

This All Season Tote with it's lovely piping and roominess will become one of your most used totes. Here are a few guidelines and tips that will help you sail through your sewing. If you are new to piping don't let it scare you- with the right tools and a little patience, you will soon be sewing piping on everything!

Optional but highly recommended tools:

-Piping Foot for your sewing machine-

If you don't already have a piping foot, you will be thrilled to add this to your foot collection. It makes adding piping easily and beautifully a breeze. A piping foot for my Janome cost around \$18.00 and I have gotten my money's worth many times over with it. If you do not have a piping foot you can use a zipper foot, or if you don't have one of those, your regular foot with the needle set to the left will work.

-Wonder Clips by Clover(the red ones).

These make so many things so much easier! Once you use these you won't know how you ever did without them.

-When you baste or sew the piping onto the body, use a color that matches the piping. After the bag is assembled you don't want to see the stitches but if there is a spot here or there where they peek out they won't show as much if the thread matches. You can avoid this by sewing up close to the piping and ,again, a piping foot makes this much easier.

-All seam allowances are half inch unless otherwise noted.

-These bags can be made with quilting weight cotton or heavier cotton such as home dec or canvas. On the Big Tote and the Project Bag you will need to use Shape Flex by Pellon if you use quilting weight cotton.

-All the seam allowances are included in the patterns

Assembling the paper patterns:

-Be sure to print out your patterns at 100%.

-Cut out the pieces and tape together being careful matching the triangles and outlines.

## All Season Tote

I originally designed this tote for our summer pool bag. There are three pockets on the front of the bag and I was sure to include a clip for my keys in the center one. Inside there is a leash that can clip to a zipper pouch perfect for your phone and other small necessities. Instead of taking the whole bag with me to the snack bar, I can just unclip the zipper pouch and take it with me. This tote quickly became my take it everywhere bag. I have several now and I hope you find it as usable as I do. Enjoy!

Fabric Requirements:

Exterior- 1 and 1/8th yard- More if prints need to be matched

-Drill cloth or Cotton Duck Interlining- 1 yard

-Lining- 1 and 1/8 yard- quilt weight cotton recommended

-Piping Fabric- one half yard

-Ultra Lightweight Fusible Interfacing

by Pellon- quarter yard

-If using quilting weight cotton for the exterior:

Shape Flex by Pellon- 2.5 yards (Not necessary with home dec or heavier weight cotton)

## Notions:

- All purpose thread to match
- Size 90 Jeans/Denim machine needle
- 2 spring lock clips
- 3 yards of 6/32" piping cord
- 18" piece of Steam A Seam
- 1 piece template plastic cut 3.75" x 13"

## Cutting List:

### Exterior Fabric:

From pattern pieces:

- 2 Exterior body pieces
- 1 Pocket Panel
- Handles: Cut 2 strips 6" x 26"
- Sides/Bottom: Cut 2 strips 5" x 24"

### Lining Fabric:

From pattern pieces:

- 2 body pieces
- 1 Pocket Panel
- Sides/Bottom: Cut 2 strips 5" x 24"
- Lining Sleeve (for template plastic bottom): Cut 1 strip 5" x 14.5"
- Key Strap: Cut 1 strip 2" x 6.5"
- Zip Pouch Leash: Cut 1 strip 2.5" x 16"
- Pocket Binding: Cut 1 strip 2" x 18"

### Interlining:

From pattern pieces:

- 2 body pieces
- 1 pocket panel
- Sides/Bottom: Cut 2 strips 5" x 23.5

### Ultra Lightweight Fusible Interfacing:

- Key Strap: Cut 1 strip 1.75" x 6.25"
- Zip Pouch Leash: Cut 1 strip 2.25" x 15.75"
- Lining Sleeve: Cut one strip 4.75" x 14.25"

If using Home Dec weight or heavier weight cotton, also cut 2 strips 5.75" x 25.75" for the handles.

**NOTE: If using quilting weight cotton for the exterior, you will use fuse Shape Flex onto the handles instead of the lightweight interfacing.**

Shape Flex Interfacing by Pellon : (You will need this if your exterior pieces are quilting weight cotton- do not use with home dec weight or heavier weight cottons)

From pattern pieces:

- 2 exterior body pieces
- 1 pocket panel
- Sides/Bottom: Cut 2 strips 5" x 23.5"
- Handles: Cut 2 strips 6" x 26"

After cutting out all the pieces, fuse lightweight interfacing and/or Shape Flex onto corresponding pieces.

Now that all of your pieces are ready, prepare the following:

### Lining Sleeve:

Hem the short ends of the lining sleeve by folding over 1/4". Press and then fold another 1/4" and press again. Stitch along one end on the hem but leave the other end pressed but not stitched. Set aside.

### Key strap, Leash Strap and Binding:

1. Double fold the key strap, the leash strap, and the pocket panel binding. To do this, fold the strip in half lengthwise and press. Open the strip and fold each raw edge into the center fold and press again. Finish by folding on the original center fold and press.



