

# LARGE TOTE BAG

This is a tall, roomy tote bag perfect for carrying quilts to show-and-tell or supplies to a class. Option: Decorate with a 12" quilt block.

Size: 17" x 11" x 6"



Pattern designed for *Sew Let's Quilt Along 2019*.

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## REQUIREMENTS AND CUTTING

<p><b>Exterior and Straps - 1 1/4 Yds</b></p> <p><b>Cut</b></p> <p>(2) 18" x 21"</p> <p>(2) 6" x 32"</p>	<p><b>Lining - 3/4 Yd</b></p> <p><b>Cut</b></p> <p>(2) 18" x 21"</p>	<p><b>Fusible Batting or Fusible Fleece - 1 1/4 Yds</b></p> <p><b>Cut</b></p> <p>(2) 18" x 21"</p> <p>(2) 3" x 32"</p>
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**Tools Needed:** sewing machine, rotary cutter, cutting mat, scissors, ruler, iron

## FUSE BATTING PIECES

1. Fuse the two 18" x 21" batting pieces to the wrong sides of the two large exterior pieces. Follow package directions for pressing the fusible.
2. Fuse the two 3" x 32" batting pieces to the wrong sides of the two 6" x 32" strap pieces. Place the batting strip exactly in the center of the strap piece.

## OPTIONAL: DECORATE WITH A 12" QUILT BLOCK

3. Make a 12" quilt block of your choice (12 1/2" unfinished size).
4. Layer the block with a 12" square of batting and quilt as desired. The batting should be 1/4" smaller than the unfinished quilt block all around. Adjust the batting size if the unfinished quilt block is not 12 1/2". You do not need a backing layer since the block will be sewn to the bag.
5. Fold the 1/4" seam allowance over all the edges of the block and press or pin in place. Sew around the block about 1/8" from the edge to cover the raw edge.
6. Place the prepared quilt block on one of the exterior pieces. Center it from side to side but leave 3" above the top and 6" below the bottom of the quilt block.
7. Sew the quilt block in place following the previous stitch line 1/8" from the edge.

## MAKE STRAPS

8. Press the long edges of the strap fabric to the center of the fused batting, covering the batting.
9. Fold the strap in half in long ways and hold together with clips.
10. Sew about 1/8" from the open edge. Then sew four more rows of stitching evenly spaced. Use a walking foot for best results.

## ATTACH STRAPS

11. Place a strap on the right side of each exterior piece with the raw edges of the strap aligned with the top of the exterior piece. The outside edges of the strap should be 4" from the sides of the exterior piece.
12. Check to be sure the strap is not twisted and then sew down the strap 1/4" from the edge. To really secure the strap, sew three rows of stitching across the strap end and be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end of the stitching.

## ATTACH LINING TO EXTERIOR

13. Place each exterior piece right sides together with a lining piece. Straps will be between the pieces. Sew 1/2" from the top edges being careful to keep stitching straight as you go over the straps. This makes the two sides of the bag.
14. Open the two sides of the bag and place them right sides together with the exterior fabrics on top of each other and the lining fabrics on top of each other.
15. Sew almost all the way around the entire bag with a 1/2" seam allowance leaving a 6 1/2" opening at the bottom of the lining fabric.

## BOX BOTTOM CORNERS

16. Draw 3" squares in each corner of the bag. Cut out the corners keeping both layers lined up.
17. Pinch each corner together and line up at the seams. Sew together with a 1/2" seam allowance. Sew three rows of stitching to secure the corner and be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end of the stitching. Use a walking foot for best results, especially on the exterior fabric with the fused batting.

## FINISH

18. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining. Stitch the opening closed and push the lining into bag.
19. Topstitch two rows of stitching around the top of the bag, about 1/4" and 3/8" from the top edge of the bag. This will secure the strap ends, keep the lining tucked inside, and give the bag a polished finish.
20. Press the bag and you are done!