



TOTE BAG

a beginners guide



- Bag fabric 18"wide x 38" long
- Handles 2 qty 5" x 18"
- Thread - any colour, whether matching or contrast.
- needle, universal, size 80, or if using canvas/ denim size 90

**Change bag size,
but keep handles the same.**
**Try 16"w x 34"l
or 14"w x 30"l**



At the iron ...

Fold a **HANDLE** in half, lengthways, and press to create a fold running the centre length of the handle. Still working lengthways, open back out and fold each outer edge towards the centre fold, and press. Fold once again, creating your handle, it is folded into 4, meaning the finished size is 1-1/4" x 18". **[1]**

Working on your main **BAG** piece, folding and pressing the 2 shorter ends (18"). With the wrong side of your fabric facing up, fold 1/2" fabric down from the edge, press and fold once more. This gives you a 'double fold' seam (each fold is 1/2"). Repeat with the opposite end. These will be the top of your bag.



At the sewing machine ...

Stitch your **HANDLE** by sewing a row the length of the handles, as close to the folded edge as possible. **[2]** Remember to 'anchor' (forwards & reversing to lock stitches) at the beginning and end of each row. Flip over and sew the opposite edge. *optional to sew another 2 rows of stitching nearer the middle. **[3]** This helps strengthen your handles and it's good practice for you! Repeat with other handle.

Next we are positioning your **BAG** handles by tucking into the double fold you created and pinning in place. Find the centre of the top of your bag **[4]** (fold in half and place a pin to mark). Measure a 5" gap, mark with pins (2.5"s either side of the centre pin). **[5]** Take one handle, slip one end to the left of the left marker pin and the other end to the right of the right marker pin. **[6]** Secure the handles with pins. The handles should look like they are upside down, pointing in towards the inside of your bag. Sew across the top, as close to the bottom folded edge as possible, along and over the handles. **[7&8]**

Flip handles up, they are now sitting the right way up, secure with pins and stitch across the top edge, along and over the handles again. **[9]**

Place bag wrong sides together, line up the sides, pin and sew each side. **[10]** Trim each seam down by half. Press the seams, turn the bag inside out, making sure the seams are fully pressed out. Sew the side seams again, **[11]** this time the original edge will be safely tucked inside this second side seam. This is a *french seam*!.

Give your bag a final press and tah dah well done you ! [12]

