



Pattern Type

Pattern Level

Accessory

Advanced Beginner

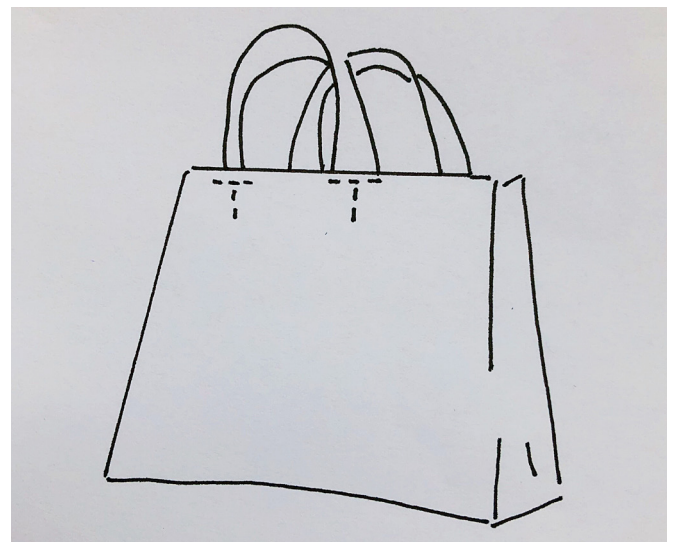
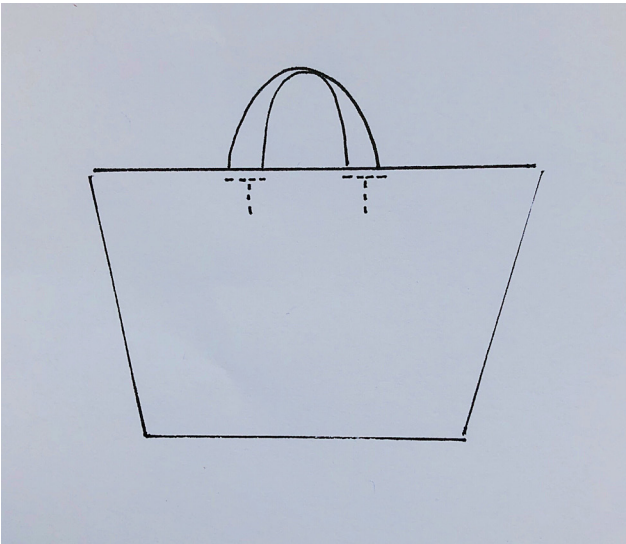


Poppy Convertible Tote

Pattern Number 4002

THE POPPY CONVERTIBLE TOTE

The Poppy Convertible Tote is like having two bags in one. With a smartly placed interior clasp, it easily cinches from a roomy tote to a classic shoulder bag. This style is as versatile and modern as it is classic. You can select from a variety of strap options and lengths for a fully custom bag. More ways to make it your own? Choose a contrasting color of leather for the interior pocket and interior base.



Printing Instructions

Please read this entire set of instructions before beginning so that you are aware of the process and familiar with the layout. To ensure pattern accuracy, set your printer to either "actual size" or custom scale: 100%" in your print dialog box.

The sewing instructions and tutorial are 22 pages in addition to the 9 page pattern. If you would like to print the pattern only and view the instructions on your screen, choose to print pages 23-31.

Tile Taping Instructions

This pattern contains 9 pattern tiles. Each page includes shaded quarter circles with guide numbers to show how the pattern pieces should be organized. Be sure to match up all 4 quarters along the edges of the tile.

Always check the 1"/4cm scaling square on your pattern before cutting your fabric. The scaling square is there to ensure print size accuracy. The test print square is located on page 9 of the pattern. Print this page first and measure the square before proceeding.

You will need to use the latest desktop version of ADOBE ACROBAT READER <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

To print: in Acrobat Reader select Actual Size, or Custom Scale: 100%,

I have a [PDF Pattern Assembly Tutorial](#) if you need help.



Terms of Use

This pattern, instructions, illustrations and photographs are protected by copyright. No part of it can be copied, used, shared or resold. No part can be altered and sold as your own. It is intended for personal use. If you are interested in selling products made from this pattern please contact me for details. Thank you for respecting the time and effort I've put into creating my work.

