

Tote Bag Extras

The **Tote Bag Extras I & II** have been updated and consolidated into one file.

Decorations

Please feel free to decorate your bag, adding decorative stitching, appliqué, or whatever ‘suits your fancy’; be creative! If you decorate the pocket, it’s easier to do so **before** you attach it to the Tote Bag!

Self-Fabric Strap

You can make a fabric strap by taking a 4”x15” to 18” piece of the fabric, fold in half lengthwise to crease it. Open it back up, and fold in the long sides just to the crease, so the edges are just touching. Then fold the whole thing in half along the crease – it will look sort of like double fold binding. Stitch about ¼” from the side along both long edges, and it’s ready to put on your bag!

Outside Pocket

This type is good for heavier fabric. Put the pocket on before assembling the bag. Cut an piece of fabric 8.5” x 10”, zigzag around all 4 sides. Then fold over the top edge ½” to ¾” and top stitch. Fold in the bottom and the sides ½” each, pin in place about 6” from the unfinished top edge of the bag, and top stitch around the sides and bottom, backstitching at the top edges.

Inside Pocket

Option #1: This type is good for heavier fabric. Do the same as for the Outside Pocket, but sew it on the back of the fabric so it ends up on the **inside** of the Tote!

Option #2: This type is good for lighter fabric, and will ‘hang’ inside the bag. Cut two 8” x 10” rectangles. On one of them, fold over the top edge ½” and top stitch. Then sew them right sides together around the sides and bottom, matching at the bottom edge and leaving the extra piece ‘hanging’ off the top. Make sure to backstitch at the top to reinforce it, then zigzag around the sides and bottom,. To attach to bag, stitch the ‘hanging’ off piece underneath the top edge of the bag when you fold it over to sew it, with the opening towards the center of the bag.

Squared-off Corners

If you would like to square-off the bottom corners of the bag, this is how: after you have assembled it, turn it inside-out. Then matching the side and bottom edge seams, it will create a triangle out of the corner, then pin it. Cut off the corners, and sew along the cut edge; then zigzag the edge to prevent raveling.

Making a lining

Cut the lining fabric 3” shorter than the outside fabric, use the same width. Sew the tote bag, up until step 5, then continue as follows:

6. Sew the lining fabric as you did for the tote bag, EXCEPT leave a 3” to 4” opening along the bottom seam, backstitching at either end to reinforce.
7. Starting with the tote bag inside out, put the lining inside it, right sides together. Sew around the upper edge, attaching the lining to the tote, including the straps you attached earlier.
8. Turn the whole thing right side out through the opening in the bottom seam of the lining, stitch the lining closed at the bottom about 1/8” from the edge (or hand stitch).
9. Tuck the lining back inside the bag with the bag right side out, making sure the bottom edges match.
10. Continue with the original instructions at step #6 (the top stitching part). You will see that the outside fabric overlaps to the inside about 1.5”, making a ‘facing’, with the lining hiding inside!

Tote Bag w/o Bottom Seam

Making the tote bag out of one long piece with no bottom seam:

Cut the fabric 14” x 30” (16” x 38”). You will be sewing just the side seams; the rest of it will be the same.