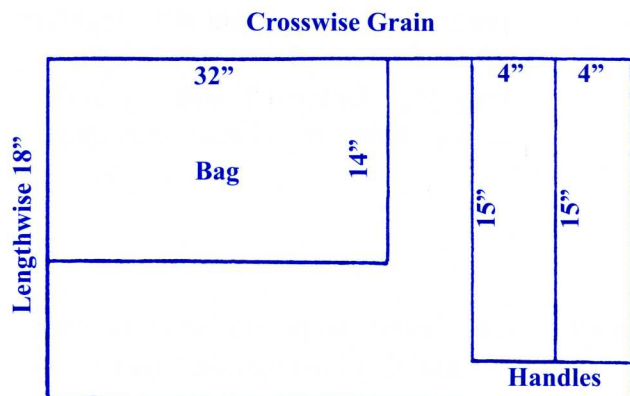
If you would like to decorate your tote bag, this is the time. You could make a design and cut it out of iron-on fabric or you could embroider or applique a design on your bag. If you decide to decorate your tote bag, fold the fabric so it is in the shape of the finished tote bag with the right side out. Decide where you want the design. Apply your chosen design.

Step 4. Finish the edges with a zigzag stitch.

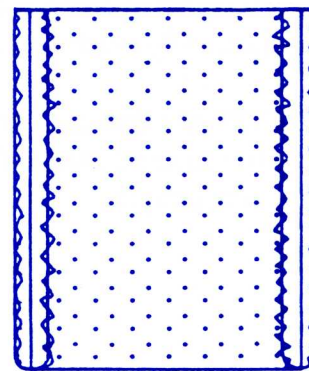
Step 5. Fold the bag, right sides together, and pin side seams.

Step 6. Stitch a $5/8$ " seam. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam. Press seams open.

Step 7. To finish the top, turn under $1/2$ ", pin and press. Turn another 1" to form a hem. Pin hem in place. Stitch hem close to the hem edge— $1/8$ " from edge.

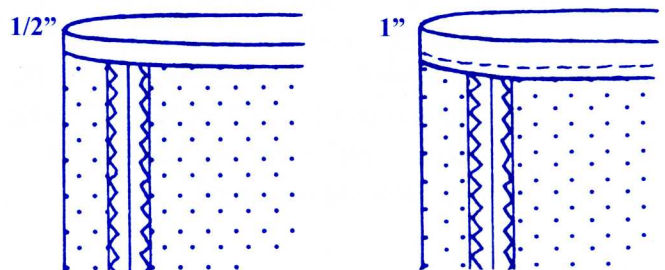


STEPS 2-3



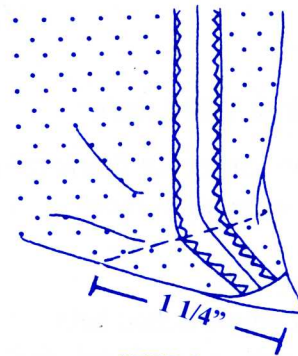
Fold

STEP 6



STEP 7

Step 8. To square bottom of bag, bring right sides of bottom and side seams together, forming a triangle. Stitch across the base $1\frac{1}{4}$ " from the point of the triangle.



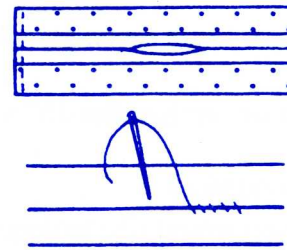
STEP 8

Step 9. To make the handles, fold fabric pieces lengthwise, right sides together. Pin and stitch a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam along the long edge. Leave a 2" opening in the center of the seam. Press seam open.



STEP 9

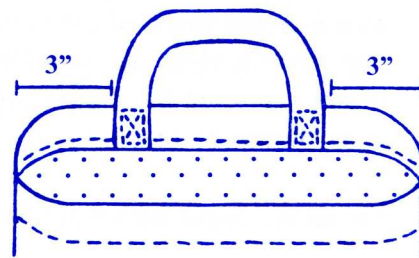
Step 10. Fold handle so pressed seam is down the middle of the handle. Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam across each end of the handle. Turn handles right side out through the 2" opening in the seam. Use a point turner to push out each corner. Press so seam opening is flat on inside of handle. Slip stitch opening closed.



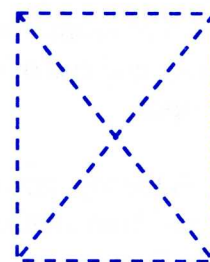
STEP 10

OPTIONAL: You can topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge all around the handles for extra strength.

Step 11. Pin the handles to the top hem 3 " from the side seams. The handles go inside the bag and even at the bottom of the hem. Stitch the handles as shown. A large "X" could be sewn inside the rectangle for added reinforcement. Be sure you sew through only one handle and one side of the tote bag so you don't sew the bag shut!



STEP 11



Stitching pattern enlarged