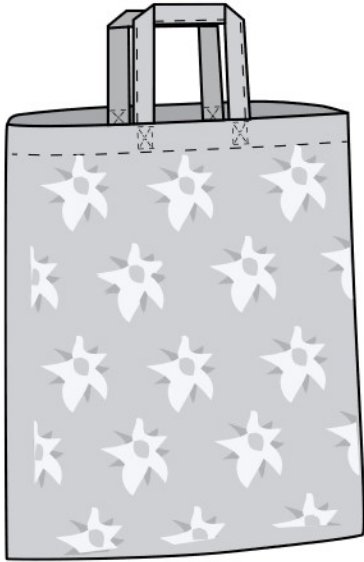


Sewing tips: Tote bag



You can never have enough bags, and making your own tote bag is fun and easy to do – so why not have one to match every outfit? At IKEA we have everything you need, from a wide range of fabrics in different colours and patterns to sewing accessories.

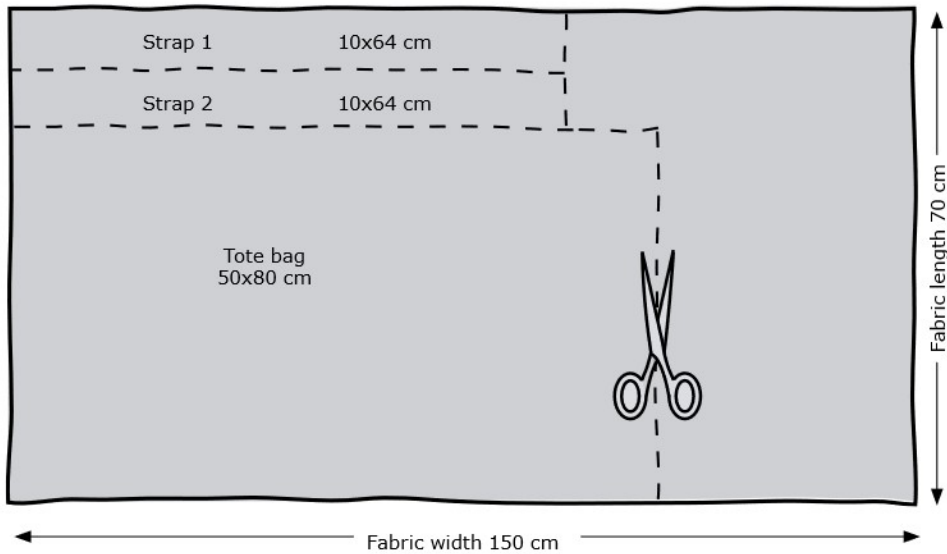
Skill level: Easy

Tools: A sewing machine, thread, pins, measuring tape, chalk, scissors and an iron.

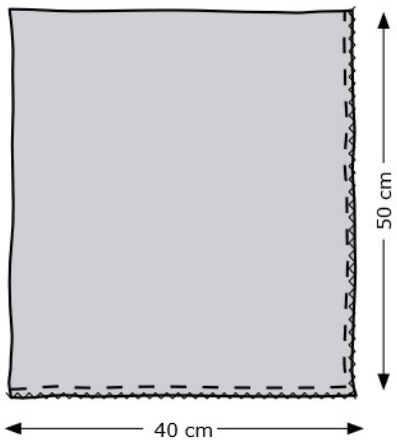
Fabric: 70 cm in length. All IKEA fabrics are 150 cm in width.



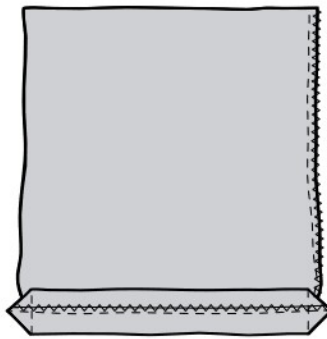
Follow these simple steps:



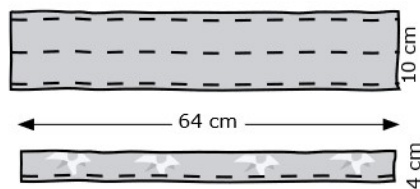
1. Measure and mark the fabric as shown above. Cut the fabric into 3 pieces – 1 for the tote bag, and 2 for the straps. (Measurements include seam allowance, the area between the edge of the fabric and the stitching line.)



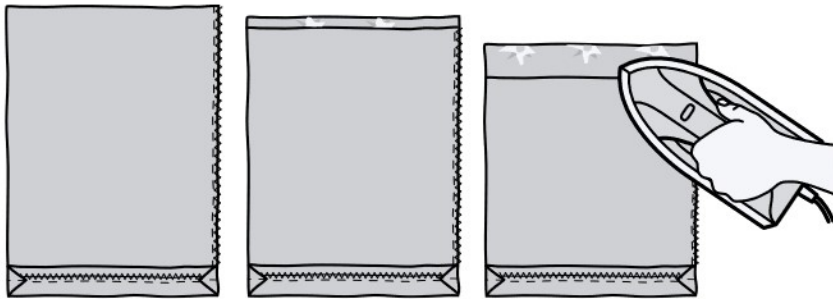
2. Take the piece for the tote bag and fold it in half, with the right sides facing one another, to form a bag measuring 40x50 cm. (The "right" sides are the sides that will be seen.) Press the fold with an iron. Sew a line 1 cm from the edge of the opening, leaving the top open. Use a zigzag stitch along the stitched line to keep the fabric from fraying.



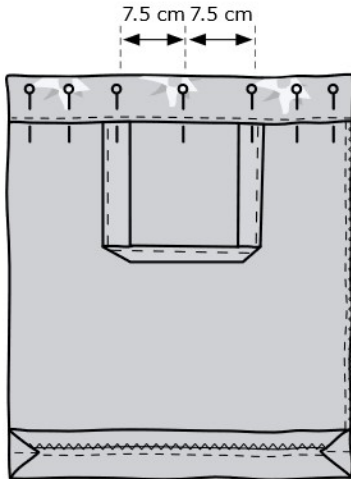
3. Flatten out the bottom of the bag as shown in the illustration above. Stitch a line across each corner, 4 cm from the tip.



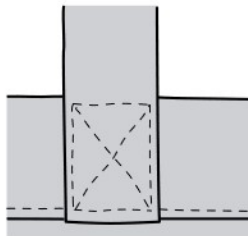
4. Now for the straps. Take one strip of fabric and fold in 1 cm from the edge along both sides and press with an iron. Then fold in half lengthwise and press again. Stitch along the length of the strap. Repeat to make the other strap.



5. Take the bag, still inside-out, and fold 1 cm from the edge of the opening. Press the fold with an iron. Then make another fold of 4 cm and press again.



6. Mark the centre on each side of the bag with chalk. Measure and mark 7.5 cm to the right and left of the centre for the straps. Tuck the straps in the fold you made in Step 5, position and pin the straps and fold all around. Stitch a line around the top edge of the bag 3.5 cm from the folded edge.



7. Fold the straps upwards, away from the bag, and press them with an iron. Fasten the straps firmly by sewing a square with a diagonal cross inside at all four connection points.



8. Now turn the bag right side out and admire what you've made.