

Chelsea

by Michel Design Works



CHELSEA VERSATILE TOTE BAG - FREE DOWNLOAD

FREE PATTERN • 22 ½" x 18 ¼" • By Northcott Studio

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Versatile Tote

Approximate finished size 22 ½" X 18 ¼"

- Plenty of exterior pockets, fully lined, boxed bottom construction
- Use ¼" seam allowance unless otherwise stated

Materials List

Fabric

Outer Pockets-1 2/3yd DP23057-10

Outer Body, Upper & Lower Bands-2/3yd 23060-10

Handles-3/8yd 23064-82

Lining-2/3yd 23062-10

Stabilizer-

Décor Bond or Craft Fuse (stiff fusible interfacing)-1yd

Other Supplies

Rotary cutter, mat and ruler

Pins, thread

Cutting Instructions

Outer Pockets- Pleated Pocket-cut 1 piece 23" x 35 ½"

Unpleated Pocket-cut 1 piece 23" x 19"

Outer Body-cut 2 pieces 12 ¼" x 23"

Upper Band-cut 2 pieces 3 ¼" x 23"

Lower Band-cut 2 pieces 4 ¼" x 23"

Handles-cut 2 pieces 6" x 26"

Lining-cut 2 pieces 19" x 23"

Stabilizer-cut the same size of stabilizer as for the fabric pieces with the exception of the handles. Cut the 2 handle stabilizer pieces 1 ½" x 26"

Assembly of Tote

- Fuse the fusible fleece to the wrong side of the outer bag pieces using a hot iron. Fusing of the handles will be done later.

Exterior Pockets

Feel free to change the size of the pockets or simply eliminate.

- For both pockets, fold fabric in half, wrong sides together to form self-lined pockets and press.
- **Pleated Pocket**-Pattern requirements allow for 3 separate pockets-each with a 1" pleat on each side. Baste across bottom raw edges of pocket to hold pleats in place. Pocket depth will measure approximately 11". Place raw edge along one raw edge of the body of the bag and stitch in place. Stitch vertical lines centered between each pocket created to provide separation. Stitch starting and ending only on pocket piece and not extending onto the body of the bag.
- Trim sides of pocket if necessary to line up with body of bag
- **Flat Pocket**-Lay the raw edge of pocket along bottom edge of the body of bag. Baste across bottom raw edges of both pieces.
- Stitch vertical lines to section into pockets; starting and ending on pocket section only. Pocket depth will measure approximately 9 ¼".

Assemble Exterior

- Sew lower bands to bottom edges of both outer body pieces. Press seams towards band. Topstitch approximately 3/8" from seam.
- Sew upper bands to top edge of outer body pieces, pressing towards band. Topstitch approximately 3/8" from seam.
- Pin exterior front and back pieces right sides together, matching seams and edges.
- Along the bottom measure and mark 2" squares out of the bottom 2 corners, cut through all layers.
- Stitch tote bottom. Press seams open.
- Stitch tote sides. Press seams open.

- Create boxed bottom seams. With tote still wrong side out, fold bottom edge so bottom seams match with side seams. Pin and stitch seams to create boxed bottom using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Reinforce by stitching over previous stitch line.

Handle Assembly

- Fold the long edge of the handle fabric in half, wrong sides together and press.
- Open up and bring outside edges to the centre crease. Press. Place one piece $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 26" fusible fleece on inside of fold and press. Fold long edges again in half and press. Handle should measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Topstitch approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " along both long edges of handle. Repeat for other handle.
- Cut the handles to the desired length adding $\frac{1}{2}$ " for stitching into bag.

Space the handles evenly on the right side (exterior) of both sides of the tote making sure the handles are not twisted. Pin, and sew to reinforce the handles for strength and durability.

Assemble Lining

- With right sides together pin body of lining.
- Mark, then cut 2" squares out of the bottom 2 corners, cutting through both layers. (Same as on outer bag section)
- Stitch bottom seam leaving a generous 10" opening in the centre for later in turning the tote right side out. Press seam open.
- Stitch both side seams together. Press seams open.
- Create boxed bottom seams by aligning bottom seam with side seams as previously done on outer body. Stitch seams, press open.

Finishing the Tote

- Exterior should be right side out and interior should be wrong side out.
- Insert tote into lining making sure right sides are together and matching side seams, and tucking handles between the two sections.
- Stitch top seam easing any bulk along the way.
- Turn tote right side out through the opening left at the bottom of the lining.
- Tuck lining into the tote and press along the top edge of the bag. Top stitch along top edge approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " away from edge.
- Cut bottom stabilizer approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ "- $\frac{1}{4}$ " smaller in size than tote base and insert through opening, ensuring it lays flat in the boxed bottom.
- Slipstitch the opening in the lining bottom closed.