

# Extra Super Quality Tote Bag from a Rice Sack

This is a simple pattern for turning a 25 lb rice sack into a tote bag. I am using a Three Ladies Brand® rice sack, but other brands should work. Really, you don't even have to use a rice sack. Despite the name, the pattern is pretty basic and universal.



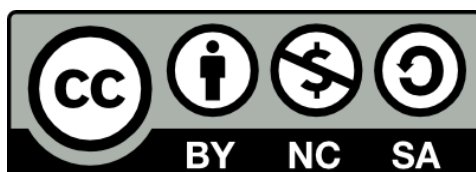
## Legal Stuff

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Originally published at [https://github.com/schackartk/sewing\\_patterns](https://github.com/schackartk/sewing_patterns)

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## Extra Super Quality Tote Bag from a Rice Sack

### Materials

- (1) - 25 lb rice sack

### Cut

Cut all pieces<sup>1</sup>; measurements are in inches

- Main panel -  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 21$
- Back panel -  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 15$
- Side panels (2) -  $5\frac{3}{4} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$
- Handles (2) -  $3 \times 15\frac{1}{2}$

<sup>1</sup> The fun part about this pattern is figuring out how to cut the pattern pieces to best utilize the rice sack.

For the Three Ladies rice sack, here is how I broke it down.

1. Cut the top portion of the sack off  $5\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top edge. Cut along the crease in the center of the side panels, yielding 2 pieces that are  $5\frac{3}{4} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$  with a handle hole in the center of each. Take whichever piece you prefer; it will become one of the *side panels*. Sew the handle hole shut using a zigzag stitch. You can also take a piece of the other half of the top of the sack and use it as a kind of patch for the handle hole on the inside.
2. Cut along the creases that border on each side of the front panel of the rice sack. This front panel will become the *main panel*, which also includes the bottom of the bag.
3. Cut a section  $5\frac{3}{4}$ " from the bottom of the remaining portion of the rice sack (not the *main panel*). This will become the other *side panel*. Trim to a width of  $15\frac{1}{2}$ .
4. Cut along the creases that border on each side of the back panel of the rice sack. This will create 3 pieces. The 2 side panels of the rice sack are now the *side panels*. The back panel of the rice sack is now the *back panel*.

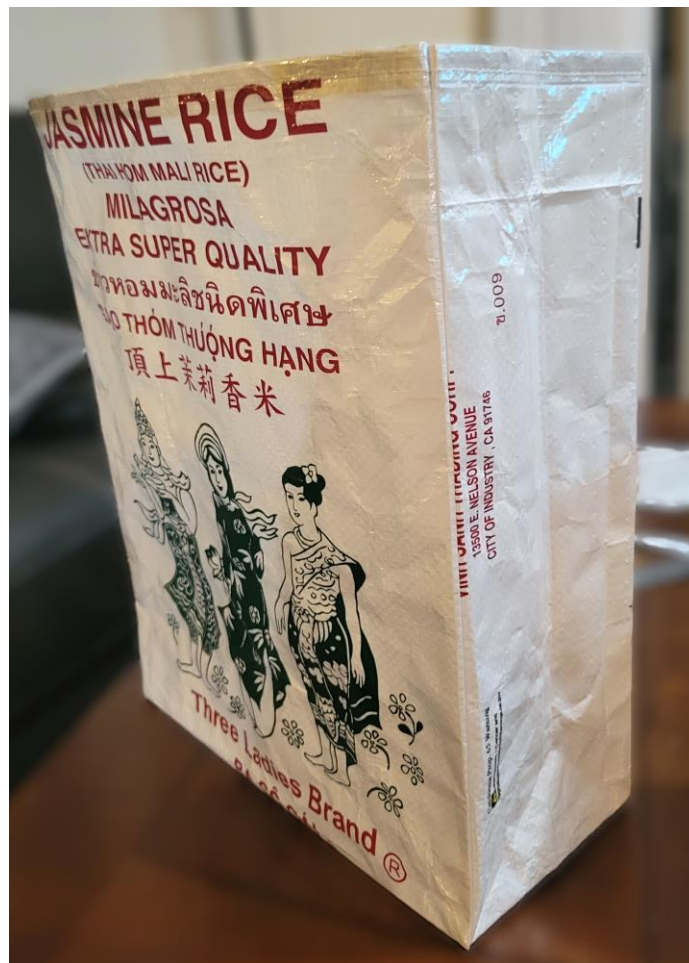
Note, the above instructions may yield pieces that do not exactly match the dimensions shown in the cutting instructions. That's ok.



## Construction

### Main body

- Fold top edges of *main panel*, *back panel*, and both *side panels* by ½" twice to conceal raw edges, sew them down at ¼" seam allowance
- Align bottom edge *back panel* to bottom edge of *main panel* wrong sides together and sew at ½" seam allowance
- Sew each *side panel* to the *main/back panels* at ½" seam allowance, ensuring that the top edges of all panels align



## Handles

- Fold *handle* piece in half lengthwise
- Sew edges together at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance
- Repeat with other *handle*
- Center each *handle* to the bag's *front* and *back* panels, overlapping  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the handle past the top edge of the bag with a gap of  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " between inner edges of each handle. Sew with a box X stitch.

