

Super Easy Tote Bag

Materials Needed:

- 1/2 yard cotton fabric
- 1/2 yard of complementary cotton fabric for tote bag lining
- variety of fabric scraps to make 6" patchwork pocket
- 7" square of scrap fabric or muslin (pocket lining)
- 1/2 yard of heavy fusible interfacing ~ I use Decor Bond
- 42" of canvas strap
- fabric scissors or rotary cutter
- sewing machine
- thread
- iron & ironing board
- pins

Cut Fabrics:

- Cut two 18"x14" rectangles for tote bag exterior
- Cut two 18"x14" rectangles for tote bag lining
- Cut two 18"x14" rectangles of interfacing
- Cut canvas straps into two 21" lengths
- Cut fabric scraps to create an original patchwork pocket. I made a 9-patch block using a variety of 2.5" squares.
- Cut canvas straps into (2) 21" lengths

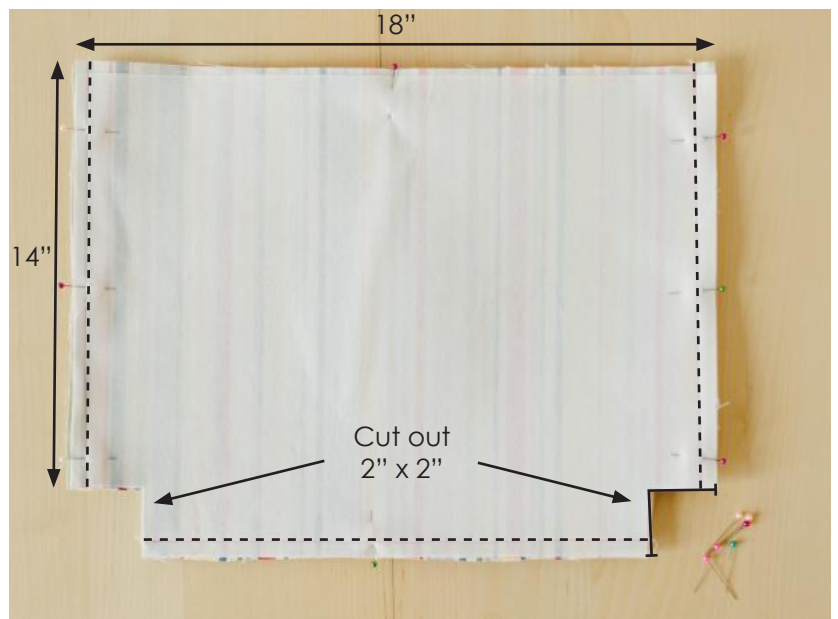
Add Interfacing, Snip Corners and Sew Sides & Bottom

Press interfacing to wrong side of exterior fabric pieces.

Snip a 2" x 2" square from the bottom corners of exterior and lining fabrics pieces.

Pin exterior fabric pieces right sides together; Using 1/2" seams, stitch sides and bottom as shown .

Do not sew the top and 2 snipped corners. Press seams open.



Sew Lining Sides and Corners

Create corners; pinch together gaps in snipped corners, lining up side and bottom seams in the center. Pin and sew using 1/2" seam. This step adds depth to the bag and creates a flat bottom.

Pin right sides of lining fabric together. Sew lining, following the same steps as tote bag exterior.



Piece Together and Pin

Pin canvas straps to exterior front approximately 4" from side seams.

Flip lining right-side out and place inside tote exterior, with right sides together, pin top edges of exterior and lining fabric, matching side seams.

Sew Bag Opening

Stitch using 1/2" seam all the way around tote top, stopping 4" from where you started. This should give you plenty of room to turn your tote right side out.



Turn and Press

Pull both fabrics and straps through the 4" gap, turning the tote bag right-side out. Lightly press with a warm iron to remove wrinkles.

Top-Stitch and Finish

Top-stitch around the tote bag's entire opening to finish edges. This will also help reinforce canvas straps and shut the gap left in the previous step for turning.

Mission Complete!

This is a perfect tote bag to bring to the grocery store, the library, or makes a nice gift. Have fun with this easy project.

