

QUILTED LEAF TOTE BAG – STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL



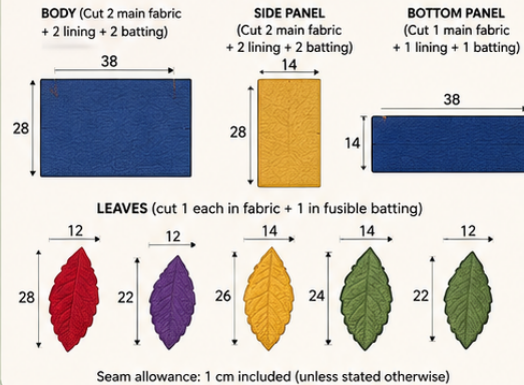
FINISHED SIZE

Width: 38 cm
Height: 28 cm
Depth: 14 cm

MATERIALS

- Quilting cotton fabric (USA)
 - Blue (main body): 80 cm
 - Leaves (assorted colors): Red, Purple, Yellow, Green - 30 cm each
 - Lining fabric: 80 cm
 - Fusible batting (medium weight): 80 cm
- Handles: 2 pieces PU leather (58 cm each)
- Rivets: 4 sets
- Magnetic snap: 1 set
- Thread, pins, fabric glue
- Quilting thread (matching colors)
- Basic sewing tools

PATTERN PIECES (ALL MEASUREMENTS IN CM)



1

CUT THE FABRIC



Cut all pieces according to the measurements above.

2

PREPARE THE LEAVES



Fuse batting to the wrong side of each leaf piece.
Quilt along the veins and around the edge of each leaf for a dimensional effect.

3

ARRANGE THE DESIGN



Place the leaves on the front body piece (38 x 28 cm).
Arrange as desired, overlapping edges.
Glue or baste in place.

4

ATTACH THE LEAVES



Appliqué the leaves with a straight stitch close to the edge.
Use matching or contrast thread.

5

QUILT THE FRONT PANEL



Quilt the background (blue area) with free-motion quilting or stippling to secure all layers and add texture.

6

ASSEMBLE THE BAG



Sew the side panels (14 x 28 cm) to the front and back panels.
Attach the bottom panel (38 x 14 cm).
Repeat with lining fabric, leave a gap for turning.

7

ADD THE HANDLES



Attach the PU leather handles using rivets (2.5 cm from the top edge).
Make sure both sides are even.

8

ADD CLOSURE



Install the magnetic snap centered at the top edge.
Close the opening in the lining with a ladder stitch.

9

TURN AND FINISH



Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining.
Press the top edge.
Topstitch around the top edge for a clean finish.

10

FINISHED BAG



Your Quilted Leaf Tote Bag is ready to use!

