

TOTE BAG

TOTE BAG EXTERIOR

- 2 pieces 22" x 17" fabric for tote bag exterior
- 2 pieces 22" x 17" fusible fleece or quilt batting

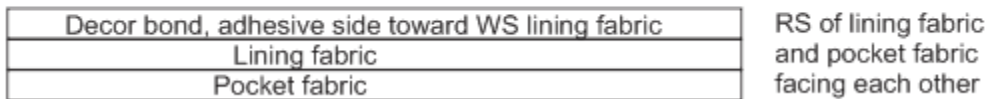
Quilt fabric to fleece or batting.

OUTER POCKETS

- 2 pieces 22" x 10" fabric for outer pockets
- 2 pieces 22" x 10" fabric for outer pocket lining
- 2 pieces 22" x 10" décor bond or stiff interfacing

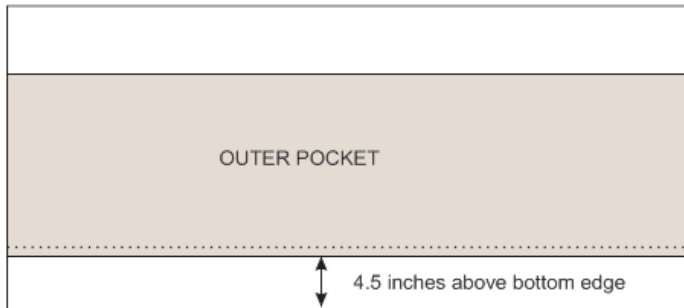
Layer for sewing as shown below. Sew along top and bottom edge of outer pocket with ¼" seam. You may use a wider seam to make sure you catch all layers. The shorter edges are not sewn.

Pocket layers for sewing



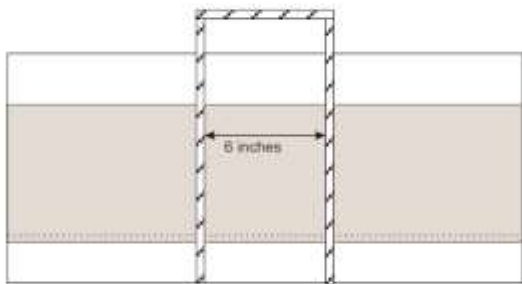
Turn pocket right side out and top stitch (or use a decorative stitch) along the top edge of the pocket.

Place the pocket 4 ½ in above bottom edge of tote bag exterior. Sew pocket to tote bag exterior along the bottom edge of the pocket.



HANDLES

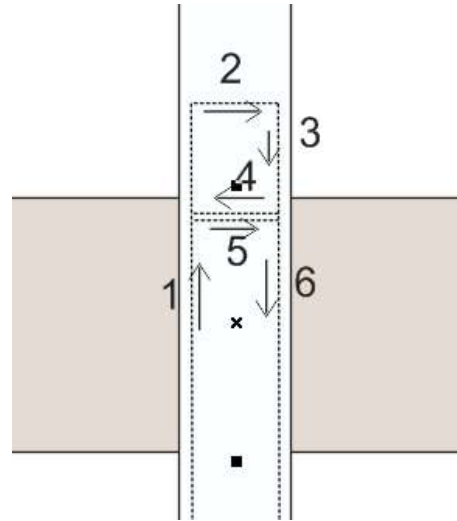
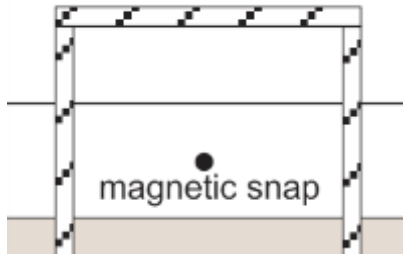
Cut 3 ft webbing into 2 pieces (1.5 ft each). Pin one piece of webbing to tote bag exterior as shown below. Make sure that webbing lays flat (is not twisted).



Starting from the bottom of bag, sew webbing to bag (close to edge of webbing), stopping at 1 inch above pocket. Turn and sew across webbing, turn and sew toward bottom of bag. Stop after sewing top of pocket, turn and sew across webbing, reverse and sew back. Then turn and sew to bottom of bag.

Repeat with other strand of webbing.

MAGNETIC SNAP goes in center between the two strands of webbing. (I'll just demo this!)

