



# Let's Make An Everyday Tote Bag!

With Nicole Kligerman, Social Media Manager @ Spoonflower

# Step 1: Gather Your Materials

## Fabric:

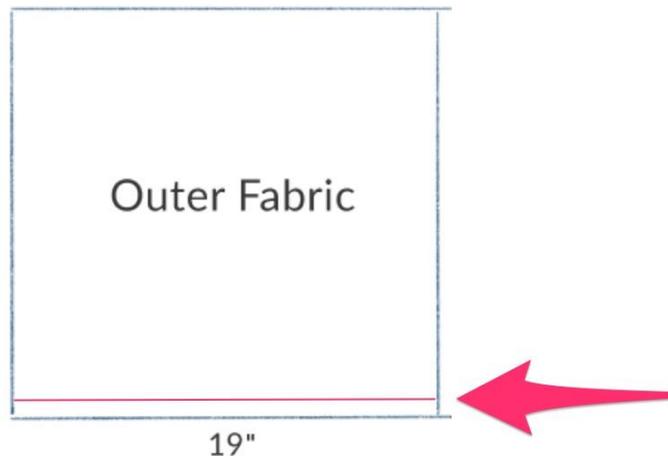
- Outer Bag Fabric: 2 18" x 19" pieces (cut on fold so the pieces are separate, flip one side so print is right direction)
- Lining Fabric: 2 18" x 19" pieces (cut on fold)
- Bag Pocket: 1 10.5" x 8" piece (on fold, double length)
- Strap Webbing: cut 2 27" pieces (or your preferred strap length)

## Tools:

- Rotary blade or fabric scissors
- Ruler
- Pins and wonder clips
- Sewing machine and thread
- Pen / marking tool



## Step 2: Sew the Bottom of the Outer Bag



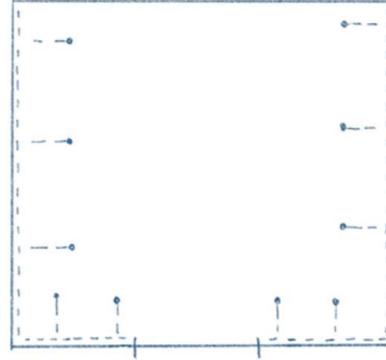
Place the two outer bag pieces right sides together, making sure print is in right direction on both pieces.

Pin and sew along the bottom edge at 1/4" or 1/2" seam allowance. Set aside.

## Step 3: Sew the Bag Interior Together



Place the two interior lining pieces right sides together



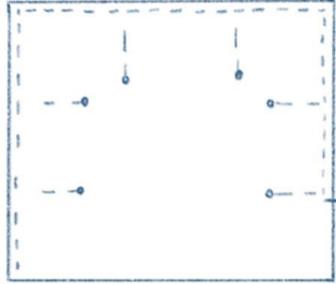
Pin and sew leaving a 3" (8cm) opening

Place the two interior lining pieces right sides together. Pin and sew along the sides and bottom leaving a 3" opening along the bottom edge (one of the 19" edges). Set aside.

## Step 4: Sew the Pocket



Fold pocket,  
right sides together



Leave a 2" gap

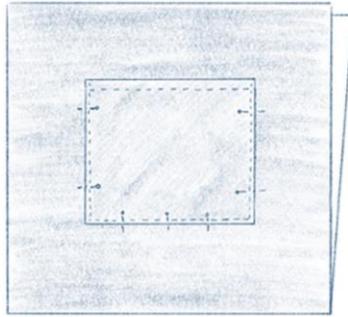


Top stitch at  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm)

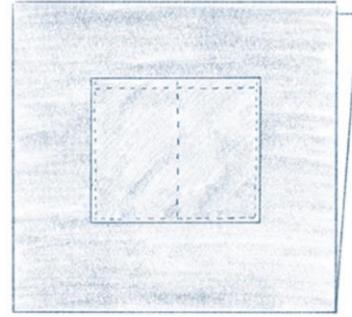
Fold the pocket in half lengthwise, right-sides together. Pin in place and sew along the sides and top leaving a 2" opening along the side edge. Turn right-side out and hand stitch or topstitch\* the opening closed.

*Optional: Topstitch along all four sides of the pocket to create a nice clean finish.*

# Step 5: Attach the Pocket to the Outer Bag



Pin and sew pocket in place,  
sewing the gap closed

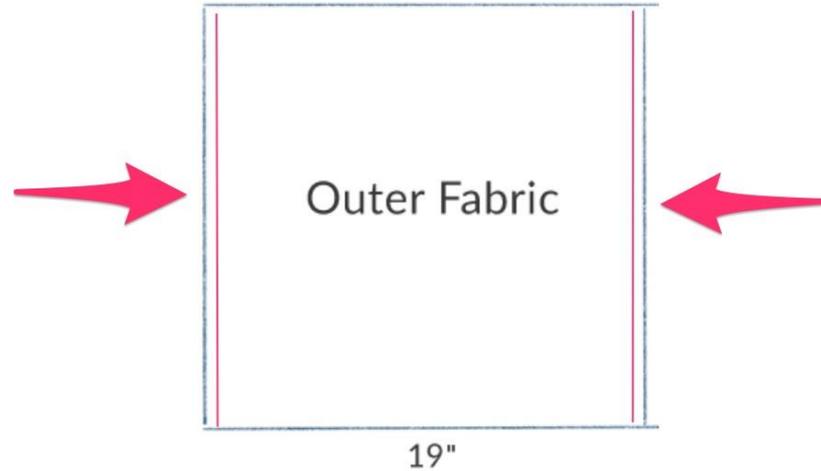


**OPTIONAL:**  
Divide pocket in half

Align the pocket to the outer fabric piece. We centered the pocket and pinned it 5" from the top edge but the pocket placement is up to you! Sew the pocket in place along the sides and bottom with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Stitch on top of topstitching if available.

