

Farmers Market Tote



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Finished Dimensions: 11" inches wide at bottom × 8" (D) × 13" (L)

Nothing says spring and summer more than heading out to the farmers market every Saturday morning. This tote keeps all your fresh produce and flowers neat and orderly! I love the four exterior pockets for my herbs and flowers and the interior pocket is a safe place to stash my money. But the best thing about using oilcloth for a market tote is how well it cleans up. If your tomatoes make a mess you're covered; just wipe the tote down with a wet cloth, and you're ready to go.

June Suggests: Play with this pattern! Simplify it by leaving off the outer pockets or leaving it unlined. Also, you can change the look by changing the fabric prints. I used four prints, but you can totally change the look by using only one or two prints. Go sophisticated with the Mexican lace print, go perky with dots, or go country cute with gingham. Another alternative is to use laminated cotton for this fun bag. Just flat-line the outer pockets and lining with a firm interfacing to make the tote more stable.

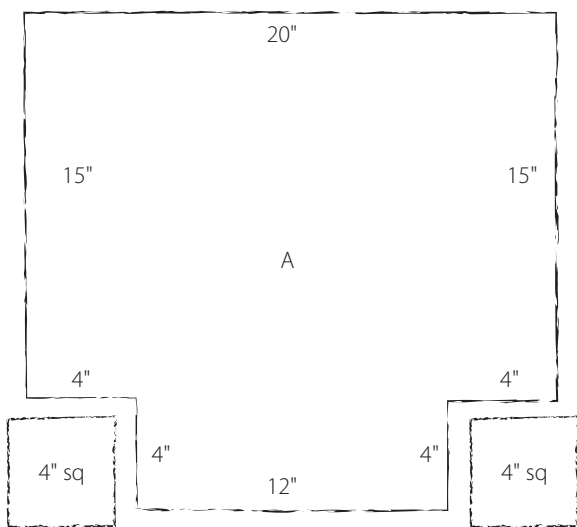
Materials

- 1 yard of 47"/48" oilcloth for main tote
- 1 yard of 47"/48" oilcloth for lining and exterior pocket trim
- 1/2 yard of 47"/48" oilcloth for exterior side pockets
- 1 fat quarter 47"/48" oilcloth for exterior center pocket and interior pocket trim
- 1 spool coordinating thread for each oilcloth print
- 52" of 1" webbing for strap
- Clear ruler
- Craft paper or poster board
- Pencil
- Lighter
- Binder clips (optional)
- Seam gauge

Mark It Up and Cut It Out

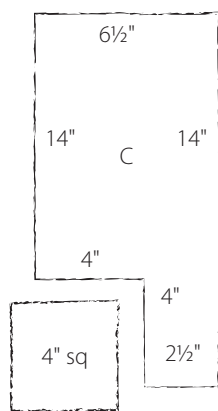
Making a pattern is very easy and extraordinarily satisfying. With a pencil, a wide, clear ruler, and some paper, you can use the following steps to make one in no time.

1. To create Piece A, use a clear, wide ruler or square to trace a 19" × 20" rectangle onto a piece of paper or poster board. Then use your ruler to mark two 4" squares in two of the corners along one of the 20" sides of the rectangle. This portion between the squares will become the bottom of the tote. Mark the pattern with the letter A. Cut out the large rectangle and then cut out the two 4" squares in each of the bottom corners. Set aside Piece A.



Step 1

2. Piece B, the center pocket for the exterior of the tote, is a simple $9" \times 14"$ rectangle. Measure the rectangle onto your paper or poster board, mark it as B, and then cut it out.
3. For the side exterior pockets, Pattern Piece C, draw a $6\frac{1}{2}" \times 14"$ rectangle on your paper or poster board. Use your clear ruler to measure one 4" square in the corner to create the bottom of the pattern. Cut out your pattern as you did in Step 1. (Don't forget to create the 4" cut out.) Mark the pattern with the letter C.



Step 3

4. For Piece D, the small interior pocket, measure and cut out a $4\frac{1}{2}" \times 7"$ rectangle and mark it with a D.