A. Lay flat, wrong side up.



B. Fold in half and press.



C. Open and fold raw edges to the center.



D. Fold in half again and press.

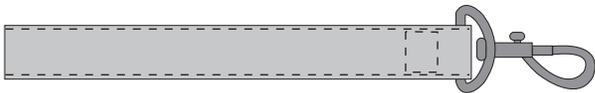
The binding is finished, set aside.

For the key strap and the leash strap, you will now finish the end you will sew the spring clip to as follows:

E. Open the pressed tape and fold one end over 1/4" and press down.



F. Refold and press. Stitch along both sides. Fold the finished edge over the base of the spring clip and stitch, backtacking or stitching a small square to make sure it is stitched on good and tight.



2. Prepare handles. Apply the lightweight interfacing or Shape Flex. Create the handles by double folding just as you did above. Stitch along both long sides of the finished handles and set aside.

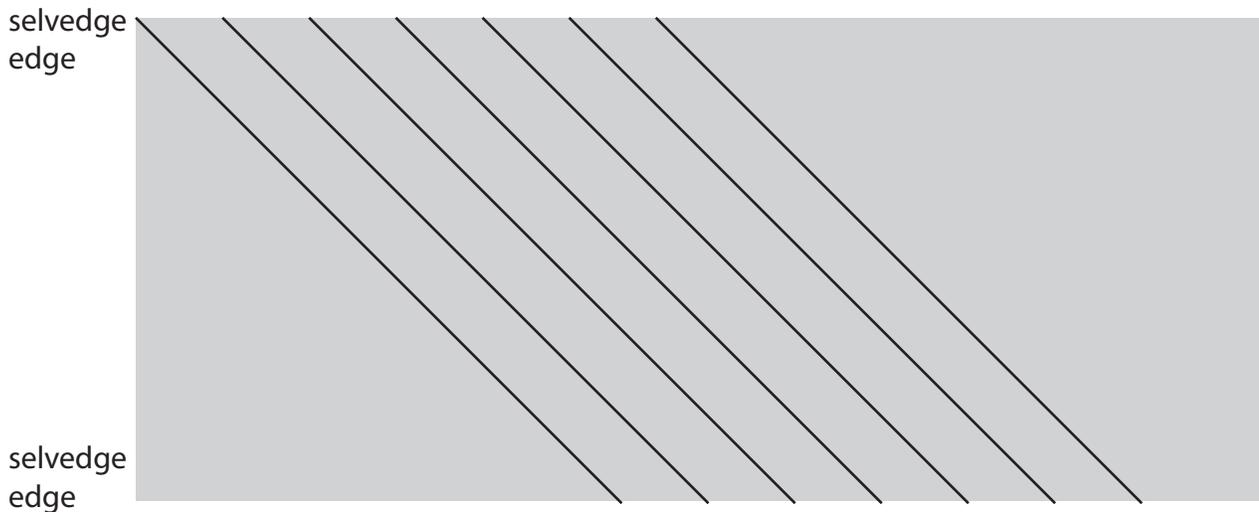
3. Prepare side/bottom pieces. Apply Shape Flex to exterior pieces if using quilting weight cotton. Match up the short ends of the two side/bottom strips with right sides facing and sew together to make one long strip, using a half inch seam allowance. Press seam to one side. Repeat for lining and interlining side/bottom units.

4. Assemble the front pocket panel.

Layer the pocket panel pieces in this order: Lining piece with the right side down on your table, interlining and the exterior panel piece right side up on top. Match all edges carefully and clip or pin in place. Baste close to the edge on the top and the bottom.

With the exterior of the pocket panel facing up, measure 7" from the left side and make a small mark at the top edge. Place the unfinished edge of the key strap at the 7" mark and stitch in place, backtacking to be sure it is securely attached. Prepare to sew the binding on by opening up your binding strip and laying the 18" piece of Steam a Seam down the center crease of the binding. Fold the binding over the top edge of the pocket panel and press in place, being sure the top edge of the key strap is inside the binding. Stitch the binding on. Turn the pocket panel over and pin the key strap in place to keep it out of the way for future steps.

5. Prepare the piping. Cut the strips for the piping on the bias. Lay your fabric right side up with the selvedge edges at the top and bottom. Cut 2" strips at a 45 degree angle. You can use a printed 45 degree angle on your cutting mat as a guide or find it by folding the bottom left corner up so that the raw left edge is lined up with the top selvedge edge. Finger press and use the crease as a guide, cutting two inch strips.

