

Library Book Tote

Entirely inspired by my son—this tote reflects his love of a rainbow of happy colors, as well doing the practical work keep track of a library card and accommodating a hefty amount of books.

Supplies:

20"x35" piece of unbleached cotton canvas
20"x35" piece of patterned cotton fabric, for the lining
5- 4" square pieces of cotton fabric in red, orange, yellow, green and blue
40" length of 1"-wide woven cotton belting
3"x10" piece of fabric for card holder pocket
2.5"x4" scrap of heavy clear plastic sheeting
1" square of velcro
1 sheet of light fusible web
Thread to match

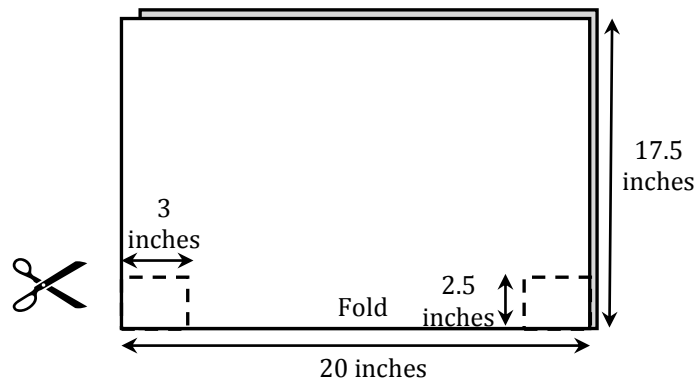
Tools:

Sewing machine
Scissors
Rotary Cutter & Mat
Ruler
Pins
Iron
Dress-marking pencil

This Library Book Tote and its instructions were created by Holly Keller of Beeper Bébé. It is intended for personal use and may not be reproduced, copied, or re-used without permission from Holly Keller/ Beeper Bébé. That said, please do use the instructions to make your own totes for you or for gifts. Happy crafting!

Instructions:

1. Cut your cotton canvas to size (20-inches by 35-inches). Fold the fabric in half, carefully lining up your edges. Measure and mark two 3x2.5-inch rectangles in the lower corners, as shown. Carefully cut out the corners, cutting through both layers of canvas.



Cut out 3"x2.5" squares from lower corners.

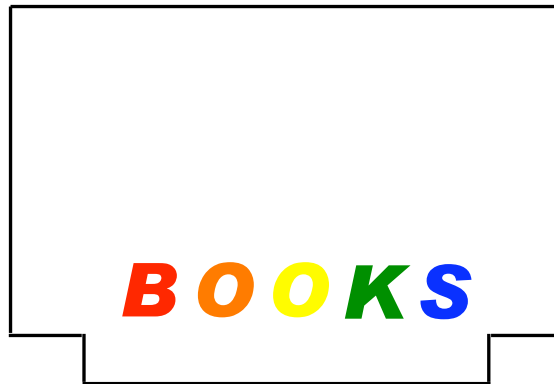
2. Repeat the process outlined in 1 on the tote lining fabric.
3. Print the letter templates on page 6 on a piece of cardstock. Using the letter templates, traces the word "BOOKS" onto your light-weight fusible web *backwards*. (Yes, backwards—you heard that, right?) ensuring you trace onto the side of the paper that the webbing is stuck to when you peel back a sheet of the paper. Cut each of the letters apart. Peel off the sheet of paper that you did not trace the letter onto and stick the webbing side to the 4-inch squares of fabric in the following colors:

B: Red O: Orange O: Yellow k: Green S: Blue

Cut out each letter.

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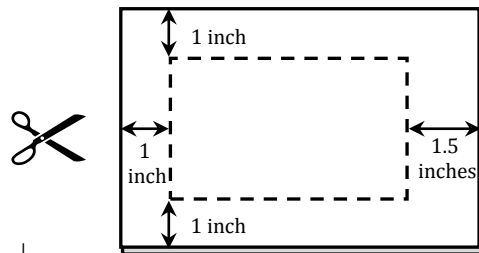
4. Peel the paper from the back of each letter and stick the webbing-side of your letters to the canvas exterior of your tote, placing the letters between and 1-inch above the squares you cut from the corners, as shown.



Place letters on canvas exterior as shown.

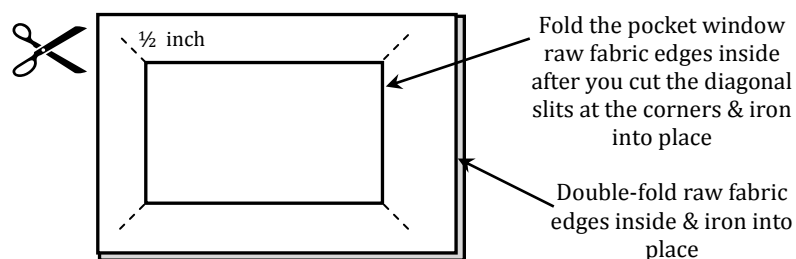
Using matching colored thread, zigzag around the edge of each letter, appliquéing the letters to the canvas.

