

Beach Tote

Beach anyone? Who could resist this bright and happy looking tote for their next day outdoors? Featuring a chunky top zip and snappy contrast handles, this large over-the-shoulder tote also has zippered and elastic topped pockets inside to keep your essentials safely tucked away. This is a quick and easy bag to make, and is perfect for showing off a fun bright summery print.



Bag Dimensions are 14 inches wide at the base x 15 inches high and 5 inches deep.

You Will Need:

1¼ metres (1½ yards) fabric for bag outer (we used a cotton canvas fabric. This decorator fabric was 150cm/60 inches wide and we only needed ¾ metre.)

1¼ metres (1½ yards) fabric for bag lining and handles

2 metres (2¼ yards) medium-weight fusible interfacing

1 metre (1¼ yard) light-weight fusible pellon

Piece template plastic measuring 5 inches x 14 inches

1 x 20 inch chunky plastic zip in a colour to match

1 x 6 inch zip for inner pocket

Approx. 30cm/12 inch length of 2cm/ $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide elastic

4 x "O" Rings with a 5 cm/2 inch inner diameter

Bag Construction:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, interfacing and pellon as required. Fuse the interfacing and pellon to the wrong side of the pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. The bag outer pieces usually have both interfacing and pellon; the lining is just interfaced.

Handles:

Fold the handle tabs in half lengthways and press to make a crease. Fold in each side to meet that line, before re-folding, so that each tab has four thicknesses of fabric. Pin, and topstitch down each side.

Iron the strip of pellon down the centre of each of the two handles, and then fold up and press the long sides along the edge of the pellon, so that they meet in the middle, over the centre of the handle strip. Also fold over and press a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance at each of the short ends of the strip.

Fold the handle over, and pin and topstitch around all sides.



Fold one end of a tab through one of the "O" rings and back onto itself as shown. Fold over so that $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of the tab is on the wrong side of the tab.

Pin and sew across about 1 inch down from the "O" ring, to secure it.

Repeat for the remaining three tabs, making sure your stitched lines match up evenly.



Now add a handle between two tabs.

As before, loop through 1½ inches of the handle end through the “O” ring and sew a skinny rectangle to secure that end.

Repeat with the other end and a second tab, taking care that the right and wrong sides match.

Make both handles.



Sew the tabs to your bag front and back outer panels as shown.

Measure in 5 inches from the bottom corners, and pin your tabs in place with right side up, so that the raw edges are aligned.

Sew from the bottom up one side of the tab on the topstitching, across the top on the stitching, and back down the other side. (Reverse a couple of times across the top, so you have a good strong seam.)

Lining:

Now prepare the lining. One side of the lining has an inset zippered pocket, and the other has a large patch pocket with a simple elasticised top.



To make the large pocket, fold the large pocket panel in half with right sides together along the 17 inch side. Folded it measures 12½ x 8½ inches.

Sew down both sides, stopping 1 inch from the folded edge.

Turn right sides out and press.

Slide the elastic along the top and through the gaps left at the top folded edge as shown.



Sew one end of the elastic securely to the pocket and trim any elastic sticking out on that side.

Sew a line under the elastic to make a channel for it to sit in.

Stretch the elastic slightly to gather the top as shown - gather so the top measures about 10 inches, then sew the other end to secure, and trim any excess elastic.



