

Marie-Anne

Outdoor Illustrations



HOW TO MAKE A TOTE BAG



*For people who think they can't sew,
but do have a sewing machine*





My name is Marie-Anne,

*and I love that you are interested in making
your own tote bag!*



In this guide I'll show you how you can make a tote bag in a way that I'm sure you'll be able to!

Enjoy the making, be sure to double check all your steps twice and have your favourite cup of tea whilst doing so ;)

Love,

Marie-Anne

STEP 1.

Pick your favourite fabric.

Whilst choosing your fabric pay some attention to the print on your fabric and see if it's a directional print, or a print that you can use either direction. Choosing a print that you can use either direction is a little easier to sew with because you don't have to check if the direction of the print is how you want it to be.

For this tote I've used a piece of fabric that's 28" x 18" (71 cm x 50 cm) in size.



STEP 2.

STRAPS

Mark two lanes with a width of 0,3 inch (7 cm) and length 28" (71 cm)

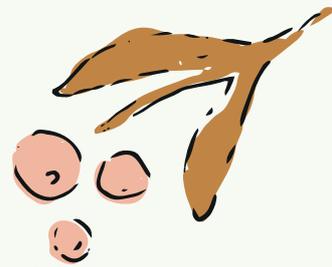
Cut out the two pieces of fabric.

After cutting you now have 2 pieces of fabric for the straps, and one big piece that will be used to make the bag.

You will see your fabric will start fraying after you've cut it. Make sure to finish the edges with a zigzag stitch along the raw edges to neaten it and to prevent fraying.

(Machine setting: zigzag stitch, stitch length 0,3" (0,8 cm) // stitch width 2" (5 cm) // thread tension 4 // foot 7)





STEP 3.

STRAPS

Take the piece of fabric that will be one of the straps and fold it in half.

After having done that, fold both edges of the fabric (0,3" or 1 cm) inwards.

To make the folding easier and create a crease that will stay you can use iron. The clear crease will make the sewing easier.

If done right you will see that the strap will be 1" (2,5 cm) wide.



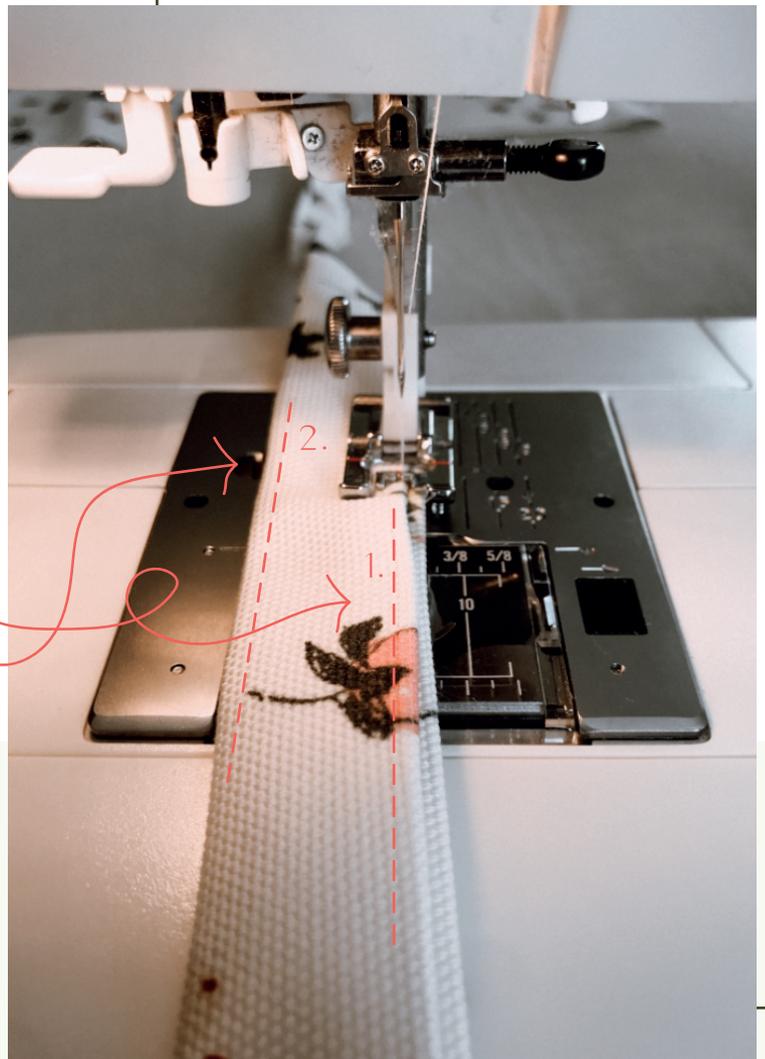
STEP 4.