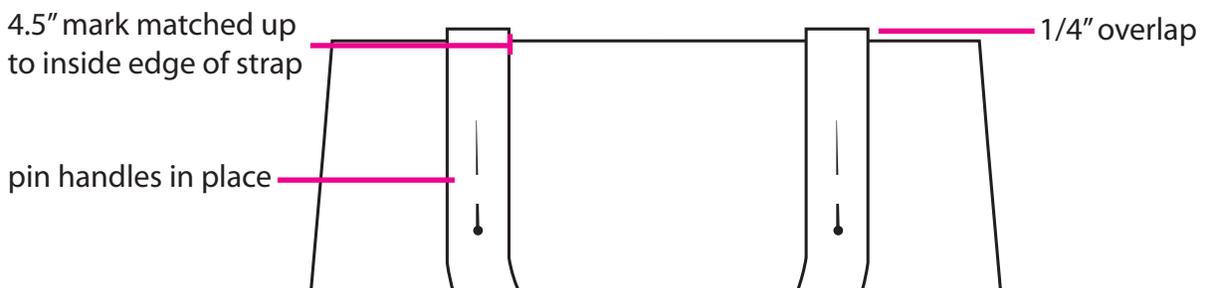


Sew the strips together with a quarter inch seam allowance to make a longer strip by placing them right sides together, matching the ends as shown:

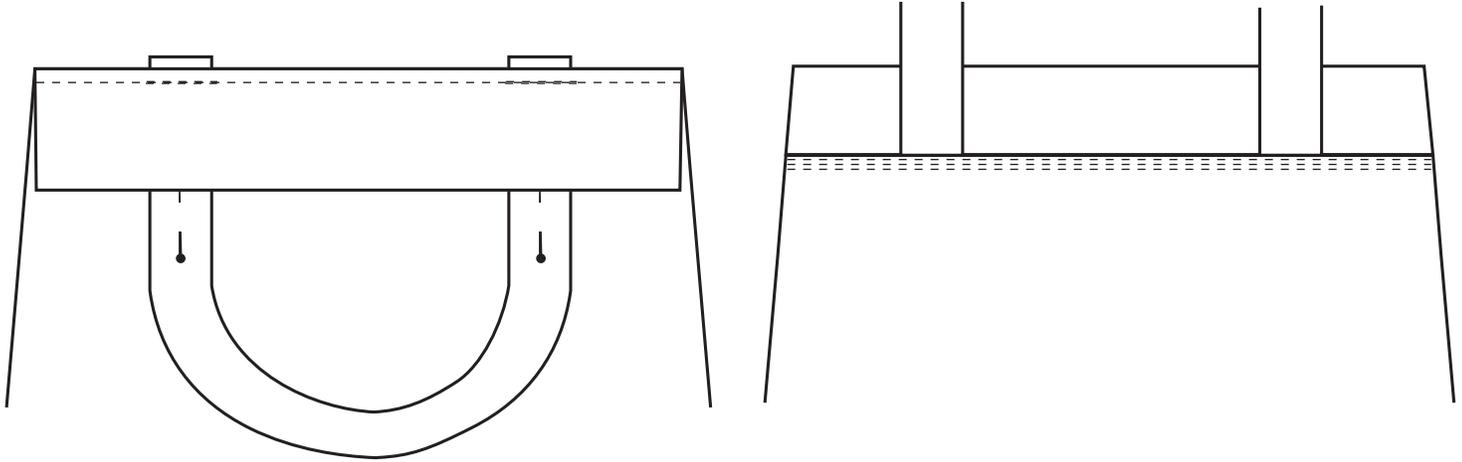


Fold the bias strip around the cord, wrong side to the cord and right side facing out. Match raw edges and pin in place. Using a piping foot or a zipper foot, stitch close to the cord but not right up against it. When your bag is complete you don't want to see the stitching so leave a little space.

6. Sew handles in. Begin by placing the exterior front piece right side up and cut the top 3 inches off, set it aside. Now measure 4.5" in from the left side of the bag exterior piece and make a small mark. Repeat for the right side. Take the end of one handle and line up the inside edge of the handle to the small mark you have just made on the left side, overlapping the end of the handle over the edge of the fabric by 1/4". Pin carefully in place. Repeat on the right side.

