

Oversized Reversible Tote

by Megan Avery

Thompsonville Canvas
Inspired by The National Museum of the American Coverlet



Inspired by sections of "ingrain carpet" from the museum's collection, Thompsonville Canvas is the newest collaboration between Windham Fabrics and the National Museum of the American Coverlet.

Created by the same 19th Century weavers who made coverlets, this woolen carpeting was woven in strips or panels about 36" wide. The strips were then sewn together by hand to create the original wall-to-wall floorcovering.

Invented in Scotland, the carpeting was first made in the United States in Thompsonville, Connecticut in 1833. This piece is faithfully reproduced graphically on canvas dates back to about 1840.

Why is it called "ingrain"? Perhaps because the yarns were dyed before the weaving process rather than afterwards and considered to result in a superior end product.



Windham Fabrics salutes the tradition of the American handcrafts and the historic importance of the American Coverlet weavers. A portion of the proceeds from sales of Thompsonville Canvas will go to support The National Museum of the American Coverlet.

Be sure to visit www.windhamfabrics.com to see the complete collection and download more FREE projects.

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P R O J E C T

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Featuring fabrics from the
Thompsonville Canvas collection
inspired by the National Museum of the American Coverlet

 Windham Fabrics

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What you'll need:

3/4 yd (45" wide) fabric for one side of tote bag

3/4 yd (45" wide) fabric for other side

Scissors

Sewing Machine

Straight Pins

Matching Color Thread

Prep Work

Cut two pieces of outside fabric measuring 22-1/2" w x 22-1/2" t.

Cut two pieces of inside fabric measuring the same dimensions.

Cut two pieces of outside fabric measuring 3" w x 30" l. These pieces will be used for the strap.

Cut two piece of inside fabric measuring the same dimensions

Start Sewing

Pin the outside fabric pieces together so the right sides of the fabric are facing each other. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew the two outside fabric pieces together along all edges except the top as shown in the diagram below.

Pin the inside fabric pieces together so the right sides of the fabric are facing each other. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew the two outside fabric pieces together along all edges except the top.

Create 5" gussets in the bottom corners of both the outside fabric pieces and the liner fabric pieces.

Turn the outside piece right side out and place the inside piece inside the outside piece lining up side seams.

Fold over the top raw edge of the outside fabric 1/2" and secure with straight pins.

Fold in the top raw edge of the inside fabric piece 1/2" and secure with the straight pins you used in the last step, securing outside fabric to inside fabric.

Take one of the outside straps you cut and with right sides together, place together with inside fabric strap. Secure with straight pins. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew the two pieces together along one long edge. Do the same with the remaining two strap pieces.

Turn both straps right side out. Top stitch along the side of the strap you just sewed in last step. Repeat on second strap

Fold one of the remaining raw edges in 1/2" and match it up with the other remaining raw edge and secure with straight pins.

Top stitch along this folded edge, creating a 2" wide strap. Do the same with the remaining strap.

Place 1" of the strap end in between the layers of outside and inside bag fabric, 3" from the side seam. Take the other end of the same strap and place it in 1" between the layers of outside and inside fabric, 3" from the other side seam. Secure with straight pins.

Do this with other strap on the other side of the bag.

Topstitch around the top of the bag, 1/2" from the top folded edge. For extra security and durability, stitch over the same seam again, until you come back to where you started.

Remove all pins and cut all loose threads.