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# THE BASIC TOTE TUTORIAL



Make this fun and functional basic tote bag with bright and cheery fabrics. Perfect for school, or running around town; this simple project is perfect for beginners. Happy Sewing!



## Supplies:

- Main Print  $\frac{1}{2}$  Yard
- Lining, Pocket & Straps:  $\frac{3}{4}$  Yard
- Scraps for Quilt Block Center
- Interfacing (Optional):  $\frac{3}{4}$  Yard



Cut out all your fabric pieces:

Lining – cut 2:  $15\frac{1}{2}$  x  $18$ "

Main Fabric Back – cut 1:  $18$  x  $15\frac{1}{2}$ "

Main Fabric Front –

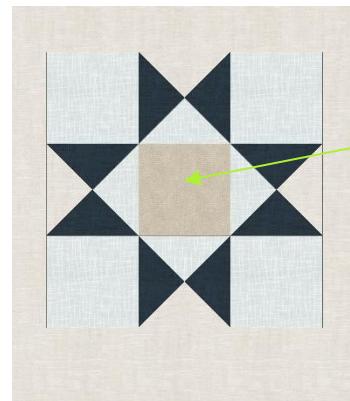
Cut 2:  $2$  x  $12\frac{1}{2}$ "

Cut 1:  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $15\frac{1}{2}$ "

Cut 1:  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $15\frac{1}{2}$ "

Pocket – cut 1:  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $7$ "

Strap – cut 1:  $3$  x  $44$ " strip



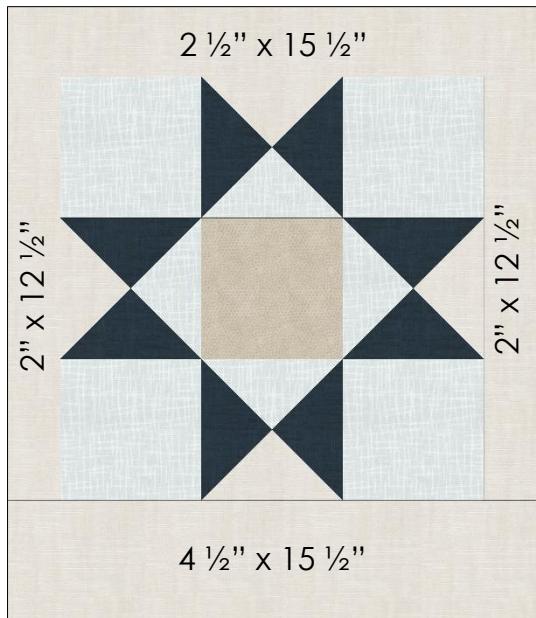
12" QUILT  
BLOCK  
Make 1 for the  
front of your  
tote bag!

This bag is meant to feature any 12" Quilt Block. We used Moda Blockheads 5, Block 9; Ohio Star by Deb Strain. You can use any quilt block that finishes at 12"

Note: All seam allowances are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise noted.



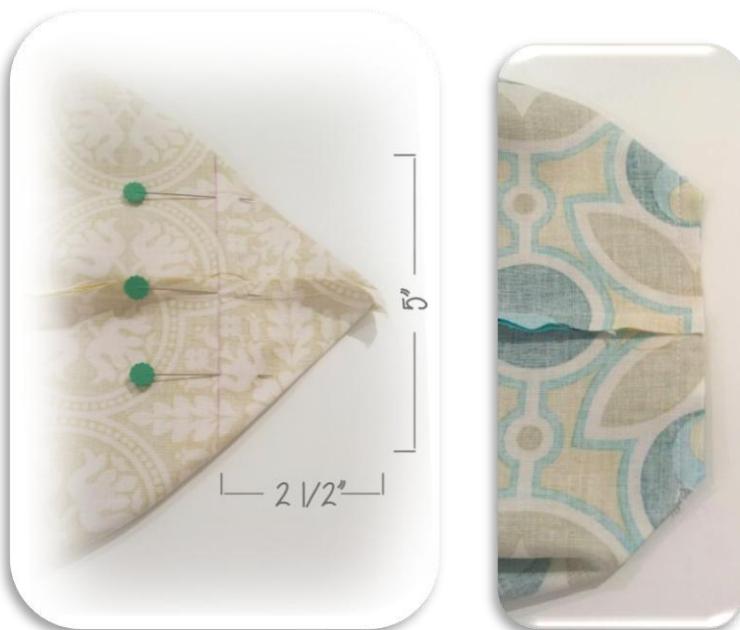
# Assembling the Outside:



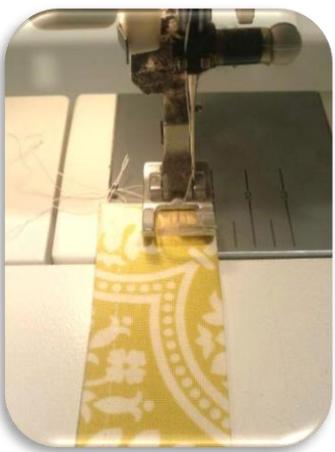
Make 1 12" Finished Quilt Block for the center front of your bag. Assemble your bag front as shown.