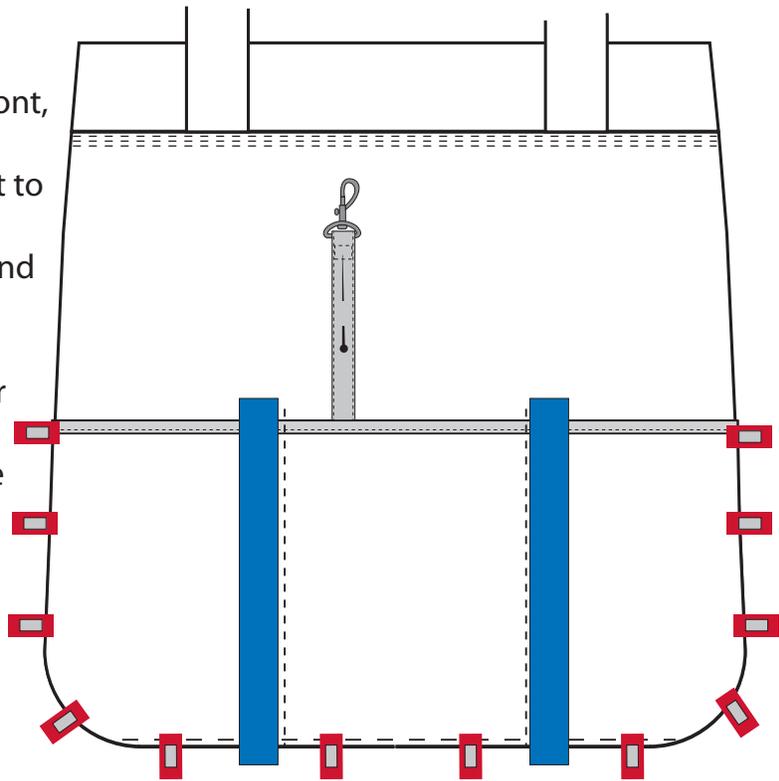


Continue by reattaching the 3" strip you just cut off. Place it down on the exterior piece with right sides together and the handles between them. Stitch in place with a half inch seam allowance, reversing over the handles for extra strength. Turn and press flat. Sew three rows of stitching, 1/8 inch apart starting right below the seam, making sure you catch the end of the strap in the stitchlines. Repeat on other exterior piece



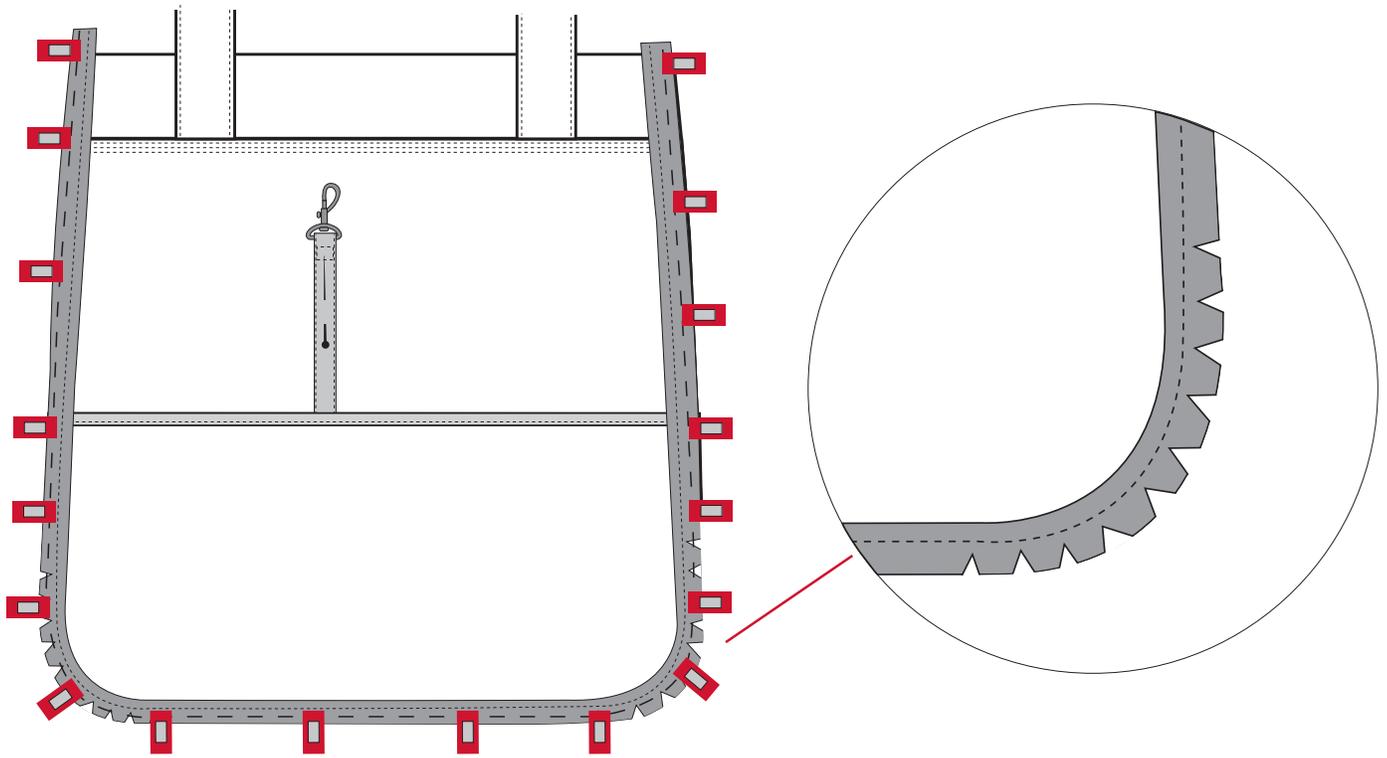
#### 7. Attach pocket panel to exterior front.

Place the pocket panel on the front of the exterior front, right sides up. Pin or clip in place (illustration shows Clover Clips being used). Take the key strap and pin it to the exterior front as shown to keep it out of the way. Measure 5.5" from the top left corner of the pocket and use a piece of painter's tape to make a stitch guide. Repeat on the right. Stitch down the length of the pocket panel following along the inside edge of your stitch guide, reversing stitching at the top of the pocket panel, overlapping a bit as shown to keep the pockets securely sewn to the body with use.



