

# Mrs. Langley's Tote Bag Pattern



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## Tote Bag Instructions

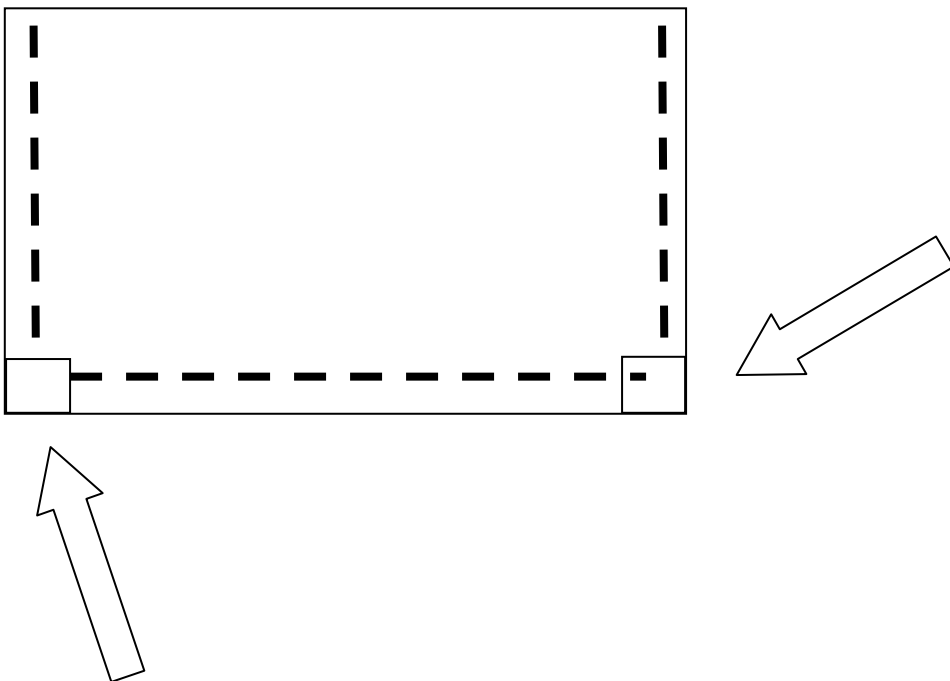
### Paper Pattern:

- 1 piece 16" x 22" – label: body of bag, cut 2 outside, cut two inside cut 2 fusible fleece
- 1 piece 25 x 2- ½" – label: straps, cut 4 cut 2 fusible fleece
- 1 piece 8x6 – label: Inside Pocket, cut 2

### Cut:

- 4 rectangles, 16" x 22", two for the outside and two for the inside.
- 4 rectangle straps 25" x 2 ½"
- 2 fusible fleece rectangles 16" x 22"
- 2 fusible fleece rectangle straps 25 x 2 ½"
- For Pockets cut two 8" x 6" rectangles.

Cut 3 inch squares out of each bottom corner of the large rectangles. This will form your sides and bag bottom.



Now you're ready to begin!!

Steps to putting the bag together...

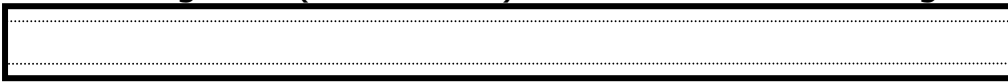
1. Look at fusible fleece (FF) and decide which side is textured and which side is soft. Place the textured side of the fusible fleece up on the ironing board. Place the fabric facing right side up on top of the fusible fleece. Iron fusible fleece with hot iron set in one area for 10-15 seconds until sticks, then move to a new area and hold. Repeat with the following two pieces:

- two outside fabric pieces and
- two outside fabric straps

2. Get your sewing machine ready.

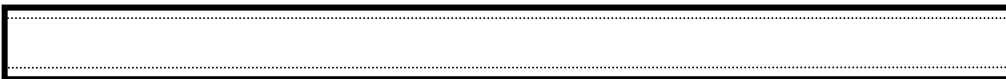
3. Take the all four strap pieces, front and back pieces, to your sewing machine.

