

BASIC TOTE BAG INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

Cutting pattern pieces

- Cut 4 pieces measuring 36cm x 36cm, 2 for body of the bag and 2 for the lining
- Cut two pieces measuring 10cm x 56cm for the straps of the bag

Step 2

Making the straps

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

Step 3

Making the body

- Pin 2 exterior pieces, right sides together
- Stitch side seams and bottom of the fabric with a 1cm seam allowance
- Complete these same steps for the lining

Step 4

Making a pleat

To give the bag a flat base, you will need to create a pleat.

- Fold corner of your bag to create a triangle
- Match up the side seams and 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

- Place the lining fabric inside the exterior fabric - right sides together and lining up the seams
- Insert handles between the exterior and lining fabric about 8cm from each of the side seams. Ensure handles aren't twisted
- Stitch around the top with a 1cm seam allowance, leave an 8cm gap to turn the bag through
- Turn the bag so the exterior fabric is facing outwards and top stitch along the top edge with 0.5cm seam allowance



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