ABOUT THIS PATTERN

The Poppy Convertible Tote was designed to be made along with my book, [Sew Bags: The Practical Guide to Making Purses, Totes, Clutches & More; 13 Skill-Building Projects](#) C&T Publishing, 2019

FINISHED SIZE

19" Wide at the top, tapering to 11" at the base
9.5" Tall
6.5" Deep

STRAP VARIATIONS

LONG STRAPS: One and a half yards of 1½" Webbing/ Strapping

SHORT STRAPS: One Yard of 1 ½" Webbing/Strapping

If you would like to make leather straps, I suggest using rivets to set as the additional thickness may not work on a home sewing machine. There is a tutorial on my blog to walk you through the process. <https://www.littlestitchstudio.com/blog>

SOURCING LEATHER

You will need about 7.5 square feet (0.7 m2) of cow hide with an approximate weight of 2-3 ounces for this bag. Cow hide is much stiffer than some other skins such as lamb or goat. That stiffness is needed to hold the shape.
The leather for my bags is from [Leather Suede Skins, Inc. in NYC](#). Call and ask for Faina. She will help you select the ideal leather for your bag.

Alternately, you can find leather online or a local specialty store.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- 7.5 square feet (0.7 m2) of cow hide with approximate weight of 2-3 ounces.
- Polyester Thread in a heavier weight (#30, #40)
- Walking Foot, or Even-Feed Foot
- Double-Sided Tape 3/8"-1/2" wide transparent tape, adhesive on both sides.
- 2 D-Rings, ¾"
- 1 Spring Snap, ¾"
- Rubber Cement

- Chalk
- Clips (binder clips or sewing clips)
- Hand Sewing Needle
- Size 90 Microtex or Leather needle
- Marking Pen
- *Fray Check (To prevent cotton strapping from fraying.)
- *Mallet
- Ruler
- *Self-Healing Mat
- *Rotary Cutter
- Straps
- Piece of 3mm Felt (11" x 7")

*Optional

NOTES

Please read through the entire pattern before beginning your bag.

SEWING WITH LEATHER

For best results, the stitch length should be set to about 7-10 stitches per inch depending on the thickness of the leather. Stitches that are too short make too many holes in the leather which decreases stability. You can adjust the length of the stitch by testing on a scrap of leather. Does the leather feed evenly? Are there any skipped stitches? How is the tension? Are both the top and bottom threads flat and even?

Instead of back stitching, I generally recommend leaving long tails and hand knotting the ends, as backstitching can cut the leather. To hide the tails, tie in a double knot as close to the stitch as possible. Thread both ends onto a hand sewing needle. Insert the needle into the back of the strap or to the underside of the seam. Pull it through. Tie again and snip the thread. As an extra measure, I sometimes put a bead of glue or rubber cement on the final knot to secure.

Caution- in sewing with leather, it is best to use directional stitching to avoid puckering. (Sew from the widest seam to the narrowest and highest to lowest point.) Directional stitching can be thought of like a math equation, whatever you do to one side, remember to do to the other.

For seam intersections: When seams cross, press, glue and pound them so that they lie flat. (A rubber mallet works well as does rubber cement and a brayer).

In this pattern, the leather seam edges are left raw, as natural leather does not fray.

Remember to save your leather scraps as there are so many ways to put them to good use or save for another project. (Jewelry, tassels, card holders, key fobs, zipper tab or a “handmade” tag.)

For more on my leather sewing series, go to <https://www.littlestitchstudionorfolk.com/blog>

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

Please read through the entire pattern before beginning your bag.

THE PATTERN

If you haven't used a PDF Pattern before, here is a quick tutorial on printing and assembly: [PDF Pattern Assembly Tutorial](#). Please refer to Printing Instructions.

For more information on working with patterns, see pages 14-18 in my book, [Sew Bags: The Practical Guide to Making Purses, Totes, Clutches & More; 13 Skill-Building Projects](#) C&T Publishing, 2019

After Assembling the pattern, trace two copies and carefully cut out.

LESSON PLAN

In this pattern you are going to learn some new skills that will increase your level of sewing knowledge. While this is a beginner sewing pattern written specifically for working with leather, I do suggest that before sewing with leather you have a basic understanding of sewing in general. In this pattern, you will learn how to select and prepare leather for sewing on your home sewing machine, how to stitch and secure leather seams and how to add hardware and a reinforced structure for the base of the bag.

