

## Sewing a Tote Bag

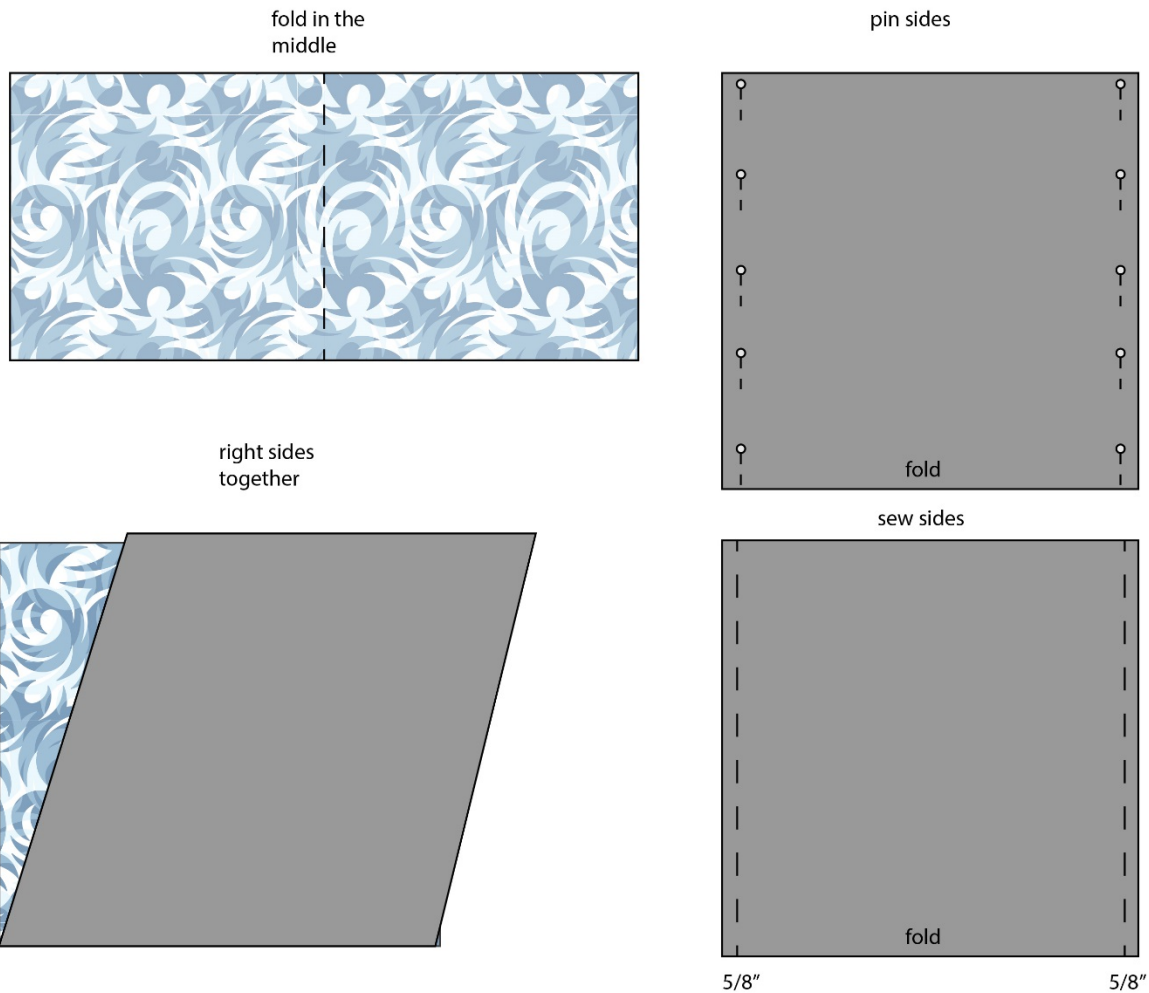
Note: You will need 2/3 of a yard for the outer fabric and 5/8 a yard for the lining

Step 1: Press and cut your fabric

- Press tote and liner fabric if needed
- Cut 1 piece at 18 inches by 36 inches for outer bag
- Cut 1 piece at 5 inches x 30-40 inches (depending on how long you want your straps) for bag handle
- Cut 1 piece 18 inches x 34 inches for bag lining