MAIN SEWING METHODS USED

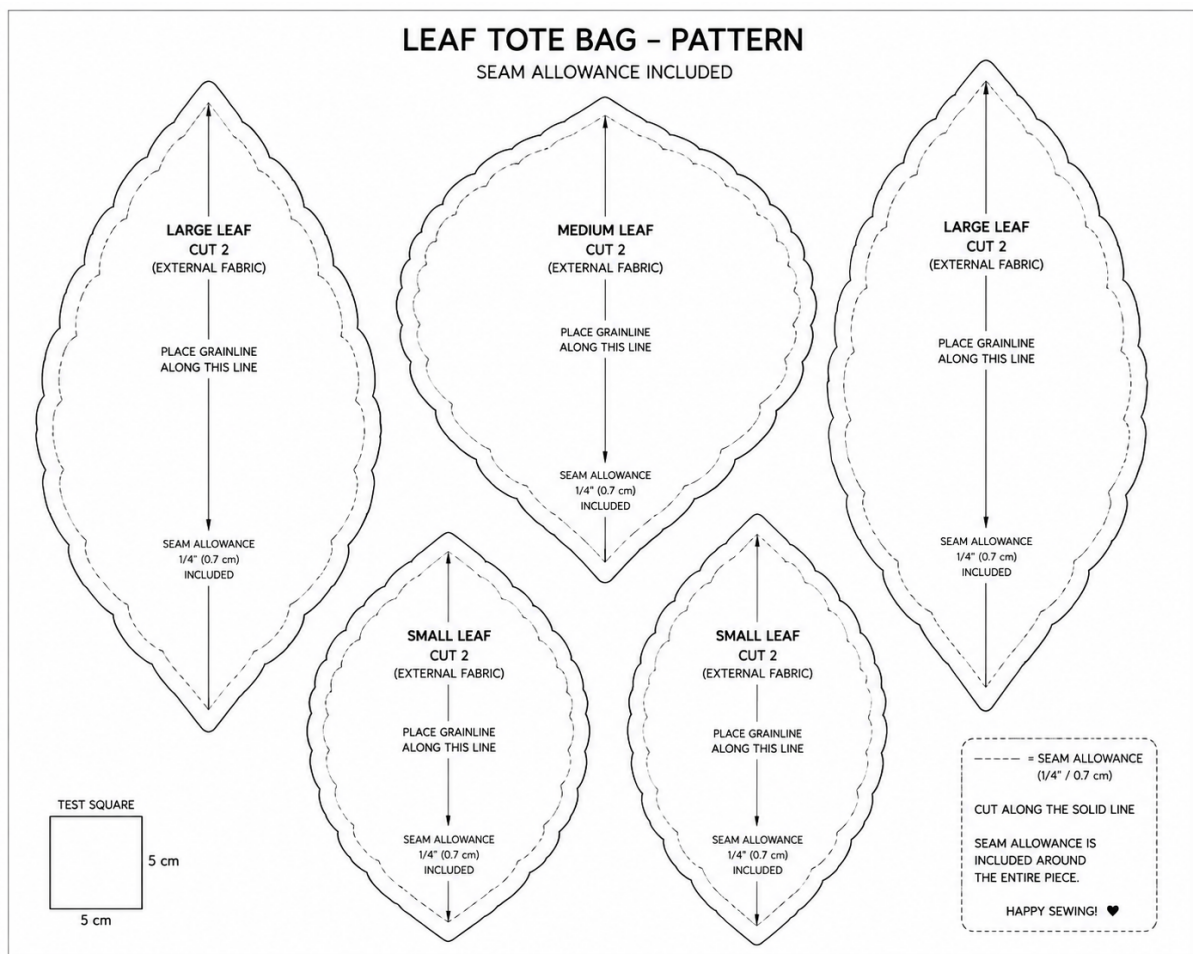
- Straight Stitch – for seams and appliqué
- Topstitch – for finishing edges
- Quilting (Free-motion/Stippling) – for texture and securing layers
- Appliqué – for attaching leaf pieces
- Ladder Stitch – for closing the lining opening
- Rivet Installation – for attaching handles

TIPS

- Use high-quality quilting cotton from the USA for durability.
- Press seams as you go for a professional finish.
- Adjust leaf colors and arrangement to create your own unique design.
- This bag is perfect for everyday use and makes a great gift!

ENJOY YOUR HANDMADE CREATION! ❤️

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Quilted Leaf Tote Bag – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial

This Quilted Leaf Tote Bag combines practical construction, colorful appliqué, free-motion quilting, and sturdy faux-leather handles. The finished bag measures approximately 38 cm wide × 28 cm high × 14 cm deep, which is about 15 inches wide × 11 inches high × 5½ inches deep.

The design uses a dark blue quilted body decorated with six dimensional leaves in red, purple, yellow, and green. The

leaves are individually quilted before being appliquéd to the front panel, creating a rich, textured finish.

A 1 cm seam allowance, approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, is already included in the pattern measurements unless a different allowance is stated.

Materials and Supplies

Gather all materials before cutting:

- Quilting cotton for the main body: 80 cm, or approximately $\frac{7}{8}$ yard, in dark blue
- Quilting cotton for the leaves: 30 cm, or approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ yard, of each selected color
- Red fabric
- Purple fabric
- Yellow fabric
- Green fabric
- Lining fabric: 80 cm, or approximately $\frac{7}{8}$ yard
- Medium-weight fusible batting: 80 cm, or approximately $\frac{7}{8}$ yard
- PU leather or faux-leather handles: two pieces, each 58 cm or about 23 inches long
- Rivets: four sets
- Magnetic snap: one set
- All-purpose sewing thread
- Quilting thread in matching or contrasting colors
- Fabric glue, washable glue stick, or temporary basting spray
- Straight pins or sewing clips
- Fabric scissors
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Fabric marker
- Iron and ironing board

- Sewing machine
- Regular presser foot
- Appliqué or open-toe foot
- Free-motion quilting foot, if available
- Hand-sewing needle
- Rivet-setting tools
- Seam ripper
- Point turner or blunt knitting needle

Choose high-quality quilting cotton because it is stable, easy to quilt, and strong enough for an everyday tote bag.