Layer bag front and back right sides together; sew the sides and the bottom of the bag together leaving the top open. Using tip of iron carefully, press seam open.

TOP



To shape the flat bottom for bag, at one corner match bottom seam line to side seam line, creating a flattened triangle. Measure and mark on seam allowance 2 1/2" from point of triangle. Draw a 5" long line across triangle and sew on drawn line. Trim excess fabric. Repeat at remaining bottom corner to make bag body. Turn bag body right side out.



Straps: With right sides together, sew the raw edge at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to make one long tube. Turn right side out and press. Topstitch at  $\frac{1}{8}$ " on both sides of the strap. Cut in half to make 2 straps and trim so both straps are  $21\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Pin a strap's raw edges to front edge of bag body; make sure strap is centered with 4" between the ends. Baste strap ends to bag body a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from bag's edge. Repeat with the second strap.



# Assembling the Pocket & Lining:

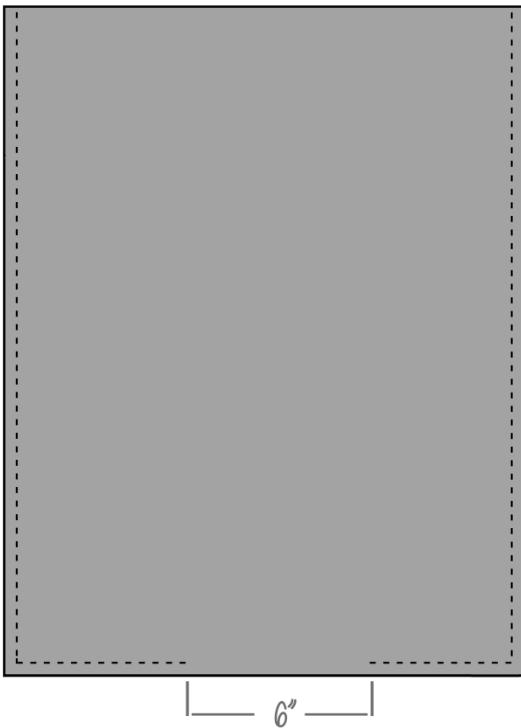


Pocket: On one  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " side, turn down  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and iron, on that same side turn down 1" and iron. Top stitch the top of the pocket at  $1/8$ " seam allowance.

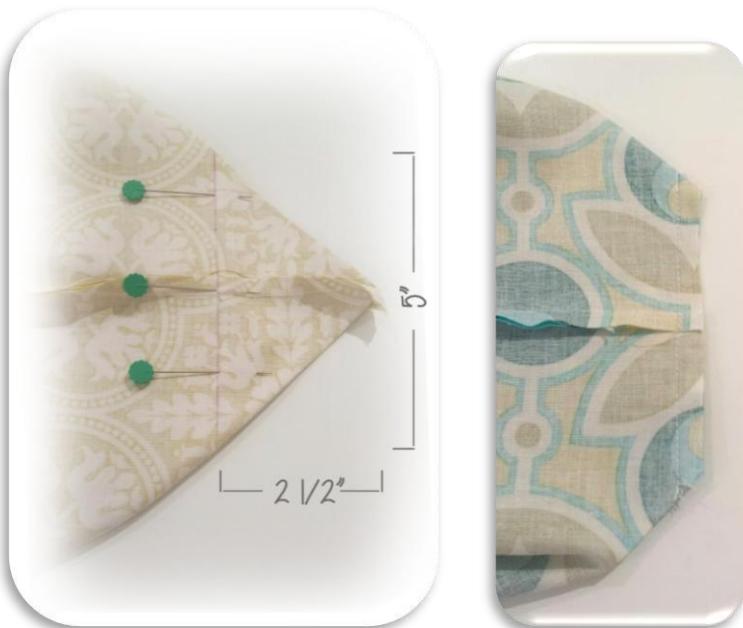
Fold other 3 sides at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and iron.

Position the pocket on the right side of the one of the lining pieces. Center the pocket 3" from the top edge, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " from either side. Pin in place. Edge stitch the pocket to the lining along the side and bottom edges. Leave top edge open.





Layer the two lining pieces, right sides together; sew side and bottom edges leaving a 6" opening along the bottom edge for turning bag right side out. Using tip of the iron, carefully press seams open.



Shape a flat bottom for lining the same way you shaped the outside of the bag.

Leave lining wrong side out.

# Assembling the Tote Bag:



Insert bag body inside bag lining with right sides together; straps should be between bag and lining. Align raw edges and seams. Stitch together upper edges of bag body and lining. Back stitching over each strap for reinforcement.

Turn bag and lining right side out through opening in lining; then pull lining out of bag. Hand stitch opening of lining closed.

Insert lining back into bag and press upper edge. Topstitch  $1/8"$  from upper edge to complete tote bag.

**DONE!**



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