



It's small enough to carry as a purse, but big enough to stuff in a couple diapers and wipes while you run errands. It has pockets inside and outside, and deep gussets for lots of useable space. The finished size is about 11" wide x 9" tall x 4" deep.

You should have the following items in your sewing kit:

2 exterior body pieces - 16 x 14"

2 exterior pockets - 6.5 x 6"

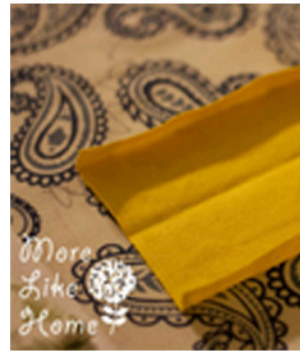
2 interior body pieces - 16 x 14"

2 interior pockets - 6.5 x 6"

2 straps - 4 x 45"

2 interfacing - 16 x 14"

Fold each strap in half lengthwise and press. Open them up and press the long edges in 1/2" toward the center crease. Fold along the crease again and pin. Then sew right along each long side of the straps.



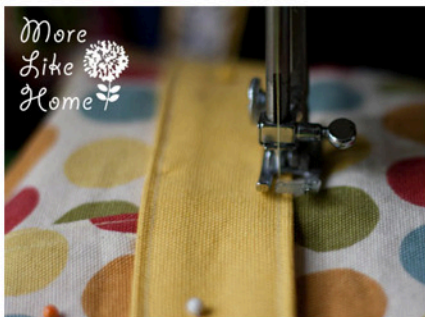
Now prep the exterior pockets. Do a simple rolled hem on both 6" sides of each pocket. Just fold the edge under 1/4" and press, then fold under 1/4" again and press. Stitch right along the folded edges. Now pin the pockets to the exterior body pieces. Lay the body piece so the 16" edges are the top and bottom. Then lay the pocket on so the hemmed edges are the top and bottom. Line the pocket up so it is centered across the bag with 4.75" on either side, and set it down about 3.75" from the top edge of the bag. Pin it in place. Repeat for the other exterior pocket. Stitch right along the sides and bottom edge of the pockets to attach them.



Now line up the straps. On one exterior body piece, a strap so it is set in 4" from from the left edge, and the end of the strap is flush with the bottom edge of the bag. Pin it in place. Then mark the strap 1/5" down from the top edge of the bag. I just used a pin to mark the spot. Line up the other end of the strap with the bottom of the bag and set it in 4" from the right side (make sure the strap isn't



Starting at the bottom of one strap, sew right along the stitching line on the strap up until the 1.5" line you marked with a pin. When you get to the pin put the needle down, lift the foot, and turn the corner. Put the foot back down and stitch straight across the strap until you reach the other stitching line. Turn the corner again and sew back down that stitching line to the bottom of the bag. Repeat for the other straps.



Once all the straps are sewn down, line up the two exterior body pieces with right sides together and pin just along the top and bottom edges. Sew along the bottom edge with a 1/2" seam allowance.





Now we're going to make what I like to call a "fancy gusset" on the bottom. On both ends of the bag, tuck the bottom seam up between the body pieces 2" and pin it in place. Make sure the top of the bag stays even. Once both ends are pinned, sew along both sides of the bag with a 1/2" seam allowance. Flip the bag right side out. The gussets should look like this:



Oooo, fancy!

Now make the interior pockets. Fold the top edge of the pocket down 1/4" and press, then 1/4" again and press. Stitch right along the folded edge. Then fold the other three edges under 1/4" and press. Lay the pocket wherever you want on the lining (I did the same as my exterior pockets. You can do more pockets or different sizes to meet your needs). Pin them in place, then stitch right along the side & bottom edges. Then I like to do a second line of stitching about 1/4" in from the edges.



Now line up the body pieces with right sides together and pin them. Stitch along the side and bottom edges with a 1/2" seam allowance, leaving a 4" opening at the bottom for turning.

To make the interior gussets, flatten each bottom corner out to a point with a seam on top and bottom and pin them (you know they are lined up if the pin goes right through the seam of the both the top and bottom seams). Measure in 2" from the corner and make a mark. Then draw a line across the corner at that mark (the line should be 4" long). Sew right along the line. Then clip off the corner leaving about 1/2" of seam allowance.



Keep the lining inside out, and slip the bag exterior (right side out) inside the lining (right sides will be together). Line up the seams and pin around the top edge. Sew around the top edge with a 1/2" seam allowance (make sure you don't hit the straps). Flip the bag right side out through the hole in the lining. Tuck the fabric in at the opening and pin the opening closed. Stitch right along the edge at the opening to close it up.



Tuck the lining down into the bag. Pin around the top edge. Sew along the top edge with a 1/4" seam allowance. And you're done!



More step-by-step photos can be found at <http://www.morelikehome.net/2013/10/day-13-favorite-tote-bag.html>