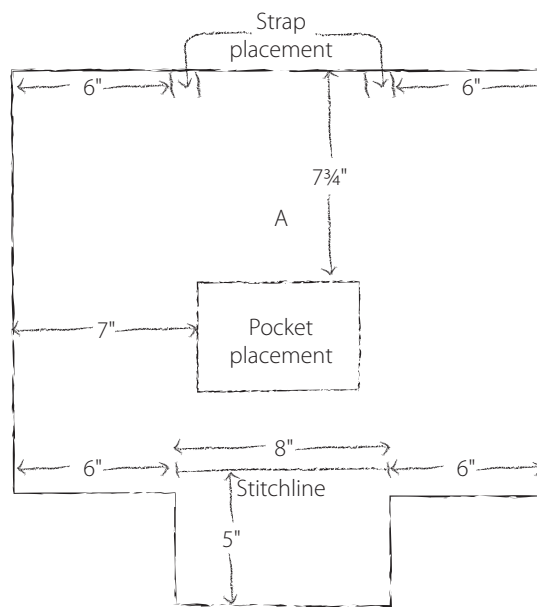
5. Piece E is a $2" \times 42"$ strip that is used to trim the outer pockets. You can either make a pattern and trace, or directly mark cutting lines on the wrong side of the material.

6. Piece F is a $1" \times 7"$ strip. Draw it on your paper or poster board, cut it out, and mark it F. This will be the trim for your outer pocket. You can either make a pattern and trace, or directly mark cutting lines on the wrong side of the material.

7. You need to mark several items on Piece A to guide you as you sew. Start with marking the strap placement by making a few small pencil lines along the top of the tote pattern. The first one is 6" from the left-hand corner along the top 20" of the tote; the second one is 1" away from the first one, toward the center. Repeat the process on the other side. (See the illustration.)

8. Mark pattern A for the interior pocket placement. Take Piece D and use it to trace your pocket guide on the tote pattern by centering Piece D on Piece A. The top edge of the pocket is $7\frac{3}{4}"$ from the tote's top edge, and the side of the pocket is 7" away from the tote's side. Cut this small rectangle out of the center of Piece A. (See the illustration.)

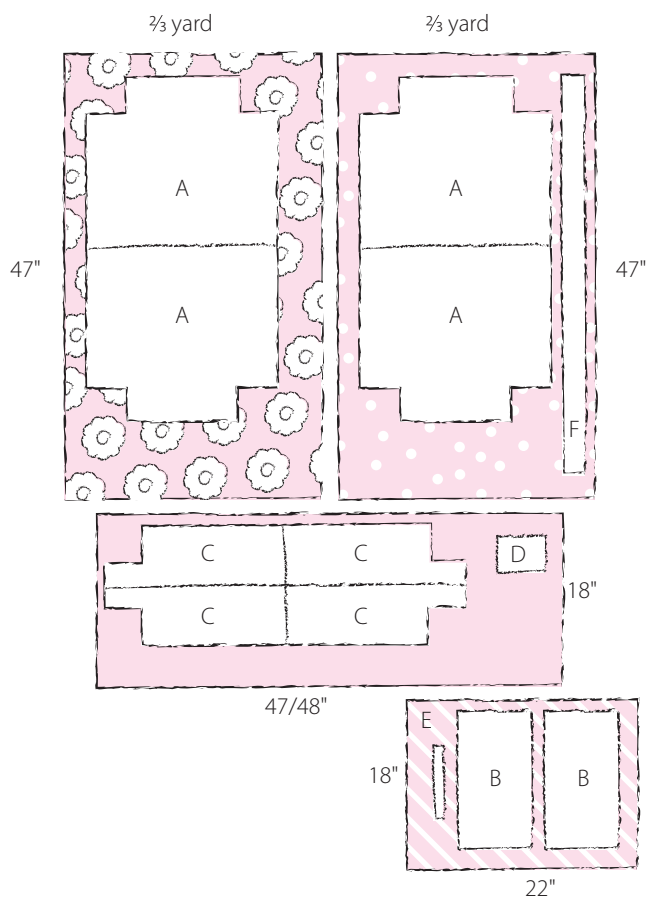
9. Add a stitch line to Piece A by measuring up 5" from the bottom edge of Piece A and drawing an 8" line that is centered. The line starts 6" from the two sides of the pattern. (See the illustration.)



