

## Totebag—when front panel is complete—here are steps to finishing the bag:

Supplies: completed front totebag panel, 2 strips of 1" webbing 29" long, backing (bag lining) fabric and a piece of batting each approx. 20" x 35".

Press the top panel for the totebag and the backing fabric (bag lining) well.

To complete:

1. Layer totebag panel against batting and backing (bag lining) fabric. Be sure backing fabric is facing down.
2. Pin layers together with just a few pins.
3. Quilt evenly as you please. Trim the excess batting and liner.
4. Finish all edges of the quilted panel by serging or zig-zag stitching. An alternative is to use double fold binding.

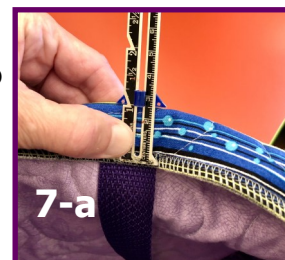
5. a. Mark with pencil or pin 5-1/2" from both of the side edges of panel on the top and bottom inside edges. On the top side of the panel place one end of the handle webbing against the inside of each mark with raw edge to the top and pin in place as in picture 5-a .  
b. Secure each end of the handle in place with just a few stitches or with a pin. Repeat with the other handle on the bottom edge of the panel.



6. a. Fold the bag right sides together pinning side seams.  
b. Stitch side seams leaving about 3/8" seam allowance. Repeat stitching to reinforce seams. Press seams open.

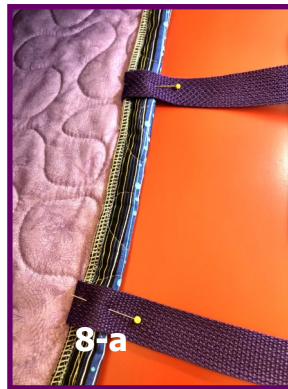


7. a. Fold the top edges of the totebag down 1" to 1-1/2" all the way around with the side seams open. The handles will be laying down inside the bag.  
b. Stitch all around the the opening of the totebag about 3/4" to 1-1/4" from the folded edge (about 1/4" from the serged or zig-zag edge).



8. a. Pull the handles up and pin in place.

b. At each handle strip, stitch back and forth a few times about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top of the folded bag edge through all layers to secure the handle.

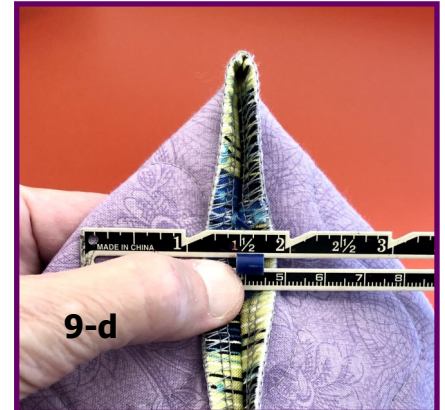


9. Make 3" box pleats at the bottom of the bag.

a. With bag turned inside out, insert a pin along the folded bottom edge of the bag about 3" from each corner.



b and c. With your fingers resting on the pin, open the seam with your thumb. Pinch together, lining the open seam with the pin behind it, as shown in photo 9-b and 9-c.



d. Using a small ruler, place the 1-1/2" mark in line with the open seam. Raise or lower the ruler along that seam line until the triangle above it, as shown in photo 9-c measures 3".

e Pin along that 3" line. Remove the pin from step 9-a .



f Sew along that line, reinforcing the stitches at the beginning, across the side seam, and at the end of the 3" line.



10. Turn bag right side out and use your fingers to push the pleats fully in place so that the bottom of the bag is in a box shape.

**YOU ARE FINISHED !!** Now enjoy your bag or give it to someone else to enjoy!

