

Tote Bag Instructions

Each kit contains 20 pieces of fabric, 15 x 20 inches, to make 10 tote bags.

1. Cut 3" off the short side of each rectangle. This piece becomes the handle.

(Note: this step may already be done in some kits)



2. Turn under both long edges of each handle strip 1/4". Press.



3. Then fold this piece in half and press again.



4. Stitch turned under edges first, topstitch 1/8". Then topstitch the folded edge.



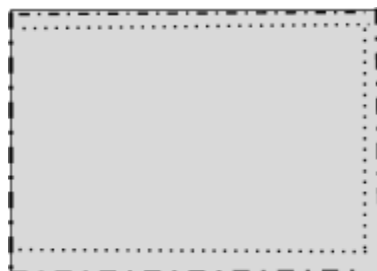
5. Place two large rectangle pieces right sides together (3 inches have been removed). Using 1/2" seam allowance, sew around both sides and the end.



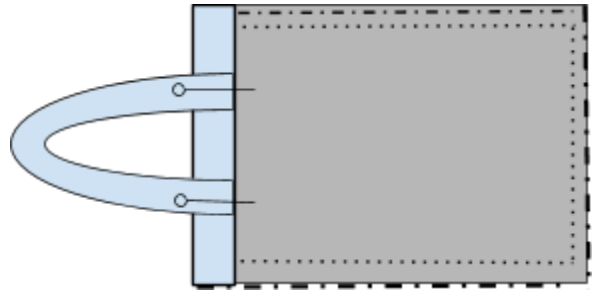
6. Pin raw edges of each handle to the top unstitched edge inside (right side) of the bag. The outside edge of each handle should be 3 inches from the outside edge of the bag. Stitch in place.



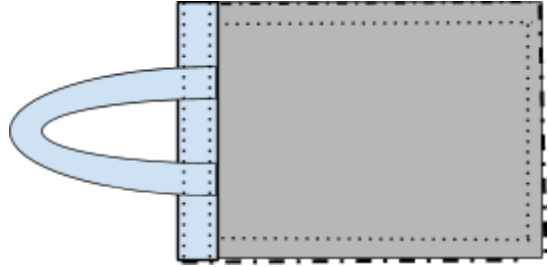
7. Serge around the top raw edge, single thickness, making sure to include the edges of the handle. Serge the side seams and the bottom seam.



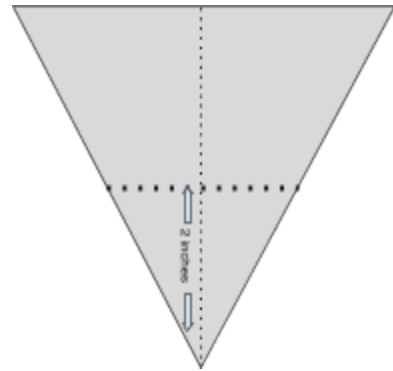
8. Fold the top edge of the bag to the inside 1 inch. Press. Pull the handles up to the outside of the bag. Pin in place.



9. Stitch around the top near the serged edge and again $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top edge. Make sure you catch the handles in both stitching lines.



10. To make a box pleat at the bottom of the bag, turn the bag right sides to the inside. At the corner, line up the bottom seam with the side seam. This makes a triangular point. Use a pencil to draw a line across the triangle which is 2 inches from the bottom point. Sew along this line, back tacking at both beginning and end.



11. Turn bag right side out.

