

**pellon**<sup>®</sup>

*The Magic  
in the Middle*

## Simple, Sturdy Tote Bag Skill Level: Beginner

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This tote bag is a simple project, easy to complete quickly, and is the perfect size. It is large enough to haul lots of stuff, yet comfortable enough to carry around town. Doable in an afternoon, this bag is perfect for making multiples as gifts!

### **Fabrics Needed**

Exterior bag fabric	3/8 yard
Exterior bag accent fabric	1/4 yard
Lining fabric and handles	1 yard
Pocket fabric	1/4 yard

### **Materials Needed**

Pellon <sup>®</sup> 71F Peltex <sup>®</sup> Ultra-Firm	7/8 yard
Thread	

### **Tools Needed**

Sewing machine and related supplies  
Rotary cutter and related supplies

## Instructions

All seam allowances are 3/8".

### Step 1. Cutting Instructions

Two 10-3/4" x 18-3/4" rectangles from the exterior bag fabric.

Two 5-3/4" x 18-3/4" rectangles from the exterior bag accent fabric.

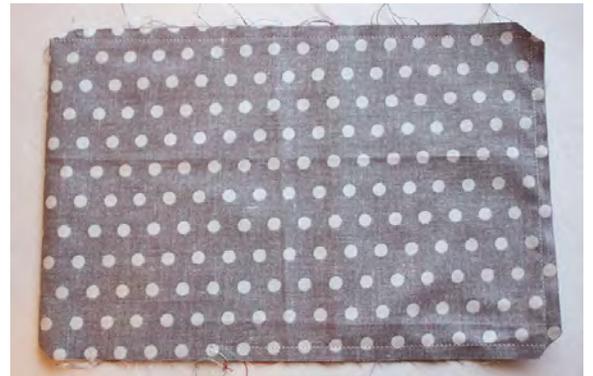
Two 15-3/4" x 18-3/4" rectangles from the lining fabric.

Two 7" x 27" rectangles from the lining fabric.

One or two 7" x 21" rectangles from the pocket fabric.

Two 15" x 18" rectangles from the Peltex®

Step 2. To make the pocket, fold one 7" x 21" rectangle in half with right sides together so that 7" sides are aligned. Pin all three sides to hold. Stitch around the three sides, leaving an opening for turning on one long side. Clip all four corners. Turn pocket right side out through the opening and press. Tuck in opening and topstitch along open side. Repeat for additional pocket if desired.



Step 3. Pin pocket to one of the bag lining pieces, 4-1/2" down from the top edge and centered equally from both sides. The topstitched edge should be placed up.

OPTIONAL: Stitch an additional seam 3" from one side of the pocket to create a divided pocket.



Step 4. Pin lining rectangles right sides together and stitch the two 15-3/4" sides and one 18-3/4" side (bottom of the bag) leaving a 10" gap on the 18-3/4" side for turning.

Step 5. Measure a 2" square in each corner of the bottom of the lining and cut. Press seams open.



Step 5. To create the gussets, align the bottom and side seams right sides together. Pin to hold. Stitch across the gusset.



Step 6. Place the 5-3/4" x 18-3/4" exterior bag accent rectangle right sides together with the 10-3/4" x 18-3/4" exterior bag rectangle, aligning one 18-3/4" edge. Stitch. Press seam open. Repeat with other side of the exterior.



Step 7. Center one Peltex® rectangle on the wrong side of one exterior panel. Fuse following manufacturer's instructions.

Step 8. Optional. Quilt the exterior fabric to the Peltex® by stitching over the two layers. Repeat with the second panel.

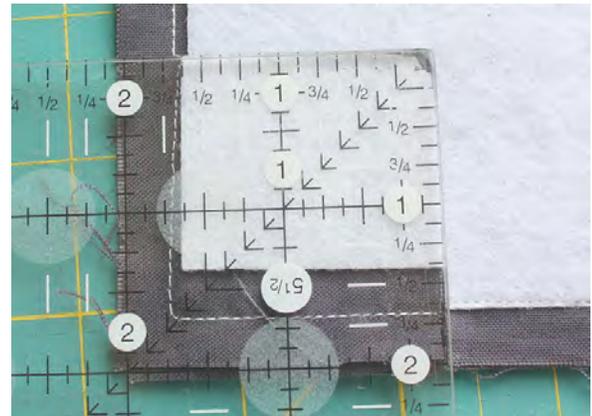


Step 9. Place the exterior panels right sides together, aligning the accent fabrics on the bottom of the panels. Stitch down one side, across the bottom and then up the remaining side. The top remains open.

HINT: Stitch the seams right on the edge of the Pelltex® to reduce bulk in the seam allowance.



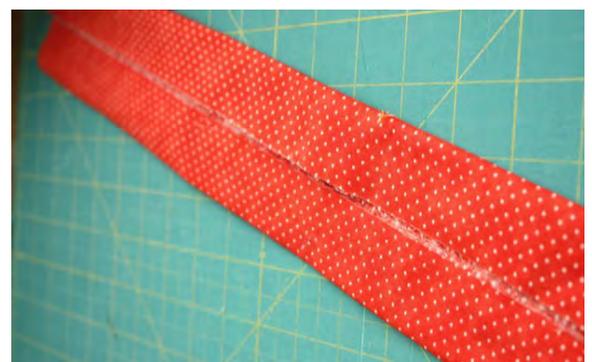
Step 10. Measure a 2" square in each corner of the bottom of the exterior bag and cut. Press seams open.



Step 11. To create the gussets, align the bottom and side seams right sides together in the same manner as for the lining in Step 5. Pin to hold. Stitch across the gusset.



Step 12. For straps, fold the 7" x 27" strap rectangles in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. Press. Open the strip and fold in the sides to the center. Press again.



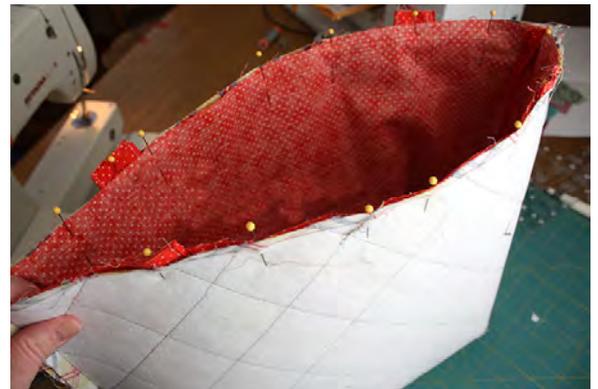
Step 13. Refold the strap again on the first fold, encasing the raw edges. Topstitch both long sides.



Step 14. Pin straps to the bag exterior 3" from the side seams.



Step 15. Turn lining right side out. Place the lining inside the exterior bag with right sides together. Tuck the straps down between the exterior bag and the lining. Stitch around the top of the bag.



Step 16. Turn exterior bag right side out through the opening in the lining. Slipstitch the opening closed. Push lining down inside bag. Press. Topstitch around the top edge of the bag.

