

# TOTE BAG



12 X 14 (Approx)

Carrying a bag for our purchases when we shop has become a necessity in most stores. You can buy a ready made bag or make one (or more) and express your individuality. You can also buy a plain one and decorate it with left over blocks.

This tote is slightly smaller than most and I like to use this size for carrying mail and other smaller items.

To make the bag you will need:

A piece of sturdy fabric such as denim 25" X 16"  
Webbing for handles 54" long

For the block you will need:

7" X 12" strip of red fabric  
5 1/2" X 5 1/2" piece of red fabric  
5 1/2" X 5 1/2" piece of white fabric  
7" X 7" piece of white fabric  
3 1/2" x 3 1/2" square of focus fabric  
10" X 10" batting (optional)

To make the block:

Place the red and white squares right sides together and stitch 1/4" seam all around the outside of the stacked squares.

Cut the square in half diagonally and then diagonally again in the opposite direction to make four half square triangles (HST).

Open and press.

Cut the 7" square of white fabric to make four 3 1/2" squares.

Sew squares in the following order:

Row one: white, HST, white

Row two: HST, focus, HST

Row three: white, HST, white

Sew rows together in order given.

Cut remaining red fabric into 1 1/2" strips and sew around the block. Press.

To make the bag:

Open fabric so the longest side is horizontal. Find and mark the half way point of the long sides. One half will be the front of the bag and the other the back. Measure and mark the half way point of one end. This will be the front and where you are going to sew your block.

If you are going to use batting, center it on the wrong side of the block and pin. Center the block on the bag front and pin. Sew around the outside of the star and the center square. Sew around the inside of the red border strip. Turn the outside edge of the block under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and stitch it to the bag. Remove pins and fold bag fabric right sides together and stitch bottom and side edge.

To make the bottom of the bag, open side of the bag so bottom looks like Fig. 1, measure  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from point and sew across point. Repeat with the other side.



Figure 1

Turn top edge of bag under and sew. Cut the webbing in half to make handles and attach securely to either side of the bag.

This is an  
Ark Angel Creations Design  
[www.arkangelcreations.net](http://www.arkangelcreations.net)