4. Take one strap out of the outer fabric and one of the inner fabric and place them right sides together (face to face). Sew down the two long sides, leaving the ends open



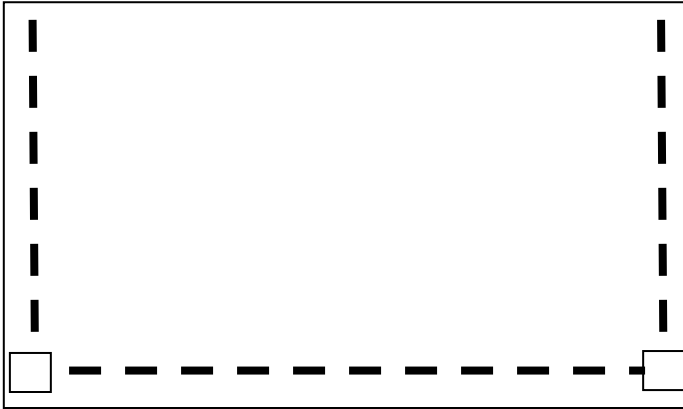
5. Repeat with other two straps

6. Turn straps inside out, press flat and Topstitch - sew a top seam on the outer edges of the strap.

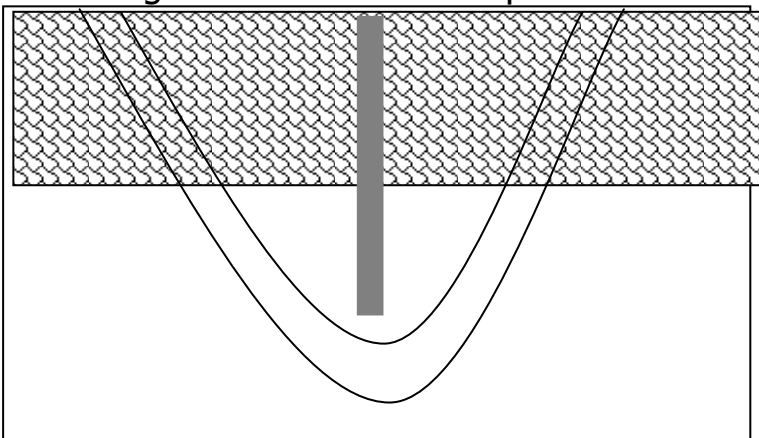


7. (optional) With the two pocket pieces, place them right sides together and sew almost all the way around. Leave a small space to turn the pocket right side out. Turn right side out and press. Choose one side to be the top of you pocket, top stitch close to the edge. (Optional TIP: Elastic may be added to the top edge, as well.)

8. (if you chose to have a pocket) With one large lining (**inside**) fabric piece laid out, decide where to position you pocket or pockets. Pin in place and sew around three edges leaving the top for an opening.
9. Take the two large inside pieces and put right sides together (face to face). Sew across the bottom and two sides, excluding the corners for now.



11. At the corners that have been cut out, pull fabric apart and put the two opposing seams together (the ones from the side and the bottom). Sew across this straight line.
12. With the two large cover (outside) pieces at the iron, fold the side from the cut corners straight up to the top and press. Do the same across the bottom.
13. At the sewing machine with one of the cover pieces sew along this folded edge about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch from the edge; make sure that all three sides are sewn independently (stop and start a new seam, on each side). Repeat with the other outside piece
14. Sew the two cover pieces together the same as with the inside pieces, making sure to fold out the side pieces you just sewed down
15. You should now have 2 straps, the outside of a bag, the bag lining.
16. With the outside of the bag at hand, position and pin the straps, one strap to each side the raw edge of the strap with the raw edge of the bag. See picture below. The straps should be positioned between 3 and 5 inches away from the center of the bag. Make sure the straps are not twisted.



17. Turn the inside lining piece inside out (right sides together) on one of the side seams take out, with your seam ripper, about 6 inches of stitches.
18. Take the outside of the bag with straps attached and place it inside the lining this puts the bag fabrics right sides together. Match up the side seams and the top edged. Pin well. I know this looks backwards...it will work...trust me...
19. Sew around the top edge about a ½ an inch from the top. Go slowly when sewing over the thick areas and make sure you caught all the layers of the fabric in the seam.
20. Through the hole left in the side of the lining, pull the outside of the bag and straps to the outside. Birth your bag! Tuck the lining inside the bag.
21. Press around the top of the bag. Topstitch around the top edge of the bag about ¼ of an inch from the edge. Be sure to keep the ties and straps out of the way. Go slow over thick areas.
22. Hand stitch the hole in the lining and your bag is complete.