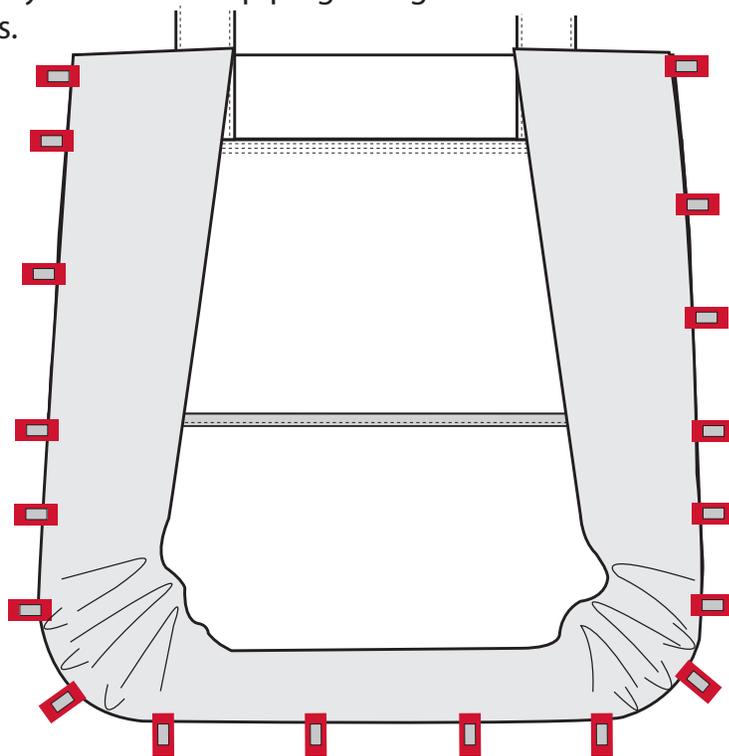
#### 8. Position and baste piping.

Lay the exterior front, right side up, on the interlining. Match all edges. Lay the piping down on the exterior front with the raw edge of the piping matched to the raw edges of the exterior front and interlining. Don't worry about matching the end of the piping perfectly to the top edge of the exterior front. You have a little excess so overlap a bit and then trim off the excess later. It is important to notch the piping flange where it goes around the curve at the bottom corners of the bag as shown. This will help it follow the curve and lay flat. Clip or pin all three layers together. Baste the piping in place closer to the raw edges so the basting stitch won't show when your bag is finished. Repeat for exterior back.



9. Sew sides/bottom to exterior front. (side/bottom pieces will be called out as s/b)

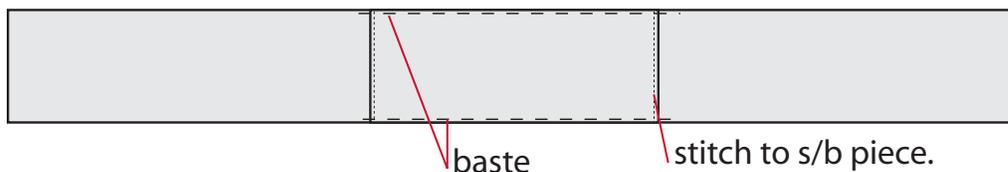
**This step, while not difficult, will turn out best if you go slowly and take your time.** You can choose to baste the s/b exterior piece to your interlining s/b piece though it is not necessary if you go slowly. Being sure to line up the exterior s/b piece and the interlining s/b piece, (these pieces layered together will now be referred to as the s/b unit) match the top edge of the s/b unit to the top edge of the exterior bag front, right sides together, starting with the right hand corner. Pin or clip all the layers in place. When you get to the corner, the s/b unit will not pin absolutely flat because there is some bulk there that needs to be eased around the corner. I find that when I am sewing these pieces together, the s/b unit will stretch a bit and I will have some tiny pleats to sew over in the corners. When you turn the bag inside out, the tiny pleats will look fine and give the bag the ease it needs with the rounded corners. When you are sewing these layers, sew as closely to the piping as you can. This step is a breeze with the piping foot because the foot will follow the piping through all the layers. Without a piping foot go even slower as it will be difficult to see the piping well through the layers.



To repeat for the exterior back, Place the exterior back right side up on top of the interlining. Match up all sides. Pin or clip the s/b unit (now one piece with the exterior front) just as you did for the front, again starting in the right hand corner of the exterior back. Going slowly, sew all around the edge, as close to the piping as possible. Turn and press. Make sure all of the piping is securely sewn into the seam. You are finished with the exterior!

#### 10. Prepare the Lining.

Fold the lining sleeve in half and finger press. Open and lay the crease on the center seamline of the s/b, right sides up and pin in place. Position crease over seam with the already hemmed end to the right.

