

Promenade Market Tote Pattern

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Saving the environment doesn't have to be boring, and in fact, can be made more fashionable with a bit of cheatin'! We all know that reusable market bags are better for the planet, and our colorful Promenade Market Tote will certainly turn heads in the produce department. Cheater cloth—like Denyse's *Patchwork Promenade* from her *County Fair* line of canvas fabric—has been popular for over 150 years as a way to replicate the intricate look of patchwork without all the time and effort. We have a couple of bolts of Patchwork Promenade on the shelf so, while it lasts, we're offering nearly a yard—enough to make two coordinating, but not exactly matching, totes. You'll never need a plastic bag again!

How to Sew a Market Tote:

Cut the Fabric

Cut a 17" x 35.75" rectangle of canvas fabric. If using Denyse's *Patchwork Promenade*, cut a piece one quilt square wide by two tall (note that the quilt squares on the cheater cloth are not exactly square, the 17" side runs parallel to the selvage). The finished bag will be 12" wide x 14" tall x 4" deep. From the remaining fabric, cut two pieces 17" x 4" for the handles, and one piece 7" x 17" for an inside pocket (optional).

Sew the Pocket

On one short end create a double-turn hem (see glossary). Fold up hemmed side, with wrong sides together, so rectangle measures 9" x 7". Finish long sides by stitching a double-turn hem on the raw edges of both sides of the pocket, folding the fabric toward the back (figure A). Set aside.

Sew the Tote

Fold tote fabric in half, with right sides together, so fabric measures 17-7/8" x 17". The fold will become the bottom of the bag. Using a 1/2" SA, sew both sides. With bag wrong side out, sew a line of topstitching, 1/4" from the side seam. You'll be sewing on the right side of the bag, from the inside. Don't worry if your machine can't reach the corner, just get as close as you can.

Lay bag flat on a table and finger press the bottom fold as a guide for the next step. Wrong side out, stand bag upright and flatten the bottom corners, being careful to line up the side seams with the bottom center of the bag. Sew a 4" line of stitching across the triangle, 2" in from the corner of the bag (figure B). Repeat on other side. This creates the bottom of the bag. Press triangle to the bottom of the bag, and stitch in place, across the point.

Turn bag right side out. Fold top of bag to inside 1/2", then another 1". Press. Pin prepared pocket in place underneath the fold, lining up the center of one side of the bag with the center of the pocket. Finish the top of the bag by stitching along the folded edge, attaching the pocket as you sew.

Attach the Handles

Fold under short sides 1/2" each. Press. Fold in long edges so they meet in the center, then fold strap in half. Press. Edgestitch around the strap, about 1/8" from the edge. Repeat for second strap. Pin the ends of each strap to the outside of the bag, 2" from the center and 1-1/2" down, and sew in a box shape to attach (figure C).

You're ready to shop and promenade!

Glossary

Double-Turn Hem: Turn raw edge under a scant 1/4", then turn under a generous 1/4". Sew a straight stitch through both layers, backstitching at the beginning and end of the seam. Press the finished edges.

Edgestitch: Stitch about 1/8" or closer from the finished edge.

Topstitch: The topstitch is used to secure seams and add a decorative finish. This stitch is worked on the right side, about 1/4" away from an edge or seam, through all the layers.

SA = Seam allowance



= Wrong side of fabric



= Right side of fabric