STRAPS

Fold the fabric according the folds that you've just made and sew them together as shown in the picture (1.). When you finished one side, also sew together the other side. This will give you a strong and clean looking strap.

Repeat steps 3 & 4 to make the second strap.

*Machine setting:
straight stitch // length 1" (2,5 cm) // width 2" (5 cm) // tread*





STEP 5.

STRAPS

If all went well, you now have two straps that are sewn & a piece of fabric to start creating the bag with.

In the picture you can see that the straps make a swirl, don't worry too much about this. Once applied to the bag you will not see a swirl anymore ;)

STEP 6.

BAG

Let's start with the bag part.

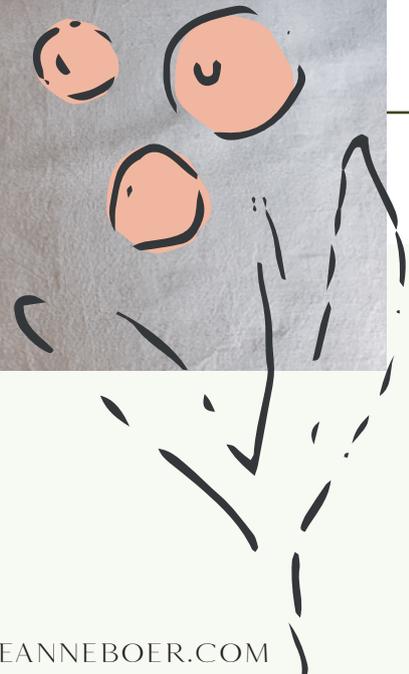
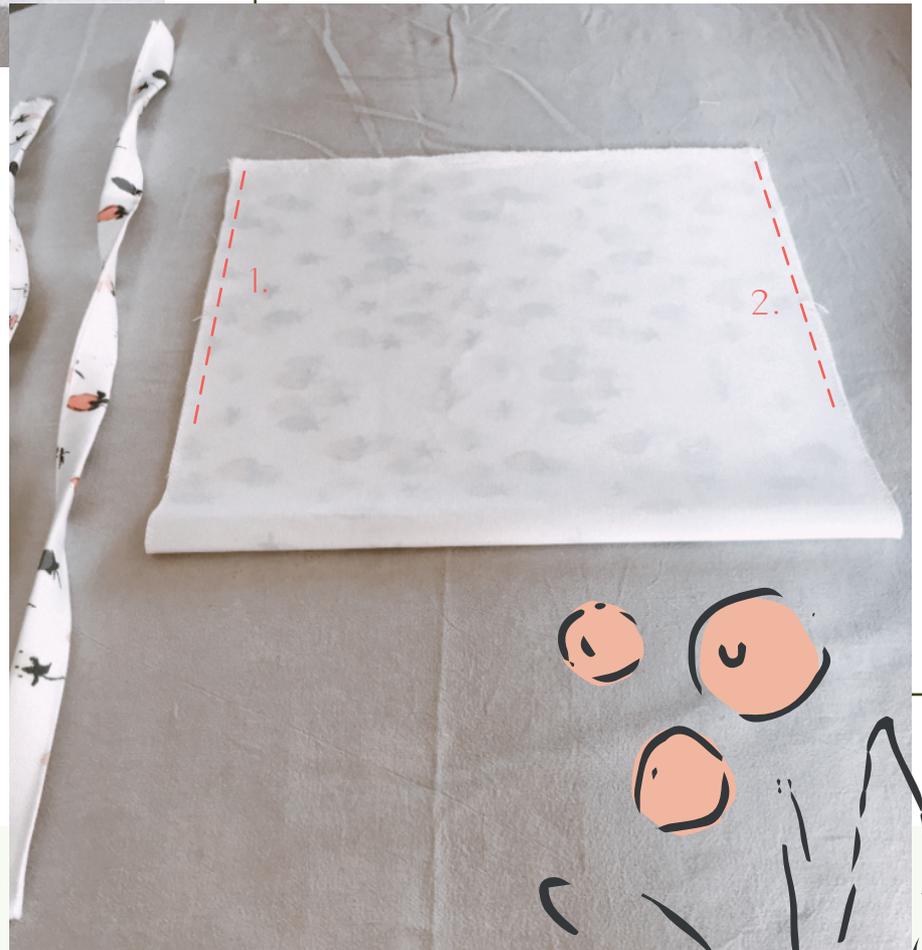
Firstly fold the fabric in half, with the print on the inside. Make sure to have a look at the direction of your print and that it's in the direction you want it to be.