Steps 7 through 9

10. Using the following information and the pattern layout illustration, trace the pattern pieces onto your oilcloth and then cut them out.

Print for exterior of tote	Print for interior of tote and exterior trim	Print for exterior side pockets and small interior pocket	Print for exterior center pockets and interior pocket trim
Cut 2 Piece A	Cut 2 Piece A	Cut 4 Piece C (2 pairs of mirror image pieces)	Cut 2 Piece B
	Cut 1 Piece E	Cut 1 Piece D	Cut 1 Piece F



Step 10

11. Mark your interior pocket placement on the back side of one of the lining pieces (that you cut using Piece A).

12. On the wrong sides of both of the exterior tote pieces, use Pattern Piece A to transfer the strap placement and the center pocket stitch line.

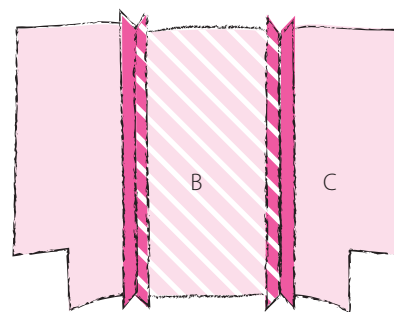
13. Cut the webbing into two 26" lengths to be used as the tote's straps. To keep the straps from fraying you need to seal them by carefully burning the cut ends of the webbing straps with the flame of a lighter.

This won't take long; you don't want the webbing to shrink and curl. You just want the ends to become shiny and slightly melted so that the webbing doesn't fray out.

Note: Please be cautious when melting the nylon. Keep it away from your skin and only do this in a well-ventilated area.

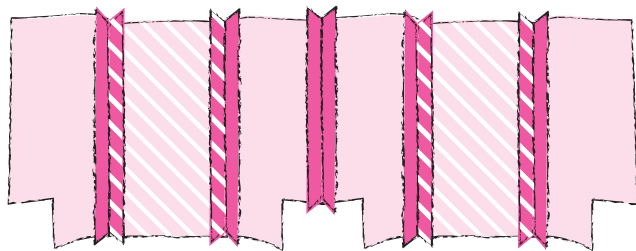
Steps

1. Take one of your outer pocket pieces (Piece B) and arrange it with two of the side pocket pieces (Piece C) so that the two long sides of the side pocket pieces are aligned with the long edges of the outer pocket with the right sides together. (See the illustration.) Pin them and then stitch with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Repeat with the second set of pocket pieces.



Step 1

2. Arrange the two pieces you created in Step 1 so they're aligned along the long edge of the side pockets, pin them, and sew them together at the side seams with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, leaving the other side open for now. Now you have one long pocket section. (See the illustration.)

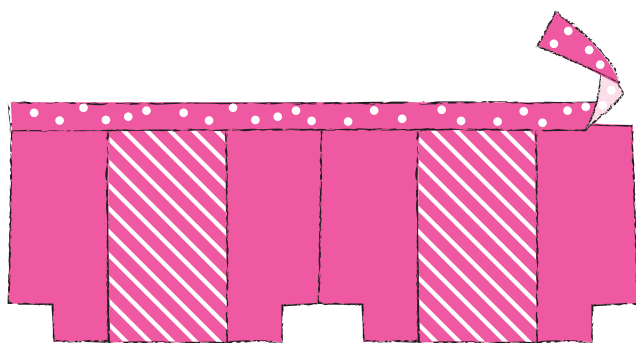


Step 2

3. Book press the center pocket seams toward the center and book press the side seam to the left while you prep the pocket trim. (See page 9 for information on book pressing.)

4. Fold the outer pocket trim (Piece E) in half the long way and crease press it (see page 9 for information on crease pressing).

