



Basic Tote Bag Instructions:

Step 1: Cutting the pattern pieces

- Using exterior fabric cut two pieces measuring 36cm x 36cm for body of the bag
- Using exterior fabric cut two pieces measuring 10cm x 56cm for straps of the bag
- Using lining fabric cut two pieces measuring 36cm x 36cm for the lining of the bag

Step 2: Making the straps

- Fold strap piece in half on the long edge and iron to make centre line
- Open fold, then fold each edge into the centre line
- Iron once fold is in place
- Fold strap in half with folded edges matching up, all raw edges should be facing inside the handle
- Pin to hold
- Stitch the open edge about 0.5cm from the edge
- Repeat these steps for the second handle

Step 3: Making the body of the bag

- Pin the two exterior pieces, right sides together
- Stitch the side seams and bottom of the fabric with 1cm seam allowance
- Complete these two steps for the lining pieces

Step 4: Making a Pleat in the Bag

- To create a flat-bottomed bag, you will need to create a pleat. To do this, fold the corner of your bag to create a triangle in the corner. Match up the side seam and the bottom seam to make this line up perfectly
- Pin a line 4cm from the corner and stitch this in place
- Cut off corner 1cm from the stitched line
- Repeat this step for the other side

Step 5: Putting it together

- Insert the lining fabric inside the exterior fabric with right sides together and line up the seams
- Insert one of the bag handles between the exterior fabric and lining fabric about 8cm from the side seams. Ensure handles are not twisted.
- Pin the other edge of handle 8cm from the other seam
- Stitch along the top with 1cm seam allowance, leave an 8cm gap for turning the bag
- Turn the bag so right side of exterior is facing outwards and top stitch along the top edge with 0.5cm seam allowance