Pattern Pieces and Cutting Measurements

Cut the following pieces carefully. Label each piece as you work.

Main Body Panels

Cut:

- Two pieces of dark blue main fabric measuring 38 × 28 cm
- Two pieces of lining fabric measuring 38 × 28 cm
- Two pieces of medium-weight fusible batting measuring 38 × 28 cm

These pieces form the front and back of the tote.

Side Panels

Cut:

- Two pieces of main fabric measuring 14 × 28 cm
- Two pieces of lining fabric measuring 14 × 28 cm
- Two pieces of fusible batting measuring 14 × 28 cm

These create the depth at the sides of the bag.

Bottom Panel

Cut:

- One piece of main fabric measuring 38 × 14 cm
- One piece of lining fabric measuring 38 × 14 cm
- One piece of fusible batting measuring 38 × 14 cm

Leaf Pieces

Cut one fabric piece and one matching fusible batting piece for each leaf.

The graphic uses six leaves:

- One red leaf measuring approximately 12 × 28 cm
- One purple leaf measuring approximately 12 × 22 cm
- One yellow leaf measuring approximately 14 × 26 cm
- One large green leaf measuring approximately 14 × 24 cm
- Two smaller green leaves measuring approximately 12 × 22 cm each

The width measurements refer to the widest point of each leaf.

You may draw the leaf shapes freehand or make paper templates first. Each leaf should have a pointed top, a gently rounded center, and a tapered base. Slight variations will make the design look natural.

Step 1: Cut and Organize the Fabric

Press all fabric before cutting. Remove wrinkles without stretching the cotton.

Use a rotary cutter, ruler, and cutting mat to cut the rectangular bag pieces accurately. Straight, square pieces are important because the panels must align during assembly.

Mark the wrong side of every piece with removable fabric chalk. This prevents confusion when several similar pieces are on the worktable.

After cutting the rectangular panels, trace the leaf templates onto the wrong side of the colored fabrics. Cut one red, one purple, one yellow, and three green leaves.

Cut matching batting pieces for all six leaves. The batting may be cut exactly to size because the raw leaf edges will be secured with stitching.

Arrange all pieces into groups:

- **Exterior front and back**
- **Exterior sides**
- **Exterior bottom**
- **Lining pieces**
- **Batting pieces**
- **Leaf appliqués**
- **Handles and hardware**

Do not begin sewing until you have confirmed that every piece is present.

Step 2: Fuse the Batting to the Exterior Panels

Place the fusible side of the batting against the wrong side of each exterior fabric piece.

Fuse the batting to:

- **The front panel**
- **The back panel**
- **Both side panels**
- **The bottom panel**

Follow the batting manufacturer's instructions. Some fusible battings require steam, while others should be pressed with a dry iron.

Press rather than sliding the iron. Sliding may distort the fabric or stretch the batting.

Hold the iron in each area for the recommended time. Allow the pieces to cool on a flat surface so the adhesive can set properly.

Check the edges after cooling. If any areas lift, press them again.

At this stage, you may trim the batting if it extends beyond the fabric edges.

Step 3: Prepare the Quilted Leaves

Place one fusible batting leaf against the wrong side of each colored fabric leaf. Fuse according to the batting instructions.

For a slightly fuller appliqué, place a lightweight backing fabric behind the batting. This is optional but can make the leaf easier to quilt.

Thread the sewing machine with a color that matches each leaf or with a slightly darker shade for visible definition.

Begin by stitching a central vein from the base of the leaf toward the tip. Follow the natural center line of the shape.

Add smaller diagonal veins extending from the center toward the outer edges. The veins should angle upward toward the pointed tip.

Do not make every vein perfectly identical. Organic variations create a more realistic leaf appearance.

Quilt around the outside edge approximately 3 mm, or about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, from the raw edge.

For additional texture, add free-motion quilting, closely spaced wavy lines, or small stippling between the veins.

Repeat this process for all six leaves.

Step 4: Refine the Leaf Edges

After quilting, check the shape of each leaf.

Trim any batting that extends beyond the fabric edge. Use small, sharp scissors for the pointed tips and narrow curves.

The finished design in the graphic has softly shaped, slightly scalloped edges. You can recreate this look by trimming shallow curves along the perimeter.

Keep the scallops subtle. Deep cuts may weaken the edge or make appliqué stitching difficult.