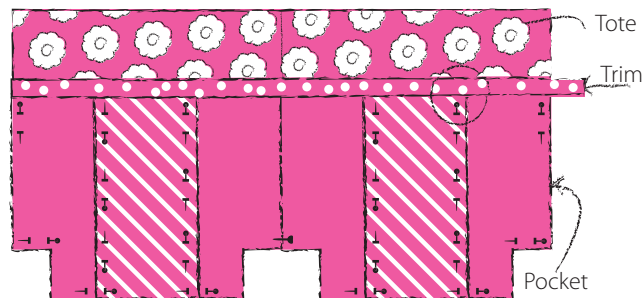
5. Sandwich the top edge of the joined pocket pieces within the folded trim (Piece E). The trim should be flush on the starting end and should have an extra 2" hanging off the other end. Pin the trim into place and then edge stitch, stopping 2" from the edge of the pocket so that the last 4" of trim are unstitched and open. (See the illustration.)



Step 5

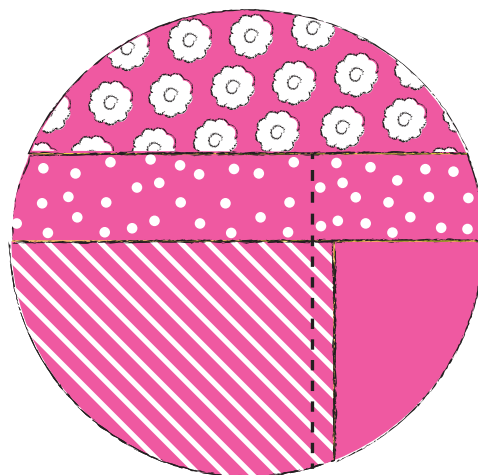
6. Put the two main tote exterior pieces (Piece A) right sides together, pin, and stitch one of the sides with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Finger press the side seam to the right. (See page 9 for information on finger pressing.)

7. Center your pocket section on your pieced tote exterior so that both are right sides up—align the bottom edges of the two pieces. Pin along the bottom of tote. Then pin down the center pocket as shown in the illustration. (Take my word for it: Even if you're a seasoned seamstress like me you'll want to pin this as shown in the illustration!)



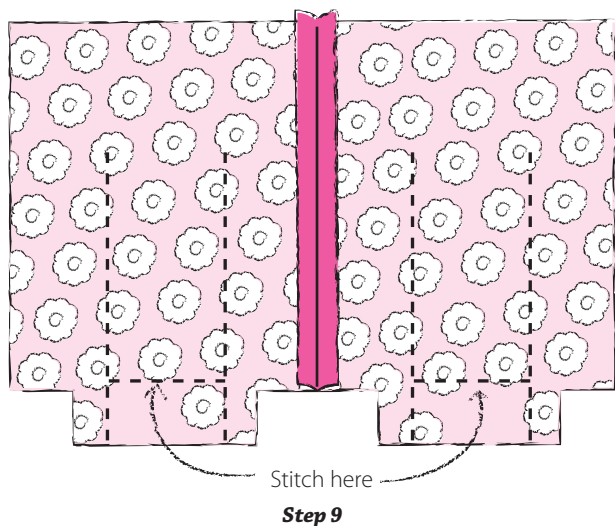
Step 7

8. Topstitch along the side edges of each center pocket, about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the seams. Be sure to backstitch at the top of each pocket to protect from normal wear and tear. (See the illustration.)



