

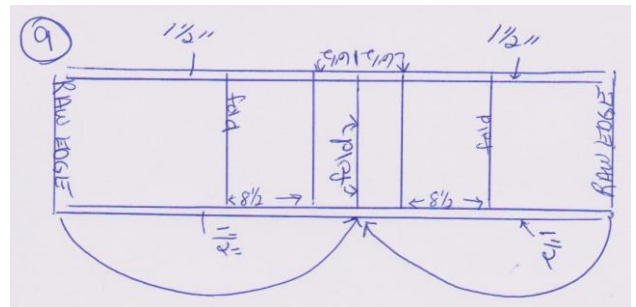
# Decorative Burlap Tote Bag

By Kim Montagnese



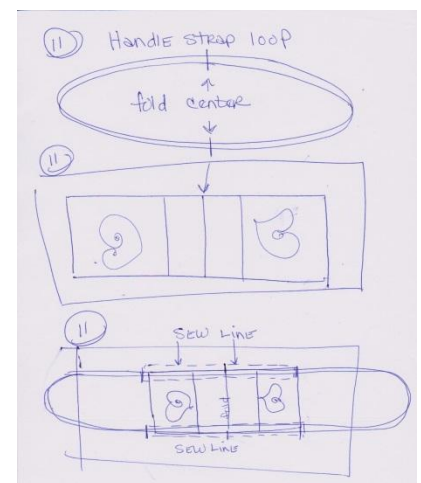
1. Cut **Decorative Burlap Outside** 24" wide x 52/60" long. (This will be the approx. width of the fabric on the bolt)
2. Cut **Lining** (I used outdoor upholstery canvas) 24" wide X 44" long. (This will be the approx. width of the fabric on the bolt.)
3. **Box Corners**- Make a 7" square out of cardboard or template plastic. Draw a line from one corner diagonally to an opposite corner, creating 2 triangles. Cut along the drawn line. This is your template to sew the box corners.
4. **Handles**- Cut 6 strips 6"x width of fabric. (44") ( I used outdoor upholstery canvas) Right sides together, sew strips together, end to end, forming a long loop. Press the seams open. Fold and press one inch along the entire length of the handle loop.
5. Fold in and press one and a half inches along the opposite long edge of the loop.
6. Fold and press handle loop down the center...matching the folded edges together.
7. Stitch the folded edges together using a top stitching foot.

8. **Decorative panel**- Cut decorative panel 11 1/2" X 60". Fold in half across the short side. Press. Fold raw ends toward the center fold. From center fold line, Measure from center fold line 6 1/2" on both sides of the fold line and mark it with a water soluble marker. From this line, measure 8 1/2" up on both sides. (See diagram) Also with a water soluble marker, measure and mark along both long sides to create a 1 1/2" border.



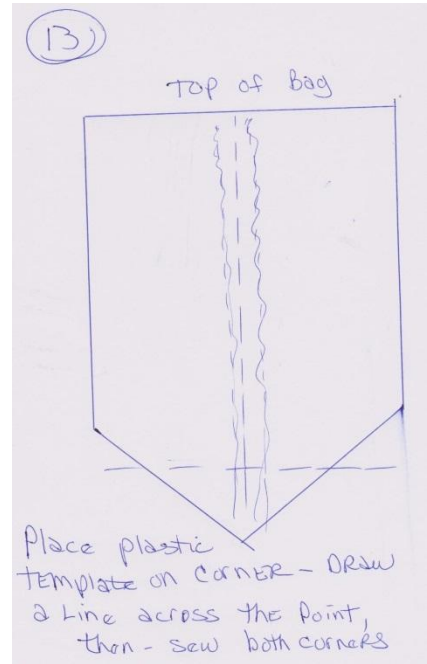
9. On the 8 1/2" sections, embellish the center panel using free motion stitching and thread painting, apply lace or other decorative art.
10. **Putting it all together**. Open the burlap panel and place face up. Place this embellished center panel onto the center of the Decorative Burlap panel. Match the center bottom folds.

11. **Attach handles** –Fold the long "Handle Loop". Find the center of the loop on two sides. (See diagram.). Using the 1 1/2" marks along the edges of the embellished panel, place the center of one handle straps on the bottom of the bag fold line. Place the other center of the handle loop on the other side of the bottom of the bag fold line, overlapping the embellished panel. Allow the edges of the panel to be UNDER the handle straps. Pin securely and using a top stitch foot.



12. **Closing the bag**-Fold the bag with right sides together being sure not to sew the handles. Use a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the side seams of the bag. Leave the top of the bag open.

13. **Make the box corners.**- With the right sides still together, squish the bag so the side seams meet and the corners are pointy. Use the corner template you made in step 3...Place the template on the point of each corner. Draw a line on each, then sew along each line one at a time.



14. **Lining**- Prepare the lining the same way you prepared the Burlap layer for the box corners,(Step 12 & 13 )except, along one of the side seams, begin sewing at the bottom and sew part way up the seam. Then, leave about 10 inches unstitched. Continue sewing to the top of the lining. This is the opening you will use to turn the bag right side out. The lining will be a little smaller. This is OK because it will form an interfacing.

15. **Attach the lining to the burlap bag.**- With right sides together...Place the lining inside the burlap bag, matching the side seams. The lining will be a little shorter. Sew the top of the bag all the way around the outside of the top of the bag, attaching the lining to the burlap.

16. Using the opening you left in the lining, turn the bag right side out and push the lining down into the burlap bag. Stitch the opening closed.

#### OPTIONS

1. Think about using large grommets all around the top edge of the bag. Weave a pretty band of fabric tied in a bow to keep the bag closed.
2. Top stitch along the four edges of the bags forming a firm seam that will cause the bag to stand up a little better.
3. Make the handle straps longer, then cut them and tie in a fluffy knot to add a decorative touch.
4. Add large magnetic closures.