



Linen Maxi Tote Bag Tutorial

Description



With spring finally on our doorstep and summer knocking on the door, it's time to start thinking ahead to all the holidays, weekend getaways and get-togethers. To help you get ready for your next vacation we thought of this easy beginner project – our maxi tote bag!

For this bag we chose a striped heavyweight linen that reminds us of country living in Provence and added a lining for extra support and a clean finish. Go on a weekend, carry your laundry or do grocery shopping – there are so many great ways to use it every day!

Materials



2 yards of [IL078 938 FS Premier Finish](#)

Matching sewing thread

Tools



Scissors, pins, ruler, chalk, measuring tape, fabric marker, sewing machine

Difficulty

Beginner

Time

A couple of hours

Pattern

You can access the diagram with all the measurements needed to create this tote bag [HERE](#). Note that all seam allowances are included and all pieces are cut on the grainline.

If you wish, you can alter the measurements to make the bag smaller or

larger.

Steps

Note: Prewash your fabric and tumble dry it until it is still slightly moist, dry in room temperature. Iron the fabric so it is easier to work with.

Let's start with the main (outer) fabric.

1. Fold your long and short bag pieces in half to find the center of your panels. Pinch to leave a mark. Match the center of your long panel to the center of the short panel and pin right sides together. Note that at this point your stripes should be all vertical.





2. Staystitch the pinned edges right sides together at a $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam allowance, starting $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) away from one end and stopping $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) before the other end. If you wish, you can even mark a point with a fabric marker at the spot where the two seam allowances meet to know exactly where to start/stop. Remember to backstitch at the beginning and the end of your seam.



3. Press the seam open (no need to finish your seams as they will later be hidden between the outer fabric and the lining).



4. Repeat the same steps and attach the second square panel.
5. With right sides together and raw edges aligned, match and pin the side edges of your square panel to the raw edges of your long rectangle panel. Make sure you pin carefully at the corners and don't leave any gaps.





6. Stitch right sides together at a $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam allowance. Insert your needle at the very point where you stopped sewing your previous seam and stitch all the way until you reach the top edge of your bag. Remember to backstitch and press the seams open.



7. Your main bag is now assembled but there's one more thing to do: press the raw edge of your tote 3/8" to the wrong side. We do it now because it'll make it easier to pin it to the lining later.



8. Take your lining pieces and repeat steps 1-8 to assemble it together. Because we want our lining to be slightly smaller than the outer bag in order for it to fit nicely inside, we ask you to sew the lining edges with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) seam allowance.

When you reach step 3, make sure you start stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ from the raw edges and stop $\frac{1}{2}$ before the end.



Next up – straps.

10. Pin and stitch two long edges right sides together at a $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam allowance,



11. Finger press your seam allowances open and turn your straps right side out and press. Run two vertical lines of topstitching along both long edges of each strap 1/8" (3 mm) from the edges to prevent the fabric from shifting in the future.



12. Pin the ends of your handles to the right side of the lining. Place each end 3" away from the seam and stitch at a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance.



13. Insert lining into main fabric with wrong sides touching. Match corners

and align side and bottom seams. You can pin both layers together to prevent the fabric from moving while you manipulate it.



Note how your outer bag is sticking out from inside the lining.

14. Fold down the extension of the outer fabric over the lining and handles and stitch in place 1/8" from the bottom fold.



15. Pull your straps up and run another line of topstitching along the top edge of your bag (1/8" from the edge) securing your straps in place.



16. Give your bag one last good press and admire your beautiful work inside and out!



Remember that you can always adjust the dimensions of the bag and make

it even bigger or smaller, as well lengthen or shorten the straps!

Check out our [selection of linen](#) and choose the color and the weight you'd like for this easy afternoon project!

CATEGORY

1. SEWING PROJECTS
2. TUTORIALS

Category

1. SEWING PROJECTS
2. TUTORIALS

Date Created

May 14, 2018

Author

rima-khusainova