

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.



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



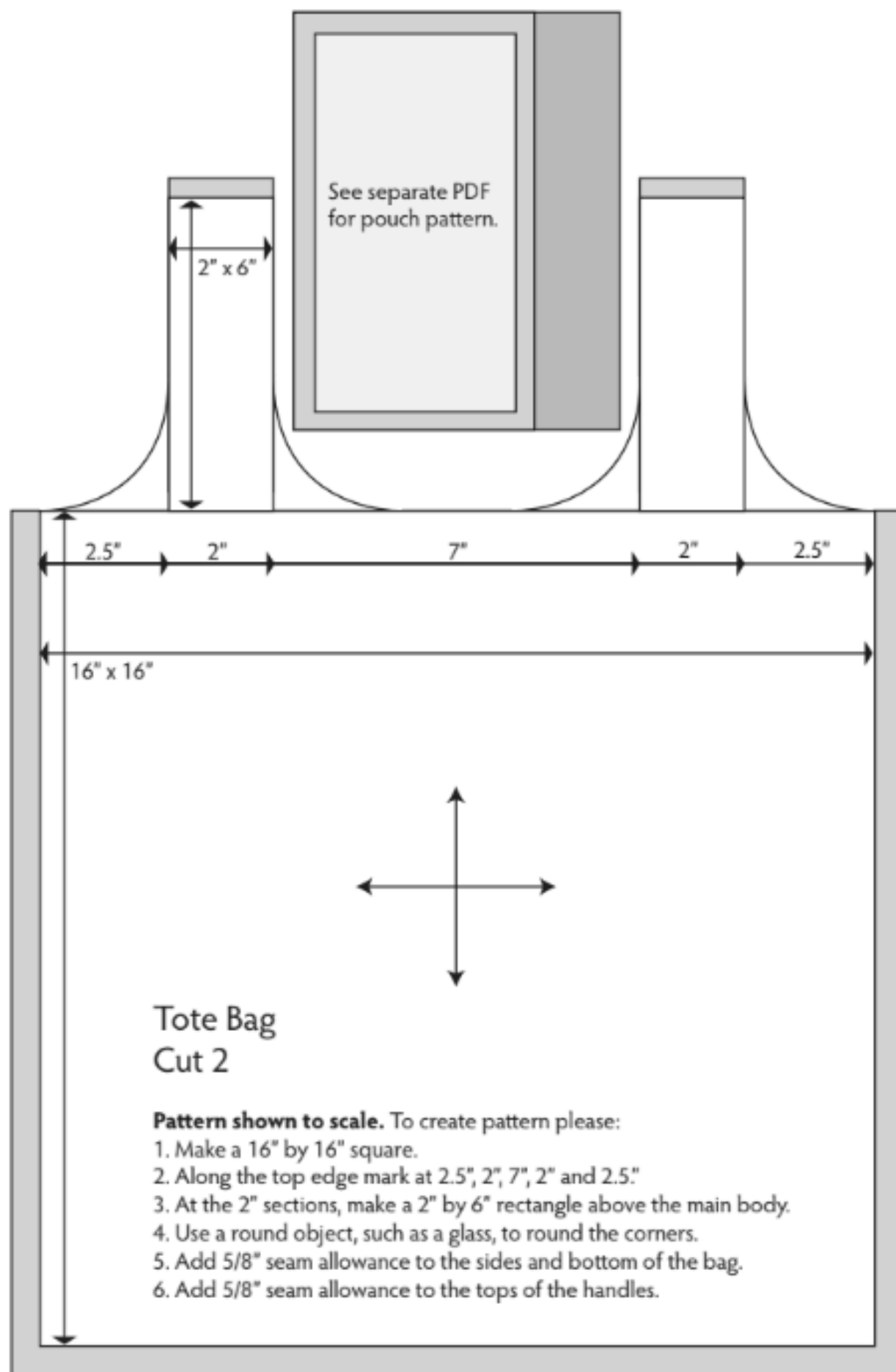
INSTRUCTIONS

- Print patterns found on the following pages. Follow instructions to convert tote bag pattern to full size.
- Cut pattern pieces from woven fabric.
- On both pouch pieces, fold top (long side) down ¼ inch toward inside, then another ¼ inch. Topstitch.
- 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.
- Sew tote bag with French seams on sides and bottom. Use flat-felled seams to sew handles.
- Finish top edges of bag with bias tape.
- 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 unfolded 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.
- Voila! To fold your bag, follow directions in the "Folding Instructions" PDF.



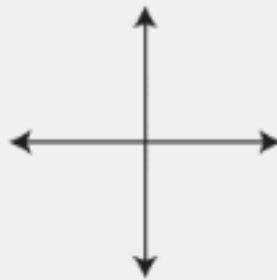
TIPS

- 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.



Actual patten piece
Total shape should measure 6.25" by 8"

Bag Pouch
Cut 2



For one pouch piece, cut off this darker grey portion.

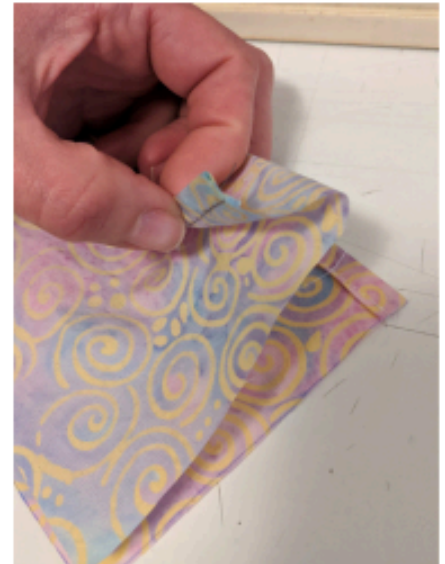
Stowable Tote Bag - Construction



The pouch fits in the space between the handles to cut out the pieces.



Cut off extra fabric on one of the pouch pieces.



In step 4, layer the pieces front sides facing out, aligned at the bottom and sides. Fold the top layer down to match the height of the bottom piece.



After the pouch is constructed, the flap will be on the outside, with the inside edge exposed.



In step 7, line the pouch up to the inside edge of one side of the bag. The folded edge will face down. Pull the folded edge out of the way of stitching to only connect the unfolded side.



The folded edge of the pouch should not be caught in the stitching.

Folding Instructions



Fold up the inner pouch, and fold down the handles.

Fold the bag in thirds toward the middle.

Fold the body of the bag upwards in half.

Fold up again, this time into thirds.



Tuck the folded bag into the pouch.

Take the flap on the back of the pouch and fold over to the front side.

Fold flap over to the front side, closing the pouch.

Throw it in your pocket, purse, backpack or luggage and save a disposable bag!