

Trinity Church Sewing Project for Womanspace

Tote bag with boxed corners and pocket



Materials:

Main Fabric: ½ yd of lightweight denim or medium weight fabric

Lining Fabric: 2/3 yd of cotton or cotton/poly (A medium print looks best because this is for the straps, the pocket and the lining)

Batting strips: long thin pieces of batting cut to 1 ¼ inch wide and enough to make two strips, each 23 inches long. (You can use short lengths and just line them up to be inserted in the straps so they really can be scraps of batting.) I like to use a 30/70 poly/cotton blend.

Here are the pieces you need:

Two Strips of batting, 1¼ inch by 23 inches

Two lining fabric pieces (for the straps) each measuring 21 inches by 6 inches

One lining fabric piece (to make a pocket) 15 inches by 7 inches

Two lining pieces 16 ½ by 16 inches

Two main (solid color) fabric pieces 16 ½ by 16 inches



Directions:

Make the pocket by cutting out a 7 inch by 15 inch rectangle. Fold in half, right sides together so that the short sides meet each other then sew together the two longer sides. Now turn right side out and press the open end in a half inch on both sides and sew close to the edge to seal this pocket piece.

Make the straps by cutting a 6 inch strip the Wof (40- 42 inches long) Cut this in half lengthwise so you have two rectangles (to make two straps) that are each 6 inches by 20-21 inches. Take them to the iron and fold them in half lengthwise and press wrong sides together. Then fold each long side in towards the center and press (it's now 3 inches wide). Then fold that in half lengthwise (it's now a 1 ½ inch wide strap). Open one side and insert the batting strip (or strips if you have shorter pieces that you are lining up. You can overlap them by a ½ inch or so).



Fold it shut and sew about an 1/8 to a ¼ inch along the open edge. Then top stitch along the other edge.



Make the main bag and the lining bag

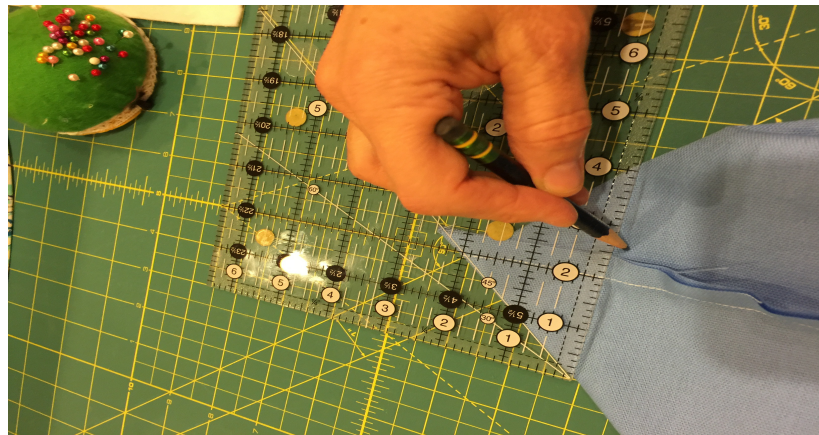
Cut both fabrics so that you have two pieces that are both 16 ½ by 16. The 16 ½ inch edges are the width.

Take one of the main fabric pieces and center the pocket on the right side of the fabric. Pin it along the sides of the pocket and bottom edge, then sew close to the edge on those 3 sides (leaving the top open!)



Put right sides together. (With the main fabric pieces, only one has a pocket on it. The open end of the pocket is the side you must not sew) and sew along the sides and bottom edge. Sew the same three sides with the lining pieces (but there is no pocket on the lining)

Box the corners by folding a corner, matching a side seam with a bottom seam. Stick a pin through to check if the seams are lined up. Then measure 4 inches across this triangular corner and mark with a pencil. This is your sewing line. Once sewn, cut off the corner about a 1/2 inch from the seam.



Now push this bag right side out.

Pin the straps to front and back of main fabric bag by placing them 3 ½ inches from side seams. Let the ends extend a half inch past the bag and secure each strap end with two pins.



With main bag right side out, place it into the lining bag which is wrong side out. Right sides of bags are together.

Now pin the two bags together matching the side seams. Sew them together a half inch from the edge **but leave at least a 4 inch opening** because once sewn, you will pull all the fabric through that



opening. Once it has been pulled through, stuff the lining into the main fabric bag and press, pressing the lining so it sticks out an 1/8 to a 1/4 inch above the main fabric. (press the section you had left open carefully tucking in the edges). Now top stitch close to the edge and you're done!