

UNLINED SMALL TOTE BAG

Woven Fabric – No lining necessary
Cut fabric 16" wide by 36" long
Handle / Strap – Cut 4" by 36"

Fold the 36" length in half to form a 16" by 18" rectangle with the fold at the bottom of the bag. **Wrong** sides together. On each side make a seam 1/4" or sew a seam 3/8" wide and trim to 1/4". Turn so that right sides are together. Sew seams again, about 3/8" to 1/2" so that 1/4" seam is encased in new seam. This makes a French seam.

To make the flat bottom of the bag: Press the bottom fold, forming a crease, right sides together. Put your hand in the bag corner and push the corner out, forming a tepee shape. Center the side seam (top) over the fold line (bottom), forming a point where the seam and fold meet at the bottom of the bag. (See illustration.) Pin through the seam line and the crease to make sure they align.

Measure up from the point along the seam to 2.5". Mark a line 5" across the bag, forming a triangle. Stitch along the 5" line. Do not trim off excess! Repeat on the other side of the bag.

To make handles:

Press 4" x 36" piece in half lengthwise to form fold line. Open and bring the edges to the fold line. Press. Refold to make a 1" wide strap. Stitch 1/8" - 1/4" from each edge. Cut in half to make the 2 handles. Both ends of each handle are sewn on the same side of the bag. Sew both ends of one strap to the top edge, right side of fabric, about 4" from each side seam. (There will be about 5" between the handles.) Repeat on other side.

Turn the top opening down 1 1/2" and fold under the raw edge about 1/4" – 1/2" depending on the fabric weight. Tuck raw ends of strap under the hem. Stitch the hem in place, catching the handles. Top stitch 1/4" from the top edge, securing the handles.

Optional Serger Instructions:

Cut bag as directed. With right sides together, serge side seams. Form a point and mark 5" line. Cut along marked line. Serge across cut edge, forming box bottom. Make handles as shown. Pin handles to right side of bag. Serge along top edge of bag, catching raw edges of handles. Turn down and top stitch as directed.

