

Sewing Machine Tote Bag Project by Mary Jane Allen  
tbearwoman@perfectlittlestitches.com  
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Supplies:

1 yard of 60" wide denim (or 1-5/8 yards 45" wide)

\*\*\* Add 1/4 yard to 100% cotton denim to allow for shrinkage.

1 yard stabilizer 20" wide (unless denim is stiff enough to do without)

10" by 9" piece of stabilizer for outer pocket (optional)

2 yards 1-inch wide webbing for strap (cut into 36" lengths)

Toy Singer and Goodes embroidery designs from Perfect Little Stitches

Embroidery threads

Pre-wash denim and stabilizer. Cut one piece of denim 20" wide and 36" long. Use tailor's chalk and basting stitches to mark a grid as follows: Horizontal lines measured down from one 20" edge at 2", 5-1/2", 9-1/2", 13-1/2" and 17". Vertical lines measured in from one side at 3", 6-1/2" 10" 13-1/2" and 17".

If your fabric needs body, place a layer of stabilizer under the denim and baste along these lines. If fabric is stiff, you may use tear-away stabilizer for each design.

Center the hoop at the intersection of the 9-1/2" horizontal line and the 10" vertical

line. Do not stretch the denim when hooping. Remove basting stitches from the embroidery area before embroidering each machine. Embroider the red Singer. Center each of the other embroidery designs one intersection up (or down) and left (or right) from this one. When all the designs have been embroidered, trim the denim and stabilizer 1/2" from the top-most horizontal basted line. Trim opposite end to make a 33" length. Trim sides to create a 17" width, centering embroidery side-to-side.

Use this as a pattern to cut the lining from the same denim. Cut a rectangle 13" wide and 26" long for an inside pocket. Cut another rectangle 9-1/2" wide and 17" long for an outside pocket. On the smaller pocket, mark a center for embroidery 4-1/2" from the top (one short edge) and 4-3/4" from the side. Embroider the Goodes design at that center, using the same stabilizer as before, if desired.

Fold each pocket in half, right sides together, short sides at one end. Sew a 1/2" seam all around, leaving an opening for turning. Trim corners and stabilizer. Turn, press and close openings.

The embroidered pocket is place on the denim that is embroidered, but at the other end, 3" from the short edge, centered side-to-side. Pin in place. Top stitch sides and lower edge.

On short edges of the lining, turn under a 1/2" seam allowance and press. Have lining wrong side up. At each end, form a piece of webbing into a "U" shape and pin in place, 6" from each side with 6" of each end of the webbing on the lining and the rest extending to form a handle. Stitch the edges of the strap tails to the lining. Turn lining right side up. Take the remaining pocket and pin it 1" from the pressed edge, centered side-to-side. Top-stitch sides and lower edge.

Sew side seams of lining (1/2" seam allowance), opening pressed edges. With the lining wrong side out, fold each bottom corner so that the side seam is directly over the center of the tote bottom. Mark 1-3/4" along each fold from the corner. Draw a line between these marks. Sew along this line. Trim seam. Repeat for the outer tote. Press 1/2" seam allowance on top edge of outer tote.

With the lining and outer tote each wrong side out, place them end-to-end. Pin the seam allowances for the corners together. Sew together within the seam allowances.

Turn outer tote right side out (so that lining is inside). Pin together the upper edges. Top-stitch together 3/8" from edge and 1/16" from the edge.

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