



Quick Linen Tote Bag Tutorial

Description



Lets face it- tote bags are the universal bag. Men, women, and children can all rock a tote bag.

They are perfect for just about every use too. I used one throughout college for my books and have always used one for grocery shopping. I even leave one in my car just in case I plan on stopping by the market on my way home from work.

Besides their practical uses, tote bags can do no wrong in the fashion department. Its basic shape can never go out of style and they are a blank canvas for different designs. Totes can come in any color and be decorated in every imaginable way.

Today we will be making a basic tote bag so you can get inventive with your own styles and decorations. I will show you some simple detailing that I have included in my version to make it a little more special.

I love when something that's seemingly simple at first glance actually has thoughtfully placed details. My tote bag will have some interesting colorful stitching, as well as an exposed frayed edge. These little details will add character and style to my easy-to-make tote bag.



Materials:

- Linen
- Red and Blue thread
- Sewing Machine
- Scissors



Cut your linen 19"x32" inches. This measurement can be altered if you want a smaller or larger tote bag. I used [IL019 Natural](#) linen for my bag.



Fray the 19" ends of your fabric by pulling the loose threads out.



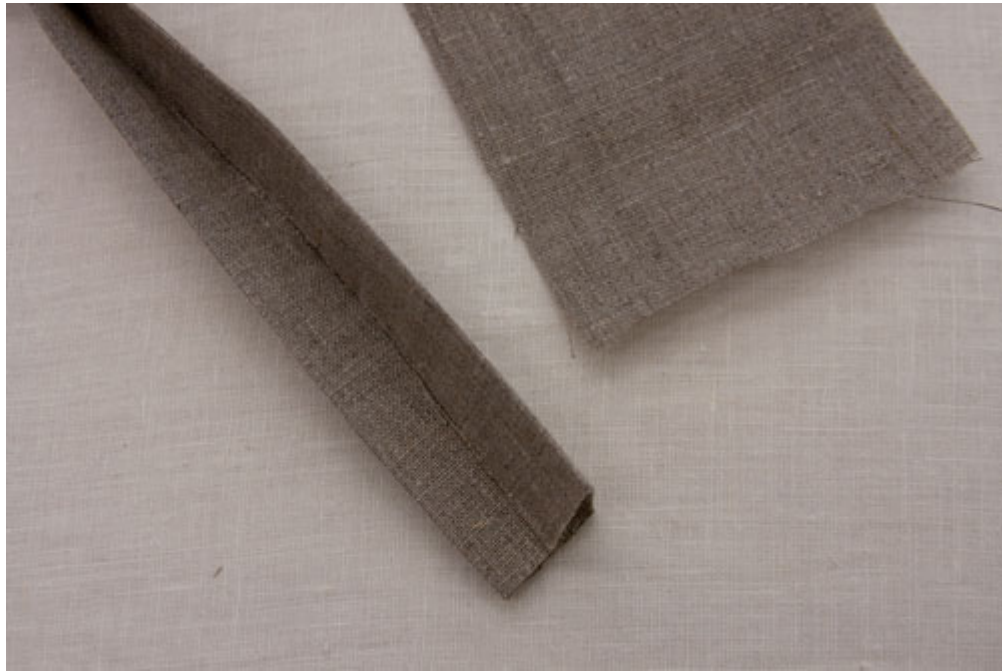
This is how the frayed edges should look. If you want a cleaner hem, then skip the fraying step.



Fold your fabric in half so the two frayed edges are perfectly aligned. Hem the sides using a needle and thread. The finished bag will look like the bottom of the finished bag.



Flip your bag inside out and poke the corners out with a small sharp object (needles work well for this task). Fold the open end over and down about an inch and a half. Iron this fold so it lays flat. Put your bag aside so we can work on the straps now.



I made slightly thinner straps for my bag, but feel free to make them wider using the same steps. First, I measured and cut my linen at 3 ½"x42." Fold this along the center for the entire length of the strap and then iron this crease. Next, open this fold and fold both sides inwards to this center crease line. Iron this flat so it looks like the photo above.



Sew a seam along the open end of your strap and you are done!



Now it's time for the fun stuff. We are going to add some details that will transform this tote bag into a stylish accessory. Before we begin, we need to pick out some colorful thread. I chose red and blue shades for mine, but you can select your favorites!



Grab your incomplete tote bag and create a seam with the your first shade (in my case, this is red.) along the bottom of your folded frayed edge.



Using your second color (blue, for me) stitch some more lines above the red stitch. This will create a colorful, and different pattern!

My favorite detail on this tote bag is how we are going to attach the straps. With my blue thread, I attached the straps with a zigzag pattern. You can see in the picture exactly what I mean by this. It adds an unexpected detail to this bag that I love!

Before using my tote bag, I popped it in the laundry to give it a wrinkly texture. You can iron yours if you prefer how it looks that way instead.

Now your tote bag is ready to be stuffed with whatever you need to carry around! All you need to do now is strut around with your stylish new bag.

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