

Directions to make a basic tote:

Supplies: Amount depends on the size bag you make – a tote that is 14" tall and 15" wide with a 3" bottom needs about ½ yard of each.

1 outer fabric

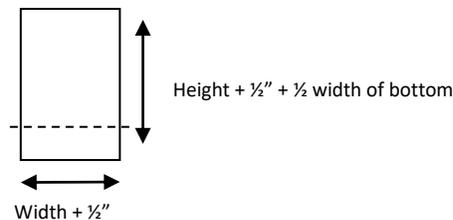
1 lining fabric

Heavy fusible fleece or other similar material

1" wide Strapping – standard tote need about 42"

Step 1: See end of the instructions for how to make bag with Racing Bibs or similar material.

Decide the size of your bag and how wide a bottom you would like. You will be cutting 2 rectangles, one for the front and one for the back. Add ½" to the width (allows ¼" seam allowance on each side). Add ½" plus ½ the width of the bottom measure to the height.



Example: If you want a 4" wide bottom then add 2 + ½".

Cut 2 rectangles of desired size from outer fabric. Repeat with the lining and fleece fabrics

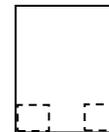
Step 2:

Fuse the fleece to the outside fabric pieces or to lining fabric if the outer fabric can't be pressed or is very heavy (race bibs, laminated fabric, or upholstery fabric).

Step 3:

Place outside fabrics right sides together and lining fabrics right sides together. Cut out a square from each of the 2 bottom corners (make them ½ the size of the desired bottom width+ ¼") on both the lining and outside fabrics.

You can add pockets now – make bottom stop above the cut-out corners



Step 4:

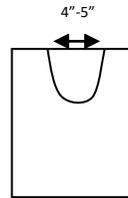
Make handles:

Cut 2 pieces of purchased strap material 20" long. Seal the ends with tacky glue or something similar. (The length can vary according to your needs).

Option: cover strapping with coordinating fabric: cut fabric 20" x 2 7/8" with right sides together, sew down the length of the fabric. Turn inside out and slide the strapping into the tube.

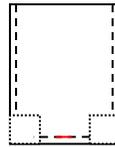
Step 5:

Sew handles to the right sides of the outside of the bag. Place equal distance from the outside edge. I like the inside of my handles to be about 4" to 5" apart. Make sure they aren't twisted and sew them across the top using 1/8" seam. Repeat for the other side



Step 6:

Sew the sides and bottom of the outside fabric. Then do the same to the lining – leaving about 4" opening on the bottom for turning the bag later.



Step 7:

Pinch the bottom and side seams of the outside together so they meet. Stitch across (I do it twice for strength) to form a box bottom. Do the same for the lining.



Step 8:

Turn the outside right side out and tuck into the lining so that the right sides are together. (Handles are tucked inside) Stitch all the way around the top (I use a slightly larger seam allowance 3/8")

Step 9:

Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the bottom. Close the opening either by hand or pinch together and close by stitching close to the edge on the machine.

Step 10:

Top stitch around the upper edge.

These directions can work for any size bag you wish to make. You just have to modify the initial rectangle, handle size and placement.

ENJOY!!!

Optional: Specialty fabrics like the race bibs. Do Not pin – holes don't go away and do not iron – they melt.

Cut the base rectangles oversized. You will trim them down later.

Arrange the bibs or other featured items and sew them together using 1/4" seams. You can arrange them directly on the base fabric without sewing together 1st. Glue baste them down.

Zigzag around all the edges and across all the seams.

Trim top and sides leaving 1/4". Trim the bottom, leaving 1/2 the width of the bottom + 1/4" (example: if your base is going to be 4" then leave 2 1/4" at the bottom)