

Hotel Frederiksted Tote Bag Pattern  
By Marsha DiCostanzo for Jennifer Paganelli

Finished Size: Approximately 17" Wide x 12-1/2" High x 4" Deep (excluding handles)

You Will Need:

- (42) Assorted 4" x 5-1/2" rectangles in Hotel Frederiksted fabrics for tote panels
- (2) 16-3/4" x 22-3/4" pieces of fusible fleece for tote panels
- (4) 1" x 22-3/4" fabric strips for top of tote and lining
- (2) 16" x 22-3/4" fabric pieces for lining
- (4) 16-1/2" x 8-1/2" fabric pieces for interior pockets
- (16) 2" x 5-1/2" fabric rectangles for handles
- (2) 3" x 44" coordinating fabric pieces for handle backs
- (4) 2" x 44" pieces fusible fleece for handles

Coordinating Sewing Thread

All seams are 1/4"

TOTE PANELS (Front & Back):

Arrange rectangles (raw edges even, short ends and right sides together) in (6) strips of 3 rectangles and (6) strips of 4 rectangles. Stitch. Press seams open.

The strips of 3 should measure approximately 4" wide by 16" high.

Trim strips of 4 to equal this measurement by taking a cut off each end (approximately 3" cuts).

Sew strips together, raw edges even and right sides together, along the length of the strips, alternating between a strip of 4 and a strip of 3 rectangles, for a total of 6 strips across. Repeat this step for a second panel.

Press seams open. You now have front and back pieced panels.

Next, take (1) of the 1" x 22-3/4" strips and stitch it to the top of one of the tote panels, raw edges even and right sides together. Press seam open. Repeat for second tote panel.

Place a 16-3/4" x 22-3/4" piece of fusible fleece, glue side down, on wrong side of one of the panels. Following manufacturer's directions, fuse to panel. Repeat for second panel.

Now is a good time to machine or hand quilt your tote panels, if desired.

Right sides together and raw edges even, sew tote panels along both sides and bottom edge. Do not turn.

BOX CORNER:

Wrong side facing out, fold bottom corner to align your seam in center. Flatten your seam. Measure up 2" from corner point and draw a line across. Sew along the line, back-tacking at both ends. Cut the excess about 1/4" away from the seam.

Repeat for the opposite side.

Turn tote right side out to form your box corners.

#### LINING:

Raw edges even and right sides together, stitch a 1" x 22-3/4" strip to the top of each lining piece. Press seam open.

#### POCKETS:

Place (2) 8-1/2" x 16-1/2" pocket pieces, raw edges even and right sides together. Pin. Stitch, leaving a 2-1/2" opening on bottom for turning.

Clip corners and turn right side out. Turn in seam allowance on opening and press.

Repeat for second pocket.

Center pockets on each lining panel and pin in place. Edge stitch pockets. Sew a line of stitching down center of pocket to divide into two pockets.

Next, raw edges even and right sides together, stitch along both edges and bottom of the lining, leaving a 6" opening for turning along the bottom edge.

Make box corners following the same method for the tote panels, but do not turn.

#### HANDLES:

Make (2) long strips by sewing (8) 2" x 5-1/2" rectangles, raw edges even, short ends and right sides together. Press seams open.

Fuse (2) layers of 2" x 44" pieces of fusible fleece to wrong side of pieced strips.

Next, fold under 1/4" and press on each side of the 3" x 44" fabric strips for handle backs. Fold under 1/4" again on each side and press.

Center pieced and fused strips on top of handle backs, wrong sides together, making sure folded edges overlap top, long edges of pieced handle. Pin in place. Machine stitch several rows going up and down the length of the handles for reinforcement.

Trim handles to make sure they are equal in length.

Pin handles to right sides of tote with the handle raw edges extending 1/4" beyond the top edge. Pin or baste in place. Make sure handles line up on each side of tote.

Next, right sides together, insert tote inside lining. Align raw edges. Pin. Stitch 1/4" from raw edge all the way around top edge of tote, catching in handle extensions.

Turn lining right side out. Press the lining opening under and slip stitch it closed.

Press the bag and edge stitch along top edge, all the way around.

Done!

