

# Crowell's Totes

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Back last June, I posted about making drawstring gift bags featuring the logo of a landmark store from the downtown of my childhood.



It's been closed now for 20 years or so, but as it happened I have one of the store bags, and I had digitized the logo without really knowing what I would end up doing with it.

When my sister saw the gift bags, she remarked that she'd love to have the design on a tote . . . so I set about making totes as Christmas gifts for all my sisters and a few friends.

We were in Covid-19 lockdown at the time I started on these, and I couldn't get to a fabric store, so I made the first few totes from fabric I had on hand. The original store bag had gold stripes on a white background, but the only striped twill I had was pink, so I used that for the first three.



As it turns out, I quite like the look: very summery, and the black stitching shows up nicely against the pink and white background. Plus, pink is the favourite colour of at least one of the recipients.



Once the stores re-opened after the pandemic shut-down, I went fabric shopping, and was lucky enough to find a sturdy twill stripe in gold on white. It's quite subdued, but the lettering shows up beautifully. I bought enough to make five more bags.

These bags are a nice size -- about 12" wide, 4" deep, and 13" tall, with handles 16" long -- and sturdy enough to tote books or groceries. Once we're able to be out and about again, my sister expects to be fielding queries from others who remember Crowell's and would like a tote for themselves.

