

Mastering the Linen Tote

A step-by-step visual blueprint for crafting a durable, everyday essential.

Main Panels:
16 inches wide
× 18 inches tall
(Cut 2)

Lining Panels
(Optional):
16 inches × 18 inches
(Cut 2)

Strap Pieces:
4 inches wide ×
28 inches long
(Cut 2)



Required Yield:
1 Yard for an unlined tote /
1.5 Yards for a lined tote.
Optimal weight is medium
linen (5.3 to 7 oz/sq yd).

Consumables



Medium-weight linen.



All-purpose polyester thread (Upper and bobbin must match).

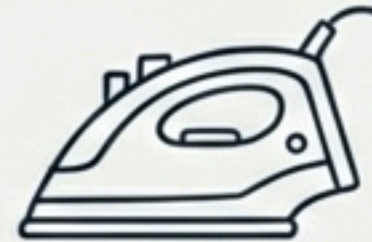
Hardware & Tools



Schmetz Universal Needle
(Size 80/12, fresh).



Fabric scissors or rotary
cutter.



Iron, ironing board, and
protective press cloth.



Ruler and sewing pins.



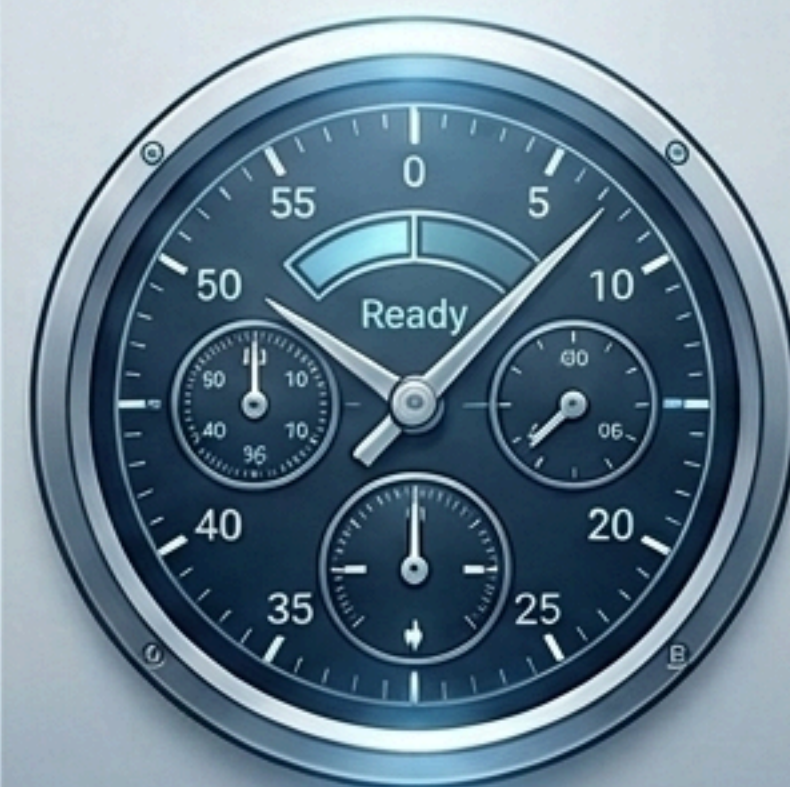
80/12 Universal.
Matched poly thread.



2.5mm (Main Body)/
3.0mm (Topstitch).



Default Tension.



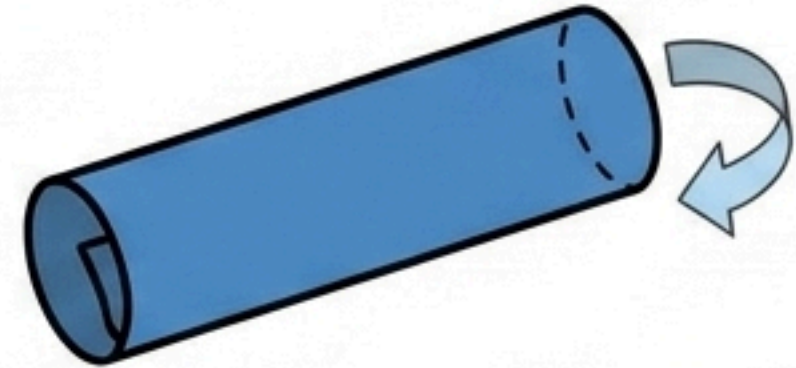
Ready for Test.

