

Totebag

Using a

SERGER and/or SEWING MACHINE

Instructor: Michele Gillombardo

Instructions

Supply List:

Sewing Machine/4 or 8 Thread Serger

Fabric #1-Outside of tote

1 Panel 21 x WOF or fabric Yardage (21 x 42)

Note- If outside fabric is a directional fabric, When we cut it in half, be sure fabric is facing the correct way.

Fabric #2- Handles

2 Pieces each 4 x 32 inches

You can make them any length you choose. Make it longer for longer handles.

Fabric #3- Lining

1 Piece, 21 x WOF (Width of Fabric) This will be cut in half to make 2 pieces 21 x 22.

Fabric #4- Inside Pocket (optional)

1 Piece 13 x 21 inches

Soft-N-Stable Pieces

1 Piece – 21 x 44 inches - Tote Body- Subcut into 2 pieces that are 21 x 22

2 Pieces – 1 x 32 Inches – Handles For thicker handles cut each 2 x 32 inches

1 Piece – 6 x 21 inches – For Inside Pocket (optional)

Directions:

Making the Handles:

Press the fabric so one side of a long edge is folded about ½ inch in. Place Soft n Stable about ½ inch in from edge closest to you. Wrap unfolded edge over the soft n stable toward the center then bring over folded edge and press and secure with wonder clips.

***Basic Sewing/Serging Supplies**

- Sewing/ Serger-Foot Petal & Power Cord
- Thread to match Fabric choices
 - Fabric Scissors
 - Seam Ripper
 - Wonder Clips
 - Fabric Marker/chalk
- Sewing/Serger Needles
- Tweezers, Screwdriver
- Allen wrench(change needles)
- Instruction manual - serger/sewing machine
- Reference Guide for threading
 - Rotary Cutter and Mat
 - Pressing mat and Iron

Use a chain stitch, straight stitch or a decorative stitch to secure the handles. Be sure to stitch 2 rows. You will have no raw edges when done, Cut the handles to your desired length.

Inside Lining and pocket:

Press lining fabric in half. Cut in half so you have 2 pieces each 21 x 22. Measure down, on one lining piece (from a long end) 6 inches, draw a line across the fabric with an erasable marker. Set aside.

Take pocket piece and serge or sew long edge. Place seam open and place seam $\frac{1}{2}$ way in the back of the pocket. This gives you a folded edge at the top and bottom of pocket piece. Place soft n stable in the pocket tube. This is optional. Press.

Taking a marking pen, mark the center of pocket and then measure 3 inches to the left and to the right. Draw the lines from one edge to the other. This will be your pocket separations.

Taking tote lining, find your previously drawn 6-inch line. Pin the top edge of pocket piece along this line. Pin the bottom of pocket edge also. Using a straight stitch, chain stitch or cover stitch, stitch along the bottom edge of pocket piece to secure pocket to lining. Then using a straight stitch, chain stitch or cover stitch, stitch along each pocket separation line. Be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end if using a sewing machine.

Getting everything the same size:

Sample shown measured 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ after trimming

Outer Tote Fabric: Embellish before cutting. Using decorative stitches on your serger or sewing machine with heavier weight thread. A chain stitch, coverstitch or faux cover stitch works well too. If using a panel, cut panel on cut lines, so you have a front and back piece. Cut them down so both front and back are the same size.

Lining Fabric: Trim Lining fabric to the same measurement as the panel. Be sure not to cut from the top edge of the piece with the pocket. We want the pocket to be 6 inches down on inside of tote.

Soft-N-Stable: Cut to the same size as the tote bag outer fabric pieces. The easiest way to trim this down is to lay the front tote fabric on top and trim on all sides. If it is fusible, now is the time to press on the wrong side of the totebag front and back fabric pieces. These pieces will now be just called the totebag.

Putting it all together:

Lay the front totebag fabric face up on the table. Decide where you would like your handle placement to be. Take a wonderclip and clip both ends of the handles to fabric. Be sure there is no twist in the handles. My handles are about 4 inches from each outer edge. Next take the lining fabric, the one without the pocket, and place it right side down on top of tote bag front fabric. Wonderclip, and serge or sew all layers together.

Next, take the piece you just sergered or sewed and on table with outside front panel showing (face up) Lay the back outer totebag face up on top of front panel about 5 inches down from top edge. This will help with handle placement. Wonderclip the other handle ends just to the back outer totebag fabric. Be sure they are the same distance and no twist in the handle. You can remove the front totebag piece from under and set aside. Place lining right side down on the back totebag piece, lining up the top edge and making sure the straight line that goes horizontal is closest to you. This will ensure that your pockets will be in the right direction when finished. Serge or sew across the top edge only.

Lay front Piece right side up with the lining fabric laying out flat and to your right. Next lay the back piece, right side down, matching the lining to lining, soft-n-stable to soft-n-stable. If you have long handles, you may want to tuck them in the pocket, so they don't get sewn in the seam by accident. Now wonderclip all around. Leave an 8 inch opening on the lining bottom edge. This will be where we turn the tote right side out. I used a ½ inch seam allowance on this part.

Once stitched, pull right side out, push out corners and check to see if you have caught all edges. You can either turn right side in again and box your corners using a serger or sewing machine or keep it turned right side out stitch opening in lining and give it a good press. You have completed your Tote!

CONGRATULATIONS!