SIDE POCKET TOTE BAG

PDF SEWING PATTERN • BEGINNER FRIENDLY

One measurement (X) sizes the whole bag



What's inside

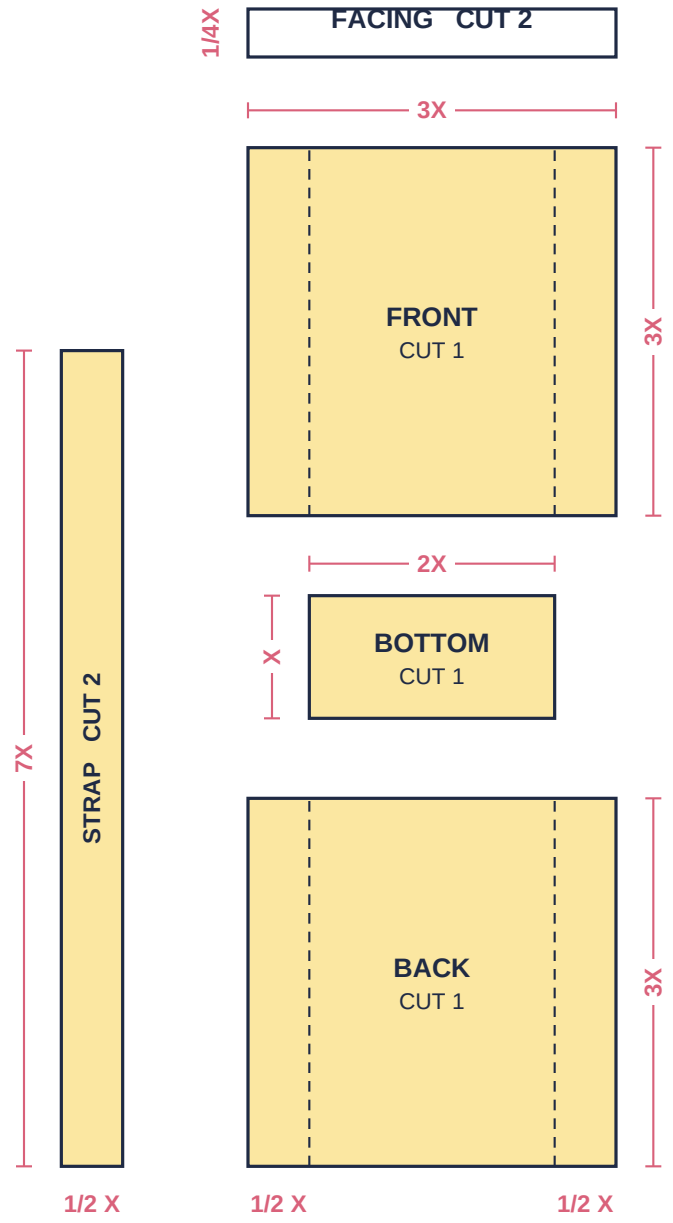
- Proportional cutting layout (page 2)
- Ready-to-cut size charts for 4 sizes (page 3)
- Full-size side pocket template (page 4)
- Step-by-step sewing instructions (pages 5-6)

Supplies

- Outer fabric: quilting cotton, canvas or light home decor fabric (about 3/4 yd for X = 4")
- Lining fabric: same amount (recommended)
- Medium-weight fusible interfacing or fusible fleece
- Thread, pins or clips, ruler, fabric marker, scissors or rotary cutter, iron
- Optional: 1/4" elastic for snug pockets, magnetic snap

Cutting Layout

Every piece is a multiple of X. Diagram not to scale. Dashed lines = fold / placement lines.



How it fits together

Front and back are 3X wide.

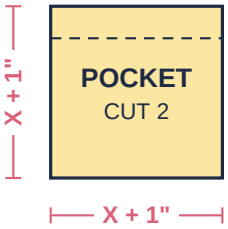
Dashed lines sit 1/2X in from each side edge.

