

ASSEMBLE THE TOTE BAG

Step 3: Make the Handles

- Fold the 4" x 30" strips in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. Press to create a crease.
- Fold the raw edges in to the center crease. Press.
- Fold in half with folded edges matching. Raw edges will be in the center of the folded strip. Clip or pin the edge.
- Top stitch 1/8" down both sides of the handle.
- Repeat for the second handle.

Step 4: Sew the Bag

- Fold the 20" x 34" outside fabric in half with wrong sides together to form a 20" x 17" rectangle, and press a crease.
- Mark 2" from the crease and draw a line – this is the location for the Outside Pocket.
- Lay the outer bag on the fusible fleece, Bosal Fusible Foam, or Pellon Fusible Flex Foam. Fuse the bag to the foam. Trim the edges.
- Place the pocket with the piecing side facing up on the marked line and pin in place.
- Topstitch 1/4" from the bottom edge of the pocket. Sew at least one line from the top to the bottom of the pocket to create two sections.
- Secure the sides of the pocket by sewing 1/8" from the side edges (inside the 1/4" seam allowance)
- Refold the bag, right sides together, and use 1/4" seam allowance to sew the side seams of the bag. Leave the top open.

Step 5: Create the Bag Bottom

Demonstration: Fold the bottom corner to form a triangle. Measure 1 1/2" along the seam line and draw a line. The line should measure 3", the width of the bottom of the bag. Sew on the drawn line. Trim 1/4" from the stitched line. Repeat for the other corner.

Step 6: Sew the Lining:

Inside pocket: Fold the inside pocket fabric in half with wrong sides together to form a 20" x 8½" rectangle. Use ¼" seam allowance to sew along the raw edge.

Turn the pocket right side out. Press.

Fold the lining fabric in half and press. From this pressed crease, measure 3" toward the top edge (raw edge) and draw a line; place the inside pocket on the right side of the lining fabric along the drawn line.

Topstitch the inside pocket in place along the bottom edge; secure the sides of the pocket by sewing ⅛" from the side edges (inside the ¼" seam allowance).

To make dividers in the pocket, sew two lines from the top to the bottom edges of the pocket. If you want to be able to slide your cell phone into this pocket, sew the two lines 5" apart. Mark the center of the pocket; measure 2½" on both side of the center mark and draw lines to stitch the pockets.

Repeat Steps 3 and 4 to sew the lining of the bag, except leave a 8" opening on one side of the lining to be able to turn the bag after it is sewn together.

Step 7 Assemble the Bag:

The outer bag should still be wrong side out. Insert the lining inside the outside bag with right sides together.

Position the lining so the outside pocket is on one side and the inside pocket is on the opposite side. Line up the side seams and pin in place.



Determine how long you want your handles to be and cut the handles to that size. Place one handle about 4" from the side seams between the outside and lining, aligning raw edges of the handle with the raw edge of the top of the bag. Check to make sure the handle is straight and not twisted. Repeat with the second handle on the opposite side.

Using ½" seam allowance, stitch around the top edge of your bag. Turn the bag right side out through the hole you left in the lining. Sew the opening closed by hand or machine.

Step 8 Finish the Bag:

Topstitch ¼" from the edge around the top of the bag. This keeps the lining inside the bag and adds additional security for the handles. Your bag is finished and ready to hold supplies for your next quilt retreat or the beach!

Tip: Sewing through paper dulls the needle. Now that your tote bag is finished, put a new needle in your machine and it will be ready for your next project.



Thank you for joining me for this AQS Let's Quilt: Foundation Paper Pieced class. Now you know that you can make pieced blocks with accurate piecing and sharp points and you have a new pillow and a tote bag to show off your efforts!

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