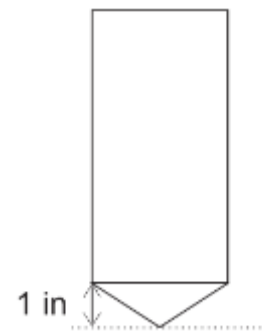


Closure Tab

- 2 pieces 5"x 7" fabric
- 1 piece 5" x 7" décor bond
- Other half of magnetic snap

Cut pieces as shown in diagram. Put magnetic snap in place through décor bond and WS of inner fabric of closure tab. Layer fabric pieces RS together. (Décor bond should be attached to the WS of inner fabric.)

Leave top open. Sew around with scant 1/4" seam. Turn right side out. Press. Top stitch, leaving top open.



LINING

INNER POCKETS

You can make these whatever size you want. The maximum for the side with zippered pocket is 14" x 8". For the other side, 14"x 11"

Each pocket is made from the following pieces cut to the same size

- Pocket fabric
- Lining (muslin is okay)
- Décor bond

Layer for sewing

Pocket layers for sewing

Decor bond, adhesive side toward WS lining fabric
Lining fabric
Pocket fabric

RS of lining fabric
and pocket fabric
facing each other

Fuse adhesive side of décor bond to wrong side of lining. Place a few pins to anchor the layers together.

Use 3/8 inch seams and sew around the edges of the pocket, leaving a 3-4 inch opening along one long side. You may want to trim the seams to 1/4" (except for the one with the opening).

Inside of sewn pocket



Turn right side out (décor bond ends up in the middle of the sandwich). Press the edges of the opening in, aligning with seam. Top stitch along this edge at about 1/8" (or use a decorative stitch that will catch the turned in section.)

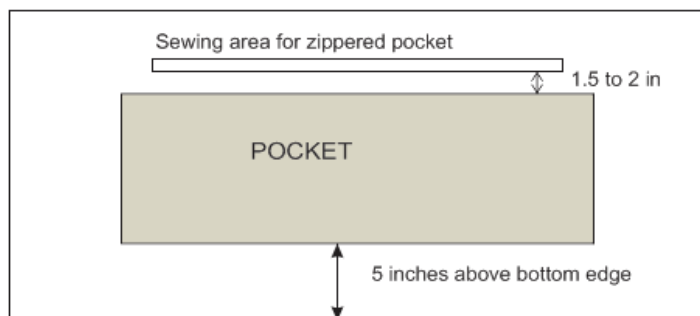
LINING BODY

- 2 pieces 22" x 17" fabric for tote bag lining
- 2 pieces 22" x 17" décor bond or stiff interfacing

Fuse décor bond (or pin interfacing) to WS of bag lining.

For each piece of lining, center pocket and place 5" above bottom long edge of fabric. Sew pocket to lining around 3 sides of pocket, leaving top stitched edge free.

The zippered pocket is sewn on the lining side with the smaller pocket. Center the zippered pocket 1 1/2 to 2 inches above the open side of the lining pocket. See separate instructions for ZIPPERED POCKET.



If you have a label, it can be sewn at the top of the lining piece without the zipper or on the inside of the closure tab.

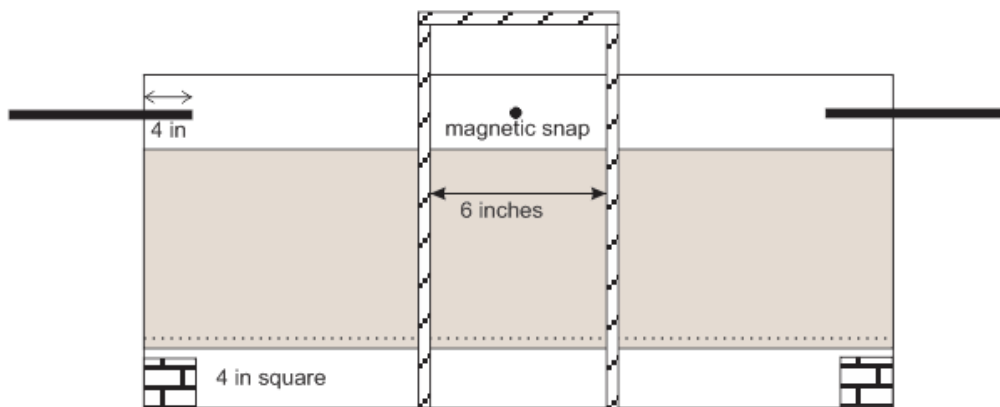
Assembly

You should have two pieces of tote bag exterior, two pieces of lining, and the closure tab, plus 4 pieces of ribbon (optional).