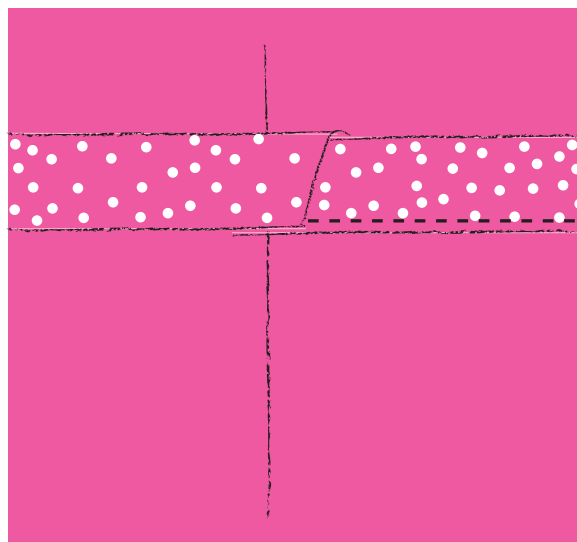
Step 8

9. Place the tote upside down on your work surface and pin just below your center pocket stitch line. Make sure that your thread and bobbin match the outer center pocket oilcloth. Sew along the stitch line you drew to close off the bottom of your center pocket between the vertical stitch lines. (See the illustration.)



10. Close the other set of side seams starting with the pocket layer. With the trim moved out of your way, pin the seam with the right sides together and sew the seam, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the aligned edges. Finger press the seam to the left.

11. Place your tote flat on your work surface so that the right side of the newly sewn side seam is facing you. Cut the loose end of the trim down so that there is 1" left to overlap the trim on the finished side. Then sandwich this trim over the side seam on to the completed side pocket. Pin the trim into place, being careful to match up the trim so it is one nice straight line and edge stitch the trim to the pocket. (See the illustration.)



Step 11

12. Pin and sew up the other side seam on the main body layer of the tote.

13. Match your edges on the bottom of the tote and pin all four layers together. Stitch the bottom of the tote shut $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the aligned bottom edges and then finger press the seam to one side.

14. Pinch the corners together by matching your side seam to the bottom seam and flattening the bag to create a straight edge. Pin and sew. (See the illustration.)



Step 14

Note: Because market totes can often carry a lot of weight, I suggest double stitching the corners.

15. Attach the webbing straps by pinning the ends in place against the right side of the bag and zigzag-stitching with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Repeat the zigzag stitch three times for added strength.



Step 15

Note: If you aren't going to line your tote, skip to Step 23.

16. Trim the top of the inner pocket (Piece D) with the 1" oilcloth strip (Piece F). Crease fold the trim lengthwise and then sandwich the trim around the top of the inner pocket. The ends of the trim should be flush with the short ends of the pocket piece.

17. Edge stitch the trim.

18. Pin the inner pocket into place on one of your tote lining pieces. Edge stitch your inner pocket into place, making sure to backstitch at the tops of the pocket as this is a place of normal wear and tear.

19. Place your two tote lining pieces together and sew the side seams and bottom seam.

20. Sew the corners of the lining together by matching up your side seam to the bottom seam and flattening the bag to create a straight edge. Pin and sew. See Step 14 and its illustration for more information.

21. Slide your constructed lining down into the tote exterior. Make sure you get each corner of the lining neatly in place; the seams at the corner will want to fold toward the top of the tote. You might need to slide your hand down between the lining and tote to keep the corners tidy. Be patient; this is a fussy job.

22. When the lining is neatly in place, pin the lining and the exterior together at the side seams starting about 3" below the top of the tote. Remember to pin in the seam to avoid pin marks.

23. Using a seam gauge, fold the top of the tote exterior over 1" to the wrong side. (This is a great place to use binder clips as an alternative to pinning.) Then fold the lining toward the tote exterior so it is even with the top of tote. As you pin the lining and the tote together, place your hand inside the tote's lining to make sure that the lining is smooth. Make sure the straps are pulled up and outside of the tote.

Note: If you don't have a free arm sewing machine, just pin and sew from the lining side of the tote.

24. Finish the tote top by stitching two rows of topstitching. Stitch the first row $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the folded edges and the second row $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the folded edges. If your machine lets you, set your needle to stop with your needle down in the fabric to help you stitch a straight line as you move around the top of the tote. Go slow and be patient; this topstitching is tedious, but you're in the home stretch! You might need to stitch a few inches and then adjust the tote before going forward.

25. You're all done. Now it's time to go to the farmers market and fill up your fancy new tote!