

**Sassy Tote Too!**  
**Pattern 042**  
**Sew Practical © 2008**  
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I created this pattern for those who have been asking for smaller purses. Read all instructions thoroughly and look at all pictures before beginning this project. Refer to your sewing machine manual for creating button holes. If you're a visual learner, below is a link to an awesome video to show you an easy way to make a button hole.

[http://www.expertvillage.com/video/14009\\_button-zig-stitch.htm](http://www.expertvillage.com/video/14009_button-zig-stitch.htm)

If for some reason the site becomes unavailable, a simple search on your favorite search engine should bring up several sites offering free buttonhole tutorials.

Finished tote will be about 6"H x 8 1/2" W. You can always create a larger tote by using this pattern as a guide and tracing a larger pattern onto fabric pieces. You will also want to make longer straps and ruffles if you do so.

**Supplies**

- 3/4 yd Fabric 1 for Main Shell
- 1/2 yd Fabric 2 for Bottom Shell and Button Hole Closure
- 3/4 yd Fabric 3 for Lining, Inside Pockets & Straps
- OPTIONAL: Additional 3/4 yd Fabric 3 for Ruffles
- 12 Buttons to hold Straps (These do NOT have to be the same)
- 3 Buttons for Closure (Should be the same size)
- 1yd of batting or your favorite material to use between the shell & lining
- 600 yards of matching thread
- Sewing machine
- Hand sewing needle

## Instructions

To print pattern pieces, you may want to set all margins to "0". However, if you do not wish to mess with your printer settings, you should be able to simply follow the cutting lines that do print to finish cutting to the edges.

### Shell

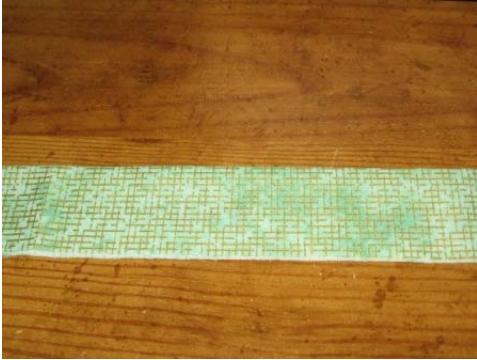
1. From Fabric 1, cut 2 pieces for Main Shell using Cut Line 1 on the pattern.
2. From Fabric 2, cut 2 pieces for the Bottom Shell using Cut Line 2 on the pattern.



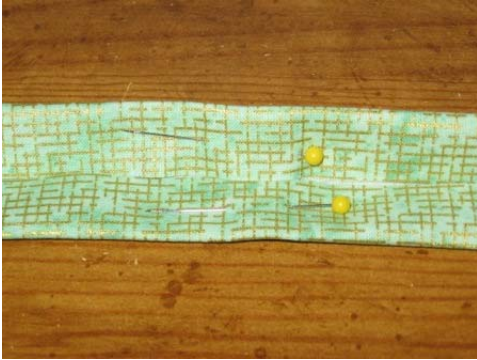
Bottom Shell & Main Shell

### Straps

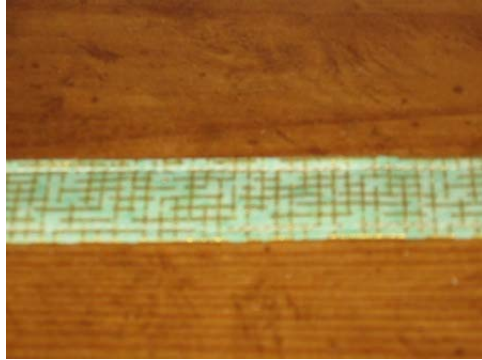
1. Cut 2 strips 27" L x 3" W from Fabric 3.
2. Fold strips in half so that they are 27" L x 1 1/2" W. Press the fold.



3. Fold raw edges toward the center to hide. Straps will measure 27" L x 3/4" W. Sew to hold.



Fold raw edges toward center



Sew both edges of strap to finish

### Ruffles

Skip to **Piecing the Shell** if you do not desire to add a ruffle.

