

■ Diagonal Duo Tote Bag – Free Sewing Tutorial

(Beginner Friendly – Makes 1 or 2 Bags)

✂️ ■ **Finished Size:** 16" high × 18" wide (landscape) with flat boxed corners

Materials Needed (for 2 bags)

Fabric A (blue/top fabric) – 1 yard (44" wide)

Fabric B (multicolor/bottom fabric) – 1 yard (44" wide)

Lining fabric – 1 yard

Heavy fusible interfacing – 1 yard

Matching thread

Sewing machine, rotary cutter/scissors, ruler, pins/clips, iron

■ If you only want 1 bag, you'll still need 1 yard of each fabric, but you'll have leftover halves for another bag.

Cutting Instructions

1. Cut 2 rectangles (18" × 16") from Fabric A.
2. Cut 2 rectangles (18" × 16") from Fabric B.
3. Stack fabrics in this exact order, all RIGHT SIDES UP:
 - Fabric A (blue) – rectangle 1
 - Fabric B (multicolor) – rectangle 1
 - Fabric A (blue) – rectangle 2
 - Fabric B (multicolor) – rectangle 2

■ Keeping all right sides up prevents mismatched panels.

4. On the top rectangle, measure 3" down from the top right corner.
5. Draw a line from this mark to the bottom left corner.

6. Cut through all 4 layers at once. You'll have 8 pieces total (4 tops + 4 bottoms).
7. Swap fabrics: Bag 1 = Fabric A top + Fabric B bottom. Bag 2 = Fabric B top + Fabric A bottom.

Sewing Instructions

Step 1: Outer Panels – Fuse interfacing. Sew top + bottom pieces together along diagonal seam. Press open and topstitch.

Step 2: Straps – Fuse interfacing. Fold long edges in, fold again, topstitch both sides.

Step 3: Outer Bag Assembly – Place panels right sides together, sew sides + bottom.

- Cut a 3" × 3" square from each bottom corner.
- Open the cut, match seams, sew across to box corners.

Step 4: Lining – Sew lining panels, leaving a 4–5" opening at bottom. Box corners the same way.

Step 5: Attach Straps – Pin straps 4" in from each side seam, baste.

Step 6: Join Outer & Lining – Place outer bag inside lining, right sides together. Sew around top. Turn through lining opening.

Step 7: Finish – Close lining opening, push lining inside, press top edge, and topstitch.

■ Result: You now have a bold, sturdy Diagonal Duo Tote with a 3" offset diagonal seam and flat boxed base. Using all 4 rectangles makes 2 bags!

■ Visit: [**www.motherlandfabric.com**](http://www.motherlandfabric.com)

✉ ■ Sign up for our newsletter to:

- Get 10% off your first purchase
- Receive notifications when we release new patterns & kits
- Stay inspired with Afrocentric sewing + quilting projects