Two 1/2X side strips (front + back) join into an X-deep side panel.

That matches the X depth of the bottom piece.

The X + 1" pocket fits the side panel with room for seams.

Cut 2 for a pocket on each short side of the bag



Ready-to-Cut Size Charts

Inches, width x height. Cut sizes include a 1/2" seam allowance (except straps and pocket).

Piece	Cut	X = 3" Small / lunch	X = 4" Everyday	X = 5" Market	X = 6" Large / weekend
Front	1	10 x 10	13 x 13	16 x 16	19 x 19
Back	1	10 x 10	13 x 13	16 x 16	19 x 19
Bottom	1	7 x 4	9 x 5	11 x 6	13 x 7
Strap	2	1 1/2 x 21	2 x 28	2 1/2 x 35	3 x 42
Facing	2	10 x 1 3/4	13 x 2	16 x 2 1/4	19 x 2 1/2
Pocket	2	4 x 4	5 x 5	6 x 6	7 x 7
Lining front/back	2	10 x 10	13 x 13	16 x 16	19 x 19
Lining bottom	1	7 x 4	9 x 5	11 x 6	13 x 7
Interfacing front/back	2	10 x 10	13 x 13	16 x 16	19 x 19
Interfacing bottom	1	7 x 4	9 x 5	11 x 6	13 x 7

Approximate finished bag

- Small / lunch (X = 3"): about 6" wide x 3" deep x 9" tall
- Everyday (X = 4"): about 8" wide x 4" deep x 12" tall
- Market (X = 5"): about 10" wide x 5" deep x 15" tall
- Large / weekend (X = 6"): about 12" wide x 6" deep x 18" tall

Notes

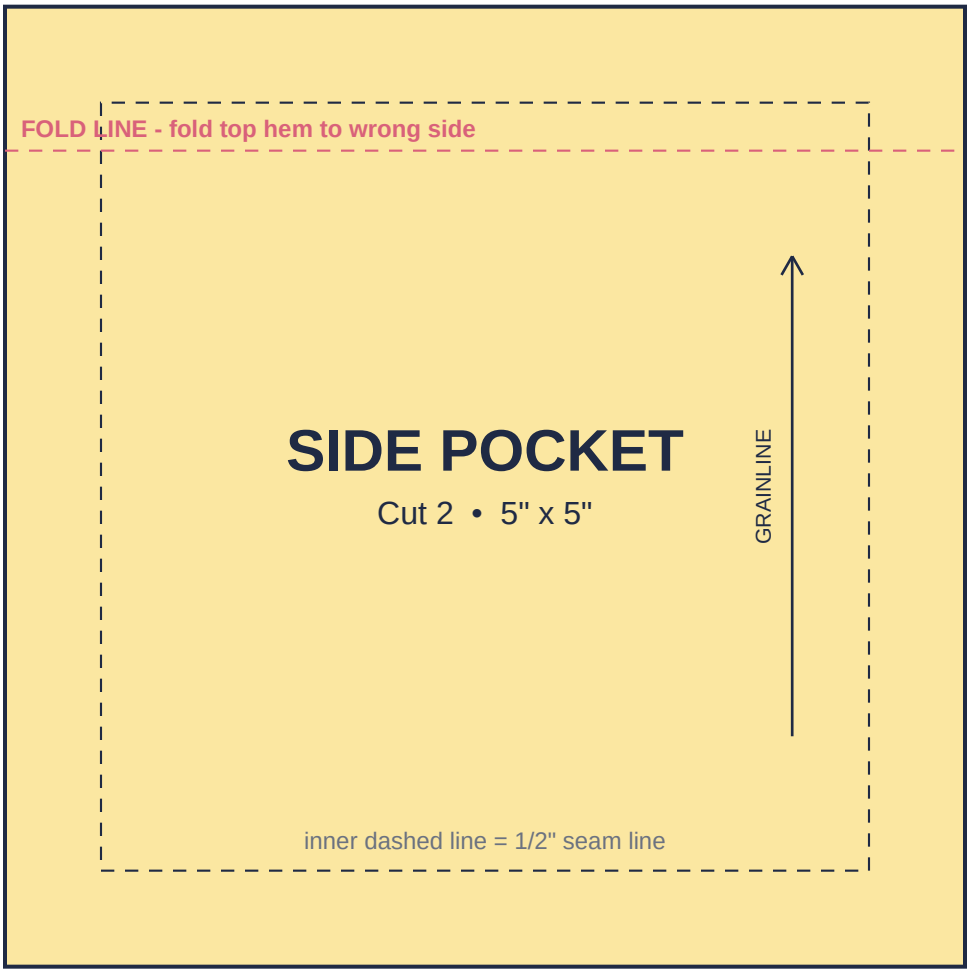
- Straps are folded in quarters and need no seam allowance; they finish at about 1/8X wide. For a wider, sturdier strap, cut them 2X wide.
- The pocket's X + 1" already includes its seam allowance.
- Your own size: decide how deep you want the short side of the bag and use that as X. Multiply as on page 2, then add 1" to each width and height (except straps and pocket).
- Print this page and circle your size before cutting.

