

# TOTE BAG LARGE

Goal: To make a tote that is strong and large enough for a child to use to carry their possessions.

The pattern below is assuming you will purchase material that is strong like denim, gaberdine, or home decoration material.

The tote should be at least 23 inches wide and 25 inches long. The pocket should be double material for strength. The straps should be about 23 inches long.

Bright Hopes will add a saying block with positive words and a label that has a line for the person to put their name.

This pattern will make two large totes.

Material: Buy 1 1/4 yards of denim or other sturdy fabric. The width should be 54 to 60 inches.

## Cutting directions:

1. Wash the fabric and iron flat.
2. Fold in half lengthwise with selvages matching. Trim off the selvage.
3. Measure in from the fold 3 1/2 inches and mark. Do this the full length of the fabric.
4. Cut along the fold and along the markings.
5. Fold the strips in half and cut. These will be the straps, 3 1/2" by approximately 23"
6. The rest will be the body of the tote.

## To make straps:

1. Iron the strap in half.
2. Fold the edges to the center and iron
3. Repeat for the second strap.
4. Fold the strap with the edges meeting the center line and folded in half. Sew along the edge, across the bottom, back up the other side, and across the top.
5. Repeat for the other strap.
6. Or make your straps How you prefer .
7. Your finished strap should be about 1 1/2" wide.

## Pocket:

1. Use a quilt block that is backed and quilted for the pocket. It is best if the pocket is at least 12 inches X 12 inches.
2. Cut a backing the size of the block.
3. Place the backing and the block together with right sides together.

4. Sew around the edges leaving an opening big enough to turn the block right side out.
5. Turn the block right side out and iron.
6. Top stitch around the block
7. Place the pocket on the right side of the tote body.
8. Measure at least 6 inches down from the top.
9. Center from the sides.
10. Stitch on the sides and bottom.
11. Stitch again 1/4inch inside the other seam.

## Tote body

1. Fold wrong sides together.
2. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam on each side.
3. Turn the tote wrong side out and iron seams down.
4. Stitch  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch seam on each side.
5. Turn under and stitch the raw edge on the top of the tote.
6. Make a hem at the top of around 1 inch.
7. Make a pleat in bottom of the tote.
8. Flatten out bottom with a triangle on each side seam.
9. Here is a link on how to do boxed bottoms.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e1l\\_FMnp9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e1l_FMnp9I)
10. Stitch across the end where the width is 2 to 3 inches.
11. Place the straps on top of the tote. Measure in 5 inches from the side seam.
12. Place ends of the straps even with the bottom of the hem on top of the tote.
13. Stitch down on the bottom of the strap.
14. Stitch the top of the tote all around going slowly over the seams and straps.

Repeat to make the second tote.