Warning: Always test these settings on a scrap piece of your linen before cutting into the final project.

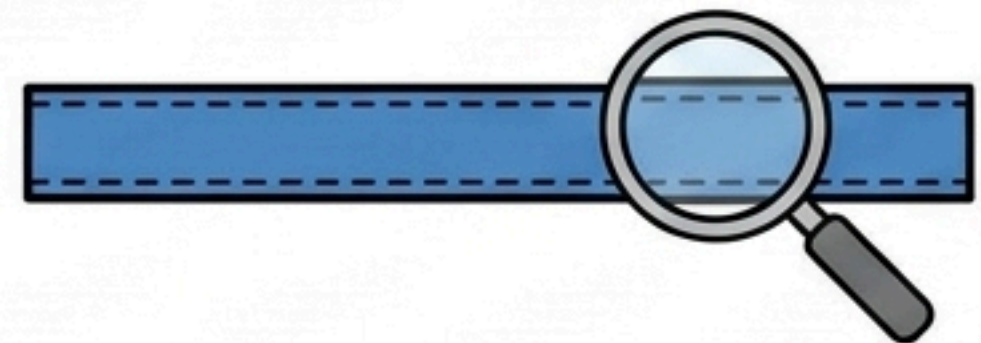
Step 1: Fold lengthwise.
Sew the long edge to create a tube.