If the fabric frays easily, apply a very thin line of fabric sealant around the raw edge. Allow it to dry completely before attaching the leaves.

Alternatively, use a narrow satin stitch during the appliqué stage to cover the raw edge.

Press the leaves gently from the back. Avoid flattening the quilting texture.

Set the completed leaves aside while preparing the main front panel.

Step 5: Arrange the Leaf Design

Place the dark blue front panel right side up on a flat surface. The panel should measure 38 × 28 cm.

Arrange the leaves in an overlapping composition similar to the tutorial graphic.

A balanced arrangement is:

- Red leaf on the upper-left side
- Purple leaf near the upper center
- Yellow leaf on the upper-right side
- Large green leaf in the lower center
- One green leaf along the lower-left area
- One green leaf along the lower-right area

Allow some of the leaf edges to overlap. This creates depth and prevents the arrangement from looking too evenly spaced.

Keep all leaves away from the panel's seam allowance. Leave at least 1.5 to 2 cm, approximately $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, around the outer edges.

Check the arrangement from a distance. The design should feel balanced, with the yellow and purple leaves adding color at the top and the green leaves forming a full lower cluster.

Take a photograph before moving the leaves. The photograph will help you restore the arrangement if the pieces shift.

Secure the leaves with washable fabric glue, temporary basting spray, or a few small hand-basting stitches.

Step 6: Appliqué the Leaves to the Front Panel

Install an appliqué foot or open-toe presser foot for better visibility.

Thread the machine with a color that matches the leaf being attached. A contrasting thread may also be used when you want the stitching to become part of the design.

Begin with the leaves positioned underneath other pieces. Attach the bottom layer first so the overlaps remain clean.

Sew close to the outer edge of each leaf with a straight stitch. Keep the stitching approximately 2 to 3 mm, or about 1/8 inch, from the raw edge.

Use a stitch length of approximately 2.0 to 2.5 mm.

Slow down around curves and pointed tips. Stop with the needle down, lift the presser foot, rotate the fabric slightly, and continue.

Backstitch briefly at the beginning and end, or pull the thread tails to the back and knot them by hand.

After attaching the lower leaves, sew the overlapping upper leaves in place.

Check that every leaf edge is secured and that no section lifts away from the panel.

Step 7: Quilt the Front Panel

The leaf appliqués are already textured, but the blue background should also be quilted.

Attach a free-motion quilting foot and lower the feed dogs if your sewing machine allows it. Practice on a fabric-and-batting scrap before quilting the bag panel.

Quilt the visible blue background with:

- Small stippling
- Meandering lines
- Gentle waves
- Loops
- Irregular leaf-inspired curves

Begin near the center and work outward. This reduces shifting and helps keep the panel flat.

Avoid quilting directly over the dimensional leaf veins unless additional stitching is desired.

Fill the background evenly without making it excessively dense. Very close quilting may make the bag stiff.

Maintain a similar quilting density across the entire panel.

After quilting, place the panel on a cutting mat and square it back to 38 × 28 cm if necessary.

Step 8: Quilt the Remaining Exterior Pieces

Quilt the back panel, side panels, and bottom panel.

The back may be quilted with the same free-motion design used on the front. Matching quilting creates a professional, coordinated finish.

The side panels can be quilted with vertical lines, gentle curves, or free-motion stippling.

Quilt the bottom panel firmly because it will receive more wear. A grid or closely spaced straight lines can provide extra stability.

Keep the quilting away from the outermost seam allowance when possible. This reduces bulk during assembly.

After quilting, check that all panels still match their required measurements.

Trim loose threads from both sides.

Press the panels lightly from the wrong side. Do not crush the quilting with heavy pressure.

Place the finished exterior panels in assembly order.

Step 9: Assemble the Exterior Bag

Place one long edge of a side panel against the side edge of the front panel, right sides together.

Align the top and bottom corners. Clip or pin the layers securely.

Sew with a 1 cm, or approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch, seam allowance.

Attach the second side panel to the opposite edge of the front panel in the same way.

Next, attach the back panel to the free edges of both side panels. The exterior will now form an open rectangular tube.

Press the seam allowances toward the side panels. Because the layers are thick, use a pressing cloth and moderate heat.

For extra strength, topstitch along the side-panel side of each seam, approximately 3 mm from the seam line.

Check that the top edges of all four panels align evenly.

