

# Convertible Backpack / Tote Bag Refashion



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**Follow along with the steps listed below & the video to make your own backpack/ tote bag!**  
**Supplies: 12" zipper, (2 x) 1" D Rings, (1 x) 1.5" Rectangle Ring, (2 x) 1.5" Swivel Hook, Plus clothes to upcycle! Fabrics used in this upcycle were upholstery and suede.**

Cut your pieces:

Bag Body: Print (x2) 13" x 9.5", Solid (x2) 13" x 6", Lining (x2) 13" x 14.5"

Bag Straps: Print (x2) 12" x 3.5", Solid 52" x 3.5"

Extras: Zip Tabs (x2) 3" x 2", Lower D Ring tabs (x4) 2" x 1", Side Triangles (x4) 5" x 3.5", Top Rectangle Ring Tab 3" x 1.5"

Seam Allowances 3/8" unless otherwise noted.

Construct your Bag: Sew print top to solid, bottom right sides together along one long side. Repeat for second set to build exterior of your bag.

Insert Zipper: Sew zipper tabs, and sew zipper in place. To make your bag sandwich, start with exterior, right side up, layer zipper wrong side down, and finish with lining right side down. Once each side of zipper is sewn, topstitch zipper down.

Make Straps: For tote straps, interfacing is optional, depending on weight of fabric. Fold short ends of tote straps in 1/2" and stitch down. Mark center of straps and fold edges into center line. Fold again to encase the raw edge. Sew strap, leaving 2" unstitched at each end of strap.

For Backpack Straps, batting is optional. Fold short ends in 1/2", and fold long edges in 1/4". Fold long edges together and stitch all the way around. Loop each strap end through a swivel hook, and stitch closed, creating one long strap with a hook on each end.

Make Hardware Tabs: \*For my bag, I used suede which allowed me to keep my raw edges out, if you are using material that needs seams enclosed, add seam allowance to all hardware tab pieces\* To make top ring tab, sew long ends together. Loop through rectangle ring and stitch as close to ring edge as possible.

Bottom Tabs: Insert D-Ring tab into each D-ring, and stitch closed.

Sew two triangles together along the long end and one short end. Repeat for second triangle. Insert D-Ring and tab into open end of triangle, close to center point. Stitch remaining edge of triangle, repeat for second D-Ring tab and triangle.

Sew triangles to bag sides, 1" in and ½" from the bottom. Make sure the D-Ring is facing towards the top of the bag. Baste in a 3/8" seam allowance and trim excess triangle.

Sew tote straps to bag: 2" down from zipper, and 3" in from sides, pin and stitch tote straps to bag. Be sure lining is folded out of the way. Do this with all four ends. On back of bag, mark center of bag. Sew upper tab 2" down with hardware facing towards zipper. Sew tab with an X and along all four edges to secure.

With right sides together, pin lining pieces together and exterior pieces together. Cut each corner in 1" square to create flat bottom. On the bottom of lining, leave a 6"-7" gap unstitched to turn bag inside-out. Be sure all the corners are stitched, and backstitched. Stitch all around the bag.

To make flat bottom, match seams on each corner and stitch together to form flat bottoms. Turn bag right side out and fold in raw edge. Stitch bag shut.

Turn lining into bag and you are finished!

To go from tote to backpack, simply attach one swivel hook, feed second swivel hook through top loop, and attach second swivel hook to other side!