Easy Tote Tutorial

Materials Needed:

- ¾ yd each of two complementing fabrics (I use canvas-like decorator fabrics for a sturdier tote)
- 1 yd fusible interfacing

1. Cut 2 17"x21" rectangles from each fabric.

2. Iron the fabric you've chosen for the Outside to fusible interfacing. Trim the edges.

3. Construct Outer Bag: Match up the pieces, right sides together, and sew around left, bottom, and right sides to make a "pouch."

4. Construct Lining: Repeat process above with Lining fabric. *Optional:* If you want to add pockets, sew the pockets to the lining first, then construct the Lining (see Pocket Tutorial at bottom).

5. Bend the corners and sew across. Repeat process for the lining.

6. Make Straps:
   a. Determine the finished length and width of your straps (I like 1 ½"x28" finished). Cut two strips from your fabric—the width should be double the finished width plus 1" for seam allowance.
   b. Lay each strip right side down and press in ½" seam on each side. Fold in half and iron again. Top stitch close to edge.
   c. *Optional:* For a more "custom" look and sturdier strap, repeat steps a and b above with the alternating fabric and top stitch both fabrics together.

7. Pin straps to the Outer Bag as shown and baste in place. Remove pins.

8. Turn outside in.

9. Tuck the Lining into the Outer Bag so that the right sides are together (pockets and straps will be inside—not seen).

10. Pin pieces together at top, starting with the sides so that seams match up.

11. Sew across top, leaving a space (at least 5") open to turn the bag right side out.

12. Turn bag right side out.

13. Press the open seams inward.

14. Press entire top of the bag and top stitch a seam around the top.

Pocket Tutorial

1. Determine the size of your pocket and cut two pieces of fabric. Sew right sides together, all the way around, leaving a few inches open to pull inside out. Turn the pocket right side out and press open seams inward.

2. Pin pocket to the lining. Top stitch around the left, bottom, and right sides.

3. If you want to make two pockets from one, top stitch down the middle (this requires making the pocket wider to begin with).