Do not attach the bottom until the rectangular body is complete.

Step 10: Attach the Bottom Panel

Mark the center of each side of the bottom panel.

Also mark the center of the lower edge of the front panel, back panel, and both side panels.

With right sides together, align the long edge of the bottom panel with the bottom edge of the front panel. Match the center marks and corners.

Clip the layers together and sew from corner to corner using a 1 cm seam allowance.

Attach the opposite long edge of the bottom to the back panel.

Sew each short bottom edge to a side panel.

At the corners, stop precisely at the seam intersection with the needle down. Pivot the fabric carefully before sewing the next edge.

Trim excess batting from the corner seam allowances to reduce bulk. Do not cut through the stitching.

Turn the exterior right side out and check that the base is square and the corners are clean.

Step 11: Construct the Lining

Assemble the lining using the same panel arrangement as the exterior.

Sew one lining side panel to each side of the lining front panel.

Attach the lining back panel to the remaining side-panel edges.

Sew the lining bottom panel to the four lower edges.

Leave an opening of approximately 12 to 15 cm, or about 5 to 6 inches, along one bottom or side seam. This opening will be used to turn the bag right side out.

Backstitch securely at both ends of the opening.

Press the lining seam allowances flat.

The lining should be slightly flexible so it fits smoothly inside the quilted exterior.

Keep the lining wrong side out for the next steps.

Step 12: Install the Magnetic Snap

Find the horizontal center of the lining front and back pieces.

Mark a point approximately 2.5 to 3 cm, or about 1 to 1¼ inches, below the upper raw edge.

Reinforce the wrong side of each marked area with a small square of fusible interfacing. This prevents the magnetic hardware from tearing through the lining.

Place the magnetic snap washer over the mark and trace the two slot positions.

Cut only the tiny slots required for the snap prongs. Do not cut a large opening.

Push one snap half through the lining from the right side to the wrong side.

Place the washer over the prongs, then fold the prongs outward firmly.

Install the matching snap half on the opposite lining panel.

Close the snap to confirm that both pieces align at the center.

Step 13: Prepare and Position the Handles

Use two PU leather or faux-leather handles, each measuring 58 cm, or approximately 23 inches.

Mark the center of the bag's front upper edge.

Position one handle so its two ends are equally spaced from the center. The handle ends should be placed symmetrically.

A practical placement is approximately 8 to 10 cm, or 3 to 4 inches, apart from the center line on each side.

The lower end of each handle attachment may extend approximately 4 to 5 cm, or about 1½ to 2 inches, below the upper edge.

Check that the handle is not twisted.

Repeat the placement on the back panel, making sure the second handle matches the first.

Use sewing clips rather than pins because pins can leave permanent holes in faux leather.

Mark the rivet locations through each handle tab.

Step 14: Attach the Handles with Rivets

Reinforce the inside of the bag behind every handle position.

Use small squares of heavy interfacing, scrap leather, canvas, or folded quilting cotton.

Make the rivet holes with an awl or leather punch. The hole should be only large enough for the rivet post.

Insert the rivet post from the inside of the bag through the reinforcement, quilted panel, and handle tab.

Place the rivet cap on the exposed post.

Set the rivet using the correct rivet-setting tool and a firm surface.

Repeat for all four handle ends.

The tutorial design uses two rivets at each attachment tab for extra strength. When following that construction, install two rivets per tab, or eight individual rivets total. When using a rivet set designed as one decorative pair per tab, follow the hardware manufacturer's recommendation.

Confirm that the handles are secure, level, and evenly positioned before joining the lining.

Step 15: Join the Lining to the Exterior

Keep the exterior bag right side out.

Place it inside the lining, which should remain wrong side out. The right sides of the exterior and lining will now face each other.

Push the handles down between the exterior and lining so they remain away from the top seam.

Match the side seams and upper raw edges.

Clip around the entire opening. Use extra clips at the thicker side seams.

Sew around the top edge with a 1 cm seam allowance.

Move slowly over handle reinforcement areas because the layers may be bulky.

For added strength, sew a second line of stitching just inside the original seam.

Check that no part of a handle was accidentally caught in the top seam.

Step 16: Turn the Bag Right Side Out

Reach through the opening left in the lining.

Carefully pull the exterior bag through the opening. Work gradually to avoid stretching the lining or damaging the quilted corners.

Once the exterior is fully turned, pull the lining out temporarily.