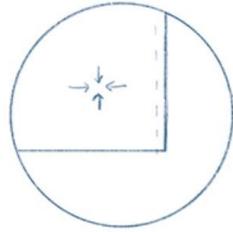
*Optional: For a pocket with two compartments divide the width of the pocket in half and stitch a straight line from the bottom to the top of the pocket.*

## Step 6: Sew the Outer Bag Together

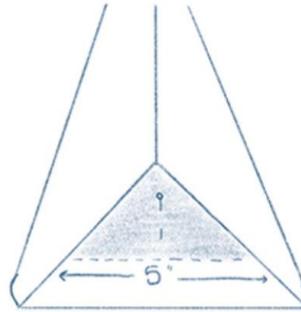


With the pocket piece secured in place, take the outer fabric piece and fold it in half with right-sides together. Pin and sew along the sides, making sure to leave the top open.

# Step 7: Square the Bottom of the Bag



From the corner,  
pinch out from  
both sides



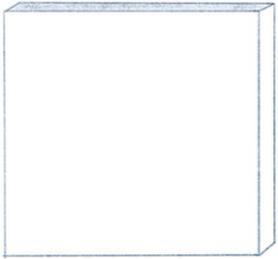
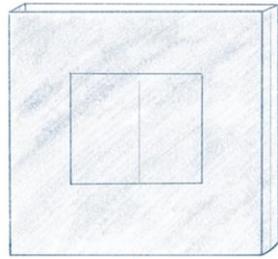
**optional**

With your outer fabric piece still inside out, pinch and pull apart one of the bottom corners. Flatten the bag so that the side seam and bottom seam are aligned. On the corner point, measure in and draw a 5" horizontal line (bottom of triangle). Repeat on the other corner. Stitch along the horizontal lines in each corner, backstitch at each end and trim the excess.

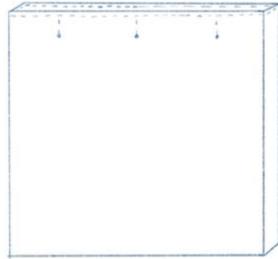
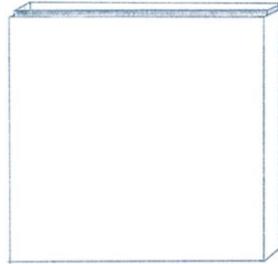
Repeat for lining pieces.

# Step 8: Attach the Bag Lining to the Outer Bag

Place outer lining piece inside of the interior lining piece, right sides together



3" gap in interior liner is here



Align the tops, pin and stitch in place

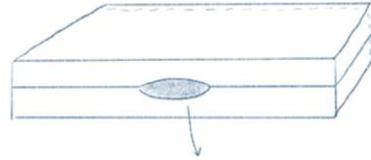
Take the outer fabric piece and *turn it right-side out*. Place it inside the interior lining piece, right sides together.

Carefully match the side seams, pin and stitch along the top edge.

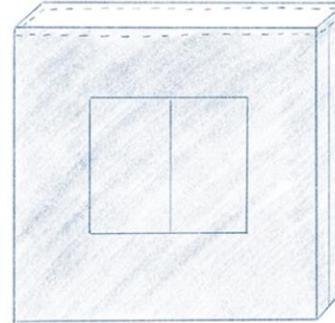
**If you would like to enclose your straps in between the two layers for a clean finish:**

Sandwich each strap between right sides of fabric, and pin with 1.25" of excess strap sticking out at top. I placed each strap 5" from side seam. Backstitch across straps when stitching along top edge for additional reinforcement.

# Step 9: Turn the Bag Right Side Out



Turn bag right side out through the gap



Top stitch at  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) seam allowance

Flip the bag right side out through the gap we left in the bottom of the interior lining. Hand stitch or edgestitch the 3" gap closed and topstitch around the top of the bag.

**If straps are already installed, add additional row of topstitching ~1in from top edge for additional reinforcement for straps. Backstitch along strap width.**

# Alternate Strap Installation Methods:

Fold raw edge and press to underside of strap. Pin in area you would like and topstitch handle to outer bag surface. Topstitch in rectangle, with optional X added for reinforcement.



Add a leather handle kit!! Our favorite ones come from **Klum House** (a Portland company with fantastic supplies and maker kits for numerous bags).





🏆 That's it! You've just made your own Everyday Tote ready to rock around Craftcation, to the beach, to the store—wherever your heart desires!

We would love to see your creations on social media. Be sure to tag @spoonflower and @dearhandmadelife in your posts so we can see your handmade bags in action. 😊 🧵 ❤️

*Thank you for joining us!*