

Fat Quarter Coloring Book and Crayon Tote

By Janine Bouyssounouse

This is a fun project that can be completed in a couple of hours. Kids will love having special pockets for their crayons and an easy way to carry their coloring books with their crayons.

Note: This tote uses the bag in bag process for making a tote bag with a lining. This process can be used to make many other totes or purses of any size.

Materials: Three fat quarters (inside, outside, crayon pockets and handle); crayons; coloring books; sewing machine; thread; tape measure; scissors or rotary cutter with mat; iron with ironing board

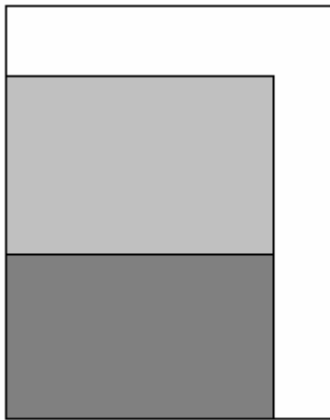


figure 1

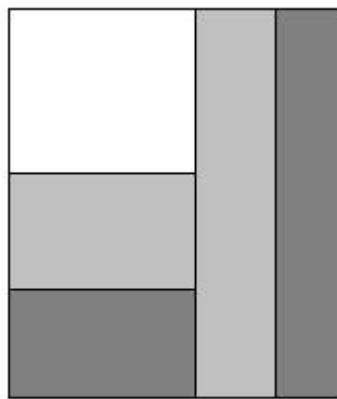


figure 2

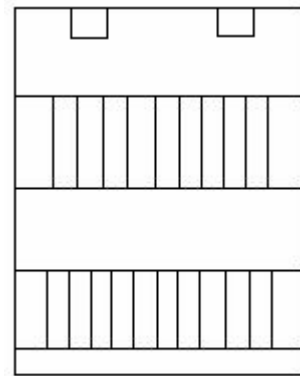


figure 3

Step 1	<i>Cut two 11 by 13 inch rectangles from the outside and inside fabrics. These will be used to make the two bags which will be sewn together. You should have a total of four rectangles. See figure 1.</i>
Step 2	<i>Cut two 6 ½ by 11 inch rectangles and two 3 by 22 inch rectangles from the crayon pocket/handle fabric. You should have four rectangles. See figure 2.</i>

Step 3	Fold one of the 6 ½ by 11 inch pieces in half the long way, right sides together. Sew a ¼ inch seam down the 10 inch side to make a tube. Turn it inside out so right sides are showing and press it flat. Repeat for the second piece.
Step 4	Position one of the pressed tubes about one inch from the bottom of one of the outside fabric pieces as shown in figure 3. Sew around the sides and across the bottom edge of the tube to make one big pocket. Repeat the process two and a half inches above the first tube as shown in figure 3.
Step 5	Now it is time to sew the pockets for the crayons. Check which size of crayons you have before doing this step. Sew a vertical line in the center of the bottom pocket. Sew another vertical line about ¾ of an inch away from the center line (unless you have the larger size crayons, in which case, pick a wider measure for each crayon pocket). Repeat until all of the crayon pockets have been sewn on both large pockets.
Step 6	Press the 3 by 22 inch strips in half the long way. Open the strips up and then press the two sides towards the center fold. The edges should come close to touching each other. Fold the strips back in half and then sew close to the edge on both of the long sides on both strips to form the two handles.
Step 7	Fold down the top edge of one of the outside pieces of fabric about half an inch. Sew around the edge of the two ends of one handle to one of the outside pieces. There should be about one inch of handle sewn to the bag. Repeat with the other handle and the other outside piece. See figure 3 for placement.
Step 8	Place the two outside pieces right sides together. Sew a quarter inch seam around the three sides without the handles. Turn right side out and press the seams.

Step 9	Place the two inside pieces right sides together. Sew a quarter inch seam around three sides, leaving a short end open. Do not turn right side out. This is the inside lining of the bag.
Step 10	Fold the open end of the inside lining out, so that the cut edge is on the outside of the bag. Slip this lining inside of the bag with the handles. Adjust the top fold so that the tops of the inside and outside meet at the same level. Sew along the edge of the tops of the bags, attaching them to each other. Sew another line of stitching about a quarter inch away from the first line of stitching to reinforce the top of the bag and the handles.
Step 11	Fill the crayon pockets with the crayons and place the coloring books inside of the bag. Your Fat Quarter Coloring Book and Crayon Tote is finished.