



## MTL SIMPLE TOTE INSTRUCTIONS

\*use 1/2" seam allowance unless otherwise noted. seam allowances are included in the pattern.

### materials:

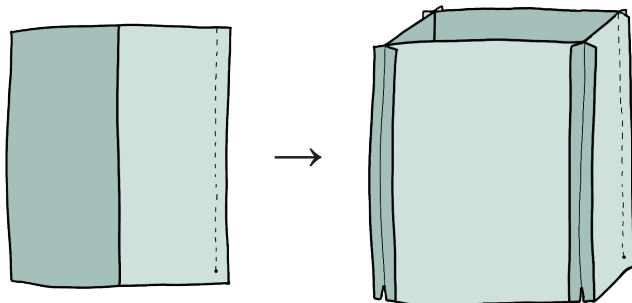
- 1/2 yd exterior fabric - preferably canvas/denim
- 1/2 yd of a mid or heavyweight interfacing if added structure is needed
- 1/2 yd interior fabric - quilting cotton, muslin, etc.
- material for the handles (could be 1" wide webbing, leather, fabric, etc)

### cut:

- from exterior fabric:
  - (2) 13" tall x 12" wide for main panels
  - (2) 13" tall x 6" wide for side panels
  - (1) 6" tall x 12" wide for bottom panel
- from interior fabric:
  - (2) 13" tall x 12" wide for main panels
  - (2) 13" tall x 6" wide for side panels
  - (1) 6" tall x 12" wide for bottom panel
- from interfacing (if using):
  - (2) 13" tall x 12" wide for main panels
  - (2) 13" tall x 6" wide for side panels
  - (1) 6" tall x 12" wide for bottom panel

### instructions:

1. cut out all pieces and fuse/baste interfacing to **exterior** pieces if needed. attach pockets to panels now (see pocket guide).
2. assemble exterior tote: match a **main exterior panel** right sides together (RST) with a **side exterior panel**. make a mark 1/2" from the bottom. sew down the long edge, stopping and back-stitching at the mark. repeat with the remaining **main and side panels**, alternating them. press every seam open.



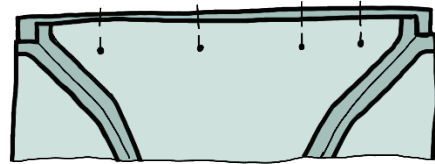
STOP 1/2" FROM  
BOTTOM

### SIMPLE TOTE

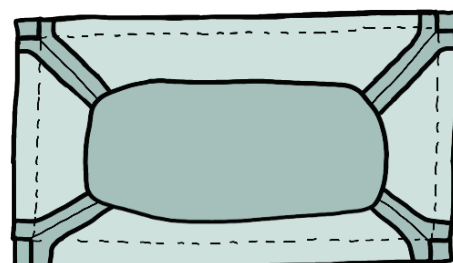
approx  
finished size:  
11" wide x  
12" tall x  
5" deep



with RST, match the **bottom exterior panel** with the bottom edge of a **main exterior panel**. the seam allowance on the **main exterior panel** should be folded back and staggered 1/2" from the edge of the **bottom panel**.



starting at this corner, sew down the long edge, backstitching at the next corner. pivot with the sewing needle and match the short sides together. there should be a little square of **bottom exterior panel** showing in the corner. continue pivoting and sewing around the bottom opening until the bottom is attached.

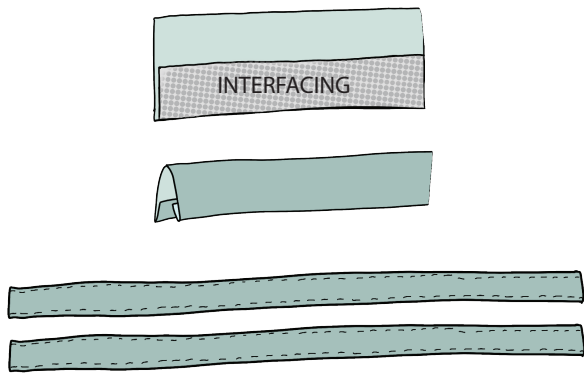


3. assemble interior tote: repeat step 2 with all the interior panel pieces.

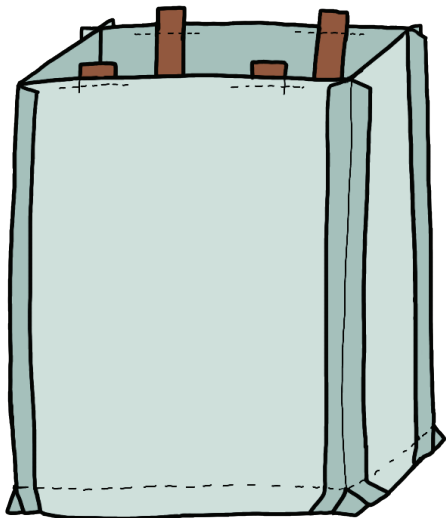
4. make handles:

a. webbing or leather handles: cut (2) 25" lengths of the handle material.

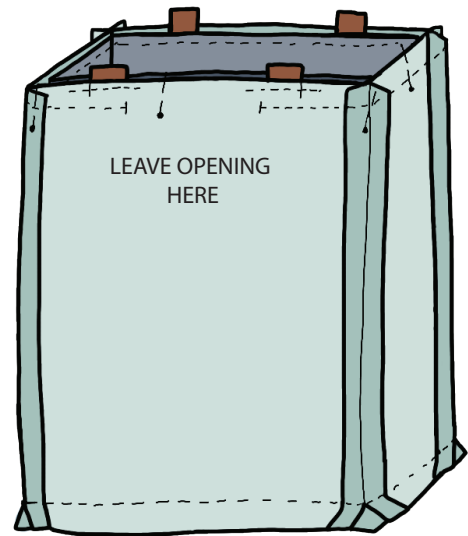
b. fabric handles: from the exterior fabric, cut (2) 3" wide x 25" tall straps. i recommend interfacing; cut (2) 1.5" wide x 25" tall strips from that and iron onto one side of the exterior fabric straps. fold and iron the straps in half along the long edge. then fold in each long edge 1/2". topstitch around the entire strap to finish.



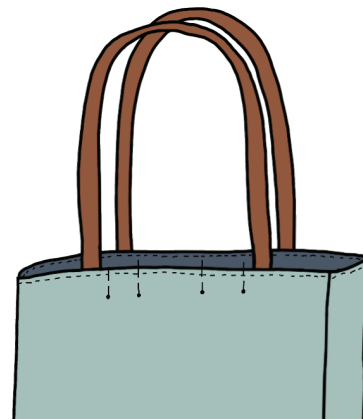
5. attach handles: make small marks on both **exterior main panels** 1.5" from each side seam. line up the outer edge of the handle with the marks. pin the handle 1/2" past the top edge of the right side of the main panel and baste in place. repeat until all four attachment points are secure.



6. assemble tote: place the interior tote RST inside the exterior tote. match all seams and pin in place. starting just before a handle, sew around the top edge. stop sewing just past the other end of the handle, leaving about a 7" opening.



through this opening, turn the tote right side out. this can be tough, but be patient and gentle; it is doable. stuff the interior tote into the exterior tote. press the top seam and pin the opening closed. topstitch around the edge, closing the opening and securing the straps as you do so.



*mtlmakes*

would love to see your version!  
tag me if you make it! -- @mtlmakes  
or use #mtlsimpletote