

TOTE BAG INSTRUCTIONS

July 2008

Cut one 30" x 45" piece of heavy weight woven fabric for outer bag.

Cut one 30" x 45" piece of lighter weight woven fabric for lining.

Cut one piece of outer bag fabric 5" x 36" for shoulder strap

If using denim, no lining is necessary but all raw edges should be serged or finished in some fashion.

When using outer fabric suitable for a boy please make sure lining is also.

½ inch seams

Fold long sides of fabric in half right sides together. Fold will be bottom of bag. Make certain sides measure 22 ½" before stitching.

Stitch side seams of outer fabric. Clip raw edge of fold to seam. Press seams open.

Stitch side seams of lining same as outer fabric, but leave 4" opening in center of one side. Press seams open.

Pin side seams to bottom fold of outer fabric. This will form a point. Mark stitching line on 8" measure across the seam...4" on each side of seam. Stitch on line. Trim to ½". Repeat for lining. This will create a "box" bottom for the bag.

Turn outer bag right side out. Pin strap to center of side seams with 1 ½" extending beyond the top edge. Stitch across 3 times ¼" from edge.

Place outer bag inside lining - right sides together - matching side seams and top edge. Stitch top edge with 1" seam stitching back and forth several times across the straps. Press seam open..

Turn bag right side out through opening in lining. Machine stitch or hand stitch opening closed. Press top edge.

Top stitch 1" below top opening.

Attach 3 size 16 gripper snaps evenly spaced to the opening.

Please do not turn in bags without snaps.

LARGE TOTE BAG (Ida's Version)

Cut 1 piece of medium to heavy weight fabric 45" W x 30" long

Cut 1 piece of cotton fabric for lining 45" W x 30" long

Cut 1 piece of same fabric as bag for strap 5" wide x 36" long

Fold fabric in half (right sides together) width wise - should measure 22-1/2" x 30" and stitch both ends. Fold fabric so that each side forms a point. (see attached sketch). Measure up 5" and stitch across.

Sew the lining the same way.

STRAP: Fold 5" strip in half lengthwise and press. Using a piece of batting that has been cut 1-1/2" wide x 36" long, place along fold of fabric; press bottom edge of strap up over batting. Fold top half of strap down and turn edge under to match bottom edge of strap. Top stitch both edges.

Turn bag right side out, insert bag lining, wrong sides together. Pin edges of lining and bag together. Pin the strap which should be 1-1/2" to 2" wide centered on each seam. Using either a regular sewing machine or serger, sew thru all layers of fabric all the way around, catching the straps. If you are using a regular sewing machine, you can either zig-zag along the edge or use pinking shears and then stitch down. Once this is done, turn the top edge of bag down 1-1/2" and pin. Using regular stitch, sew along edge of the area turned down. You can then top stitch 1/8" to 1/4" around the top of bag. Once this is done, stitch an "X" across the strap to give it extra stability.

If you wish to decorate front of bag, this can be done prior to stitching the bag together.

If you wish to cut bag with rotary cutter, Joann's has a "Pinking Edge" rotary blade made by Fiskars that you may wish to use.