

Square bottom bag directions

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First, decide what dimensions you want your bag to be. I made a square bottom type tote, so the dimensions of your cut square/rectangle aren't exactly the dimensions of your finished bag.

Start by cutting 2 rectangles from each of the fabrics you'll be using (inner & outer of the bag). You should have 4 identical squares total. I started w/ 10x12" rectangles. I usually cut my handles now and fabric for pockets, if I'll be using any.

For handles you can use self fabric which I just cut to size, sew the seam, turn and topstitch, -- or you could use ribbon or webbing stuff they sell for handles.

For pockets I cut 2 identical squares, sew up 3 seams right side together, turn, press raw edges under, and stitch that side closed (I usually use that side for the open side of the pocket so no sides have 2 rows of stitching).

So ... now we have 4 rectangles cut for the body of the bag, and the handles and pockets (if any) cut and assembled.

Cut a square out of each bottom corner of each square (you can stack your rectangles and cut these all together, just make sure the prints are going the right way if they're directional.) For this bag, I made 1.5" squares. The size of the squares determines the "depth" of the bag.



If you're going to use pockets, sew them onto the rectangles now.

Now, right sides together sew up the sides and bottoms of each pair of rectangles.



Here's the slightly tricky part. It's hard to explain, I hope these photos help.

Take a corner, and open it so the seams are in the middle, pinch together, matching the seams with each side, and sew it up. This gives you the square bottomed effect. Do this with both of the corners of the outer fabric, and only one of the corners of the inner fabric (you'll need this one open to turn the whole thing right-side-out near the end.)

Opening corner



Pinching corner



Completed corner:



Now we have this:



Put the bags one inside the other, right sides facing each other (so you won't be seeing any right sides).



Then insert the handles between the 2 layers, making sure you don't twist them. I pin them to make sure they don't slip around.

Inserting handles:



View from above:



View from side



Stitch around the whole opening. This is the only part that I don't serge because it cuts off the extra bit of the handle so you can't reinforce them later if you want to. By reinforcing, I mean stitch X's over the handle ends.

Pull the bag right-side out from the one corner you left open.

Pulling right side out:



Now we have this!



Take that one open corner and open it the way you did with the others, but fold the raw edges under and topstitch it closed.

Corner w/ edges folder under:



Put the inner and outer pieces into each other, and topstitch around the opening. If you want to reinforce the handles, you can do that too.

Done!