Find the smallest piece of the four tote bag and lining pieces. (No matter how careful you are, the pieces won't be exactly the same.) Trim the other pieces so that all four pieces are the same size.

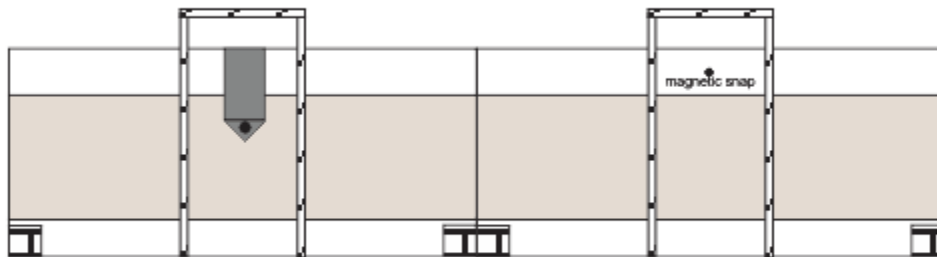
If you want ribbon to tie the sides of the tote bag close, sew the ribbon to the tote bag exterior as shown in the diagram below. (I usually fold the edge of the ribbon underneath.) A quilting buddy suggested using two buttons and an elastic pony tail band. I sewed the buttons 4" from the edges, then tacked the elastic to one of the buttons to hold it in place.

Cut out 4 in squares of fabric from the bottom corners of the tote bag pieces and the lining pieces. (If you want a tote bag that is not as wide, the squares could be 2 or 3 inches.)



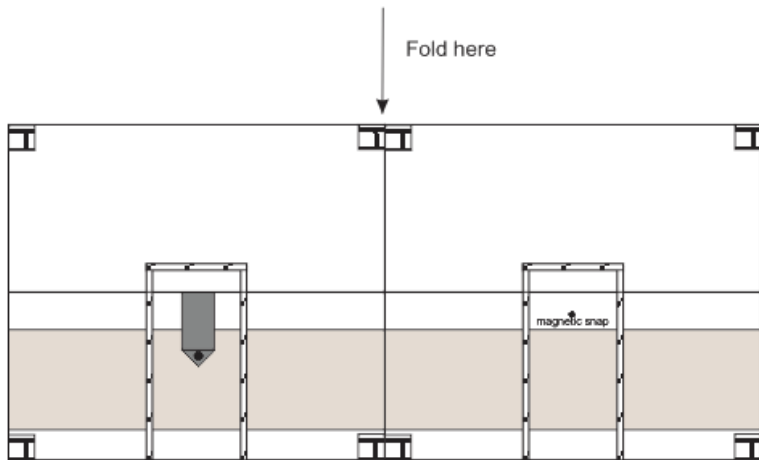
Sew one short side of the exterior tote bag pieces together. (Make sure that the ribbons do not get caught in the seam. Sew one short side of the bag lining pieces together.

Pin the closure tab to the top center of the bag of the exterior tab. The magnetic snap should be facing out.

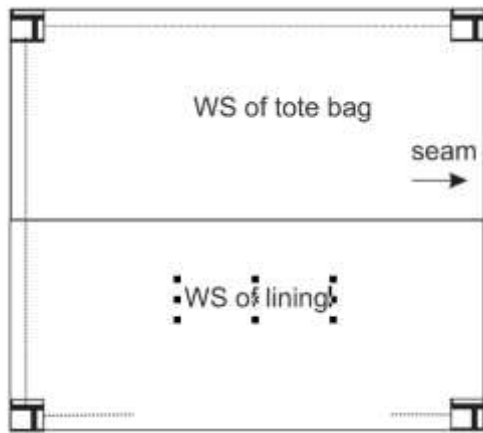


Pin bag to lining with RS of each together. Sew across top seam (you might want to use a 3/8" seam). Make sure that webbing does not get caught in seam.

Open up the assembly. Then, fold over and pin with RS together as shown.



Sew pinned pieces together, boxing corners. Leave about a 6 inch opening along the bottom edge of the lining.



Turn right side out. Fold in edges of open lining seam and top stitch closed. Make an insert piece that fits in the bottom of your bag.

Press along the top the edge of the tote bag to get decent edges. Top stitch along the top of the tote bag. (Don't catch closure piece or webbing.) I've tried to use decorative stitches, but at least with my machine, the multiple thicknesses of fabric make it difficult to get regular stitches.

If someone asks you to make a tote bag and you don't feel obligated to give it as a gift, I estimate the cost (without labor) is \$40.