

# ESSENTIAL TOTE BAG

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

copy of School of Sewing  
fabrics/supplies on materials list  
rotary set: mat, cutter, ruler  
coordinating thread  
iron  
scissors  
pins  
fabric marking pen

## SKILLS TAUGHT

Topstitching, boxed corners,  
interior divided pockets, interior  
zip pocket (Extra Credit option)

## Class Prep

Swatches with interfacings fused can help students feel what the thickness/texture of the fabrics will be. Have one small swatch to show the option for added stiffness (described at bottom right of page 125). Consider preparing one strap of each length option to help students decide which length they prefer.

## Teaching the Class

**Step 1.** Be sure students making the long straps down overlap interfacing. It should be placed end to end as instructed.

**Simple Pockets 101, Step 4.** Be sure students note the instruction to topstitch along the folded edge and not the edge with the opening.

**Simple Pockets 101, Step 6.** Be sure students note instruction to



reinforce at both sides. Use the same technique for a divider in the pocket as well.

**Step 7.** Double check to be sure straps aren't twisted.

**Step 9.** Be sure students not instructions to sew only through one layer of the exterior and two layers of the seam allowance.

**Step 11.** Be sure students press the seam allowance open as instructed.

**Step 13.** Be sure straps are tucked in as instructed.

**Step 16.** Don't skip this one!

**Step 17.** Slow and steady for a pro finish here.

► If your students would like to show off their finished totes, send a photo to

shea@emptybobbinsewing.com or share on social media sites with the hashtag #schoolofsewing. I would love to feature you and your group! Consider submitting info about your experience at [theschoolofsewing.com/sewtogether](http://theschoolofsewing.com/sewtogether)