

"must have"
Tote Bag



Please read all instructions before beginning.

This "must have" tote for all occasions is made with an attractive floral vinyl outside and a coordinating cotton fabric lining and binding. The top rolls up for extra size, plus the handles easily slip over your shoulder for easy carrying. Don't be caught without this perfect bag for shopping, the beach, the gym, picnics, baby necessities, or quilting projects.. It is a delightful accessory for yourself and a special gift for a friend.

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

Vinyl fabric — ½ yard

Lining — ½ yard

Binding — ⅛ yard

Handle fabric — ¼ yard

Belting for handles (1" wide) — 1½ yards

CUTTING DIRECTIONS

From each of vinyl fabric and lining fabric,
cut: 1 rectangle 17" x 34"

From binding fabric, cut: 1 strip 2¼" x 42"

From handle fabric, cut: 2 strips 2¾" x 28"

From belting, cut: 2 pieces 27" long

CONSTRUCTION

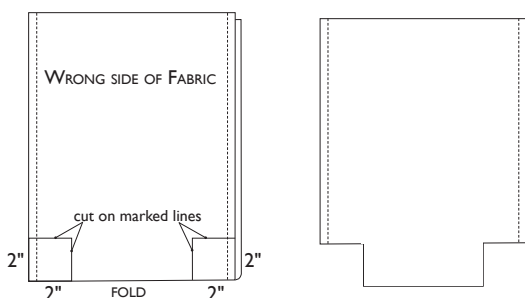
Note: Ironing vinyl is not suggested.

BAG AND LINING

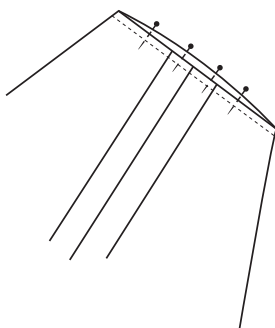
Create a dimensional bag shape from both the vinyl and the lining fabric.

1. Fold fabric rectangle, right sides together, matching 17" top edges. Pin, then stitch side seams with ½" seam allowance.

2. Draw a right angle line at each bag bottom corner 2" in from side seams and 2" up from bottom folded edge. Cut on drawn lines.

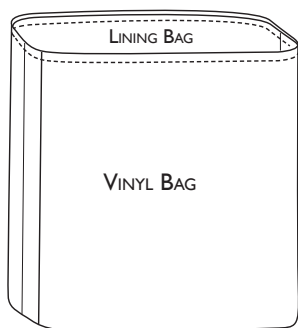


3. Fold the cut opening together so that the side seam falls centered on the opposite side of the opening. Stitch together using a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.



COMPLETE THE BAG

1. Turn the vinyl bag right side out. Place the lining bag into the vinyl bag matching side seams and bag top edges. Pin, then stitch top edges together with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam.



2. Prepare binding. Fold and press binding strip in half lengthwise. Sew binding to top edge of bag from the vinyl side. Hand or machine stitch folded edge to the cotton fabric lining of the bag.

HANDLES

1. Place long edge of handle fabric on one side of belting strip, wrong side of fabric to belting, to cover $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the width of the belting and $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond both ends. Using a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam, begin stitching 1" from end of belting. Stitch through both fabric and belting stopping 1" from end of belting. Press the long free edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ " then press ends under $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Trim excess fabric from corners and fold over end of belting to finish ends. Wrap fabric strip around belting to overlap original seam line. Use a top stitch or decorative stitch on the long folded edge through all layers with matching thread to secure fabric wrap and finish the handles. May also finish seam by hand stitching.



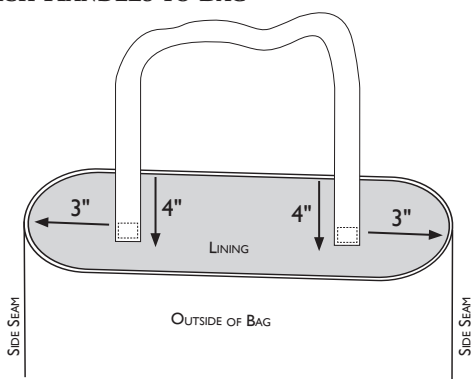
Press ends under $\frac{1}{2}$ ", trim corners at 45° to remove excess fabric. Wrap long side around belting and finish seam.



Finish long seam with a decorative stitch, or by hand.

2. Place ends of handles 3" in from side seam and 4" from top edge on the lining side of bag. Using matching or coordinating thread, secure handle ends in place with a stitched one inch "box" through handle and bag. *See diagram on back.*

ATTACH HANDLES TO BAG



3. Turn the top edge of purse down 3" like a cuff, for the added design element of the lining with binding exposed.



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