

# Wine Tote

This project was originally posted to the BERNINA Sewing Republic site

Kathryn Goodman



## MATERIALS

- ½ yard of light to mid-weight cotton fabric for the exterior and handle
- ½ yard of light to mid-weight cotton in a coordinating fabric for the interior and handle lining (This pattern can also be made from 2 coordinating fat quarters)
- ½ yard of insulated batting, such as Insul-Brite
- 1 spool of coordinating thread

## TOOLS

- Scissors or rotary cutter
- Yardstick or long straight-edge ruler at least 18" in length
- Straight pins
- Fabric marker or chalk
- Turning tool or wooden chopstick
- Blind hem/edge foot (helpful, but not required)

Note: Wash and iron fabrics before cutting. Use 1/2" seam allowance throughout unless otherwise stated. Seam allowance is included in pattern measurements.

# STEPS

## Cutting

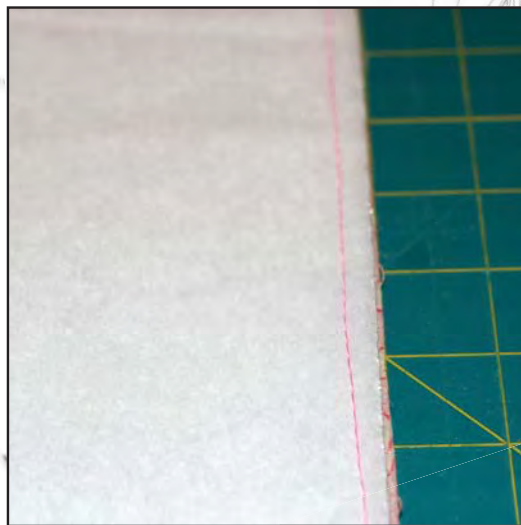
1. Cut a 15" square from each of the fabrics and the batting. Cut a rectangle 3" x 10" from each of the fabrics (there is no need to cut a strip of batting).



## Sewing

2. **Baste the insulated batting to the exterior fabric:**

Place the batting panel onto the wrong side of the exterior fabric piece. Pin into place. Machine baste  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from edges around the entire fabric piece. Press lightly with a steam iron from the fabric side of the basted panel.



3. **Construct the tote handle:**

Place the right sides of the tote handle and fabric strips together, sew together along one long edge. Press the seam open.

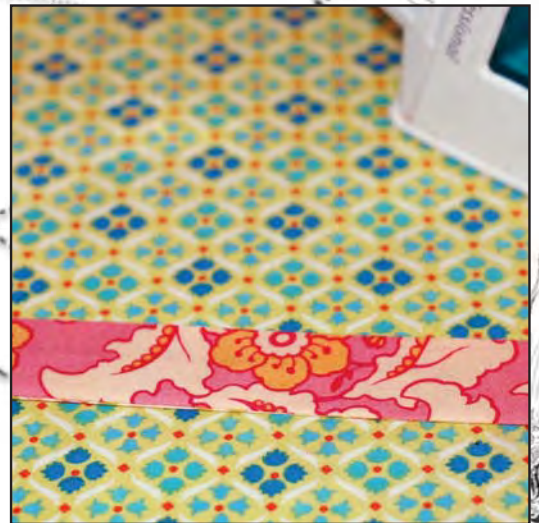




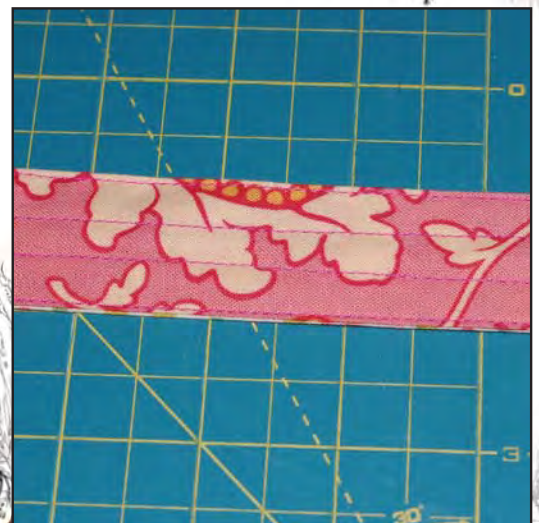
4. Next, fold the opposite long edges in by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press.



5. Fold the wrong sides of the handle together along the seam line. Press and pin into place.



6. Edge stitch along each long edge. (If you have a blind hem/edge foot for your sewing machine, use it now—it makes for a super-neat finish! If you don't have one, just stitch about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the edge.) Now add two more rows of stitching, each  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the rows of stitching along the edge. Set wine tote handle aside.





### 7. Construct the body of the tote bag:

Fold the exterior piece right sides together and stitch along the side and bottom.



8. Fold the lining (interior fabric piece), right sides together. Stitch along the bottom edge. Stitch the side-leaving a 5" opening in the seam line for turning the completed bag right-side out.



### 9. Square the Bottom:

With the lining right sides together, fold the corners out to form a triangle; centering the side seam along the bottom seam. Measure  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " from the corner on the center seam. Mark with a fabric pen or chalk. Stitch along this line.





**10.** Trim seam line to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Turn bag right side out, gently pushing the corners out with the turning tool. Set aside.



**11.** Repeat the previous two steps on the exterior bag section.



**12. Attach the tote handle to the exterior of the bag:**

Center one end of the handle over the exterior bag seam and pin into place.





**13.** Pin the opposite end of the handle along the center point of the opposite side. Machine baste into place  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.



**14. Attach the exterior of bag to lining:**

Slip the exterior of the bag (with the RIGHT side facing out) into the lining of the bag (with the WRONG side facing out), so the RIGHT sides of the two bags are together. Match up the raw edges and side seams, making sure the tote strap is tucked in between the exterior and interior of the bag. Pin into place.



**15.** Stitch all the way around the top edge. Pull the right side of the bag through the opening in the side seam of the lining.



**16.** Hand stitch the opening in the lining closed. Now, slip the lining down into the bag.

**Finishing touches:**

Press the bag along the top edge and edge stitch along the top. Lightly press the entire bag for a nice finished look!





