

“Day of the Dead Tote”

Make this fun bag for the market or any time you need to carry stuff in your own personal style.

Created by: Sara Martinez, Stitchin' Woman

Supplies:

3/4 yard heavy weight fabric for the outside of the bag (I chose corduroy but denim would be great as well)
1/2 yard lightweight cotton fabric for the lining
1/4 yard embellishment fabric (The Day of the Dead fabric in this project)
2 yards of cotton webbing for straps
2 pkgs. of 2 1/2 yards of medium rick rack
Rotary cutter
Ruler
Cutting mat
Sewing thread
Hand sewing needle



Instructions:

1. From the heavy weight fabric, cut two pieces 15 1/2" X 17 1/2" for the outside of the bag. Cut two pieces 3 1/2" X 15 1/2" for reinforcement strips for the inside of the bag.
2. From the lightweight cotton fabric, cut two pieces 15 1/2" X 14 1/2" for the lining.
3. Cut one piece from the embellishment fabric 5 1/2" by 17 1/2" (The Day of the Dead fabric in this project).
4. Fold under 1/4" along each long side of the embellishment fabric. Press flat. Pin the middle front of the exterior fabric in place. Topstitch into place along each long side of embellishment fabric.
5. Open both packages of rick rack and cut 17" from each piece. Pin these pieces of rick rack along each edge of embellishment fabric and stitch into place.

6. Take the longer pieces of rick rack and pin along each edge of the strap. Stitch into place. Cut strap in half so you have two straps for your tote.
Note: I used contrasting colors so it really pops. Day of the Dead decorations are usually vibrant in color!
7. Take the two pieces of reinforcement strips and lining fabric. Pin each strip to the top side of each lining right sides together and sew into place using a 1/2" seam allowance. Press seams down toward the lining.
8. Pin lining pieces together, right sides together. Sew along sides and bottom, leaving an opening at bottom to turn bag inside out.
9. Pin exterior pieces together and sew along the side and bottom, leaving top open. Press the seams.
Note: I usually press seams open to give it a clean look.
10. Pin straps in place about 7" apart, hanging down the inside of the corduroy exterior. Leave 1/2" of the webbing above the top.
11. With right side together, insert the lining into the corduroy exterior, match up the seams and raw edges at the top. Pin exterior and lining pieces together at the top of the bag along the raw edges and stitch using a 1/2" seam allowance.
12. Turn the bag right side out and press the top seam flat. Top stitch around the top opening of the bag 1/8" in from the edge. Stitch the opening closed in the bottom of the bag using a slip stitch.

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