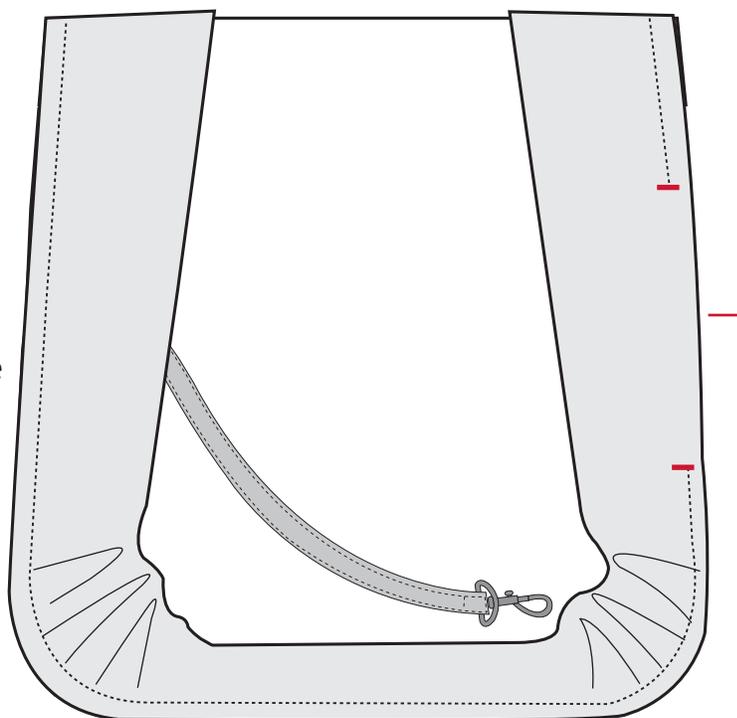


Now sew the lining sleeve to the s/b along the edge of the lining sleeve that you hemmed and did not stitch. Baste close to the edge along the long sides of the lining sleeve.

Measure 7" down on the left side of one of the body pieces and put the leash strap there and stitch, stitching a few times back and forth to secure.

#### **Sew the lining with a 5/8 inch seam allowance.**

Assemble the rest of the lining exactly how you put the exterior body together except leave a 6 inch hole on one of the side seams halfway down so that you can turn the whole bag inside out after you have stitched the lining to the body. Stitch a few times over the end of the leash strap to make it very secure in the seam.

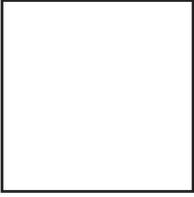


leave a 6 inch hole  
halfway down as  
shown

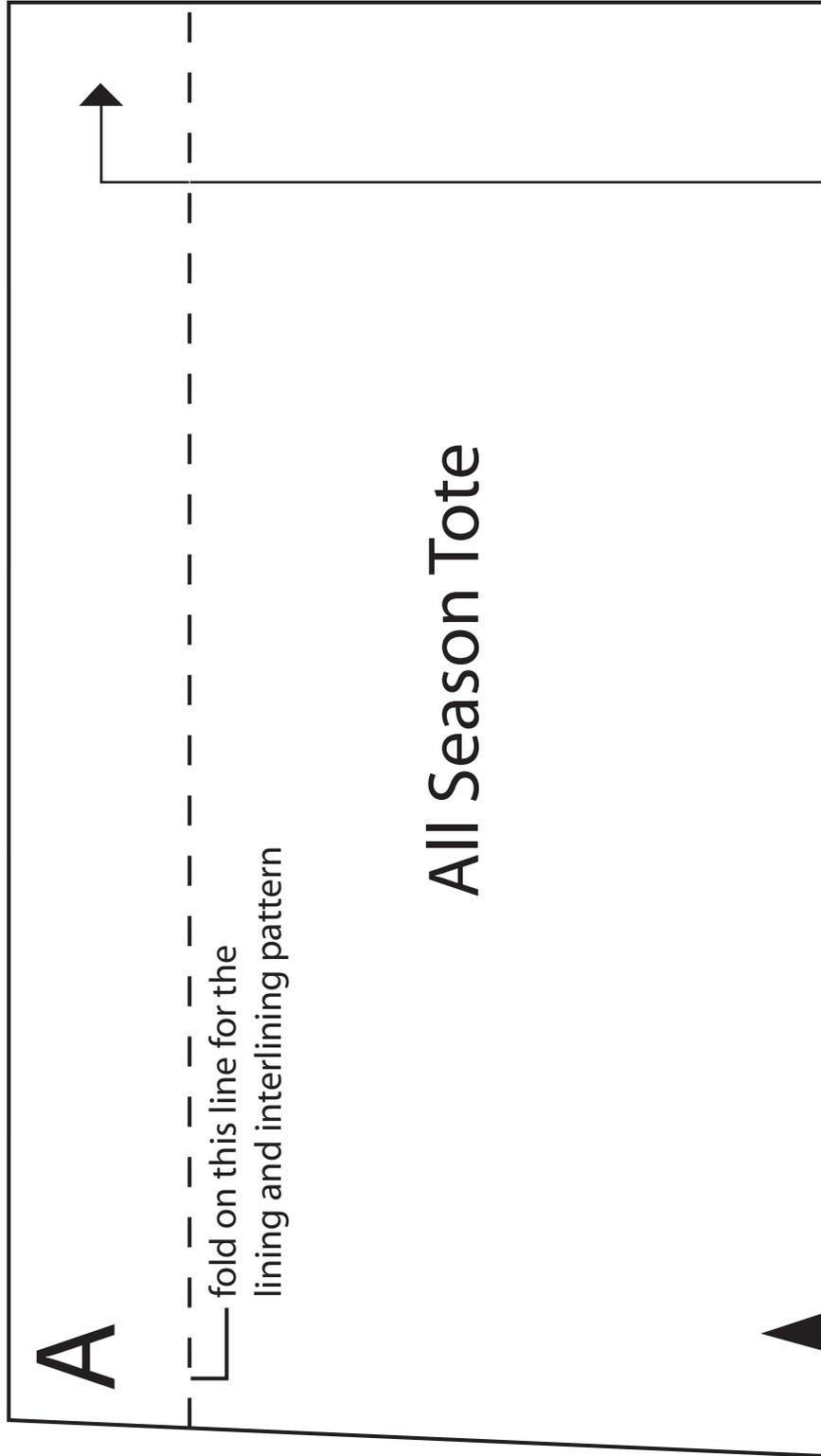
When the lining is finished, place it over the finished bag exterior with the right side of the lining facing the right side of the bag. Take your time to carefully match up the top edge of the lining to the top edge of the bag. Clip or pin in place. Stitch all the way around the top edge 1/2 inch down from the top. Turn the bag inside out through the hole you left in the lining. Hand or machine stitch the hole in the lining closed. Press your bag and make sure the lining is pulled down inside the bag so you don't see it along the top edge of the bag. Topstitch next to the top edge. Slide the template plastic into the sleeve in the lining. Trimming the corners of the template plastic into a rounded shape will help it slide easily into the sleeve.