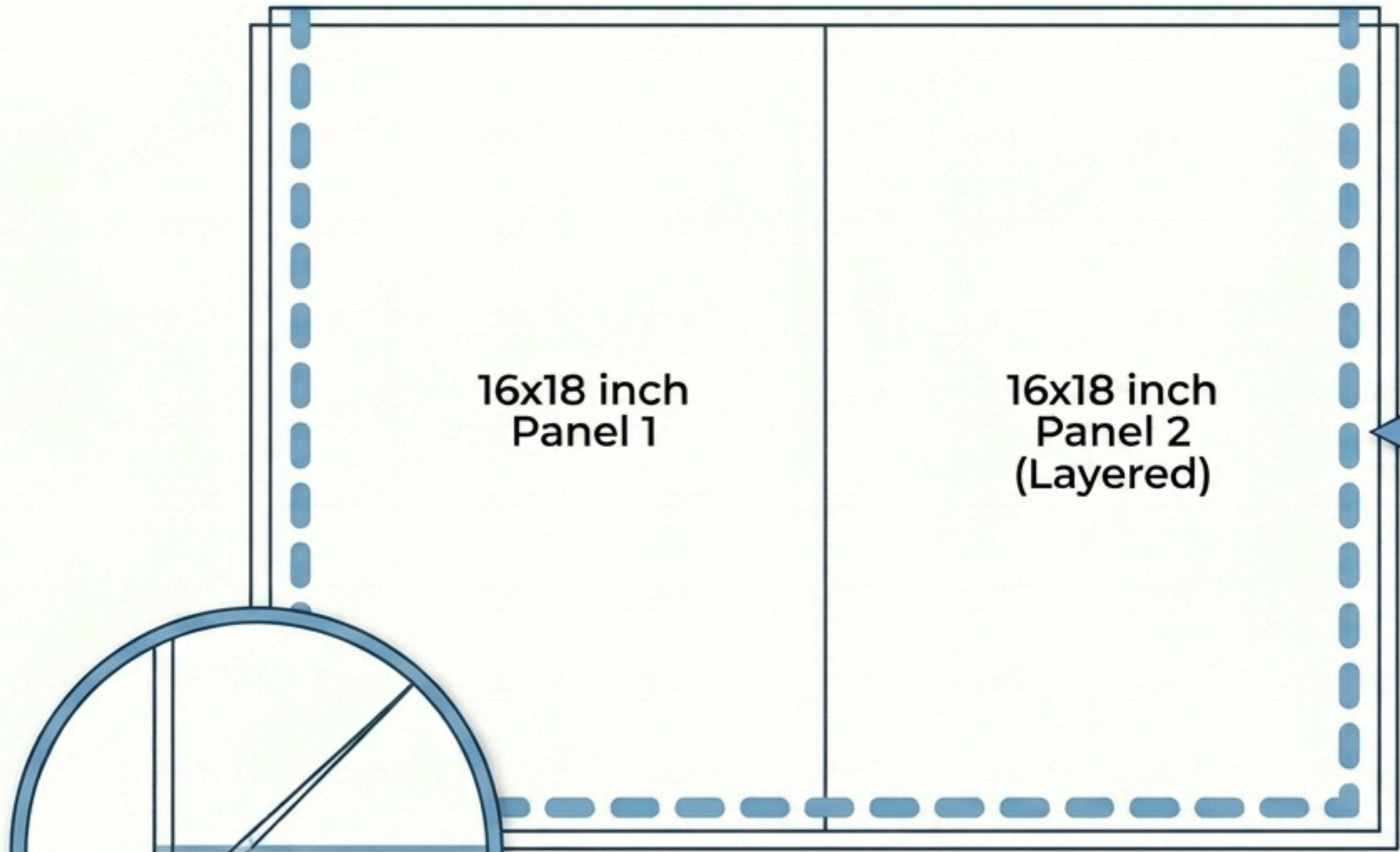


Step 2: Turn the tube right-side out.



Step 3: Press entirely flat.
Topstitch down both sides using the
3.0mm length setting.

