

# Tote Bag with (optional) Pocket

## Supplies:

- Two pieces of OUTER fabric 17" x 17" for bag
- Two pieces of OUTER fabric 6" x 26" for straps
- One piece of OUTER fabric 8" x 8" for pocket (optional)
- Two pieces of LINING fabric 17" x 17" for bag
- One piece of fabric 8" x 8" for pocket lining (optional)
- Thread

NOTES: All seam allowances are  $\frac{1}{2}$ " unless otherwise stated.



## Make Handles:

1. Fold one handle piece in half lengthwise with right sides facing each other. Press. Open.
2. Fold the long edges of the fabric inward toward the fold, and fold inward again. Press.
3. Sew along both long sides near the edges.
4. Repeat for other strap. Your straps are done.

## Make and Attach the Pocket: (optional)

5. Take the outer and lining pocket pieces and match them together, right sides together.
6. Sew all the way around the square, except leave a 2" hole for turning.
7. Clip the corners, turn right side out, and poke the corners with a chopstick so they are square. Press flat.
8. The side with the hole will be the bottom. Along the top edge, sew a line all the way across that is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge. This is decorative.
9. Place the pocket on one of the outer bag pieces equal distance from the sides and 5" from the top. Pin. (Remember that the fabric stretches *sideways* to determine which way is the top). Sew down one side of the pocket near the edge, across the bottom, and up the other side. Backstitch several times at the starting and ending to reinforce.

## Assembling the Bag:

10. Pin the outer pieces together with right sides facing each other, and do the same for the lining.



11. Cut a 2" square out of the bottom left and bottom right corners for both fabrics. Sew up the sides and along the bottoms of both fabrics. Do NOT sew where you cut out the squares. Leave a 3" hole in the bottom of the lining.

12. This part is tricky: (See

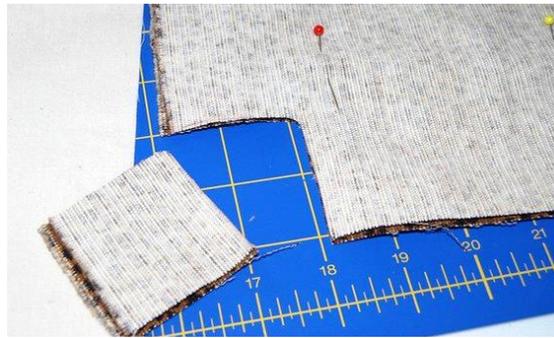


photo): Take a corner, open it, and pinch so the opposite seams are matched up. Sew it shut. (This gives you the square bottom) Do this with both of the corners of the both fabrics.



13. Put the lining bag inside the main bag, right sides facing each other (you will see the wrong side of the main fabric on the outside.) Match the side



seams up at the top and pin.

14. Make a small pencil mark at the top 3" in from the left seam to show you where to pin the handles. Make the same mark on the right side. Turn the bag over and do the same for the other side.



15. Insert the handles between the 2 layers, making sure you don't twist them. Pin them to the bag with the outside of the handle lining up with the pencil mark. Finish pinning the main fabric to the lining all around the top opening.



16. Stitch around the whole top opening, EXCEPT leave a 3" hole between the straps on one side for turning.



17. Pull the bag right-side out from the hole in the side of the side you left open.

18. Push the lining back inside the main fabric bag.

19. Topstitch all the way around the top of the bag. This will close the hole and reinforce the handles.



Done!