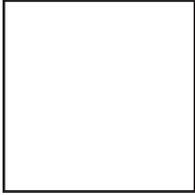
You are finished!



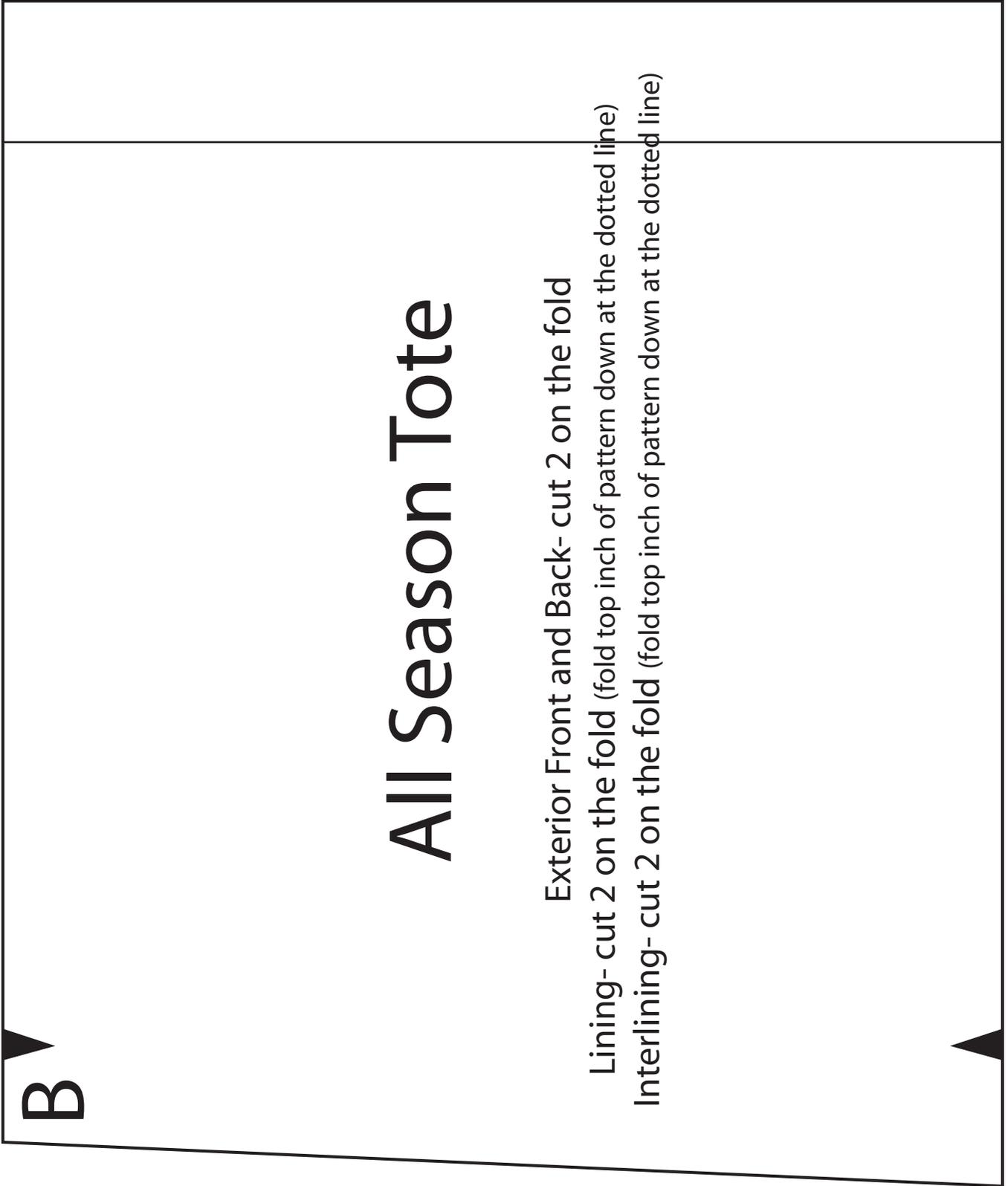


This square should measure one inch. Measure to be sure the pattern has printed out correctly.