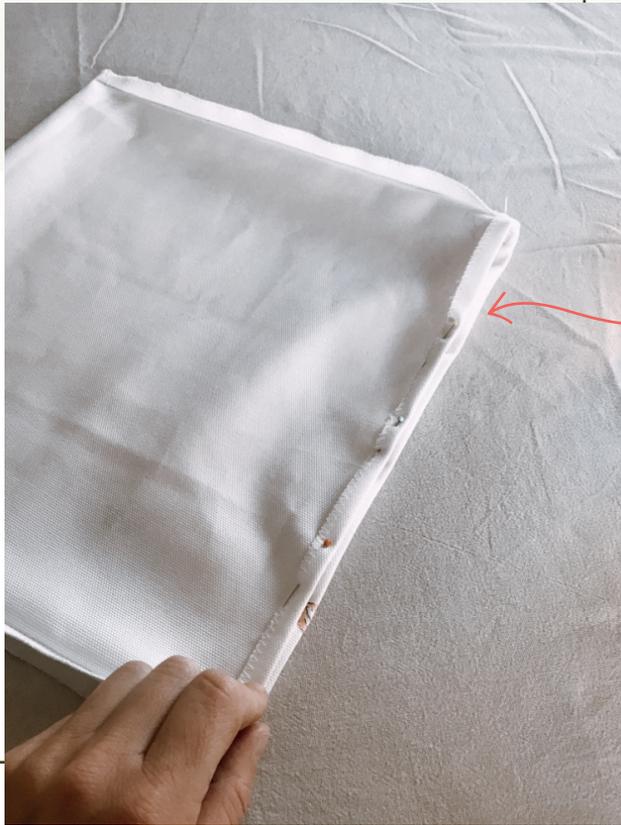
Stitch the left (1.), and then stitch the right (2.) side to create the bag.

(You will notice that the strawberries on my fabric are facing sideways. I've had to cut the fabric in half and sew the two pieces back together to make sure the strawberries we're in the right direction.)

Machine setting:

*straight stitch // length 1" (2,5 cm) // width 2" (5 cm) //
thread tension 4 // foot A*





STEP 7.

BAG

By having sewn the sides of your bag together you now have the opening of the bag ready for the first hem (we'll make a double hem eventually in step 9). Use pins to fix the hem first and then use a straight stitch to sew it.

I've made a hem that is (0,3" or 1 cm) wide.

Before making your hem do a quick check to see if the direction of your fabric is how you want it to be by turning the bag inside out.

STEP 8.

STRAPS & BAG

After having finished the hem of the opening of your bag you can now sew the straps onto the bag.

The beginning and the end of the first strap go on one side of the bag (1. in picture).

Whilst attaching the straps onto the bag make sure to twist the strap in a way that takes the swirl out of it before attaching it.

The beginning and the end of the second strap go on the other side of the bag.





STEP 9.

BAG & STRAPS

To create a strong attachment of your straps onto the bag we'll make the second hem to the opening of the bag.

