nelefrek

Create a Unique Tote or Backpack

August 9.2025 Instructor: Jacqueline Doctor Johnson

Using material and information from the computer class.

Materials needed: 20' X 20' of canvas, in your desired color and the exact same for lining or inside of your bag. (this can be regular cotton). Please Bring fabric in with applique already attached and stitch in place (have FUN with your design this is a unique BAG). You will need fabric for the straps, you can purchase it or make your own. 3 ½ yds. I decorated both sides of mine, your choice.

MAKE YOUR BACKPACK

- Stitch right sides together @ ½' seam allowance at the bottom first.
- Measure from the bottom up 5' stay stitch your strap in place on both sides.
- Measure from top down 1 ½' notch to create an opening for the drawstring, join right sides together from notch down through the strap.
- Create a pocket by matching the bottom and sides seams, pin in place and mark a line from the center seam equal distance (2') and stitch across. Trim excess.
- Join the right side together (outside bag) and lining, match together at the top and stitch @ ½'
- Do the same for the lining, leave an opening on one side to turn the bag inside out. Close later with an edge stitch.
- Press as you join seams you can edge stitch to re- enforce seams.

- At the top measure down and mark 1 ½' to create a pocket opening for your drawstring.
- Pull the drawstring through and attach to its own strap. and do the same on the other side. These will draw in opposite directions.

TOTE BAG

Follow the same direction as the backpack, except you will need two straps 25' long, you can use the same fabric.

- Cut two pcs. 25'x4' press in half lengthwise and then press them again to make them meet in the center and then stitch along the edge. Set aside.
- Join the right side together at the bottoms and sides, do the same for the lining. (leave an opening at the side to turn the bag inside out.
- Create a bottom pocket the same as the backpack.
- Measure from the center at the top edge 3 1/2' apart and stitch straps in place.
- Join right sides together at the top sew a ½' seam allowance.
 Close lining opening with an edge stitch.
- Design by: Jacqueline Doctor Johnson