Take your time with some of the seemingly fussy steps. They are essential in building your technique. Precision is in the details and helps to create a finished bag that you will be proud to carry. So much of fine sewing is in the care, preparation and time spent planning your project. I hope that you enjoy the process.

Remember to take your time to lay the leather out carefully and work slowly. Your finished bag will thank you!

For more great bag patterns and inspiration, please check out my new book, [Sew Bags: The Practical Guide to Making Purses, Totes, Clutches & More; 13 Skill-Building Projects](#) C&T Publishing, 2019



CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Lay out the leather and examine it for holes, thin spots and irregularities. Place each pattern piece on the leather, positioning them so that you maximize the hide but avoid the obvious imperfections. Remember, this was once an animal, so there will be some nicks and scars. Add weights to hold in place or lightly tape to the leather. If you use tape for the patterns- check a scrap piece first to be sure that it won't ruin the finish. Leather is cut in single layers.

For this bag, I suggest cutting the full pattern out first and then go back and cut the squares from the the bottom along the dashed lines. This method tends to yield a bit more of an accurate cut. The small squares can be used for the tabs and later for another small project. (See Page 68 in my book, Sew Bags for more information and variations on boxing the bottom of a bag.)

Cut one piece for the pocket, 8" x 13"

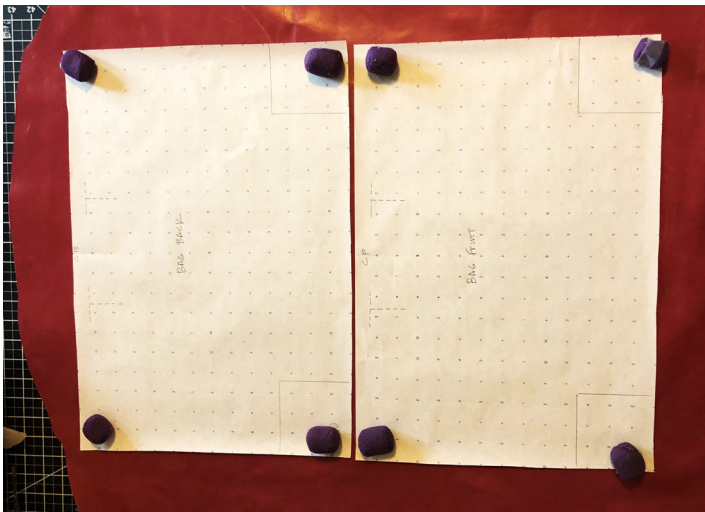
Cut one piece of leather for the bag base, 7" x 11"

Cut two strips for the tabs, 3/4" x 4"

Cut two straps to your desired length. Short straps are 18" each, longer ones are 25" each.

For more information on determining your ideal strap length, read this recent [blog post](#).

