

# Placemat Tote Bag Tutorial

By Jackie

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This tutorial will show you how to make a 12" x 9" x 3" (*approximate size*) tote bag out of 2 placemats.

## **Materials:**

**\*2 Fabric Placemats**

*(Pictured placemats were approximately 13 inches by 18 inches.)*

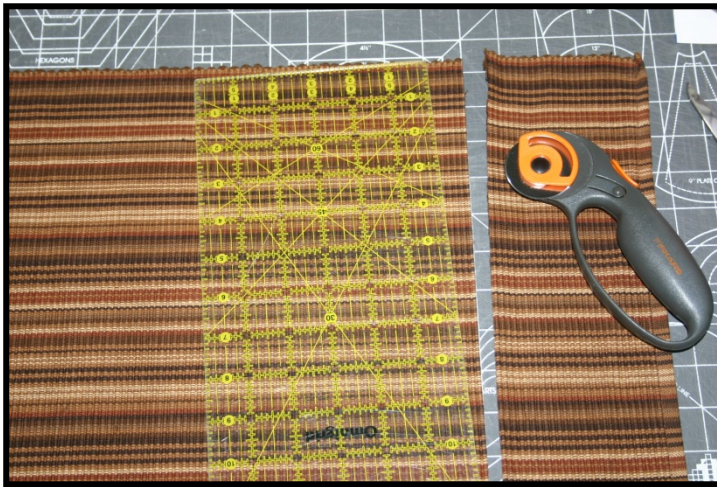
**\*Rotary cutter and mat.**

**\*Scissors**

**\*Coordinating thread**

**\*Sewing Machine**





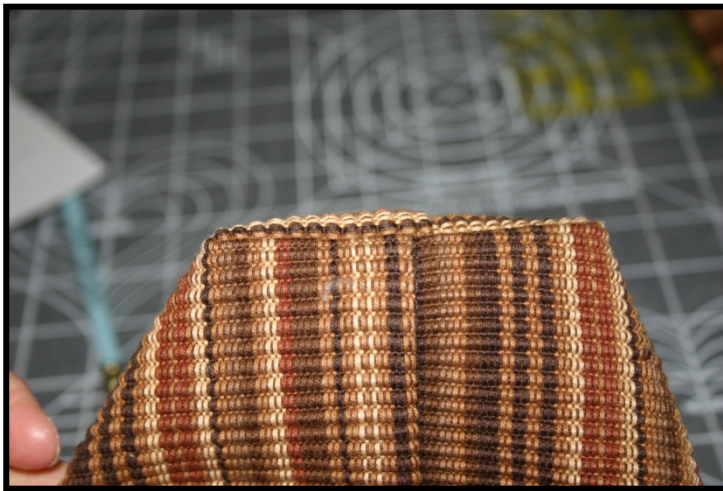
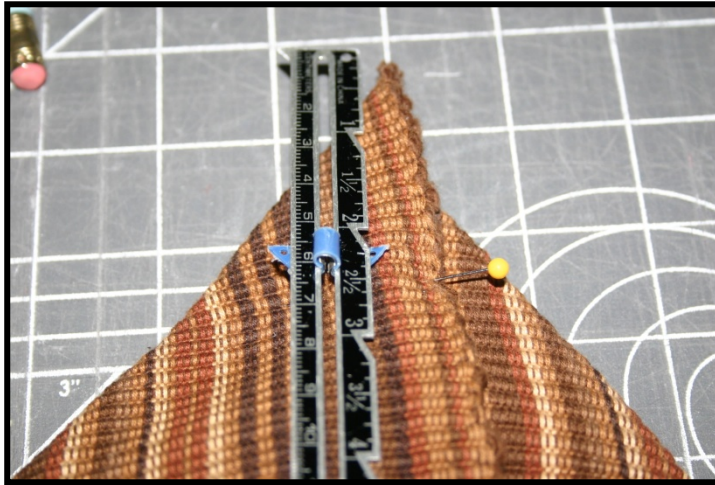
**1. Using a rotary cutter cut 4 inches off of one short side of each placemat. These pieces will become the handles. Set them aside for now.**

