

Project: Simple Tote Bag

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FABRICS are from the Crossroads Denim collection by Amy Barickman for James Thompson (jamesthompson.com).

Sew a simple tote bag to carry school supplies, sewing notions, or farmer's market finds.

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Materials

- 2—15×20" rectangles of light aqua denim (bag)
- 4—2¾×45" strips of dark aqua denim (handles)
- Tracing paper
- Thread to match fabrics
- Pink thread for topstitching handles
- Sewing machine
- Iron, ironing surface
- Water-soluble marking pen

Step 1

Trace Bag Pattern on page 5-6 onto paper to make a template. Cut out template on drawn lines (photo 1).

Step 2

Fold a light aqua 15×20" rectangle in half to make a 15×10" rectangle. Place paper template on fold; pin paper template to fabric. Carefully cut around template to make bag front. Repeat with remaining light aqua 15×20" rectangle to make bag back. Finish side and bottom edges with zigzag stitch if desired.

Step 3

With right sides together, sew together two dark aqua 2¾×45" strips along each long edge, leaving short ends open. Repeat with remaining dark aqua 2¾×45" strips (photo 2).

Step 4

Turn one set of strips right side out through one short end to make a handle. Repeat to make a second handle (photo 3).

TIP: Use a large safety pin attached to one end to turn handle right side out or baste end and use turning

tool.

Step 5

Pin one handle to bag front as marked on pattern, 2½" from center, lining up ends of handles with bottom edge of bag front. Repeat for bag back (photo 4).

Step 6

Set machine to the largest width and length for a zigzag stitch. Starting at bottom of bag, zigzag stitch along edges of each handle, stopping about 1" from the top of the bag (photo 4).

Step 7

With right sides together, pin bag front to bag back, aligning edges at sides and bottom. Using a ½" seam, sew together pieces along side and bottom edges.

Step 8

With bag still wrong side out, tuck handles inside, then fold down unstitched top edge ¼", and then ¼" again; press and pin. Topstitch pinned edge, being careful not to catch handles in the seam (photo 5).

Step 9

Finish zigzag topstitching along handle edges, securing handles to top edge of bag as you sew.

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PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