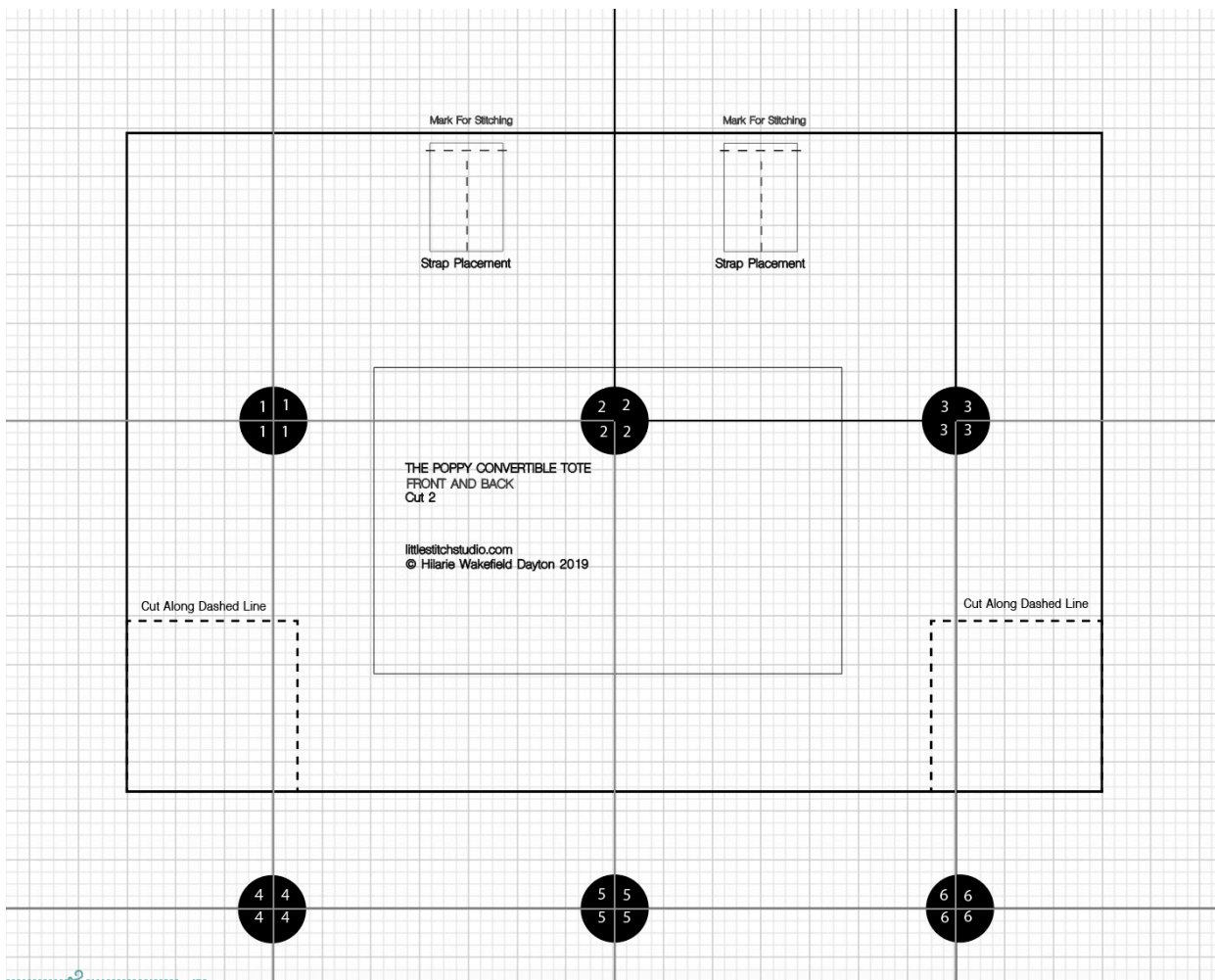
If you are using webbing for the straps, squeeze a few drops of Fray Check along the cut edges to prevent fraying. Alternately, you can set your machine to a zig-zag stitch (about 2mm long, 5mm wide) and stitch along the cut edge to finish.



PREPARING FOR CONSTRUCTION

Mark strap position and stitching guidelines on the inside of both bag front and bag back. Notice that the horizontal stitching guidelines go just beyond the strap. The extended stitch on each side of the strap adds a bit of reinforcement.

Flip both pieces over so that the right side is facing up. Lightly mark each horizontal stitching guideline. For this step, I like to use chalk or a water soluble pen- but please test on a scrap piece of leather before proceeding.



Cut 8 pieces of double-sided tape 1.5" long. Place one piece of tape along the both the horizontal and vertical strap markings. Position each strap in place, being careful not to twist the handles. (See Page 19 in my book, Sew Bags for more information on marking.)



Prepare the pocket by placing a strip of double-sided tape along the top edge. Fold over evenly and finger press.





STITCHING

Unless otherwise indicated, the seam allowance is $\frac{1}{2}$ " and is included in the pattern.

Begin by sewing across the prepared edge of the pocket. Remember not to back-stitch. Instead, leave long tails to tie in a knot and weave through the seams to hide.



Place pocket right side facing down and fold the end that you just stitched up 5". Tape in place. Stitch. Knot and hide threads.



STITCHING

To attach the straps, begin by sewing along each horizontal marking. Leave long tails instead of backstitching. These can be tied at each side and pulled through to the back of the strap using a hand sewing needle and knotting and tying once again.



Center pocket between straps on inside back of the bag. Tape in place.