In order to do so, fold the edge inwards and create a 1,1" (3 cm) hem.

Stitch your hem with a straight stitch.

Machine setting: straight stitch // length 1" (2,5 cm) // width 2" (5 cm) // thread tension 4 // foot A

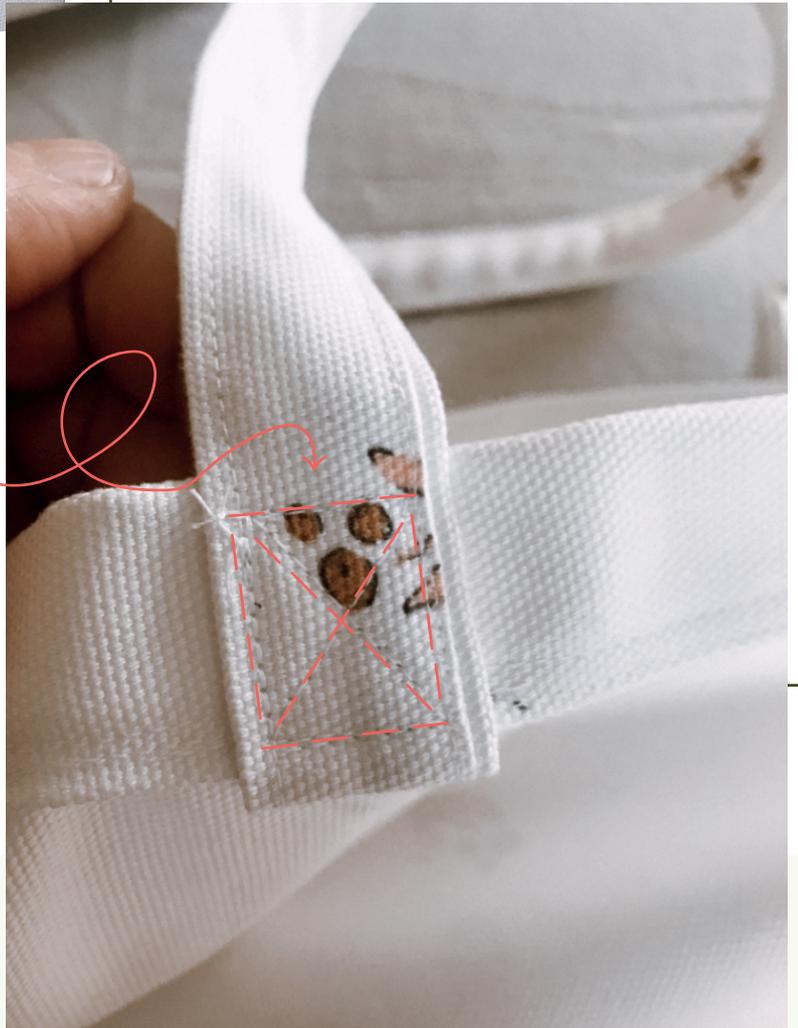
STEP 10.

STRAPS & BAG

Fold the straps upwards and stitch them onto the hem as shown in the picture.

Fold your bag inside out....and now you already have a beautiful tote bag!

If you want to go for an extra finishing touch follow the next few steps...



STEP 11.

BAG

To create a flattened bottom in your bag we'll start by folding your bag as shown in the picture.



Mark a line that you can follow to sew. Take the left bottom corner of the bag and sew a straight line following your mark.

Do the same on the right bottom corner of the bag,



STEP 12.

BAG

After you've sewn the left bottom corner of the bag, as well as the right bottom corner....you've finished your tote bag!!

Fold it inside out to see the result. You can be so proud of what you've made!

I'd absolutely LOVE to see your result!

Post your tote on instagram am use the hashtag #marianneboerdesign

I can't wait to see what you've created and I hope you will enjoy it for years to come!





WELL DONE!

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR
NEW BAG!



Fabrics used in this brochure:

Strawberries Abundance-Early morning (Large) // available on www.spoonflower.com/profiles/marie-anneboer
& Strength and Love-Cream // available in the webshop www.marieanneboer.com