**2. Place the two large pieces right sides together with the hems of the placemats together. Pin along 3 sides leaving the hemmed edges open as this will become the top of the bag.**



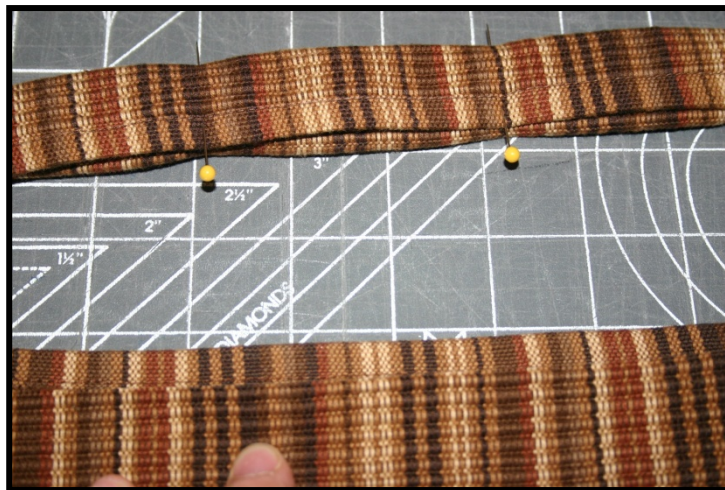
- 3. Using a straight stitch sew along the 3 sides that were pinned in the previous step using a ½ inch seam allowance.**
- 4. Zig-zag over any raw edges to prevent raveling.**

**5. Fold each bottom corner of the bag into a triangular point and pin. The seam should be at the top in the middle. Stitch a straight seam 2 ½ inches from the point. Do this step for both sides of the bag while it is turned wrong side out.**



**6. This is what the bottom corners of your bag should look like when you turn the bag right side out.**

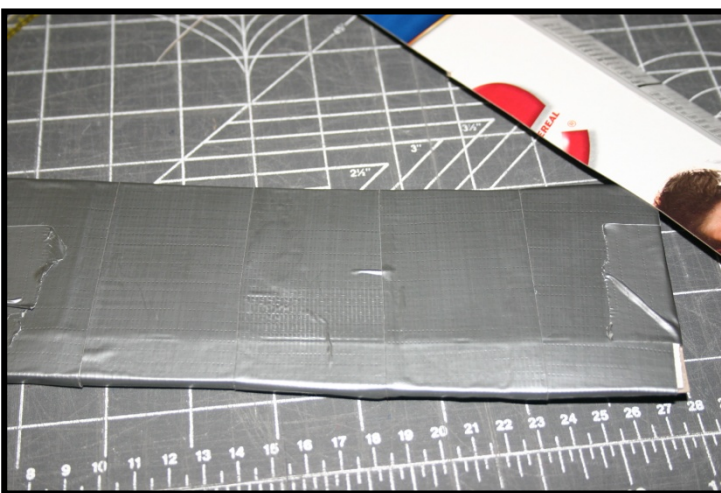
**7. To make the handles you will need the two 4 inch pieces you cut off at the beginning. Fold each piece into thirds enclosing the cut edge inside. Pin in place.**





**8. Stitch along the side of each handle using a straight stitch and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance. You want to make sure you are stitching along the side that has an opening.**

**9. Pin the handles to the top of the bag. One handle centered on each side approximately 4 inches from each side seam.**  
**10. Using a straight stitch sew back and forth at least three times per handle and then use a zig-zag stitch for good measure. You want the handles to be secure.**



**11. To make a sturdy base for your bag you can cut a piece of cardboard to a size of approximately  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.**

*(Measure the bottom of your bag for an accurate size.)*

**12. Cover the cardboard with duct tape for durability and place it in the bottom of your bag.**

**You are finished! Enjoy your new bag. If you have any questions please contact me at <http://www.blessingsoverflowing.com/contact-2>**