Flip the bag over so that the pocket side is facing down and the bag body is facing up. Using a ruler and chalk or a water-soluble pen, draw a 2" vertical line from the center of the horizontal line of stitching, down 2 inches as indicated on pattern.



Sew down each vertical marking. If the bulk seems to be too much for your machine, you can “walk” the stitches by turning the machine’s fly-wheel toward you.

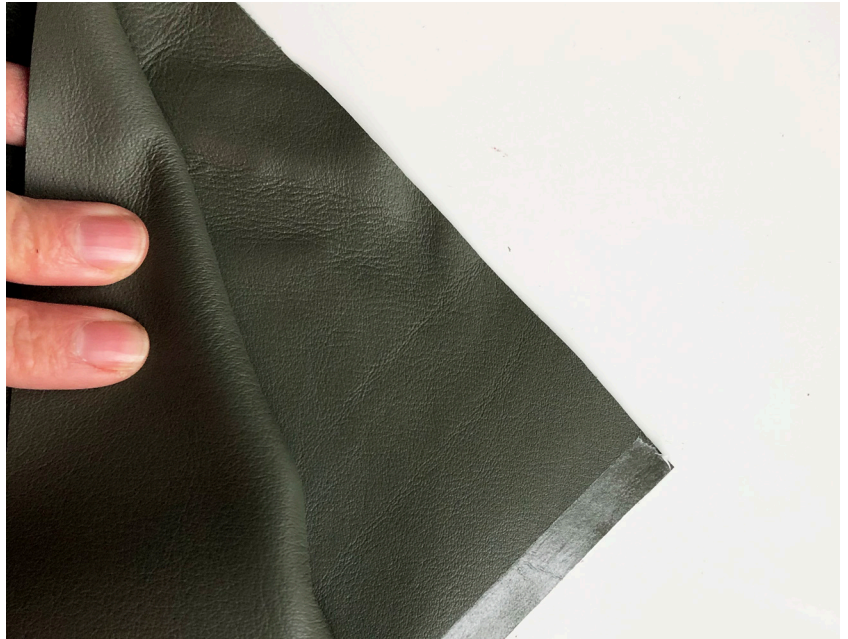


Repeat for Bag Back. Pull threads through just the pocket layer and knot underneath. Clip.



**PUTTING THE BAG
TOGETHER**

Place tape along the right side of the bag back. Place bag front right side down. (I find that if I use Scotch brand double-stick tape for this, it peels off quickly and I can re-use it for the opposite side.- Check on a scrap piece of leather first to be sure.)



Alternately, you can clip the sides together along seam line, aligning the raw edges of both the top and bottom pieces of leather. Stitch from top to bottom. Knot threads.



PUTTING THE BAG TOGETHER

In a well-ventilated area, apply rubber cement to the underside of each seam allowance. Allow the rubber cement to set for a minute or two until it becomes tacky. Pull the long thread tails in between the seam and the bag to hide. Press seams flat. Wait a bit to let them dry before proceeding.

Repeat stitching and gluing for opposite side.



Tape or clip the center bottom seam of the bag front and back together.

Clip and stitch. Knot and tie thread tails. Use rubber cement to glue seams flat, burying the thread tails between the layers.



PUTTING THE BAG TOGETHER

To create a flat base for the bottom of the bag, reach into the bag and pull the side seam and center bottom seam together until they align. Pinch to tape or clip.

With right sides together, stitch across opening. Knot and tie thread threads.

Repeat for opposite side.

If the leather seams seem bulky, turn the bag wrong side out and give the seams a few light taps with a mallet to flatten.

Clip and stitch. Knot and tie thread tails. Use rubber cement to glue seams flat, burying the thread tails between the layers.



TABS AND HARDWARE

To hold the closure hardware in place, you will need to create tabs from each of the two strips of leather. Wrap one strip through the flat bar of the D-ring, fold in half. Tape to secure.

With the remaining leather strip, wrap through both the D-ring and the Swivel Snap ring. Tape to secure.



Place the prepared D-ring holders along the inside seam of each bag side. Careful to center exactly.

