

# Quilted Tote Bag

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Ready to make a quilted tote that's the ideal size for your sewing tools, a small gift or even your lunch? I'm excited to share a quilted bag tutorial for beginners or anyone looking for a fun and rewarding sewing project! You can easily make this bag with fabric from your stash and create a useful little tote that is fun to make or give as a gift.



Fully lined with a quilted outer panel to give the bag a nice structure, the finished bag is 13" tall with a 13"-wide opening when flattened. This quilted bag is inspired by the wonderful [tote bag tutorial](#) by my friend Mary, who blogs with me at Craft Buds. If you are looking for a non-quilted tote bag with jute handles, check out her free pattern in two sizes!

Using the measurements for her small tote, I've incorporated a pieced outer fabric panel and contrasting fabric handle to show off different fabric prints: the fabric shown is [Snow Day](#) by Maude Asbury for Blend

Fabrics. I've also changed up the way the bag and lining are attached. Read on for my full quilted bag tutorial, which you can sew up in as little as 1 hour!

## Materials:

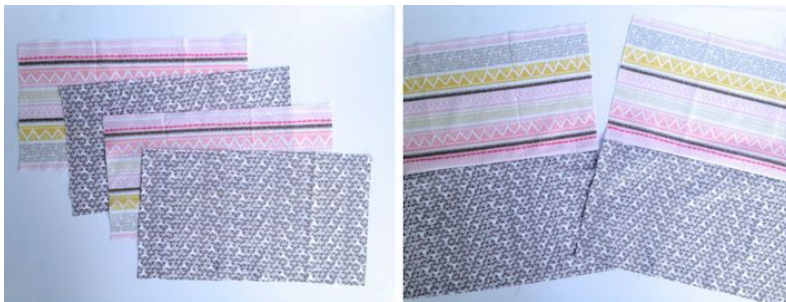
**Outer Fabric:** *Print A:* 2 pieces 15" wide x 8" tall;  
*Print B:* 2 pieces 15" wide x 8" tall

**Lining Fabric:** 2 pieces 15" x 15"

**Batting:** 2 pieces 15" x 15"

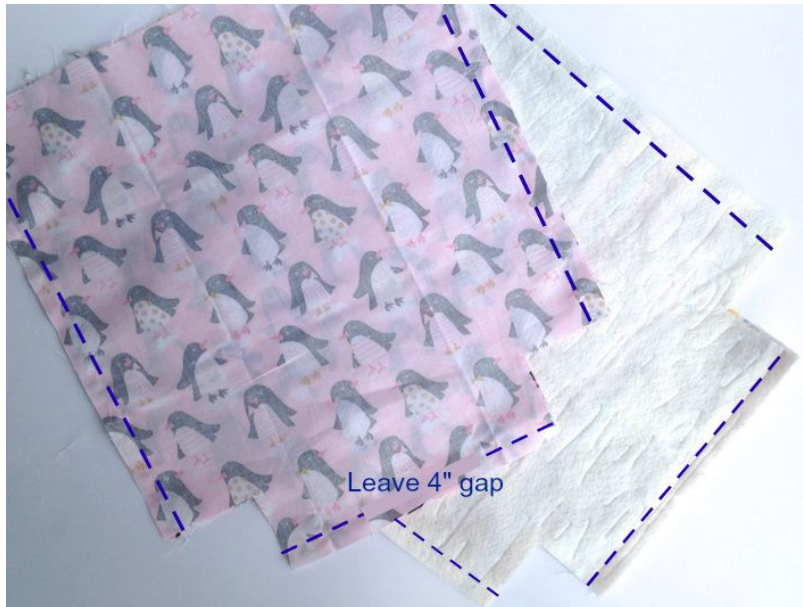
**Handle Fabric:** 2 pieces 3" x 14"