1. Cut 2 strips from Fabric 3 measuring 25" L x 3" W.
2. Fold strips in half so that they measure 25" L x 1 1/2" W.
3. Fold raw edges inward about 1/4". Straps will measure 25" L x 1" W. Sew to hold.



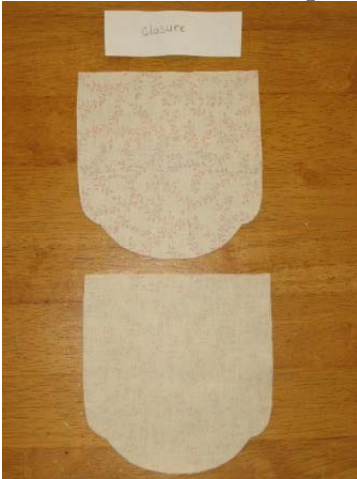
Turn edges under 1/4" inch

4. Sew gathering stitches across the top edges.



## Button Closure

1. Cut button closure pieces using the pattern below.



2. Cut a matching piece of batting.

3. With right sides together and one piece of batting on one side, sew closure piece together using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Leave top open and turn.



3 Layers before turning

4. Use buttons as a guide for marking buttonhole placements on the closure piece. You will need to make your buttonhole slightly larger than the buttons you are using.



Place dots above & below each button



Connect the dots from top to bottom. Draw lines across top & bottom of lines you drew for button holes.



Watch video from above & create the 3 buttonholes



Carefully cut buttonholes on lines

### **Piecing the Shell**

1. Align bottom of the Bottom Shell to the bottom of the Main Shell. Turn top of the bottom shell under  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Pin to hold.



2. Place straps  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from tote edges. Insert raw edges of the straps under the top edge of the bottom shell about  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Pin to hold.
3. Sew Bottom Shell to Main shell using  $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance. Sew completely around the bottom shell. **You may want to sew over the straps once or twice more to secure them if you aren't going to add the ruffle.**



4. If you have chosen to add the ruffle, gather and sew ruffle to the *top edge* of the bottom shell. This also adds another security stitch for straps. **Skip to number 5 in this section if you aren't adding the ruffle.**



Sew ruffle on



Trim ruffle edges from each side

5. Sew 3 buttons onto each strap.



6. Sew closure buttons onto the top of the Main Shell. Buttons need to be placed accordingly to the button holes that you made in the Button Hole Closure piece.  
**Hint: Place the closure piece onto front of Main Shell. Mark buttonhole lines onto Main Shell. Center buttons over the buttonhole lines and sew.**



Mark Shell using Buttonholes as a guide    Sew buttons over buttonhole lines

**Batting** (or other favorite material to use between lining and shell)

1. Cut 2 pieces of batting (or other favorite) using Cut Line 1 on the pattern below.



**Lining & Pockets**

1. From Fabric 3, cut 2 pieces for Lining using Cut Line 1 on the pattern below.

2. Sew batting to the back of lining using 1/8" seam allowance.

3. Cut one 8" x 8" piece from Fabric 3 to use as pockets.



Lining & Pocket

4. Fold pocket in half with right sides together so that they measure 4" x 8".
5. Sew perimeter using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, leaving a 3" opening at bottom for turning.



6. Turn right side out.



7. Sew pockets onto one lining piece about 1" from the bottom, centered from both sides. Sew sides and bottom only of the pockets.

8. Stitch down the middle of the pocket to make 2 pockets.



### **Finishing the Tote**

1. Sew both lining sections together with right sides together (sides and bottom only). Do not turn.
2. Sew both shell sections together with right sides together (sides and bottom only). Turn right side out.
3. Set the lining inside the shell.

4. Turn top edges under toward the middle about ¼". I also turned the pointed ends so that they were squared off rather than pointy. Pin edges in place.



Not pointy on the ends when completing

5. Button the closure to the front of the tote. Then place closure piece between the back lining and shell sections. Pin to hold.



