

PROJECT: NO-SEW ALL-IN-ONE PICNIC TOTE

Step 1: Gather Your Supplies

This includes the blanket you will be modifying (any typical picnic-style blanket will do just make sure it's not too fluffy or thick), the fabric for the pockets and the supplies you wish to carry (plates, cups, silverware, napkins, etc.). Use our Picnic Tote Supplies List to make sure you have everything you need.

Rather than a needle and thread or sewing machine, you will want to gather fusible web and an iron for attaching your pockets and strap to the blanket. If you use this method, make sure your blanket can be ironed on without melting.

Step 2: Plan Your Tote

Spread your blanket out and consider how you want it to fold up. You can use our provided Picnic Tote Diagram or create one of your own. Consider which pockets will be where. For example, if you are using real glassware and plates, these pockets are better placed on parts of the blanket that are on the inside of the folded blanket, and therefore more protected. Things like plastic cutlery and a sturdy thermos can survive the inevitable bumping, and can live in pockets toward the outside of the blanket.

Tip: Ironing on all the pockets on the underside creates a nice clean look when it is in use. Attaching them on the topside allows you to use the pockets while you dine with your loved ones. Or mix it up and add pockets on both sides!

Step 3: Create Your Pockets & Attach

Measure the items your blanket will carry, and then add an inch on all four sides. This will be a template for the pocket. Cut that size and shape from your extra fabric, as well as a strip of web that is ½ inch wide and as long as the top (opening) of your square. Fold over the top (opening) edge, and iron the raw edge so that it doesn't show. Cut 1" wide strips of fusible webbing for each of the three sides of your pocket. Then pin these strips and your pockets to your blanket where you decided that particular pocket should go in step 2.



homemadesimple.com

PROJECT: NO-SEW ALL-IN-ONE PICNIC TOTE

Step 3: Con't

After you've done this for all the pockets you want to make, unfold your blanket and make sure everything looks exactly as you want it. Iron all three sides of each pocket to the blanket, removing your pins as you go.

Step 4: Strap it Up

Now it's time for the straps. You can buy straps at your local fabric store, or make your own by cutting long strips, folding them in half along the length, and ironing them together. Or, if you have an old tote bag with a hole in the bottom, you can repurpose those straps.

Using your own personal preferences as a guide, decide how long the straps should be. Iron one strap to the blanket so that both ends are on the same side of the blanket, then add another strap in the same way. These not only act as straps for carrying, but help hold it closed!

Step 5: Making it Your Own

Personalize it however you like and get ready to go on a picnic!

- Try using iron-on patches to customize the pockets or give the it a quilt-like look by personalizing each "square" of the blanket.
- Use a hot glue gun to attach embellishments or buttons.
- Embroider the name of the picnic item a particular pocket is for. You can even use indelible pens to draw the item or a picnic-related picture.



homemadesimple.com