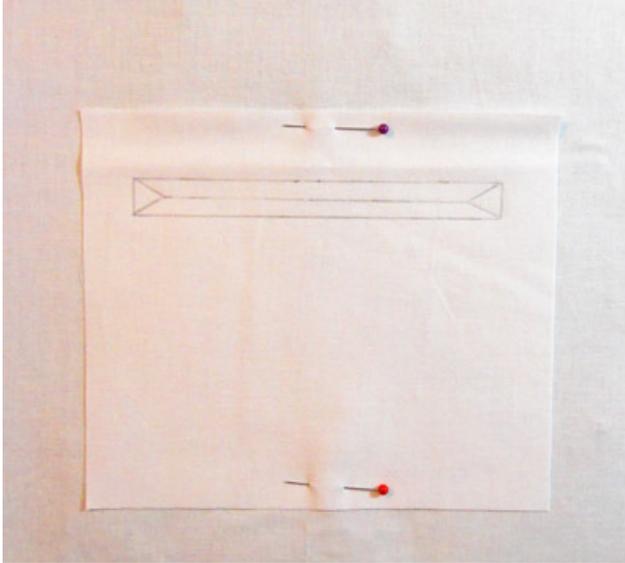
Fold to find the centre points, and pin the bottom of your pocket to the centre bottom of one lining panel, so raw edges are even. Sew across the bottom.

Straighten one side edge of the pocket and pin and sew it, then pull to straighten the other side and sew it to the lining as well.

Your lining panel will bunch up a little, but this is OK and will be fixed when you sew your bag together.

Then insert the zippered pocket on the other lining side panel.

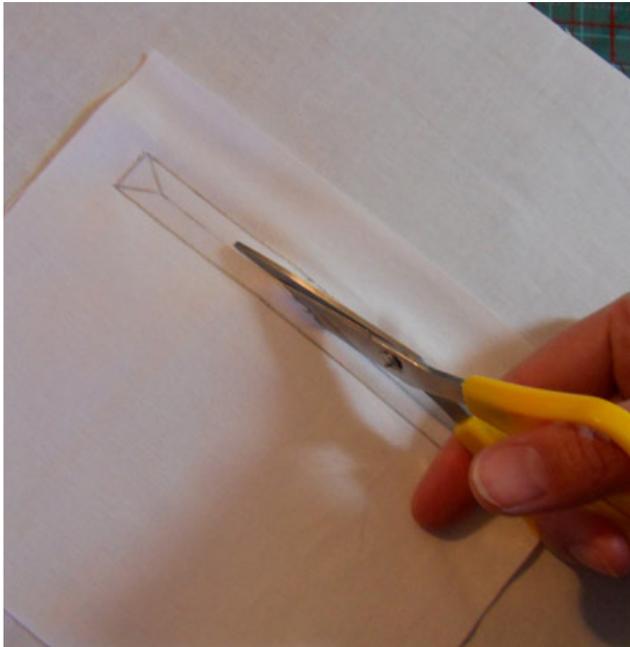
(This example is on white to make it easier to see.)



To start, mark and make a hole for the zip. To do this, use a fabric marking pen or lead pencil on the wrong side of one pocket piece and draw a rectangle 6 inches long and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1cm) high as shown. This rectangle needs to be drawn at least 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (2.5 - 4cm) down from the top of your pocket piece.

Then draw a centre line along the rectangle, with a 'V' shape at each end as shown.

Position the pocket piece on the right side of one bag lining panel, centred and 4 inches down from the top raw edge.



Sew together along the marked outside lines of the rectangle.

Taking care not to cut the stitching, then cut along the marked centre line and along the 'V' shapes to the corners of the rectangle.



Pull the pocket piece through the hole to the wrong side of the pocket panel and carefully press seams on both sides to flatten.

With right sides up, then position the zip carefully under the hole, (so that the zip is also facing up), and pin in place. Using your zipper foot, topstitch around all four edges of the rectangular hole to secure the zip in position.

(Note – the zip is slightly longer than the hole, so you will need to centre the zip and trim the ends after sewing in place.)



To finish the pocket, turn the panel over so that the wrong sides are facing up, and lay the remaining pocket piece face down on top of the first.

Pin all edges together and carefully sew all sides of the pocket together, taking care not to catch the bag panel as you go.

Assembly:



Before you can assemble your bag, you need to finish the zip. The top chunky zip has a tab folded over each end.

Fold up and press the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance on two opposite sides of your zip tab squares. Fold the tab over the end of the zipper and carefully sew the tab securely, taking care to catch both sides of the tab.

