

## FOLDING SHOPPER'S TOTE BAG

SKILL LEVEL: EASY

From Tish  
In the WI Crafting  
Cupboard

### FABRIC PIECES:

Light to medium weight fabric is best for this project. You can re-purposed an old sheet, duvet cover, pillow cases, or even a skirt or man's shirt. If you don't have unwanted fabric lying around but would like to make one (or two) let me know because I do have some suitable fabric in store.

A = main body - 2 x 15" x 10"

B = contrasting panel - 2 x 15" x 6"

C = handles - 2 x 4" x 16"

6" of thin elastic - 2 mm is ideal

1 x medium/large button

Requires a sewing machine



1. Fold the elastic in half and stitch the ends at the centre of one of the main body pieces (A).
2. Lay a contrasting panel (B) on top of the main panel, sandwich the elastic in between them and sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Finish the raw edge with zigzag stitch. Repeat for the remaining piece A and B.
3. Press the seam allowance towards the upper piece B and top stitch.
4. Lay the front and back panels with WRONG sides together and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam down each side and across the bottom. I have rounded the bottom corners slightly.
5. Turn the bag so that the RIGHT sides are together and sew  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam all the way around – creating a French seam.
6. Make the handles – Fold each piece of fabric C in half lengthwise, open up and fold the raw edges inwards towards the centre crease. Fold in half again and sew along the open edge. Set aside for a few minutes.
7. Taking the main body of the bag, turn the top edge over twice and hem.
8. Fold the raw short edge of each strap in about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and pin about 3" from the outer edge of the bag.
9. Sew 2 rows of stitching to secure the handles in place.
10. Sew the button about 3" above the elastic.
11. Fold the sides of the bag and handles inwards and roll the bag up. Secure using the button and elastic and Voila!



If you've enjoyed making one of these for yourself, why not make a couple for us to sell on the WI Trading Stall!

