

**“BEAR WITH ME”
Sewn Tote Bag - sample basic directions**

Materials: Washable fabric (suitable for a child); matching thread; fabric for handles

Bag: Cut fabric into rectangle approximately 16" x 40". (If using two pieces, cut each 16" x 20".) Fold fabric in half with right sides together to measure 16" x 20". Stitch both sides to form bag. You may use a seam finish, like zigzag, or double stitch the seam for added strength.

At the top open edge press under ½" matching wrong sides of the fabric. Press under 1" , enclosing the ½" raw edge previously folded. Top stitch the hem in place.

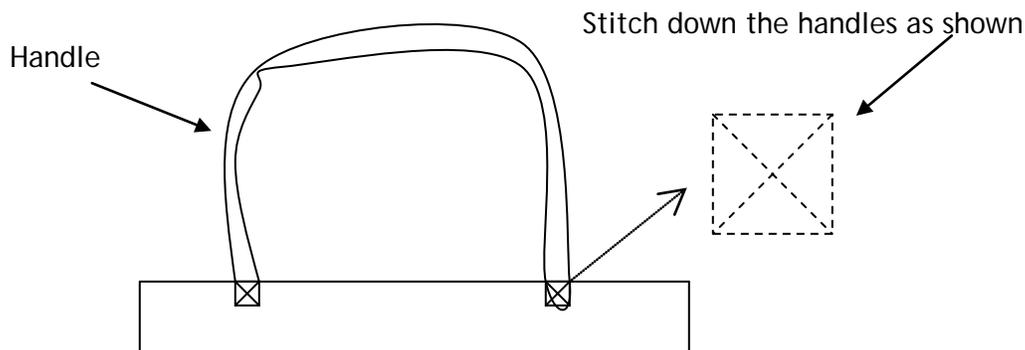
Handle placement: Measure 2 ½" from the side seams on both sides on the outside of the bag - mark each measurement with a straight pin (there will be a total of 4).

Straps:

Ribbon or Webbing Straps (about 1" wide) - cut 2 straps 15" long. Seal the ends with heat or zigzag stitch to finish the ends to prevent unraveling.

Self-Fabric Straps - cut 2 pieces of fabric 2 ½" x 16". Fold under ½" on both long sides, having the wrong sides touching. Fold strip in half matching the 15" edges. Press and top stitch all sides of the strap ¼" from the edge. Repeat for 2nd strap. Be creative and try using flat braid or cloth ribbon.

To attach straps - line up the hemmed edge of the bag with the edge of the straps, on the outside of the bag and with the marks (pins) that are 2 ½" from the seam. Stitch as in the diagram below. Turn bag right side out and press.



Please feel free to use your own creativity. Variety of fabric types, outside pockets or handles are encouraged however, please maintain the approximate size of the tote bag.

Your hand-made bag will be filled with a new stuffed animal, which will be given to local police and emergency personnel, assisting them in comforting a child in a crisis situation.

Thank you for volunteering your talents to help a child in need.

Contact the “Wings of Love, Inc.” office for information how to deliver your completed bags.

Please note: Drawstring-style bags are not able to be accepted, as they are a potential choking hazard.