

Stir Crazy? Challenge #10

Stowable Tote Bags

Stowable Tote Bags by Rebekah Deep



I always keep a bag like this in my purse, and use it about as often as my lip balm. From unexpected purchases to a convenient way to carry the jacket you don't need after 11 am, this bag has you covered.

Be sure to post a photo of your Stowable Tote bag on Facebook and Instagram using the tags [#stircrazyvam](#) and [#vamtotes](#).

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- 18" x 24" piece of paper
- ½ to ¾ yard woven fabric (depending on width)
- 2 yards bias tape
- Ruler
- Paper scissors
- Fabric scissors
- Iron
- Sewing machine
- Thread

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print pattern PDFs. Follow instructions to convert tote bag pattern to full size.
2. Cut pattern pieces from woven fabric.
3. On both pouch pieces, fold top (long side) down ¼ inch toward inside, then another ¼ inch. Topstitch.
4. Lay out shorter pouch piece, front facing down. Place taller pouch piece on top, front facing up, lining up bottom and sides. Fold top down so that both pieces are of equal height. Finish sides and bottom with French seams.
5. Sew tote bag with French seams on sides and bottom. Use flat-felled seams to sew handles.
6. Finish top edges of bag with bias tape.
7. Connect pouch to bag: Place pouch, folded flap side down, along inside edge of one side of bag. The shorter, non-folded edge will be on top. Stitch along this un-folded edge, careful not to catch the folded-edge side (underneath) in the stitches. You don't need to stitch along the entire length, only a few inches.
8. Voila! To fold your bag, follow directions in the "Folding Instructions" PDF.

TIPS

- I prefer to use umbrella fabric, but any woven fabric will do.
- To make your own bias tape, simply cut 1" strips on the bias. Connect them into long bias tape by stitching them together on-grain.

PDF FILES

- Tote Bag Pattern
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jln2mWiVhXthKFsyCq5PIRpyumw0nDSo/view?usp=sharing>
- Pouch Pattern
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1626XltrAGpgXiewnqEpsN8o75ZBEzkcq/view?usp=sharing>
- Construction Guide
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FdIF5a6S5jr4d1axQ2wdBfk2NgxDmp-p/view?usp=sharing>
- Folding Instructions
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nC3vZMrcgThailj7ggUC9n7Yp7XA0PTG/view?usp=sharing>

