

# WITH LOVE TOTE BAG

BY JOAN HAWLEY, LAZY GIRL DESIGNS

Make this quick and simple tote bag with love and a yard of fabric for someone in need. A lightweight fabric such as quilter's cotton is recommended due to the thicknesses sewn through toward the end of the project. The finished bag is approximately 15" deep x 19" wide with a cuff/lip around the top edge of the bag. Instructions included for an optional Velcro closure.

## SUPPLIES:

1 Yard of fabric (width of 40-45")

Cut one strip 4" wide along one selvage edge for strap/handles.

Use the rest of the fabric for the body of the bag.

## TO MAKE A SHOULDER STRAP OR HANDLES

Fold 4" wide strip in half matching long edges and press. Open and fold long edges in toward the center with wrong sides together, and press. Fold in half (to resemble double fold bias tape) and press. Topstitch along both long edges close to the edge. Use as one long strap for shoulder strap, or cut in half for two handles.

## TO MAKE THE BODY OF THE BAG

Fold in half, right sides together, matching edges.

Stitch along all raw edges using at least a 1/4" seam allowance, leave an opening of at least 5" on the long edge.

Turn right sides out through opening on long edge and press. The seam allowances will cause the project to buckle inward, so reach in through the opening and push the seams out with your finger or non-ink end of a pen, then press with an iron. Tuck the seam allowance of the opening in and stitch the opening closed very close to the edge.

Fold bag in half, matching short edges and stitch along finished side edges to make a 'pocket'. The bag is finished on the inside and outside so it doesn't matter if the side seam allowances end up on the outside or inside. Press seam allowances open.

## OPTIONAL: VELCRO CLOSURE

Add a Velcro closure to the top edge of the bag. Sew the Velcro in place 1" from the top edge of the bag on the inside of the bag, centered from the side edges.

## MAKE CUFF OR LIP AT TOP EDGE OF BAG

Roll down top edges of bag 1" to make a lip or a cuff on the outside of the bag. This will cover the stitching from the optional Velcro. Press cuff.

## ATTACH SHOULDER STRAP OR HANDLES

Handles: Tuck raw edges of handles under the cuff of the bag and stitch in place along the edge of the cuff, around the whole bag. Fold handles up, over the cuff and stitch again through all layers to secure.

Shoulder Strap: Should cross over the bag from one side to the other, toward the side seams. Tuck one raw edge under the cuff on one side of the bag, close to the side seam, then tuck the other end under the cuff on the other side of the bag. Stitch in place as noted above for the handles.