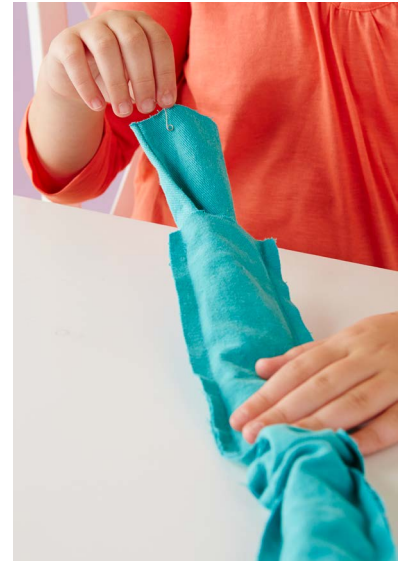


PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

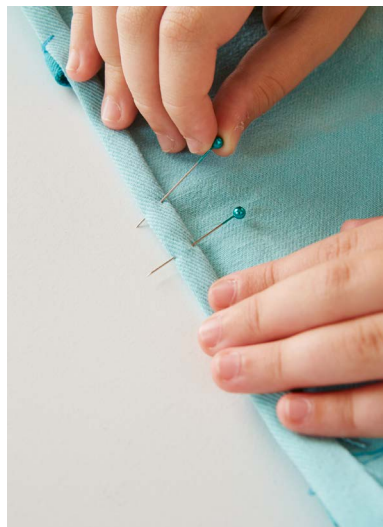


PHOTO 5

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PHOTO 7

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place on the fold

handle placement lines

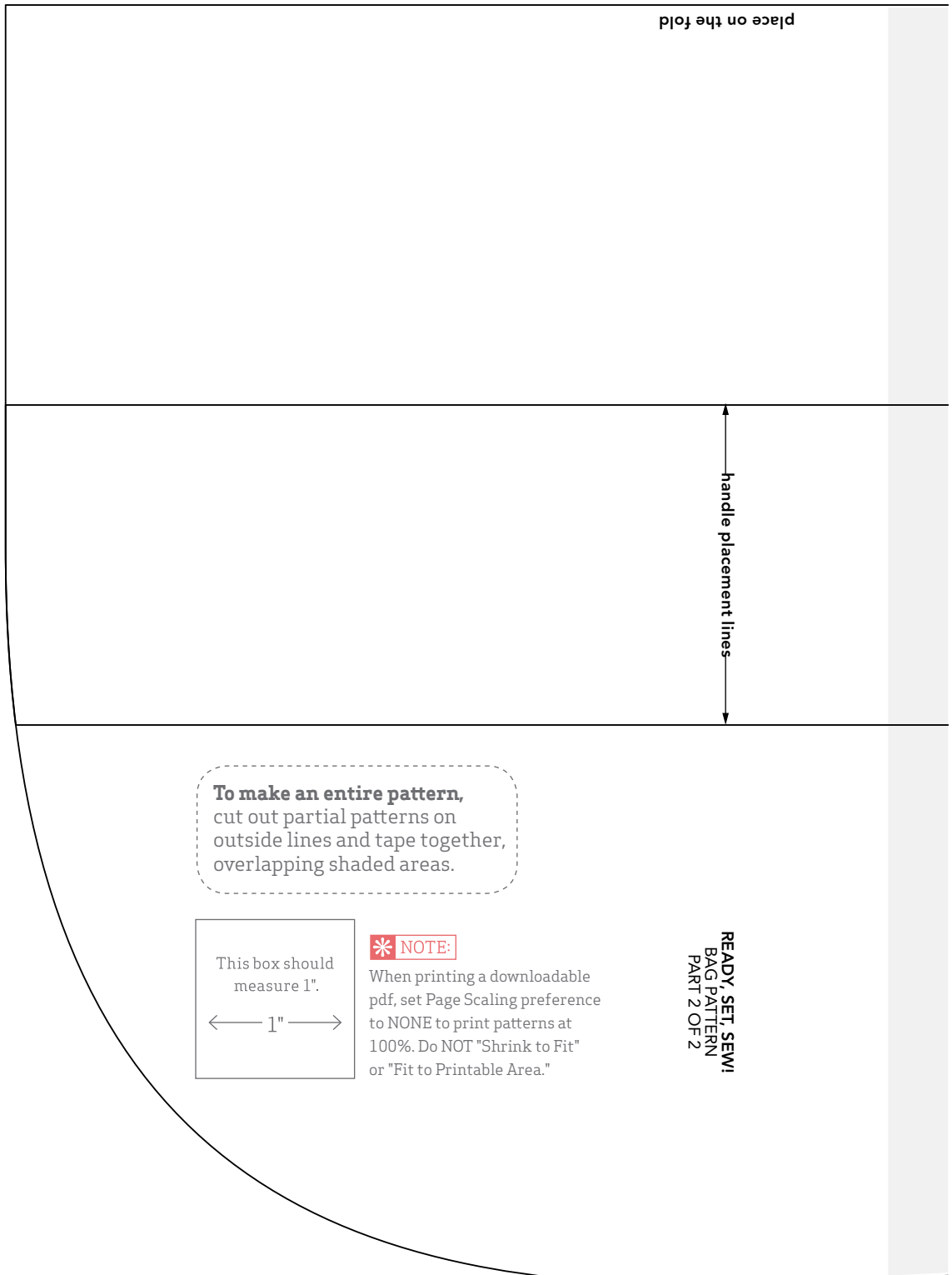
To make an entire pattern, cut out partial patterns on outside lines and tape together, overlapping shaded areas.

This box should measure 1".
← 1" →

*** NOTE:** When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

READY, SET, SEW!
BAG PATTERN
PART 1 OF 2

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To make an entire pattern,
cut out partial patterns on
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READY, SET, SEW!
BAG PATTERN
PART 2 OF 2