

# Wide Mouth Tote Bag

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This is a fun project which can be used to carry a change of clothes to the gym, school supplies, used for shopping at the store or as a large purse.

**Materials:** One yard of fabric (outside and handle); half a yard of fabric (lining and inside pocket); sewing machine; thread; pins; chalk marker; tape measure or large plastic ruler; scissors or rotary cutter with mat; iron with ironing board

<b>Step 1</b>	<i>Lay out the lining and outside fabric on top of each other with the edges lined up and still folded in half as they came off of the bolt. The lining and outside of the tote bag will be cut at one time, so the cut will be made through four different layers of fabric.</i>
<b>Step 2</b>	<i>Use the ruler or measuring tape to measure and draw (with chalk marker) an 18 inch line for the top of the tote bag. Make sure one way fabric is taken into account and draw the line at the top of the design, so it will be facing the right direction in the final tote bag.</i>
<b>Step 3</b>	<i>Measure in 1 ½ inches from one end of the 18 inch line. From that point, measure 15 inches and make a mark for the corner of the bottom of the bag. Repeat this step from the other end of the 18 line. Connect these two marks for the bottom of the bag.</i>
<b>Step 4</b>	<i>Use the ruler or measuring tape to help draw two lines to connect the bottom corners of the tote with the top corners. The resulting shape will be a trapezoid with the top and bottom of the tote bag parallel to each other.</i>
<b>Step 5</b>	<i>Cut out all four pieces of the tote bag at one time using the lines drawn in steps 2-4. There should be two outside pieces and two inside pieces of fabric in the shape of the tote bag.</i>
<b>Step 6</b>	<i>Cut out two 4 by 6 inch pieces from the remaining lining fabric. This will be for the inside pocket.</i>
<b>Step 7</b>	<i>Cut out two 8 by 32 inch pieces from the remaining outside fabric. This will be for the handles.</i>
<b>Step 8</b>	<i>Place the two 4 by 6 inch inside pocket pieces right sides together and sew around all four edges, leaving a 2 inch opening on one of the short sides to turn the fabric.</i>

<b>Step 9</b>	<i>Pull the fabric through the opening to turn it right side out.</i>
<b>Step 10</b>	<i>Iron the pocket flat. Make sure the opening fabric is folded in so that it looks like the rest of the edges.</i>
<b>Step 11</b>	<i>Place the pocket in the center of one of the lining pieces of the tote bag. Sew around three of the sides. This will close the hole and sew the pocket onto the lining fabric at the same time. Sew a second line of stitching parallel to the first line for added strength if desired.</i>
<b>Step 12</b>	<i>Place the two lining pieces of fabric right sides together and sew around the sides and bottom of the bag, leaving the top open.</i>
<b>Step 13</b>	<i>Iron the handles in half the long way, wrong sides together. Open up the fold and fold the edges of the fabric to meet at the center fold line, then iron flat. Fold and iron the fabric in half along the original fold line and edge stitch the opening closed. Stitching a matching edge stitch on the other side of the handles is a nice added touch.</i>
<b>Step 14</b>	<i>Place the two outside pieces of fabric right sides together and sew around the sides and bottom of the bag, leaving the top open. Turn the tote bag right side out.</i>
<b>Step 15</b>	<i>Fold half an inch of the top edge of the outside tote to the inside of the tote bag and pin in place.</i>
<b>Step 16</b>	<i>Place one end of a handle three inches from the top corner of the outside tote bag, pin in place and sew along the edge of the tote bag to secure in place. Repeat this for the other end of the handle on the same side of the tote three inches from the other corner. Sew the second handle on the other side of the tote in the same manner. The handles should have about an inch of the ends hidden inside of the tote bag.</i>
<b>Step 17</b>	<i>Place the lining bag inside of the outside bag. Fold the top of the lining fabric about half an inch away from the inside so that the edge of the fabric is hidden with the final stitching. Pin in place.</i>
<b>Step 18</b>	<i>Edge stitch around the top of the tote bag. This will stitch the inner and outer bags together as well as provide a second line of stitching on the handles. Sew a second line of stitching parallel to the first line for added strength if desired.</i>