

SEW A SIMPLE SQUARE BOTTOM TOTE BAG

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What you need:

- 20" squares of the same pattern fabric OR 1 piece, 20" wide and 40" long to be folded in half
- 2 matching pieces of above fabric for handles, 4" wide and at least 28" long (most fabric is 54" long, so if you cut one 4" strip, you have 2 handles)
- Matching thread

What to do:

1. Place one square on top of the other with the right sides together; keep the salvage edge (uncut edge) at the top – if you have a salvage edge
2. Set your sewing machine for a straight stitch
3. Sew a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam on all sides except the top **AND** the bottom **IF** the bottom is a fold
4. Set your sewing machine to a zigzag stitch
5. Treating the seam allowance as one piece, zigzag all seam edges you have just sewn. This will prevent fraying of fabric edge.

Hem Top

1. Set sewing machine and turn on iron
2. Fold over about 1" or top and press down
3. Fold over again making the top hem a good inch and double thick
4. Stitch both the top and the bottom of this fold

Dog Ear Corners

1. Line up bottom seam at center and measure up about $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
2. Iron in place
3. Draw line measurement
4. Stitch across several times to reinforce
5. Do both bottom corners

Straps

1. Fold strap in half lengthwise and iron
2. Open up strap and fold each edge to middle crease and iron
3. Fold the middle over again and iron
4. Stitch down both long edges of straps
5. Zigzag the 1" raw edge of the straps
6. Pin straps to inside of top 3" in from the side edge of the bag; **make sure they are not twisted**. Sew straps to bag making a box with an X in the middle.