

# Simple Bag/Tote

Use canvas or heavier fabric

- 1) Cut two pieces of fabric 22" square (can be larger or smaller depending on the size of the bag)
- 2) With right sides together, stitch three sides together, leaving one side open, using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams. Finish the seams so the ends don't ravel. Trim tips off corners if using cased seams for finishing.  
 Note – There are multiple ways to finish seams; zigzag, overcast, French seam, serge, etc.
- 3) Press the seams from the three sides flat. Turn the bag inside out and align the seam from the bottom of the bag on one side to the side seam. Flatten out the formed peak and measure  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from the corner seam edge. Mark across the fabric and pin. Repeat with the other bottom side. Stitch across the marked lines reinforcing the ends. You will have created a 4-5" base across the bottom of the bag.
- 4) At the top of the bag, mark 1" on the inside, all around the bag. Using finger press and an iron (or whatever works best for you) fold over and press the top. Once the top of the bag allowance is folded over, fold over one more time all around the top of the bag, tugging on the flap to keep it flush and even against the fold. Pin into place. From the inside of the fold, sew  $\frac{1}{8}$ " or close to the edge of the fold to secure the top. Turn the bag right side out.
- 5) Cut  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " WOF (or two  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 22" strips) to make bag straps. Sew long sides together, and then turn out strip. Press flat so the seam is in the middle of the strip. Fold ends over twice at 1" intervals. Attach to bag measuring 7" in from each end, with the fold against the bag. Reinforce the strap sewing a box "□" and then an 'X' pattern.
- 6) Press the bag. If desired, a small piece of fabric can be fashioned for a pocket either inside or outside of the bag.

