

Unlined Tote Bag Instructions



Supplies

- **Fabric** - Cut 2 pieces of fabric (16" x 14") (You can adjust to maximize your fabric. Make big enough to hold a notebook, books etc.) Fabric should be sturdy but not so thick that it will take up a lot of space in the box. Canvas or lightweight upholstery fabric are good choices.
- **Straps** - Cut 2 (22" x 4") if making from same fabric as main bag. You can also use 1" wide grosgrain ribbon, or cotton or nylon webbing 22" long.
- **Basic sewing tools** - measuring tool, coordinating thread, pins, sewing machine needle size 10-12.
- Use 2.5-3mm stitch length for all stitching.



Step 1 - Make Straps

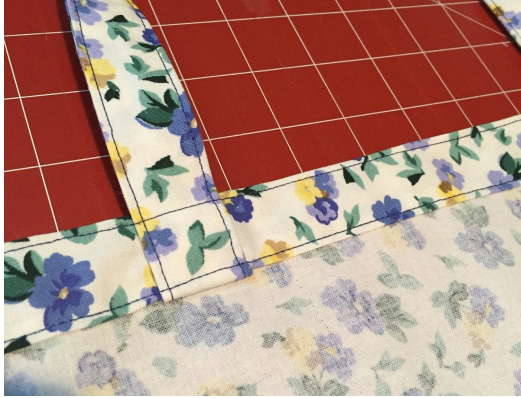
- Fold fabric in half, lengthwise and press to get a center crease.
- Open and fold again towards your center crease and press.
- Fold again so that the raw edges are on the inside, meeting at the center. Straps will be about 1" wide.
- Stitch close to the edge - $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge on all sides of each strap. Edge stitch foot is great here!
- The ends do not need to be folded in because they will be covered in the seam.



Step 2 - Preparing to Attach Straps

- Press the 14" side of the main fabric down $\frac{1}{4}$ "
- Fold over another 1" and press
- Tuck raw edge ends of the straps under the 1" fold, measuring 3" from each side.
- Flip the strap up and pin in place.
- Repeat for the other end of the strap making sure not to twist the handle.
- Repeat process for the other side of the bag.





Step 3 - Attach Straps

- Sew $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of the top and bottom of the 1" fold.
- Make sure to sew over your straps with each pass.
- You could also add an "X" over each strap for reinforcement.



Step 4 - Sew Sides Together

- To encase all raw edges and make sure you have secure seams, do French seams. At this point you could also serge.
- For French seams, pin WST (wrong sides together). Align your handles at the top to make sure they are positioned correctly.
- Sew $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge around all both sides and the bottom. Keep your needle down and pivot 90 degrees at each corner.



- Turn wrong side out and press the seams.
- Now, sew RST (right sides together). Sew a larger seam allowance than the first pass - $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
- Turn right side out and check to make sure you don't see any of your seam poking out.
- If you do, turn wrong side out again and sew with a slightly larger seam allowance all the way around.
- Once your seams are encased, turn right side out and press your bag. Trim threads.
- You now have a durable bag with no raw edges for your shoebox!