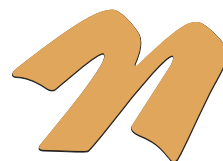


STARS & STRIPES VIII

by Linda Ludovico & Deborah Edwards



NORTHCOTT
Cottons that feel like silk



STARS & STRIPES VIII VERSATILE TOTE BAG - FREE DOWNLOAD

FREE PATTERN • 22 ½" W x 18 ¼" H • By Northcott Studio

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Versatile Tote

Approximate Finished Size 22 ½" W x 18 ¼" H

- Plenty of exterior pockets; fully lined; boxed bottom construction
- Use ¼" seam allowance unless otherwise stated
- WOF = Width of Fabric

Materials List

Fabric

Outer Pockets – 1 ½ yds – 23460-24

Outer Body, Upper & Lower Bands – 1 ¼ yds – 3937-193

Handles – 3/8 yd – 3954-190

Lining – 1 ¼ yds 23462-49

Stabilizer

Décor Bond or Craft Fuse (stiff fusible) – 1 yd

Other Supplies

Rotary cutter, mat and ruler

Cutting Instructions

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Outer Pockets | - Pleated Pocket – Cut 1 piece 23" x 35 ½" WOF |
| | - Unpleated Pocket – Cut 1 piece 19" x 23" WOF |
| Outer Body | - Cut 2 pieces 12 ¼" x 23" WOF |
| Upper Band | - Cut 2 pieces 3 ¼" x 23" WOF |
| Lower Band | - Cut 2 pieces 4 ¼" x 23" WOF |
| Handles | - Cut 2 pieces 6" x 26" WOF |
| Lining | - Cut 2 pieces 19" x 23" WOF |
| Stabilizer | - Cut the same size pieces as for the outer body, upper and lower band |
| | - Cut two handle stabilizer pieces 1 ½" x 26" |

Assembly of Tote

- Fuse the stabilizer to the wrong side of the outer bag pieces using a hot iron. Fusing of the handles will be done later.

Exterior Pockets

- For both pockets, fold fabric in half, wrong sides together to form self-lined pockets and press.
- **Pleated Pocket** – Pattern requirements allow for three separate pockets, each with a 1” pleat on each side. Pin folds and baste across bottom raw edges of pocket to hold pleats in place. Pocket depth will measure approximately 11”. Place raw edge of pocket along one raw edge of the body of the bag and baste in place. Stitch vertical lines centered between each pocket created to provide separation. Stitch starting and ending only on pocket piece and not extending onto the body of the bag. Trim sides of pocket if necessary to line up with body of bag.
- **Flat Pocket** – Lay the raw edge of pocket along bottom raw edge of the body of the bag. And baste in place. Stitch vertical lines to section into pockets, starting and ending on pocket section only. Pocket depth will measure approximately 9 ¼”.

Exterior Assembly

- Sew lower bands to bottom edges of both outer body pieces. Press seams towards band. Topstitch approximately 3/8” from seam.
- Sew upper bands to top edge of outer body pieces, pressing towards band. Topstitch approximately 3/8” from seam.
- Pin exterior front and back pieces right sides together, matching seams and edges.
- Along the bottom, measure and mark 2” squares out of the bottom 2 corners. Cut out squares through all layers.
- Stitch tote bottom. Press seam open.
- Stitch tote sides. Press seams open.
- With tote still wrong side out, create boxed bottom seams by folding the bottom edge so that bottom seams match with side seams. Pin and stitch across to create boxed bottom using a ¼” seam. Reinforce by stitching over previous stitch line.

Handle Assembly

- Fold the long edge of the handle fabric in half, wrong sides together and press.
- Open up and bring outside edges to the center crease. Press. Re-open and line up one piece of 1 ½” x 26” fusible interfacing along the center fold and press in place. Fold long edges again in half and press. Handle should measure 1 ½” wide. Topstitch approximately 3/8” along both long edges of handle. Repeat for other handle.
- Cut the handles to the desired length, adding ½” for stitching into bag.

Space the handles evenly on the right side (exterior) of both sides of the tote, making sure the handles are not twisted. Pin in place and sew to reinforce the handles for strength and durability.

Lining Assembly

- With right sides together, pin the lining pieces together.
- Mark, then cut 2" squares out of the bottom two corners. Cut out squares through all layers (as on the outer bag section).
- Stitch bottom seam, leaving a generous 10" opening in the center for later in turning the tote right side out. Press seam open.
- Stitch both side seams together. Press seams open.
- Create boxed bottom seams by aligning bottom seam with side seams as previously done on the outer body. Stitch seams, press open.

Finishing the Tote

- Exterior should be right side out and interior should be wrong side out.
- Insert tote into lining, making sure right sides are together and matching side seams, and tucking handles between the two sections.
- Stitch top seam, easing any bulk along the way.
- Turn tote right side out through the opening left at the bottom of the lining.
- Tuck lining into the tote and press along the top edge of the bag. Top stitch along the top edge approximately 3/8" away from edge. Slipstitch the opening in the lining bottom closed.