Before sewing the second tab, lay the zip along the top of one of your bag outer panels to check the measurement. The end of the tab should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in from the side edge of the bag outer panel. The zipper will also need to finish in a matching distance from the other side, so trim your zipper to size if you need to, before sewing on the second tab.



Lay the zipper face down on one bag outer panel (so right sides are together), then lay one lining panel on top, right sides down, as pictured.

Line up the fabric edges with the zipper tape edge, and pin and sew together using your zipper foot.

Stop and start at the end of the zipper tab, leaving the last little bit unsewn.



Open out and topstitch along that seam – starting and ending about $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch in from each side.

Repeat to insert the other side of the zip with the remaining bag panels.

Open out and topstitch along the seam when finished.



Finally, flip the halves of the bag over, so that the bag outers are right sides together to the left, and the linings are right sides together to the right.

Unzip the zipper.

Now sew up the sides. You may find it easier to do this in two stages, as the zip is a bit lumpy to sew past. Sew up to it as far as you can, then stop and sew the other half of that seam down the side. Repeat to sew the other side of the bag.

Lay the un-interfaced lining base piece on the wrong side of the base piece with pellon, and sew down each side with a scant seam. Make sure to keep one end open as this forms the 'pocket' for your template plastic base stiffener.

As we did, you may like to trim and slightly round the corners of your base pieces.

Fold the base and the lower end of the bag outer in half to find the centre points and mark with pins. Then pin the base in place at the bottom of your bag with right sides together, and sew.

Trim the template plastic to fit, before inserting it into the base pocket and turning bag right sides out. (Round the corners of the plastic slightly too, to take off the sharp points before inserting it.)



Now repeat with your lining base.

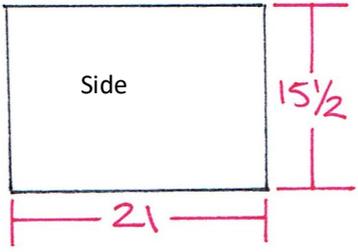
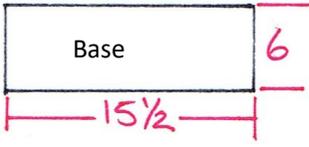
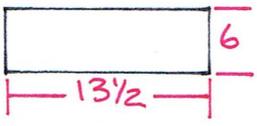
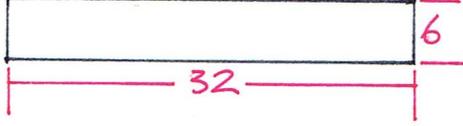
Pin the base in place, with right sides together, and sew, making sure to leave most of one side unsewn, to turn the bag through later.

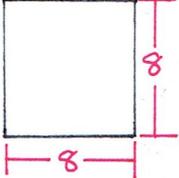
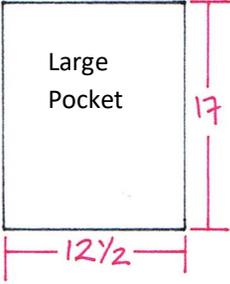
Carefully turn your bag through the gap left in the lining.

Tuck in the seam allowances at the gap, and pin and topstitch closed, before pushing the lining into your bag outer to finish.



Beach Tote Cutting Guide

	<p>Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram.</p> <p>* Please note – all measurements are in inches.</p>
	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric Cut 2 lining fabric Cut 2 pellon Cut 4 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric Cut 2 lining fabric Cut 1 pellon Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing</p>
<p>Handle Tab</p> 	<p>Cut 4 lining fabric Cut 4 medium-weight interfacing</p>
<p>Handle</p> 	<p>Cut 2 lining fabric Cut 2 pellon (30 x 3 inches) Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing</p>

 <p>Zip Tab</p>	Cut 2 outer fabric
 <p>Zip Pocket</p>	Cut 2 outer fabric
 <p>Large Pocket</p>	Cut 1 outer fabric