

Correct. Use FOIL and simplify:

$$(\sqrt{a} - 2)(\sqrt{a} + 4) = (\sqrt{a})(\sqrt{a}) + (\sqrt{a})(4) - (2)(\sqrt{a}) - (2)(4)$$

$$= \sqrt{a^2} + 4\sqrt{a} - 2\sqrt{a} - 8 = |a| + 2\sqrt{a} - 8$$