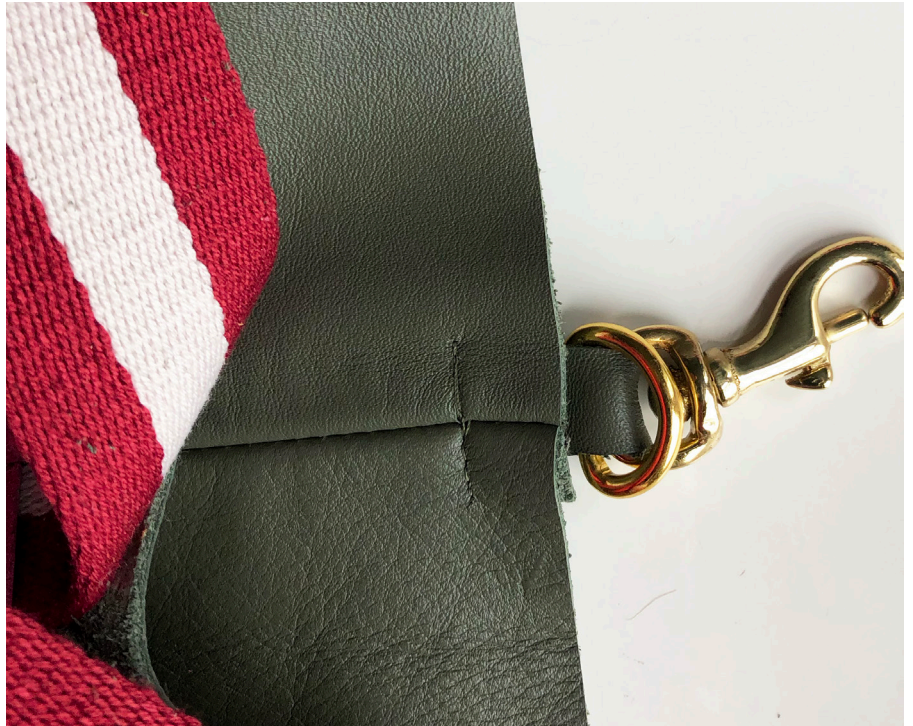
Tape to secure.

You will want to be sure that the side with the Swivel-Snap ring is positioned so that the D-ring is facing the outside of the bag and the swivel snap is facing the inside.



TABS AND HARDWARE

This next seam will be the exception to my rule! Sew across each tab and backstitch right over the seam. Pull thread tails through the underside of each tab and knot to secure.



CREATING STRUCTURE FOR THE BASE OF YOUR BAG

For this you will need the final piece of leather (7'x11") and the 3mm felt cut to the same dimensions.



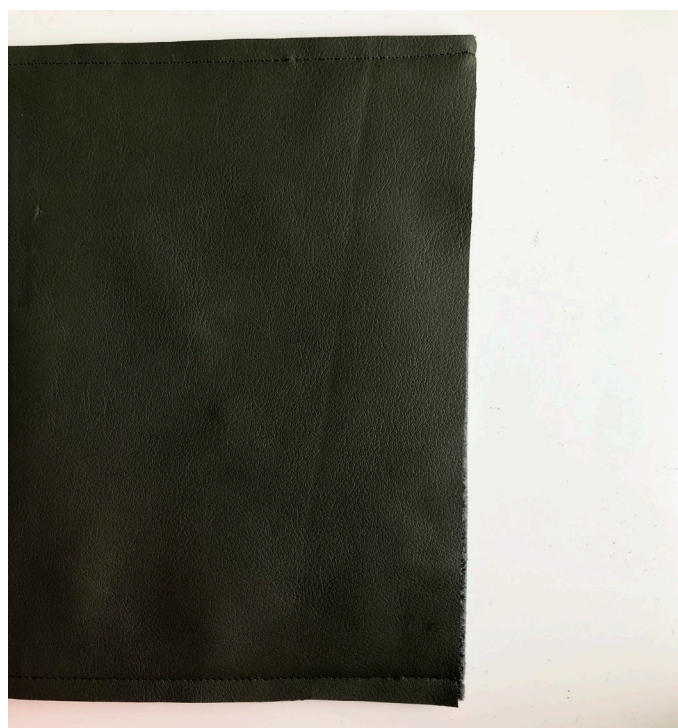
CREATING STRUCTURE FOR THE BASE

Using tape or rubber cement, affix the bottom of a piece of leather to the felt. Allow to dry.

Before stitching, place the base inside your bag. Check to be sure the fit is snug. If it is too big, trim a bit to fit.