## Directions:



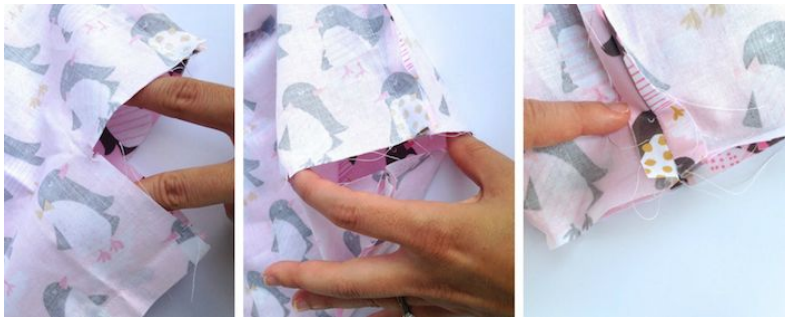
1. First, grab your 4 panels of outer fabric (pictured left: 2 from print A and 2 from print B). With the right sides of the fabric facing, sew together two different panels along a 15" edge. Repeat with the second set. Press the seams of both panels open (pictured right).

Place 1 outer fabric panel on quilt batting and quilt as desired. Repeat with the other panel and batting square.



2. Next, stack the two lining panels with right sides facing and cut out a rectangle that is 2 1/2" tall and 3" wide from each of the bottom corners. Repeat with the quilter bag panels.

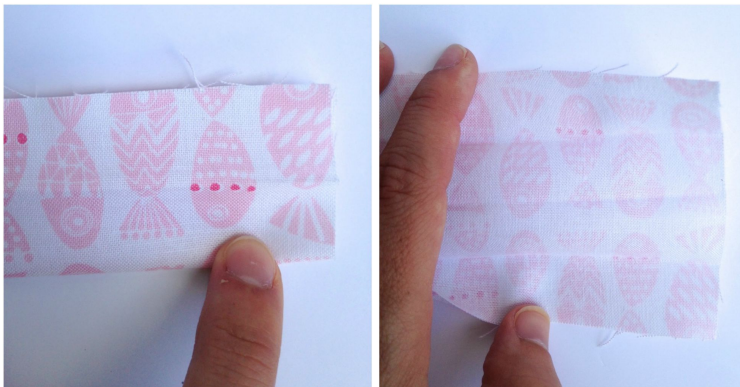
Using a 3/8" seam allowance, stitch up the left, right and bottom sides of the stacked outer panel pieces, avoiding the corners. Repeat with the lining panels, except leave a 4" wide gap for turning in the middle of the lining bottom. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam.



3. Use your fingers to open up the corners of the lining with cut-out squares, flattening them so that the seams are aligned. Press the seams open and pin them flat. This is called boxing the corners of your tote bag. Repeat this process with the corners of the quilted bag panel.



4. Stitch across the pinned lining corners with a 3/8" seam allowance. Repeat with the quilted bag panel.



5. Take your 3" x 14" fabric strips for the handles and fold them in half to make a long skinny strip (pictured left). Press. Unfold and fold each of the raw edges in to meet the center line. Press. The photo on the right shows what your strap will look like unfolded. This is the basic method for making a 4-fold strap.



6. Fold each the handle raw edges back to the center line and fold in half again as you did before. Topstitch the 14" long handles on both long sides, stitching 1/8" from the edge to secure.





7. Turn the quilted bag right side out. Find the center of the quilted bag front and place a pin to mark it. Measure 3" to the left and 3" to the right of that point, and begin your strap along those points. Pin the handles in place, raw edges touching the raw edges of the bag top. Make sure the strap is not twisted. Repeat with the other bag handle.



8. Baste or stitch the handles in place on the quilted bag using an 1/8" seam allowance.



9. Place the quilted bag (turned *right side out*) inside the lining fabric (turned *wrong side out*). This means the right sides of both fabrics will be touching. Pin along the top edges, making sure the seams are aligned and the handles are pushed inside. Stitch together where you've pinned with a 3/8" seam allowance.



10. Turn the bag right side out through the hole in the lining, stuffing the lining back inside the quilted bag. Press. Making sure handles are pushed out of the way, topstitch the bag opening 1/4" from the edge to reinforce the seam. Machine stitch the opening in the lining closed.

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