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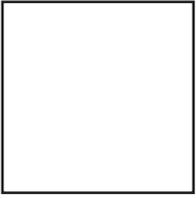
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# All Season Tote

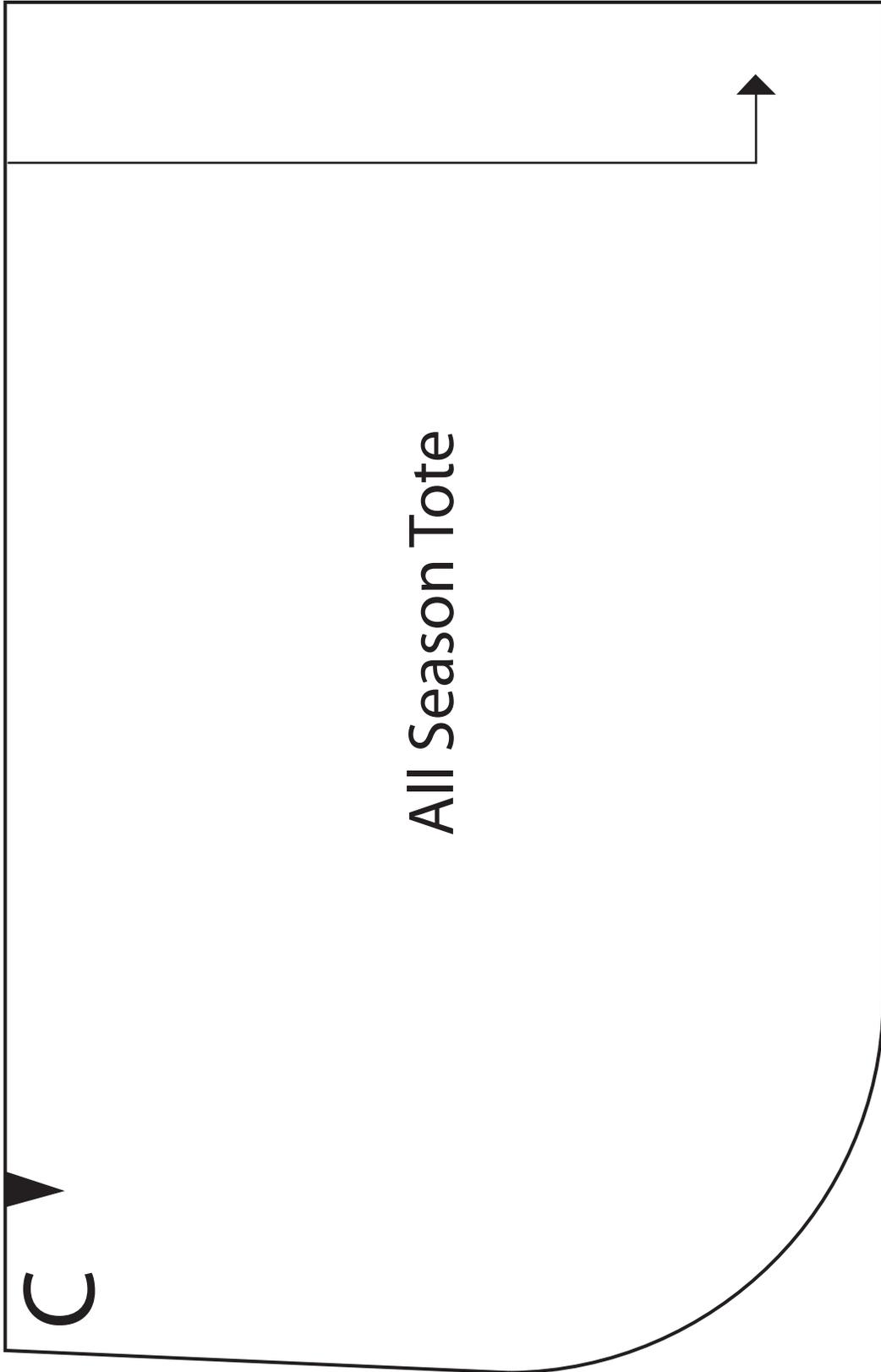
Exterior Front and Back- cut 2 on the fold

Lining- cut 2 on the fold (fold top inch of pattern down at the dotted line)

Interlining- cut 2 on the fold (fold top inch of pattern down at the dotted line)

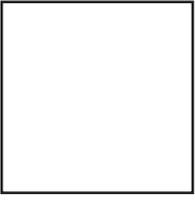


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All Season Tote

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