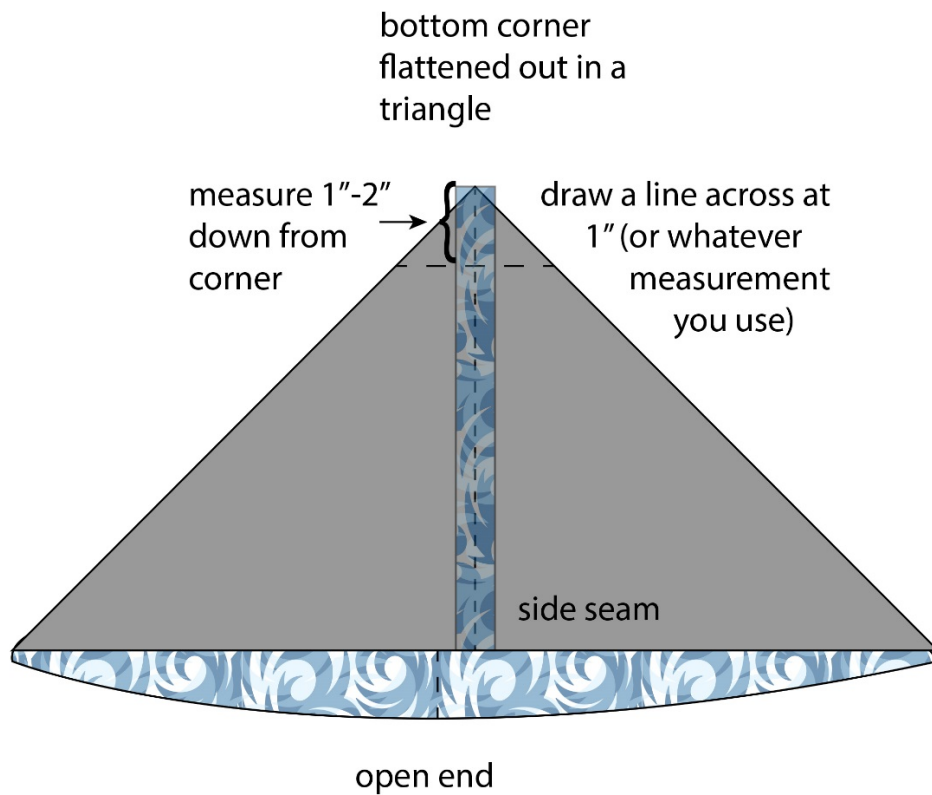
Step 2: Sew outer bag and liner

- Pin right sides together of the outer fabric
- Pin right sides together of the liner fabric
- Sew side seams with a 5/8-inch seam allowance; it is important to sew accurately 5/8-inch from the edge of the fabric so that your liner fits the outer bag



### Step 3: Measure and sew boxed corners

- Match bottom fold edge to side seam that you just sewed, forming a triangle shape. Press side seam open and pin. Measure 1 inch from top of triangle, and draw a straight chalk line from side edge to side edge (the chalk line should be about 3 inches long). If you prefer, you can draw the line farther from the triangle point – which results in a longer chalk line. Repeat on the other corner, and then sew along the marked line, backstitching at the beginning and the end of the seam. These are called “boxed corners.”
- Do the same for your lining.



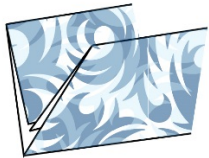
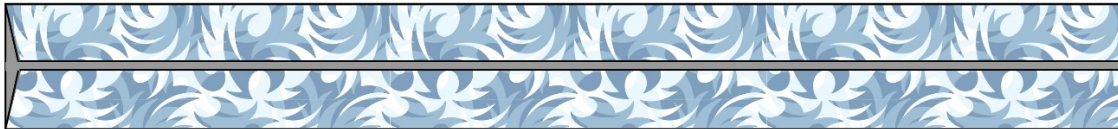
#### Step 4: Make the straps

- Fold your strap material in half lengthwise (“hot dog” way) and carefully press the fold, making sure to keep the folder even and straight.
- Unfold, and then fold each edge into the center fold you just pressed; press these new folds. (insert drawing)
- Finally, fold the two halves together, pin it together, and prepare to sew (see next step).

fold down the center, right side out



fold each half toward the center fold you made



fold either side together in the middle

- You’ll be sewing about a quarter inch away from either side of the strap (insert drawing), so you’ll need to move the needle over to sew the right edge. The needle position (middle number on our machines) should be set to 00. Line the right edge of the strap up with the right edge of the presser foot. Keep this aligned as you sew.
- Turn the strap over and sew the other side.
- Repeat with the other strap.

