

kraft•tex™
KRAFT PAPER FABRIC

Lined
tote bag
by Betsy
La Honta



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS and Hints

- When sewing with kraft•tex™, use binder clips (from an office supply store) or quilt binding clips to hold the layers together for sewing. Pins are difficult to push through the material and will leave perforations.
- It is easiest to cut the kraft•tex™ with a rotary cutter and cutting mat. A small rotary cutter (I used a 28mm size.) makes it easier to cut smooth curves, but the standard size works fine—just take your time.
- To make a crisp fold, use a bone folder (or similar tool) to create a smooth edge.
- Because the kraft•tex™ perforates (similar to vinyl), it is best not to sew back and forth in one place too many times or the material will tear. To secure the stitching at the beginning of a seam, start sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " in along the seamline, stitch backward to the edge, and then proceed to sew forward along the seamline.
- If you find the kraft•tex™ is curled from being in a roll, press it to flatten.

Lined Tote Bag

Finished size: 11" wide × 8" high × 3" deep

MATERIALS

Black kraft•tex™

9" × $\frac{1}{2}$ yard roll: $\frac{1}{2}$ yard
There will be leftover material.

Floral fabric

$\frac{3}{8}$ yard for lining and pocket trim*

Striped fabric

$\frac{1}{4}$ yard for handles*

** If you prefer, you can use the same fabric for the lining, pocket trim, and handles. You would need a total of $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of fabric.*

CUTTING

Black kraft•tex™

2 pieces 11" × 15" for tote body

2 pieces 4" × 8" for pockets

2 pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ " × 30" for handles

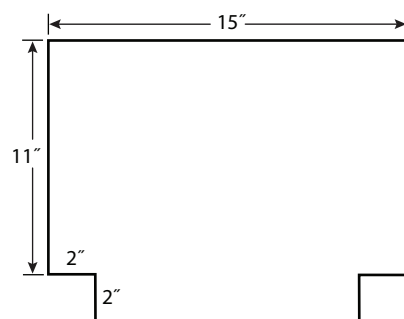
Floral fabric

2 pieces 12" × 15" for lining

2 pieces 2" × 8" for pocket trim

Striped fabric

2 pieces 2" × 30" for handles



On the bottom corners of both of the kraft•tex™ body pieces and both of the lining body pieces, cut 2" × 2" squares as shown.

INSTRUCTIONS

All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{2}$ " unless otherwise stated.

Make the Pockets

1. To make the pocket trim, fold the 2" × 8" fabric strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and press. Unfold and turn each long edge in to center and press again. Fold the strip in half lengthwise and press again. You should now have a strip $\frac{1}{2}$ " × 8".
2. Enclose a long edge of a 4" × 8" pocket piece with the folded pocket trim. Topstitch along the bottom edge of the pocket trim.
3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to trim the other pocket.

Make the Handles

1. To make the fabric handle, fold a 2" × 30" fabric piece in half lengthwise, right sides together, and press lightly. Unfold and turn each long edge in to the center and press again, ironing out the first center fold. You should now have a fabric strip 1" × 30".
2. Place the $\frac{1}{2}$ " × 30" kraft•tex™ strip on the folded side of the 1" × 30" fabric strip, centering it along the length and clipping with binder clips or quilting clips to hold it in place. Topstitch along one long edge of the kraft•tex™ strip and then along the other.
3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to make the other handle.

Attach the Pockets

1. Place a trimmed pocket $2\frac{1}{2}$ " down from and $3\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the sides of a kraft•tex™ body piece.
2. Edgestitch the pocket to the kraft•tex™ around both sides and the bottom.
3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 on the other kraft•tex™ body piece.

Attach the Handles

1. Fold both ends of the handles over $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the all-fabric side.
2. Line up the bottom edge of a handle (kraft•tex™ strip side up) with the bottom corner of a pocket, centering the handle over the side seam. Topstitch a long narrow rectangle on the $\frac{1}{2}$ " kraft•tex™ strip, through the pocket, to attach the handle to the bag.
3. Repeat Step 2 to attach the other end of the handle to the opposite side of the pocket, making sure the handle isn't twisted before you sew.
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 to attach the other handle to the other kraft•tex™ body piece.



Assemble

1. With right sides together, sew each lining piece to a kraft•tex™ tote body piece across the top. Press it flat to set the seam, then open and press it flat. All seam allowances should be pressed up toward the lining fabric.
2. Align the assembled body pieces, right sides together, making sure to match up the seam between the kraft•tex™ and the lining fabric. Pin (on the fabric) and clip (on kraft•tex™) along the sides. Sew the side seams.
3. Sew the bottom seam only in the kraft•tex™. Do not sew the 2" square notch at the corners.
4. To make the boxed bottom corners, starting on one side, pinch in a bottom and a side seam, so the notches make a straight line. Match the seams, and clip to hold closed, pushing the side and bottom seam allowances in opposite directions. Sew along the raw edges, backstitching at the start and finish, to make the corner.
5. Repeat Step 4 to sew the other corner.
6. Turn the tote right side out, but leave the lining outside of the bag at this point.
7. To finish the lining, press each bottom edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side. Match up the bottom edges, pin, and then edgestitch the bottom closed. (Do not sew the 2" square notch.)
8. To finish the lining corners, tuck the raw edges under $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the notches, matching the side and bottom seams, and edgestitch across in a straight line. Repeat for the other corner. Tuck the lining back inside the tote.
9. If desired, topstitch around the upper edge of the bag, $\frac{1}{8}$ " from top edge, being sure to avoid accidentally stitching through the handles.