Button Closure to Front



Insert Closure between shell & lining



Pin Closure to Hold

6. Sew top edges together using 1/8" seam allowance.

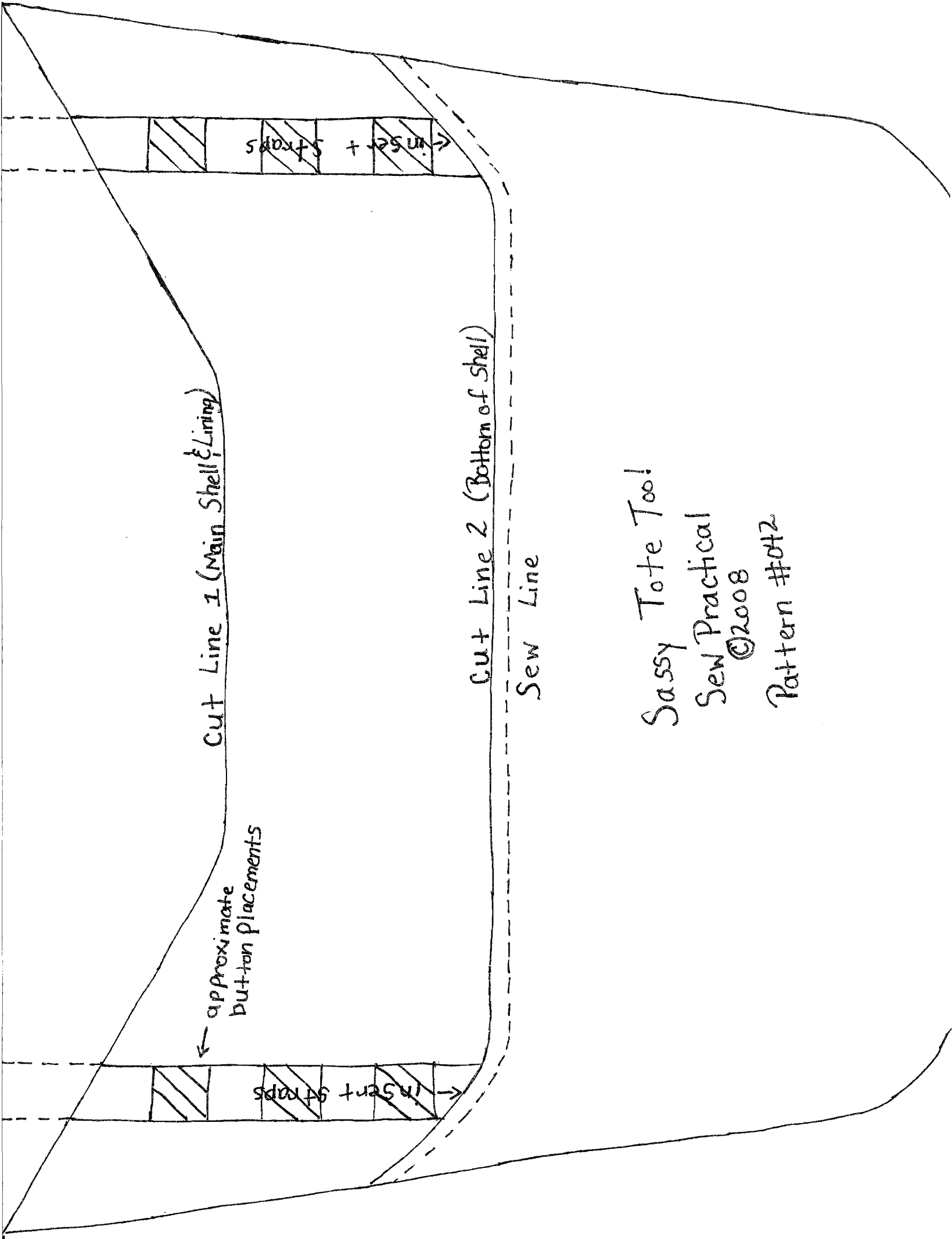


Inside View & Side View after sewing is completed.

Feel free to make the Sassy Tote Too for fun or for profit. Please give designer credit to Sew Practical. If you have any questions, you may contact us at [mkwilson@chartertn.net](mailto:mkwilson@chartertn.net). We would love to showcase your Sew Practical creations on our blog <http://sewpractical.blogspot.com> along with your personal story behind your creation (if you wish) and your family friendly website url, Ebay store or seller ID, or blog url if applicable.

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