

TOTE BAG

Outer fabric. Can use orphan blocks from community quilts collection.

Inner fabric.

Batting (optional)

CUT

Cut 2 x 14" to 16" squares of outer fabric.

Cut 2 x 21" x 3" lengths for handles

Cut 2 x 14" to 16" inner fabric

Cut 2 x 14 x 16". Batting if using.

If using orphan blocks make upto 14 or 16 inches by adding borders etc.

BATTING

If using batting attach it to the 2 outer fabric pieces and quilt as you want to.

PREPARING BOXED CORNERS

From the 4 main fabrics cut a 2 inch square from each side of the bottom (so check positioning if a pattern is involved and once you have the top cut these squares from the bottom!).

HANDLES

Make the handles for a nicer bag use a 1 1/2" strip of batting along the middle of handle strips. Fold handle in half then open out and fold each side into the half, iron then fold in half again. Sew along open side. Optional: sew around and down the other side.

HANDLE ATTACHMENT

Attach the handles to the main fabric so they lie down the outer side of the fabric.

Measure the bag top into quarters and place one side of the handle over the left quarter line and one side over the right quarter line. Have a 1/4" extending beyond bag top seam.

Use a sparse 1/4" seam to attach at the top.

ATTACHING INNER AND OUTER SIDES OF BAG

Attach the inner panels to the top of the outer. Have RST sew a proper 1/4" seam along

Open up each part, so front inner and outer, back inner and outer align RST. Outer on outer, inner on inner. Pin at the top seam, so that remains aligned as I sew around. Sew all around leaving the 2 inch cut out squares unsewn and a 3-4" gap on one side on the lining unsewn.

BOXED CORNER

While the bag is elongated and you have the inners together and the outers together, at the unsewn square, line up the bottom and side seams pull into a line and sew a 1/4" seam along all four corners.

BAGGING OUT!

Push pull out through gap in inner. Push all corners so they are neat. Sew opening in lining, (I machine sew as close to ironed edge of gap), Some bag makers hand stitch it shut.

Sew a seam about 1/2" down around the top of bag have the handles up so they don't catch for this step. Try to line the inner and outer so the outer is more prominent.

TA DA you've made a simple tote!

If you need visuals this is taken from Debbie Shore Sewing a Simple Tote Bag on her YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHl1s4l8nZs>

