

Origami (Azuma Bukuro) Market Tote Directions (watch video for pictures)

This is a quick and easy lined tote bag that is cute and holds a lot more groceries than you may think! You can make it unlined if you use a heavy weight fabric and just hem. If you don't have a fabric piece long enough, piece it any way you wish. Check #11 to use fat quarters. This tote's Japanese name means "good fortune".

1. Cut two lengths of fabric 19" X 57". (Not 56" as shown in the video tutorial) This will make a large shopping tote, but these measurements can be changed if you prefer to make a larger or smaller bag. Just make sure you cut your rectangle where the length = 3x the height. (10" x 30", 15"x45", etc.)
2. Place the 2 fabrics right sides together, and sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " around all edges, leaving a gap of 4 inches for turning.
3. Turn fabric right side out and press, then topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " all the way around. Place outside tote fabric right side up.
4. Fold ends in as in the video. You now have a square with 2 triangles at each end.
5. Fold again, lining up the edges as in the video. Pin the edges where the 2 sides meet, then turn everything over to pin the other side.
6. Sew the edges together.
7. Turn right side out and put aside while you make the handle cover.
8. Cut contrasting fabric 7"x4" for the handle cover. Hem the short sides, then fold right sides together. Sew along the long side a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Turn the tube and press. Push one of the handles through the tube, and push down as far as you can. Overlap the handles about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and stitch them together, perhaps a 1" square, 2 times around. To secure it, sew diagonally across the square.
9. Push the tube over the handle stitching you just did.
10. If you want to box the corners, turn inside out and sew a diagonal across the bottom corners. Trim excess fabric. You can serge or zigzag the cut edge if you like.
11. To make a fat quarter bag follow the same directions, but sew three 18" squares together for the front, and 3 18" squares together for the lining. (6 fabrics total. Your center piece will be the bottom of the bag.
12. To be creative (and use fabric you may have that doesn't match the length required) piece the fabric in any way you like. Length to height ratio= 3/1

