



photo credit: True Bias.

Poolside Tote by Noodlehead Patterns

For the adventurous advanced beginner

Thimble Bee's

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Welcome to Poolside Tote!

Hi Future Bag Maker,

I'm so glad you're joining us to make the Poolside Tote! I don't know what brought you to this class maybe you've been wanting to learn more about bag making, or maybe you're just craving a little creative time for yourself but either way, you're in the right place.

This project is about more than just making a great bag (though you'll absolutely walk out with one you'll love). Along the way, we'll build skills that carry over into future bag-making and sewing projects working with structure and layers, understanding construction choices, and learning how to get clean, polished results you can feel proud of.

In class, we'll slow things down, talk through the why behind each step, and troubleshoot together as questions come up. When you step into the studio, everything is set up to support you — machines ready, tools on hand, and guidance right when you need it.

You're welcome to shop our Etsy shop ahead of class or browse in person during our first session. Purchasing fabric from us is never required, but it does help us continue growing our in-studio offerings and bringing in materials that support projects like this one. Every yard goes right back into serving our sewing community, and we're so thankful for that support.

Skills You'll Gain in This Class

- How to read and follow a bag pattern from start to finish
- Understanding bag structure and how layers work together
- Working with interfacing and stabilizers to give a bag shape and durability
- Accurate cutting and preparation for bag pieces
- Sewing with multiple layers and thicker fabrics
- Creating clean, professional seam finishes inside a bag
- Attaching and reinforcing handles/straps for strength
- Pressing and topstitching techniques that elevate bag projects
- Problem-solving and troubleshooting common bag-making challenges
- Building confidence to tackle future bag and accessory projects

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@thimblebees.com or (704) 443-1597. I'm looking forward to having you in class and seeing these totes coming together!

Mrs. Jen
Thimble Bee's Sewing School



Suggested Fabrics

For your first Poolside Tote, we recommend using a quilter's cotton. It's easy to handle at the machine, holds its shape well, and makes learning new bag-making techniques much more manageable. When paired with interfacing, quilter's cotton creates a tote with great structure and durability — sturdy enough for everyday use and ideal for learning.

Think of this first tote as your learning version. It gives you the space to focus on understanding the pattern, practicing construction, and building confidence without fighting the fabric.

You may also want to skip stripes and other directional fabrics. This allows you to focus on learning the construction without worrying about pattern matching. Once you've completed your first tote, you can absolutely challenge yourself with stripes, heavier fabrics, and other fun options in future versions.

Yardage and Notions

Requirements based on 44" wide fabric.

- Exterior fabric 1 1/4 yards (1 yard if using 54" wide fabric)
- Lining fabric 1 1/4 yards (1 yard if using 54" wide fabric)
- Accent fabric (Handles, pocket lining) 3/4 yard
- Accent fabric (facing) 1/2 yard
- 10" zipper* (optional)
- twill tape or ribbon 1" wide 4.5" piece
- *fusible woven interfacing (Pellon SF101 - 20" wide) 2 3/4 yards
- swivel clasp (1") or d-ring (1")
- coordinating all purpose thread

*PLEASE NOTE: this pattern is written for fixed-length zippers (not zipper by the yard, if using zipper by the yard please add 1.5" to the length of each designated zipper)

With Thanks to Noodlehead Patterns

Several images used in this guide are from the Poolside Tote Bag pattern by Noodlehead Pattern Co. These images are included to help students better understand fabric selection, supplies, and garment details while shopping and preparing for class.

We are grateful to Noodlehead Patterns for creating such thoughtful, well-designed patterns and resources that support learning and skill-building in garment sewing.

We love supporting designers who prioritize clear instruction and thoughtful garment design.

Find more of their patterns and designs by visiting their website:

<https://noodle-head.com/>