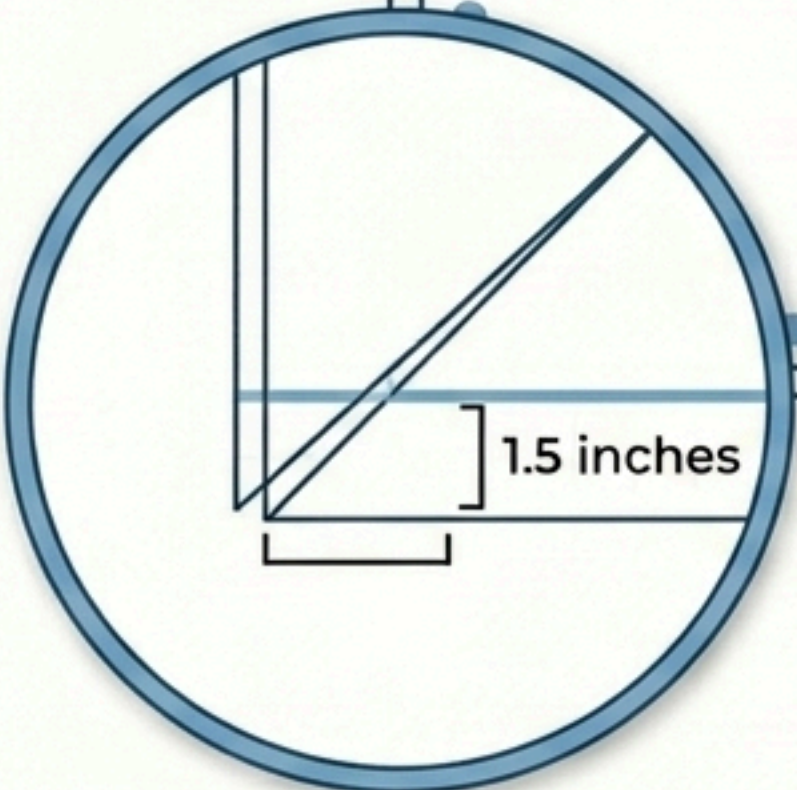




16x18 inch
Panel 1

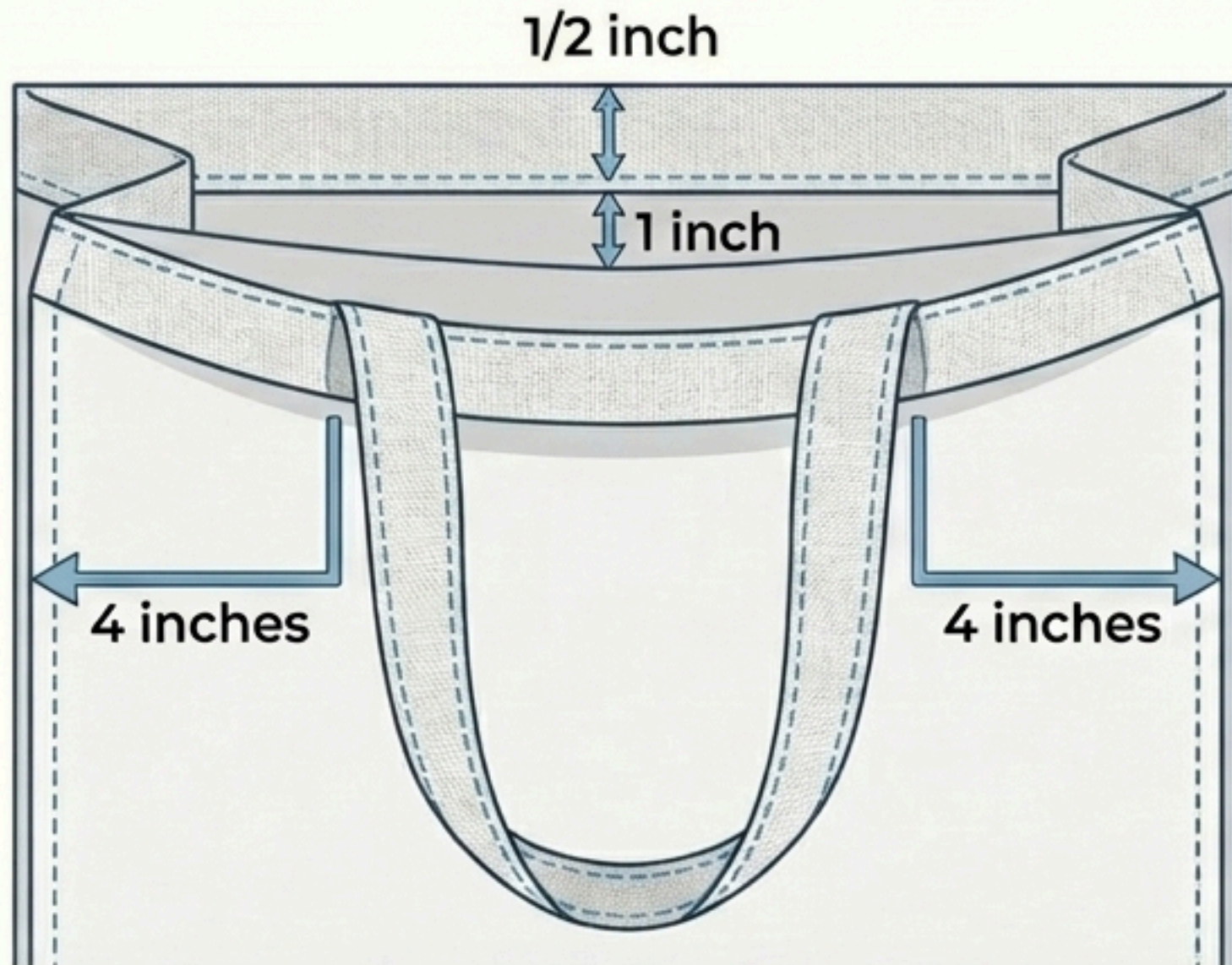
16x18 inch
Panel 2
(Layered)

Place panels right sides together. Sew side and bottom seams using a strict 3/8-inch seam allowance. Finish seams and press open with a press cloth.



