

## Grab & Go Tote Bag Instructions - Reduced Cutting Measurements

*Please read all instructions carefully before beginning.*

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### Materials Needed:

- **Fabric:**
  - One yard of 45" wide 100% cotton fabric, or two fat quarters (18" x 22").
  - Cut to: **2 pieces, each 20/22" long x 15.5" wide** (remove selvages, optional).
- **Cording:**
  - 2 lengths of 43/45" macramé cord (MM Bonnie brand craft cord works well, available at Hobby Lobby in the macramé section).
  - Each 100' roll can make 40 bags, so consider sharing with others making these totes.

### Cutting Instructions: Prepare Fabric:

- Cut **two panels** measuring **20/22" long x 15.5" wide** from your fabric.
- Remove selvages and any folds along the longest side of the fabric.
- If the fabric has a directional print, ensure both panels align in the same direction by cutting and resewing for directional prints.

### Sewing Instructions (Using a Standard Sewing Machine):

1. **Seam Construction: (French seams)**
  - Place the two fabric pieces **WRONG sides together**.
  - Using a pencil or fabric marker, measure **2" down from the top** of each side and mark.
  - Starting at the 2" mark, sew a **1/4" seam** down both sides and across the bottom, leaving the top 2" unsewn.
2. **Clip and Turn:**
  - Clip a **scant 1/4" notch** just above the 2" mark on each side to help the seams lie flat.
  - Turn the fabric **inside out** so the **RIGHT sides are together**.
  - Press seams flat.
3. **Reinforce Seams:**
  - Starting at the 2" mark again, sew a **3/8" seam** down both sides and the bottom to encase the raw edges.
  - Turn the bag **right side out** and press seams flat.

### Sewing Instructions (Using a Serger):

1. **Prepare Panels:**
  - Serge all four edges of each fabric panel separately.
  - Place the two panels **RIGHT sides together. (mindful of directional fabric option- directions)**
2. **Mark and Sew:**
  - Measure **2" down from the top** and mark on each side.
  - Beginning at the 2" mark, serge or sew a **1/4" seam** down the sides and across the bottom.
3. **Clip and Finish:**
  - Clip a **scant 1/4" notch** above the 2" mark on each side to allow the seams to lay flat.
  - Press seams and stitch the **casement** to secure.

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### Finishing Steps (Sewn or Serged Bags):

1. **Create the Casing:**

- Fold the top edge down 1.5" and press, then turn under the unfinished edge ( ¼ inch), press, using the clip side edge, fold over, and sew these in place.
- Fold it down **and sew in the casing**.
- Pin in place and sew along the folded edge to create a channel for the cord.

2. **Insert the Cording:**

- Use a safety pin or bodkin to run one length of cord through the casing, around both sides, and back out the same side.
- Repeat with the second cord, starting on the opposite side.
- Tie the cord ends into knots.

3. **Seal the Cord Ends:**

- If using polyester /cotton cord, carefully **burn the ends** to prevent fraying. I tie an overhand knot to finish.

### Finished Size:

- Approximately **18/ 20" long x 15" wide**. **Material choice and size can vary. Try to make as large as you can up to 22/15. I have pieced together fabric to reach the goal size. Smaller section of material can be used, smallest bag 14 / 18**

This will result in a sturdy, reusable tote bag with a drawstring closure!

Contact Carol Foster at [mfos6413@earthlink.net](mailto:mfos6413@earthlink.net) or [CFosterlongarm@gmail.com](mailto:CFosterlongarm@gmail.com) for questions if needed.

THANK YOU!!