



National Sewing Month bonus download: tote bag
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I don't know about you, but I spend a lot of time waiting. Waiting for appointments. Waiting to pick up kids. Waiting at the park while they play. And I find myself wishing that I had something to read, something to jot down notes – anything to help pass the time. As I put this simple totebag together, I knew it could be my waiting bag. It's sized to hold a couple of magazines and a novel, and the front pockets are perfect for a small notebook, a pack of gum, or even a cell phone. I plan to keep mine stocked and in my car for the next time I have a few minutes of downtime. This size also makes a perfect tote for a trip to the library. Grab some fabric and your Fiskars sewing tools, and you'll have your own totebag ready in just a couple of hours.



Gather all of your tools. You'll need a cutting mat, a ruler, scissors, pinking shears, and a rotary trimmer. You'll also need $\frac{1}{2}$ yard each of 2 coordinating fabrics.



Using the rotary trimmer, cut two 12x14in rectangles from each fabric.



Using the pinking sheers, cut 1 6.5x7 in rectangle from the accent fabric and 1 3.25x4.25 in rectangle from the main fabric. I found it helpful to create a template from scrap paper to make it easier to cut in a straight line.



Fold the top edge of the fabric back $\frac{1}{4}$ in and press into place with an iron on both rectangles. Sew along that edge with a zigzag stitch.



Lay the smaller rectangle on top of the larger one. Stitch around the right, bottom and left sides, creating a small pocket.



Center the fabric you've been working with on 1 piece of the main fabric. Stitch around the right, bottom and left to create a pocket.



Stitch 3 buttons to the main pocket.



Trim a strip of the main fabric that measures 32in x 5in. Press in half, right side in.



Sew along the open seam, and then use pinking shears to cut away the excess fabric. Flip the strap right side out and press flat.



Take both rectangles of your main fabric and lay them right sides facing together. Pin along the edges.

Stitch around 3 sides, leaving the top completely open. Repeat with your accent fabric.



While the main fabric bag you've just created is still inside out, fold down the top edge about 1in and press into place. Repeat with the accent fabric bag. Turn the main fabric bag right side out and iron the seams flat.



Slide the accent fabric bag inside of the main fabric bag. Pin the two together along the top. Take the strap that you created and pin it between the 2 bags at the sides. Take a minute to try the bag on and see if you'd like to make the strap shorter – I ended up taking a few inches off of mine at this step because I'm short.



Stitch around the top of the bag using a zigzag stitch.



Now that you have the basic construction down, you can alter the dimensions and make a tote for any occasion. Make it bigger to carry towels to the beach, or size it down to make a simple purse. Have fun mixing and matching fabrics to make the perfect bag for you!

Supply List:

Fiskars 12-97937097 45mm Comfort Grip Rotary Trimmer

Fiskars : 12-87287097 3.5x18.5in easy to read ruler

Fiskars : 12-83717097 18x24in Cutting mat

Fiskars : 12-9898 softgrip pinking shears

Fiskars : 12-9476 7097 No 5 Softgrip MicroTip Scissors

Fiskars : 12-87327097 6.5x24.5in Easy To Read Ruler

Fiskars : 12-5977 12-in-1 Sewing Multi-Tool

Other: ½ yard floral fabric, ½ yard aqua polka dot fabric, 3 buttons, brown thread