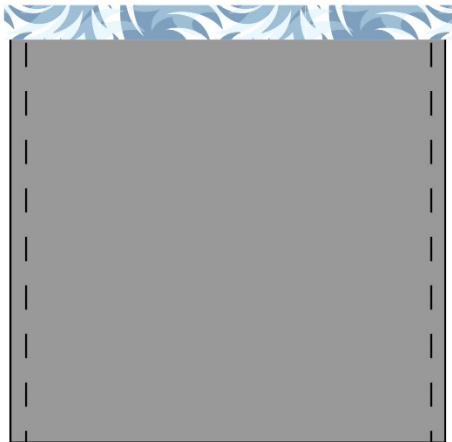
sew along each edge of the strap



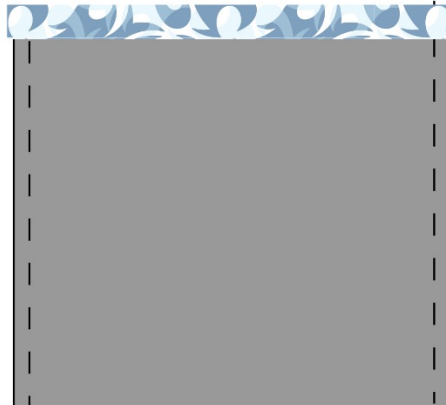
Step 5: Pin the lining into the bag and position straps

- Keeping your outer bag inside out, make a mark at 1 inch. Fold the fabric over (to the outside) and carefully press the fold. It is important to keep an even inch all the way around. Fold the fabric over again one inch more, and press this fold as well.

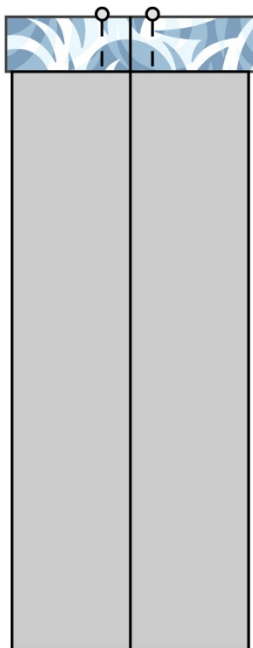
mark 1" down from the opening, fold to the outside, and press



Fold over 1" again and press

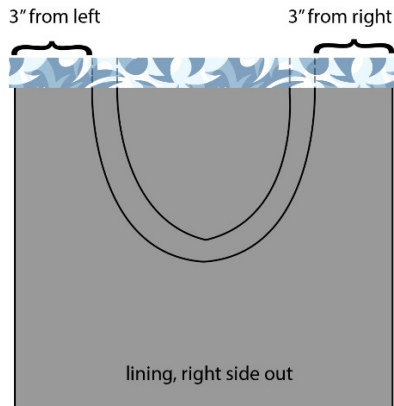


- Turn your lining right side out and put the outer bag inside it (still inside out). Pull the lining up to the first fold so it is tucked underneath the second.
- Line up the seams of the lining and the outer bag. Be careful to lay (or press) the two seam edges open so it doesn't get too bulky. Pin at either seam, and then work your way around the rest of the bag opening. This is where a carefully sewn 5/8 inch seam will pay off.



lay seam edges open, line them up, and pin them

- Next, lay the bag out flat and measure 3 inches in from each side and make a mark. On the left side, slip one end of strap 1 under the fold so that it touches (the same place you put your lining); position it to the right of the mark you made at 3 inches. Pin the strap. (insert drawings)
- Place the other end of strap 1 (be careful not to twist it) to the left of the mark you made at 3 inches on the right side.
- Flip the bag over and repeat with the other strap.



#### Step 6

- Remove the drawer that holds the extra bobbins and feet (it slides off to the left). Place your bag around and under the machine to position the area you just pinned to be sewn. Note: if you cannot remove this on your machine, turn the bag right side out to sew on the inside.
- Position the needle at 7.0 and sew all the way around the bottom of edge, keeping the left edge of the folded down top at the left edge of the presser foot. Be careful to turn the bag as you go so it doesn't pull or get stuck underneath.
- Fold the straps over and pin. Then sew around the top edge of the bag with the needle positioned at 00.

