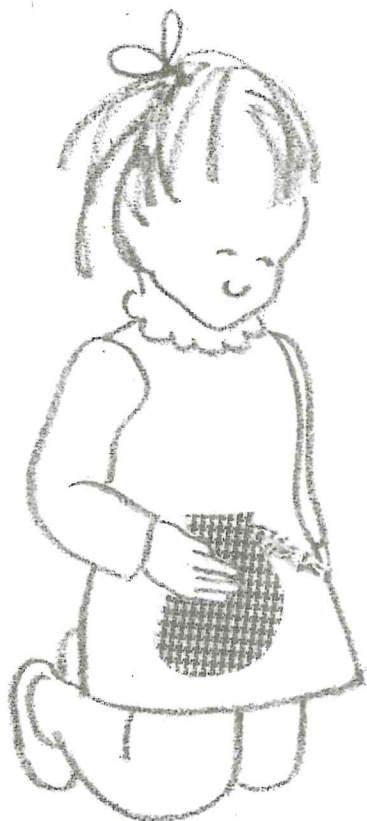


Tote bags can be constructed with handles or drawstrings. Use a purchased pattern or your own idea for the handles.



# Tote Bag

You can use a tote bag for many things. As you sew, think about how you'll use yours.

## What You Need

fabric 10 inches by 24 inches

1 yard of cord or narrow ribbon for drawstrings  
matching thread

If you want to make a different size tote bag, you may. Here are suggestions for sizes, or you may choose any other size you find useful.

### For a medium size bag, use:

fabric 18 inches by 36 inches

1 and ½ yards of cord or narrow ribbon for drawstrings

### For a large size bag, use:

fabric 24 inches by 40 inches

2 yards of cord or narrow ribbon for drawstrings  
or

fabric 24 inches by 54 inches

2 and ⅓ yards of cord or narrow ribbon for drawstrings

## How to Make a Tote Bag

- With a regular stitch length (10 to 12 stitches per inch), stitch ¼ inch from the edge on both ends of your fabric. See Figure 35a.

- Fold the fabric under to the wrong side along the row of stitching and press. Place a row of regular stitching close to the folded edge. See Figure 35b.

- Measure down 2 inches from the folded edges for the small bag or 3 inches for the medium or large bag. Make a small dot with a pencil. See Figure 35c.

- Fold the right sides of the fabric together. Pin the side seams from the bottom fold to the dot. Stitch each side in a ⅝-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch seam from the bottom fold to the dot. Backstitch at both ends of the stitching. See Figure 35d.

- Press the side seams open, including the ⅝-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch seam allowance above the dot. See Figure 35e.

- From the top, stitch close to the fold of the seam allowance. Stitch to the dot, across one or two stitches and up the other side. Repeat for other side of tote bag. See Figure 35f.

- Fold down 1 inch from the top for the small bag or 1½ inch for the medium or large bag to make a hem. Pin. Machine stitch close to the edge of the hem. Stitch again ½ inch from the top of the hem to form a casing for drawstrings. See Figure 35g.

- Cut the material for drawstrings in half. Fasten a safety pin to one end of the drawstring. Insert one drawstring through the front casing, starting at the opening in one side seam. Insert the other end of the drawstring through the back casing. See Figure 36a.

- Starting at the opposite side seam, insert the second drawstring through the casings. Tie a knot at each end of the drawstrings. See Figure 36b.