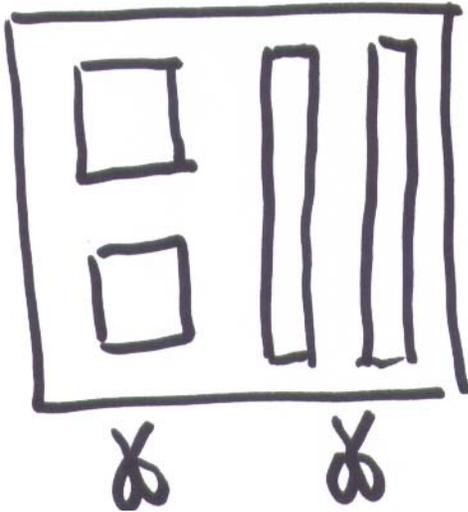


Quick and Easy Tote Bag

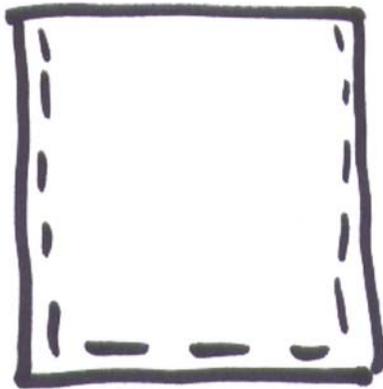
A easy tote bag to use for any reason! Make with any material or old garments – sheets, tablecloths, T shirts, sweaters, curtains, or anything else you dream up!

You will need a large piece of fabric, a tape measure or yard stick, scissors, pins, an iron, thread, a sewing machine, and nylon or canvas strap material (optional – if you'd prefer to use for handles instead of making them).

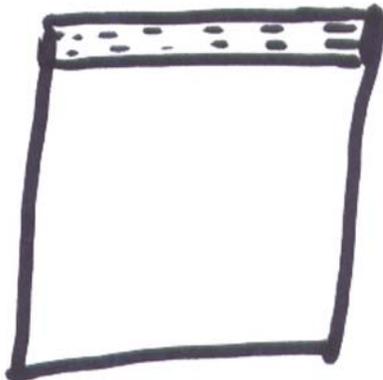


Step 1. Cut out two identical squares or rectangles for each side of your bag from your chosen material. It is best to use a tape measure or yard stick and mark where you will be cutting on the wrong side of the fabric before cutting. Remember to account for $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance on each side of the bag (and 1" on the top) when cutting your desired size!

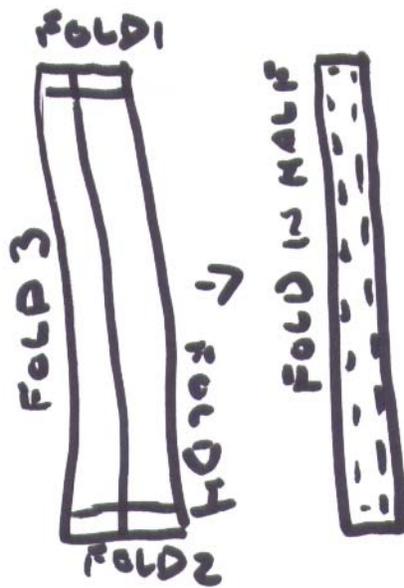
If you would like to make the handles for your bag, cut 2 strips out of the same material or use a different coordinating material! The strips should be at least 4" wide, and as long as you'd like them to be (remember to account for a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance on each end!)



Step 2. Pin and sew the wrong sides (so that the inside of your bag is facing out) of the side panel material together on three sides, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance on each side.



Step 3. Fold the edge of the top of your bag over 1" and press. Pin and sew two lines of stitching over the fold, one line of stitching on each edge.



Step 4. If you have strapping material already (available at any sewing supply store, or just cut off of a bag you no longer use), skip this step!

If you would like to make straps for your bag, take the two long pieces of material that you cut and lay flat, wrong side up. Fold the short ends in $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press. Fold the long sides in 1" and press. Fold each piece in half long-ways and press. Sew along all four sides close to the edges in one continuous stitch. You now have strap for your bag!



Step 5. Attach your straps! With your bag inside out, each strap will lay over the top edge 1". Stitch around the edge of the strap over the bag in one continuous square stitch. For added durability you can also stitch an X across the square from corner to corner. Repeat for each end of each strap.



Step 6. Turn your bag right side out and press! You now have a tote bag to use for carrying just about anything and you'll be green by not using paper or plastic bags anymore!