Use a point turner or blunt tool to shape the top edge and corners. Do not use sharp scissors because they can pierce the fabric.

Finger-press the top seam so the lining rolls slightly toward the inside.

Press the upper edge carefully with an iron. Protect the PU leather handles from direct heat.

Push the lining into the bag.

Smooth it into the corners and along the bottom.

Step 17: Close the Lining Opening

Fold the raw edges of the lining opening inward so they align with the sewn seam.

Press the folded edges.

Close the opening by machine with a narrow edge stitch, or sew it invisibly by hand with a ladder stitch.

For a hand-sewn ladder stitch, take alternating small stitches through the folded edges. Pull the thread gently so the stitches disappear inside the seam.

Knot the thread securely and hide the tail inside the lining.

Inspect the lining to ensure that it sits smoothly without twisting.

The opening should be fully closed before the final topstitching.

Step 18: Topstitch the Upper Edge

Install a strong needle suitable for multiple fabric layers.

Topstitch around the entire upper edge approximately 3 to 5 mm, or about 1/8 to 3/16 inch, from the seam.

Use a longer stitch length of approximately 3 mm for a neat professional finish.

Keep the lining pushed slightly toward the inside so it does not show above the exterior.

Slow down near the side seams and reinforced handle areas.

Use a walking foot when available. It helps feed the quilted exterior and lining evenly.

Overlap the first few stitches at the end, or backstitch carefully.

Trim all visible thread tails.

Step 19: Shape and Finish the Tote

Fill the bag lightly with folded towels and allow it to rest for several hours. This helps establish the rectangular shape.

Check the side panels and bottom corners. Press them gently if additional shaping is needed.

Test the magnetic closure several times.

Lift the bag by the handles and inspect every rivet. None of the handle tabs should move or separate from the body.

Examine the leaf edges for loose sections. Restitch any area that is not fully secured.

Remove fabric marker lines and temporary basting stitches.

Use a lint roller to remove loose fibers.

Your finished tote should measure approximately:

- **Width: 38 cm or 15 inches**

- Height: 28 cm or 11 inches
- Depth: 14 cm or 5½ inches

Main Sewing Methods Used

Straight Stitch

A straight stitch is used for panel seams, construction stitching, and most of the appliqué work. It provides a clean and secure finish.

Topstitching

Topstitching is visible stitching placed near an edge or seam. It strengthens the tote opening and helps the bag maintain its shape.

Free-Motion Quilting

Free-motion quilting creates the textured blue background. With the feed dogs lowered, the fabric is moved manually under the needle to form stippling, curves, or other decorative patterns.

Appliqué

Appliqué is the method used to attach the colored fabric leaves to the front panel. Each leaf is placed on top of the main fabric and stitched near its outer edge.

Ladder Stitch

A ladder stitch closes the turning opening in the lining. When pulled gently, the stitches become almost invisible.

Rivet Installation

Rivets securely connect the PU leather handles to the quilted bag. Reinforcement behind each rivet is essential for long-term durability.

Helpful Sewing Tips

Use a fresh 90/14 universal or quilting needle for the quilted cotton layers. A 100/16 needle may be needed when topstitching over bulky seams.

Test all quilting and appliqué settings on scrap fabric layered with the same batting.

Match the upper thread to each leaf for a subtle appearance, or choose contrasting quilting thread to emphasize the veins.

Press each seam as you work. Careful pressing improves accuracy and gives the finished bag a professional appearance.

Avoid placing the iron directly on PU leather. Heat can melt, discolor, or permanently mark synthetic handles.

Use clips instead of pins around thick quilted layers and faux leather.

Adjust the leaf colors and arrangement to create your own version. Autumn colors, pastel combinations, or monochromatic green leaves can all work beautifully.

For a firmer base, insert a removable piece of plastic canvas or covered bag stabilizer measuring slightly less than 38 × 14 cm.

For additional storage, add a slip pocket or zippered pocket to the lining before assembling it.

Care Instructions

Spot-clean the tote whenever possible.

If the fabric and batting are washable, hand-wash the bag in cool water with mild detergent. Avoid soaking the faux-leather handles for a long period.

Do not place the bag in a hot dryer.

Reshape it while damp and allow it to air-dry naturally.

Press the cotton sections with low to medium heat, keeping the iron away from the handles and magnetic snap.

With careful construction and proper care, your Quilted Leaf Tote Bag will be durable enough for everyday use and decorative enough to give as a handmade gift.

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