

One Tote Over The Line

Jackie's Basic Tote Lesson



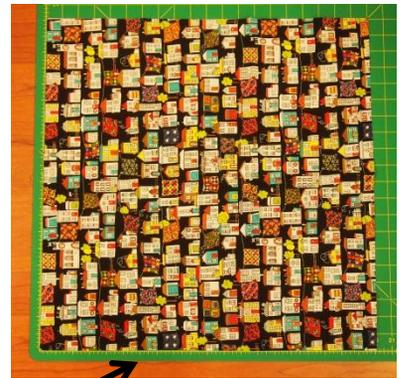
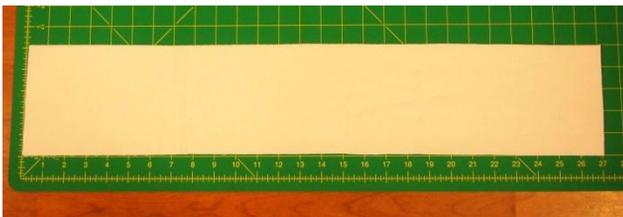


With the fold on the cutting mat line cut your fabric 20" by width of fabric, (WOF). Then turn it on its side and trim it to 20". Your fabric now measures 20" by 40".

(If you want a smaller or larger Tote, cut your fabric small or larger. Remember to cut the lining the same size as the outer fabric.

Fold If you are going to embellish the outside of your tote, now is the time to embroider, add a quilt block, etc.

With the fold on the cutting mat line cut your fabric 20" by the WOF. Then turn it on its side and trim it to 20". Your fabric now measures 20" by 40".



Fold

You can purchase ready made handles or make your own. To make your own cut two strips 5" by 27"



Press in half



Press into quarters by bringing outside edges into the center



Press in half again.



Sew four 1/4" seams the length of the handles to finish.

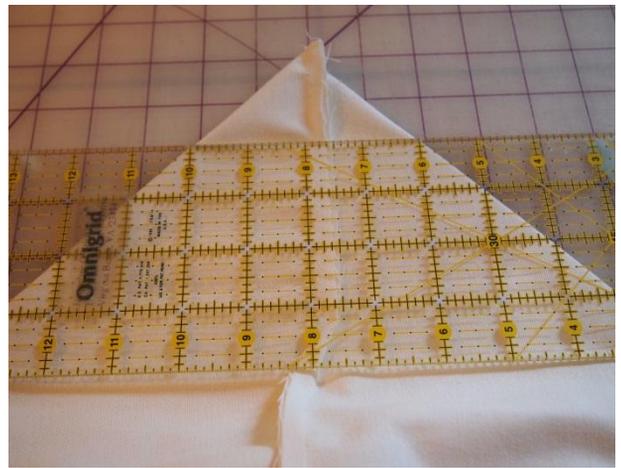


Fold the outer tote fabric wrong side together and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams down both sides.

Do the same with the lining fabric, but on one side sew down about 4 inches and **leave a 6 inch gap** and sew down the rest of the side.

This is how we will turn our project right side out after sewing.

Take the side seam at the bottom of the tote and open & center it the best you can as shown left, pressing the seam to the right. **(Press all seams to the right, even the lining, this will ensure our seams nest together nicely)** Place the point of the side seam on a line on your mat and measure down 2 inches, place your ruler across this line. This will produce a 4 inch gusset on your tote.



Using a chalk wheel or pencil mark the line with a ruler



Sew on the line



Press seams to the right



Measure in from the side of the tote 5 inches and pin handles.



Tack down handles using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. ***Remember to remove the pins after the handles are tacked down.***



Place the outer tote inside the tote lining with right side together. That is the right side of the tote against the right side of the lining, and pin matching side seams. Sew together using a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance.



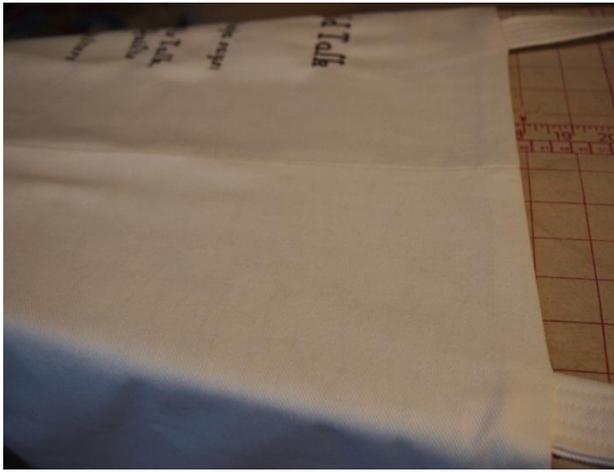
Pull outer tote fabric through opening in lining fabric.



Pull outer tote fabric completely out.



Close the lining opening by sewing a seam close to the edge.



Press tote



Top stitch using a ¼" seam allowance



Side view



Lining