idea studio **custom tote**

Part 1: Cutting out the fabric

Materials
- 1 yard medium- to heavy-weight fabric, such as cotton duck, upholstery or home décor fabric
- For two-color tote: 1 yard of similar fabric in another color
- For lined tote: 1 yard lightweight lining fabric, such as light quilt-weight cotton
- For unlined tote: 1 to 2 yards of 1.5-inch-wide ribbon (suggest wait to purchase after tote size is determined)
- Optional: Matching thread (Idea Studio will supply white or black)

When done, you should have:
- One piece of exterior fabric for one-color tote
- Three pieces of exterior fabric for two-color tote
- One piece of lining (optional)
- Four pieces of fabric *or* two pieces of fabric plus two lengths of ribbon for handles

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1. Determine dimensions of your tote (example: width 8", length 10", height 12"):

   Width _____ Length _____ Height _____

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2. Calculate dimensions of your **pattern rectangle piece**

   Add width _____ + length _____ + 1 = _____ (demo example: 8 + 10 + 1 = 19)

   Add height _____ + width _____ + height _____ + 3 = _____ (example: 12 + 8 + 12 + 3 = 35)

   These two numbers give the dimensions of your **pattern rectangle piece** _____ x _____ (example 19 x 35)

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3. Decide whether you want a lined or unlined tote.
   - Lining must be lightweight fabric (heavy fabric creates too much bulk for standard machines)
   - For a lined tote, cut one **pattern rectangle piece** from your lining fabric
   - For an unlined tote, cut a length of 1½" ribbon twice the length of the first number of your pattern rectangle (example is 19 x 2 = 38")

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4. Decide on one-color or two-color exterior
   - For a one-color exterior, cut one **pattern rectangle piece** from your exterior fabric.
   - For a two-color exterior:
     1. Decide how to split the tote's height between the two colors (example for 12" height: top color: 8", bottom color 4")
     2. For the top color, add 2" to the top color height (example: top color is 8 + 2 = 10")
     3. The dimensions of your **top color rectangle piece** are your top color number x the first number of your **pattern rectangle piece** (example: 10" x 19"). Cut two of these.
     4. To create the **bottom color rectangle piece**, add the tote's width _____ + bottom color _____

        + bottom color _____ + 1 = _____ (example: 8 + 4 + 4 + 1 = 17). Use this number and the first number of your **pattern rectangle piece** to create a **bottom color rectangle piece** (example 17" x 19"). Cut one of these.

   Or skip all that math and make a tote the size of the example:
   - Pattern rectangle piece: 19" x 35". Cut one for one-colored tote. Cut one from lining material, if desired.
   - For a two-color tote: cut one top color pieces 10" x 19." Cut one bottom color piece 17" x 19".
   - For unlined bag, cut 38 inches of 1½ inch-wide ribbon.

5. Cut **handle pieces**
- Handles are 3" x 18"
- For a lined tote, cut two **handle pieces** from your lining, and two from your top color
- For an unlined tote, cut two **handle pieces** from your main fabric, and two lengths of 1½"-wide ribbon, each 18" long.