

Sewing for Smiles

TOTES FOR AFRICA

Material needed:

- Bag: 36" x 14" (or two pieces of 18-1/2" x 14")
Strap: Two pieces of 23" x 4"
(Webbing may be used in place of fabric handles)

Sewing the straps handles:

- 1) Fold all raw edges of strap fabric over 1/4" then again 1/2", pressing as you go.
- 2) Fold the strap in half lengthwise. Press, then top stitch edges to form a finished strap. (Repeat procedures for second strap.)



Sewing the bag:

- 1) Fold the 36" length of fabric in half, forming an oblong shape. (The fold will be the bottom of the bag.)
- 2) With the wrong sides facing out, using a 5/8" seam allowance, stitch the two longer sides of the material to form the bag. **NOTE: If using two pieces of cut fabric instead of the one single length piece, face the two pieces together with wrong sides facing out. Stitch three sides of the fabric; the bottom and the two longer sides.**
- 3) Fold the raw edge at the top of bag under 1/2" then again 1-1/2". Top stitch. (It may be helpful to first press flat the tops of the inside sewn seams.)

HINT: Zig-zag stitching all raw edges of fabric will help keep them from unraveling.

Attaching the straps:

- 1) About 2" in from each side seam, pin each end of one strap to one side of the bag (as shown in the picture above.) **Before stitching, make sure handle is not twisted.**
- 2) Stitch each end of the strap, first in a box pattern, then in a criss-cross pattern for extra reinforcement.
- 3) Repeat procedure for attaching strap on the back panel of the tote.

strap

Stitching pattern for fastening the strap...



Turn bag right side out, press, and you are finished!

Thank you for being part of our "Sewing for Smiles" project!