Full-Size Pocket Template (X = 4")

Print at 100% / Actual Size, never "fit to page". Check the 1" test square first.

1" x 1"

Test square: should measure exactly 1 inch after printing.



All other pieces are simple rectangles: measure and cut them straight from the chart on page 3 with a ruler and rotary cutter. No printing needed.

Sewing Instructions

Use a 1/2" seam allowance throughout. Press after every seam.

1. **Cut and mark**

   Choose your size on page 3 and cut all pieces from outer fabric, lining and interfacing. On the front and back, mark the two vertical fold lines 1/2X + 1/2" in from each side edge (the extra 1/2" is the seam allowance).

2. **Interface**

   Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the outer front, back and bottom. Use steam, press (don't slide the iron) and let the pieces cool flat before handling.

3. **Make the straps**

   Fold each strap in half lengthwise and press. Open, fold both long edges to the center crease, then fold in half again. Topstitch close to both long edges.

4. **Make the pockets**

   Fold the top of each pocket along the fold line to the wrong side, tuck the raw edge under and topstitch. Optional: thread 1/4" elastic through this hem for a snug fit, securing it at both ends.

5. **Place the pockets**

   Lay one pocket right side up over each side area of the outer front (between the fold line and the side edge), bottom edges aligned; the other half of each pocket will meet the back. Baste the pocket bottom and outer edge inside the seam allowance.

Sewing Instructions (continued)

Use a 1/2" seam allowance throughout. Press after every seam.

6

Sew the side seams

Place the outer front and back right sides together and sew both side seams with a 1/2" seam, catching the pocket edges. Press the seams open.

7

Set in the bottom

Pin the bottom to the lower edge, matching its corners to the fold-line marks and the centers of its short sides to the side seams. Sew around, stopping 1/2" from each corner and pivoting with the needle down. Clip corners, turn right side out and push the corners out.

8

Sew the lining

Repeat steps 6-7 with the lining, leaving a 5" gap in one side seam for turning. Join the two facing strips at their short ends into a loop and sew it to the top edge of the lining.

9

Attach the straps

Baste each strap end to the top edge of the outer bag, about 1" inside each front fold line, straps hanging down and not twisted. Repeat on the back.

10

Join and finish

Slip the outer bag (right side out) into the lining (wrong side out). Match side seams and sew all around the top edge. Turn through the gap, stitch the gap closed, press the top edge and topstitch 1/4" from the edge. Reinforce each strap with a box-and-X stitch.

Troubleshooting tips

- Bag slouches? Use fusible fleece or a heavier interfacing on the outer pieces.
- Puckered bottom corners? Stop exactly 1/2" from each corner and pivot.
- Pockets too loose? Add elastic in the hem, or cut the pocket at X + 1/2".