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| <b>Technique:</b>     | Zipper Installation |
| <b>Skill Level:</b>   | Beginner/Easy       |
| <b>Crafting time:</b> | Day                 |

**Size**

12" x 12" x 8"

**Materials**

1 Dual Duty XP All Purpose thread.  
1 Dual Duty XP Heavy or Dual Duty Plus thread for topstitching.  
1 yard decorator fabric (54 inches) for tote exterior.  
1 ¼ yards coordinating fabric for lining and interior pockets.  
(Olive Rose by Valori Wells for FreeSpirit was used in example).

**Additional Requirements**

Sewing machine.  
Insulated lining.  
Cotton webbing.  
5 yards nylon webbing (1 inch wide).  
1 yard Insul-Bright™ needled insulated lining (Optional).  
1 piece of 7 mesh plastic canvas (Optional).

## Instructions

### 1. Cutting:

From tote fabric:

Tote Body:

Cut 2 17" x 21"

Outside Pockets:

Cut 2 13" x 21"

From lining fabric:

Tote lining:

Cut 2 17" x 21"

Inside Pockets:

Cut 4 7" x 12"

From insulation:

Cut 2 17" x 21"

From webbing

Short handles:

Cut 2 17"

Long handles:

Cut 2 60"

2. Cut 3½ inch squares from the bottom of the tote panels, lining panels, outside pocket panels and the insulation panels.

Illustration 1.

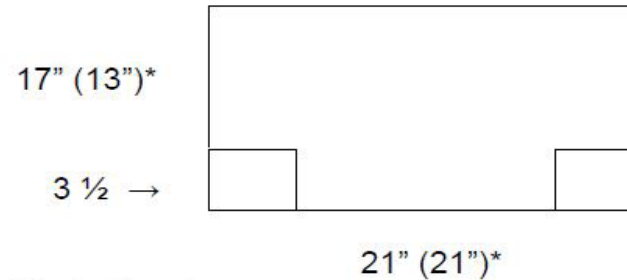
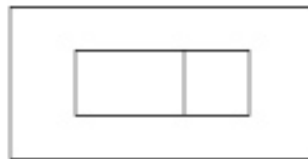


Illustration 1

Outside Pocket panel measurements

2. Make inside pockets: Sew two 7" x 12" pieces right sides together leaving an opening in the middle of one side of the pocket for turning. Use a ¼ inch seam allowance. Clip corners then right side out. Press. Hand stitch the opening closed. Top stitch across the top pocket. Repeat for other pocket.

3. Center one pocket on each lining piece; measure 5 inches from sides and 3 1/2 inches from the top. Sew in place. Make pocket compartments as desired stitching from from bottom to top of the pocket piece. Illustration 2.



4. Put Insul-Bright insulation on the wrong side of lining fabric, matching cut corners. Using a ¼ inch seam allowance, baste the insulation to the sides and bottom of the lining.

5. Right sides together, using a ½ inch seam allowance, stitch lining panels together beginning with the bottom seam. Press open. (Optional: Using heavy thread, topstitch bottom seam by stitching ¼" on either side of seam.) Stitch a side seam. Press seam open. Topstitch, if desired, from the top down. Repeat with the other seam. Illustration 3.



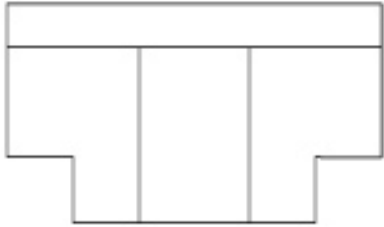
6. Open and match bottom seam to side seam aligning se. Stitch closed using ½ inch seam allowance. Repeat on other side. This forms a boxed bottom. Zig zag in the seam allowance to finish seam.

7. Along the long edge of the outside pocket panel fold under fabric ¼ inch and press fabric to the wrong side. Fold again and press. Top stitch along the fold with Dual Duty XP Heavy thread. Practice on a scrap. Adjust tension as necessary.

8. Place pocket panel wrong side down on top of the right side of tote panels. Baste together along bottom and sides. See Illustration 3.

9. Find the center of the tote panel along the bottom and top. With tailor's chalk measure 3 inches to the right and left of the center mark on the panel bottom and on the top of the pocket. Draw a line to connect these markings. This will create the seam line for the exterior pockets and strap placements.

Illustration 4



Stitch along chalk lines from bottom to top to create pockets.

10. Short handle placement: With tailor's chalk make a mark 1 inch above each pocket seam line. Make another mark 1 ½ inches below the top of the tote panel. Using heavy thread, sew the short handle in place with the end of the webbing on the mark 1 inch above the pocket. Stitch up to the 1 ½ inch mark. Stitch across the webbing to the other side and down again to the 1 inch mark. Stitch the other end in place. Repeat on the other tote panel.

11. Long handle placement: Put long handles over the pocket seam lines starting at the bottom of the bag. Align long handle with the short handle stitch in place stopping 1 ½ inches from top of bag, stitch across the handle and down the other side of the webbing.

12. Construct tote exterior: Right sides together stitch bag bottom using a ½ inch seam allowance. Press seam open. Topstitch using Dual Duty XP Heavy thread. Stitch one side seam, press open. Topstitch.

13. Sew sides to bottom, matching seams. Zig zag within seam allowance to finish seam.

14. To finish bag: Right sides together put the exterior bag inside the lining bag matching side seams and handles. Pin. Begin stitching in the middle of one side stitching ½ inch from the edge. Leave an opening between the handles on one side of the bag. Carefully turn right side out. Push lining into the exterior bag, press along seam. Hand sew the opening closed. With Dual Duty XP Heavy thread topstitch ½ inch from the top edge.

15. Optional bottom support: Cut plastic canvas 6" x 12 ½". This will add additional support and shape to the tote bag. It may be covered with leftover fabric. Cut 2 pieces of fabric 8" x 13 ½". Seam finish one 8 inch side of each piece by folding under ¼ inch and ¼ inch again. Stitch along the fold. Right sides together sew three sides together to create a sleeve. Slip plastic canvas inside sleeve put in the bottom of the bag.