Begin stitch along each of the two long sides before stitching the short sides. I find that by stitching in this order, it helps to keep the leather from shifting.

Place in bag bottom.



CREATING STRUCTURE FOR THE BASE

Place in bag bottom. It should fit nice and snug.



Beauty shot time! Isn't the hardware pretty?



Thank you so much for downloading this pattern. I hope that you have enjoyed it and learned a new skill or two. Please share your pictures- I can't wait to see your finished bag.

XO, Hilarie

ABOUT LITTLE STITCH STUDIO

I've been obsessed with fashion and sewing since I was a young child. I would save up money and beg my mother to drive me to a fabric store that had just the right trim to complete the vision of whatever I had come up with. I know the history of the petticoat and I get excited about all of the different types of cashmere.

As a very small girl of four years old, I began to learn to sew. My grandmother always had an array of projects she was working on and happy to have me next to her. I spent hours making clothes and elaborate furnishings for my dolls, Barbies and myself! My grandmother owned a plant nursery and would sell dolls and crafts that she and her friends had made in the shop. Occasionally she let me sell my things as well.

As I grew, so did my sewing interest and ability. I spent one year studying Fashion Design in college then transferred to a small college closer to home and majored in Art History, with a concentration on the history of costume through portraiture, because they did not have a fashion program. However, they did have a fantastic theater department. I found use for my sewing skills in the theater department's costume shop. When I couldn't find the right pattern, I would make one from existing garments. After college, I had a line of women's clothing, then accessories that I designed, manufactured, and sold in boutiques. Later, I designed and made custom wedding gowns and veils.

Who knew that only years later, would I be able to synthesize those early experiences by opening Little Stitch Studio. Little Stitch Studio is a fun space for kids, teens and adults to learn sewing and design techniques. It is a place where people can connect with each other, discover new things and create something beautiful. I teach weekly classes, as well as camps, parties and workshops. It is the perfect place for little designers to get inspired and feel empowered.

Please send me an email if you are interested in learning more. hilarie@littlestitchstudionorfolk.com

Be sure to check out my new book!

[Sew Bags: The Practical Guide to Making Purses, Totes, Clutches & More; 13 Skill-Building Projects](https://www.amazon.com/author/hilariedayton)
<https://www.amazon.com/author/hilariedayton>