5. Cut out your 3x10-inch piece of fabric for your library card pocket. Fold the fabric in half. Measure and mark out a 1 x 2.5-inch rectangle, then cut out the rectangle as shown below:



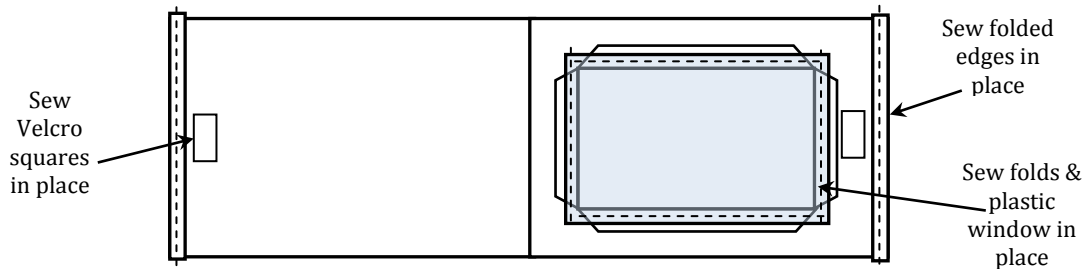
(Alternate: if you do not have a piece of heavy plastic handy, you can skip making a window in the pocket and just make the pocket solid fabric. Move head 2 spaces to step 7, you lucky dog, you.)

6. Clip 1/2-inch diagonal cuts into the corners of the window, as shown.

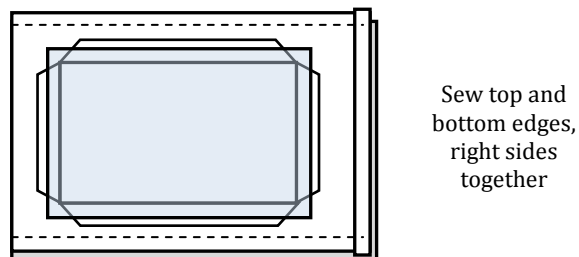


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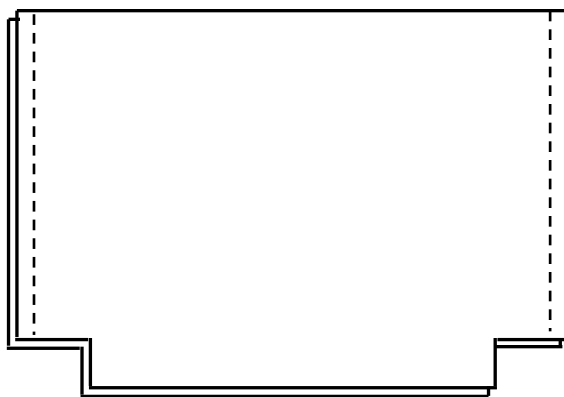
Fold the raw edges of the window into the wrong-side of the fabric. Iron these down. Fold the ends of the pocket fabric under by $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, twice, and iron into place. Pin the 2.5x4-inch piece of plastic to the backside of the pocket window, centering it so it covers the window (regarding the plastic, I simply used a piece from some packaging some of Beeper's undersoes—yes, undersoes—came in). Sew around the very edge of the window, securing the plastic in place. Sew the folded edges at the end of the pocket in place. Sew squares of Velcro in place.



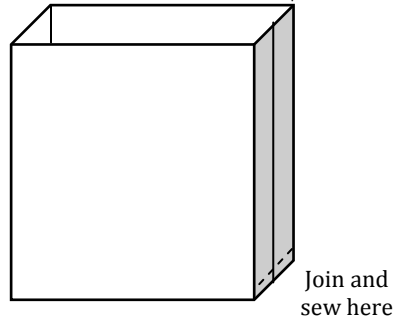
7. Fold the card pocket in half again, right sides together. Sew along top and bottom pocket edges (use a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch inseam), leaving one side open to slide the card into. Turn the pocket right side out and set aside.



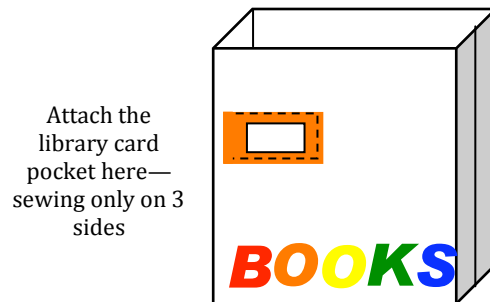
8. With right sides of the fabric together, align and pin the side seams of the exterior canvas fabric. Sew the side seams, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch inseam.