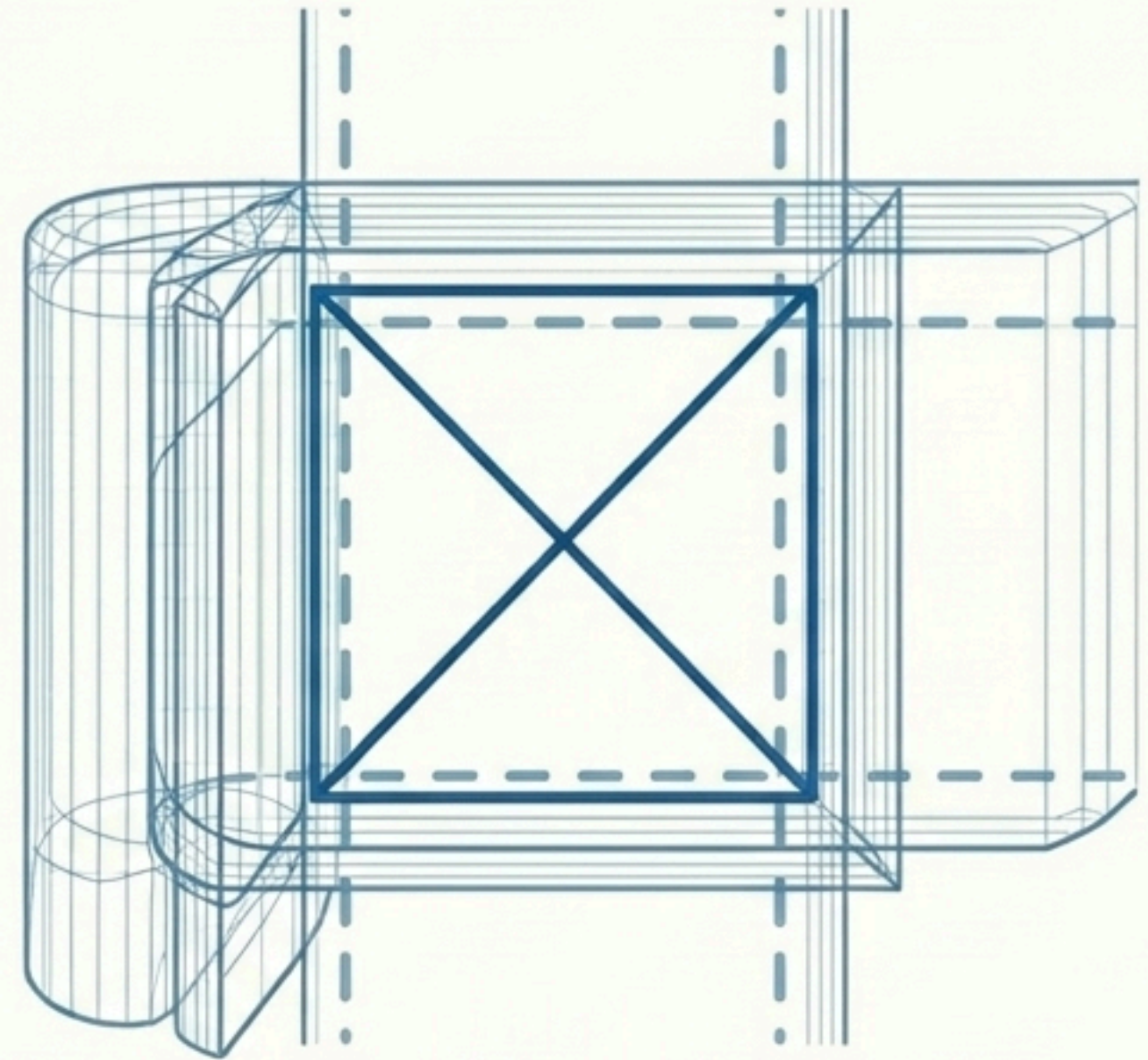
(Optional) Box corners by measuring precisely 1.5 inches from the corner point to create a flat, structured bottom.

Placement & Hem



Fold the top edge down 1/2 inch, then 1 inch to hem. Pin and baste the straps exactly 4 inches inward from the side seams.

The Anchor



Sew down the hem to catch the straps. Reinforce the connection with an X-box stitch for maximum load-bearing strength.

Symptom

Diagnosis

Treatment

Seams are puckering or pulling tight.

Thread tension imbalance or dull needle.

Re-thread machine entirely. Insert a fresh 80/12 needle. Ensure stitch length is 2.5mm. Loosen the upper tension dial by exactly 0.5.

Severe fraying inside the bag.

Raw linen edges exposed to friction.

Apply a zigzag stitch to all interior seam allowances immediately after assembly.

Handles pulling out under heavy weight.

Weak structural anchor point.

Execute the X-box stitch ensuring it penetrates entirely through the outer fabric and the hem fold.

Your Linen Tote is Complete.

From raw yardage to a functional, durable essential.

Mastered this blueprint? Get the complete 5 Summer Sewing Projects Guide at [Sewing.com](https://www.sewing.com).