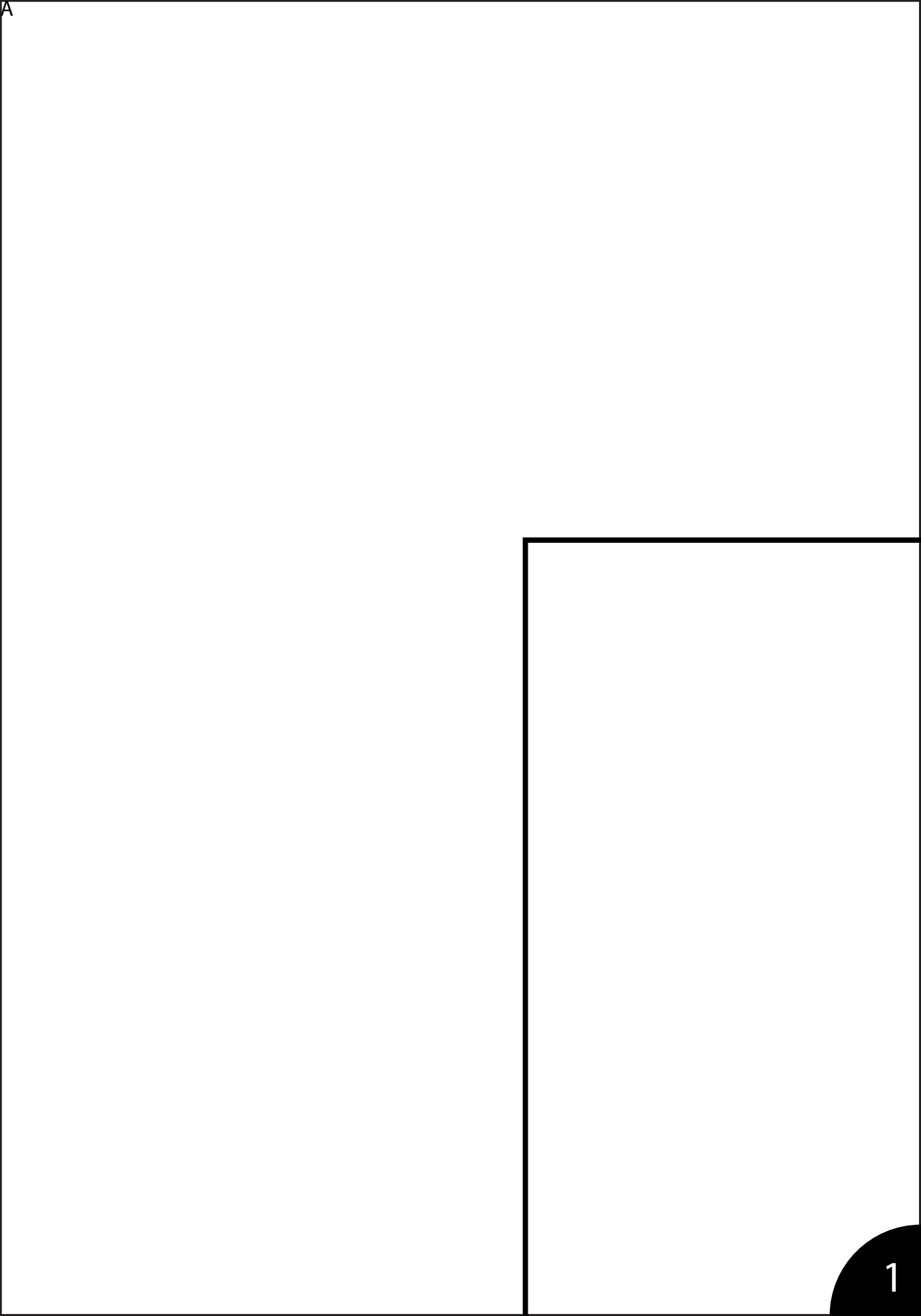
Say hello and follow along....

Blog www.littlestitchstudio.com/blog/

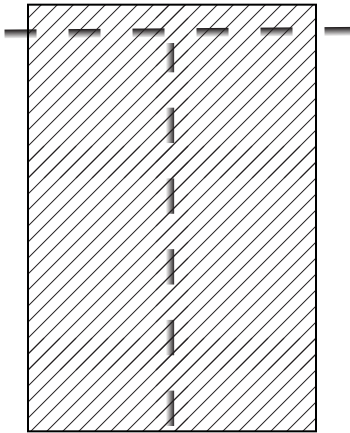
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/littlestitchstudio>

Facebook www.facebook.com/Littlestitchstudionorfolk/

Pinterest www.pinterest.com/littlestitchstudio



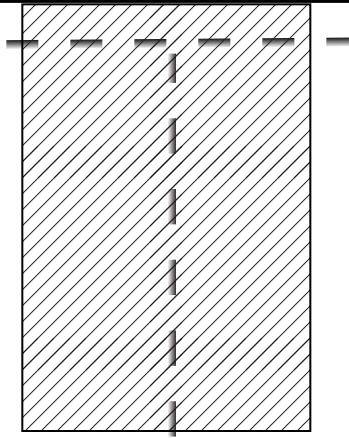
Mark for stitching



Strap Placement



Mark for stitching



Strap Placement



Cut Along Dashed Line



1

2

THE POPPY CONVERTIBLE TOTE
FRONT AND BACK
Cut 2

littlestitchstudio.com
© Hilarie Wakefield Dayton 2019



4

5

2

3



5

6

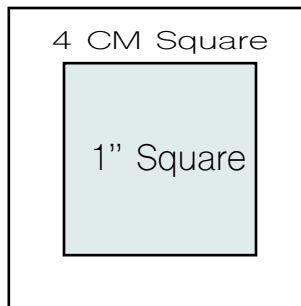
3

Cut Along Dashed Line

6



POPPY CONVERTIBLE TOTE



Terms of Use

This pattern, instructions and photographs are protected by copyright. No part of it can be copied, used, shared or resold. No part can be altered and sold as your own. It is intended for personal use. If you are interested in selling products made from this pattern please contact me for details. Thank you for respecting the time and effort I've put into creating my work. littlestitchstudio.com