

**Skill level 2
Strip-Quilted Tote**

Courtesy of Jo-Ann
Stores



Supplies:

- 6-10 assorted 45"-wide cotton fabrics, solid colors & prints
- 1/2 yd. 45" cotton fabric for lining
- 2 bamboo handles
- Garment-weight batting
- Matching thread
- Tracing paper

Tools:

- Quilting ruler
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine
- Pencil
- Iron

Directions:

Note: Place fabric pieces together with right sides facing. Use 1/4" seam allowance when sewing strips together & 1/2" seam allowance for all other sewing.

Cutting:

1. For tote front, cut 30 or more 16" strips 1-1/4" & 1-1/2" wide, from solid & print fabrics. (Cut enough fabric strips to form a rectangle approx. 24"x16".) Have straight grain of fabric parallel with long sides of strips.
2. For tote back, cut a 13"x15" rectangle of fabric.
3. Cut a 13"x30" rectangle from lining fabric.
4. Cut a 12"x28" rectangle of batting.
5. For fabric handle loops, cut four 2-1/4"x3" rectangles of fabric.

Making Front:

1. Varying strip widths & solid colors & prints, sew fabric strips together to make a rectangle approximately 24"x16".
2. Press seams to 1 side.
3. To make cutting patterns, draw a 7"x8" rectangle on tracing paper. On one long edge, mark 7" from top. Draw a diagonal line from mark to opposite top corner. Trace 3 times & cut out.
4. Arrange patterns on fabric strip rectangle, aligning diagonal lines on patterns with seams in strips; pin. Cut out rectangles. Sew rectangles together to make tote front.
5. Press seams open.

Making back:

1. With right sides facing, sew tote back to tote front, along 1 short and 2 long sides.
2. Clip across sewn corners.
3. Turn right side out; press. Fold the top edge 1/2" to inside; press.

Making lining:

1. With right sides facing, fold lining fabric in half to 13"x15".
2. Sew 15" sides.
3. Fold raw edges 1" to wrong side. Press.

Strip-Quilted Tote continued



Directions Continued:

4. Slip batting into tote, matching top edges.
5. Slip lining into tote & insert top edge of batting into top fold of lining.
6. Pin lining & batting to tote.

Making handles:

1. Fold both 3" edges of each fabric handle loop 1/8" to wrong side & press.
2. Right side facing out, fold in half lengthwise, matching folded edges; press.
3. Machine stitch close to folded edges.
4. Measure & mark top edges of tote with pins for location of handles, centering handles on either side of tote.
5. Slip fabric loops into handle loop, aligning raw ends; pin.
6. Have sewn edge of each loop facing outward. Insert bottom 1/2" of fabric loop between tote & lining. Machine stitch around top of tote, 1/8" from edge.

Finished Size: 12"x14", plus handles.

Skill Level: Some experience helpful

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