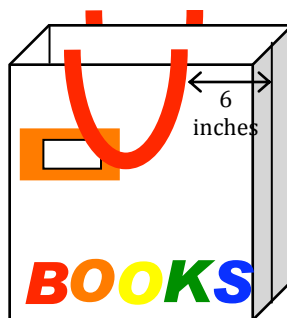
9. Now, to create the square base of the bag, join the opening at the lower right side of the bag to the right side seam, pinning in place so the edges align and form a boxy shape. Sew the edges together, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch inseam. Repeat on the left side.



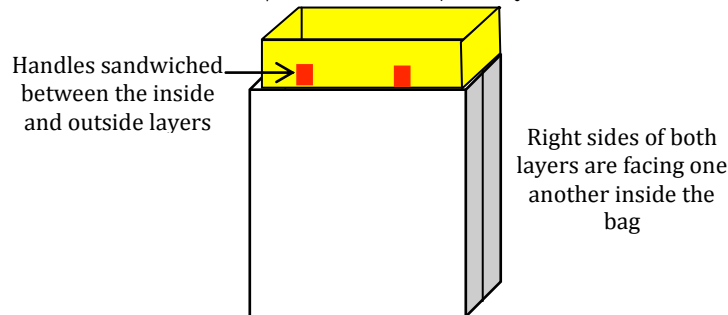
10. Repeat steps 8 & 9 on the tote's lining fabric.
11. Take the canvas exterior and pin the library card pocket in place on the front of the bag—about 4-inches from the side seam and 5-inches from top of the bag. Topstitch around the every edge of the pocket on 3 sides, leaving the pocket slot open.



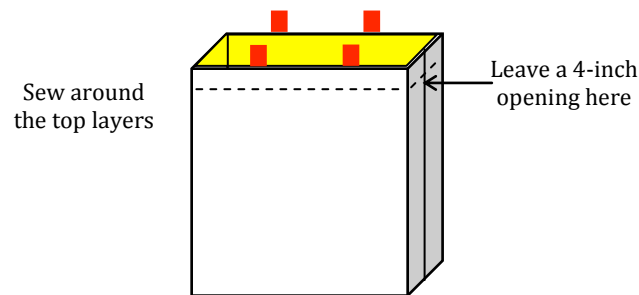
12. Cut the woven cotton belting in half, so you have two 20-inch pieces. Measure in about 6-inches from each side seam and mark these two spots on the top of the canvas bag—this is where you will attach the handles. Repeat on the other side of the canvas bag. Pin the straps in place on the front of the bag, with the handles positioned upside down and 1-inch of the handle-ends extending beyond the top edge, as shown.



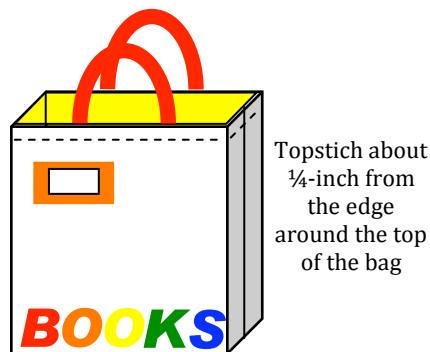
13. Turn the canvas exterior tote piece inside out, so the wrong side is facing out. Turn the tote interior lining piece so *the right side* is facing out, and the raw seams are inside the bag. Slip the lining into the canvas piece, so the right sides of both bags are facing one another, and raw seams are visible for both pieces. Align the top edges and pin together, being sure to keep the handles pinned in position (the handles should be sandwiched between the two tote pieces, still facing down, raw handle edges showing).



14. Using a 1/2-inch inseam, sew around the top edge of the bag, securing the layers together, capturing the handles in the seam as you go (for added reinforcement, you can backstitch 1-2 times over the handles when you reach them to reinforce their strength if you know the bag will face hardcore book lugging duty), and *leaving a 4-inch opening on one side to turn the bag right side out.*



15. Turn the bag right side out, tucking the lining inside the bag and gently pressing out the corners. Turn in the raw edges of the opening you used for turning the bag and pin the layers together. Now, as your very last step, topstitch around the edge of the bag, about 1/4-inch from the top, being sure to stitch the opening closed.



Hooray! You have a new handy-dandy library book bag. Go forth & check out books while resting assured that your library card is safe & snug in its little pocket.

Letter Templates

