

# FUN Tote (and Matching Jacket)

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**BACKGROUND FABRIC:** Cut a 16"x35" piece of the background fabric. YOUR measurements might be different from the size I chose. I wanted a 2" rise on the protective fabric all around the bottom, and I allowed for a 1/2" seam allowance. At each end of the cut background fabric, mark two long lines (with chalk or an erasable marker)—one 2 1/2" from the edge and the other 13" away. (See dotted lines in Figure 1.) These lines form two internal rectangles (approximately 15" x 16") that will be the "decorative" space where you may PLAY! Do any decorative stitching or embroidery on this area that you wish. HAVE FUN with these two sections. *Note: I cut 20 colorful one-inch strips backed with fusible web. I placed these in the area to be decorated, and ironed them in place. For more support at the strips' raw edges, I used stitch 741 with a 3.0 height (thread colors 4113 and 5912). Between rows, I alternated with stitch 613 and 719. Inside the colored strips, I used decorative stitches 601, 1055, 752, 1045, 1048, 1044, 743, 1059, 1053, and 1057.*

**OPTIONAL HEAVY-DUTY FABRIC:** Cut one 16" x 10 1/2" piece of DURABLE base fabric, and TWO 6" x 16" pieces. This heavy-duty "durable" fabric may be canvas, leather, faux-leather, etc. The middle portion will eventually be the bottom part of the purse that is frequently on the FLOOR, and the two outer sections will be the top parts that support the grommets. Other fabrics WILL work, but my purses often take a major beating at these two places! After finishing your decorative FUN in the two rectangles, sew on this durable fabric. The two 6" x 16" pieces will double over (for both outside and inside support) and will extend 3" beyond the base fabric at this point. Use piping (with Foot 59) if desired. I set the zigzag on 3.5 and 2.45 with needle moved to far right. Piping can be initially secured to the bottom base with the double-stick Wonder tape.

**LINING:** Cut a 16"x35" piece for the lining. Sew on pockets if desired.

**ASSEMBLY:** [For both lining and bag] Fold in half (with right sides together). Stitch at the two sides, turn, and stitch the bottom corners to make a rectangular base. Turn, and sew the lining inside the bag by tucking it under the top durable fabric and stitching them together at the piping line.

**GROMMETS AND STRAP:** Prepare grommets (I used 1 9/16" size) according to the package directions at the shown circle positions/pattern. Cut a 61" strip of 1-inch strapping cord. Cover it with fabric, then decorate it with stitching for extra durability. (I used stitch 639.) Thread the strap through the grommets and then stitch it together at the ends.

**MATCHING JACKET:** A sweatshirt can be decorated to match the bag. For the squares and circles on jacket, I primarily used 698 and 612. Other interesting choices are: 735, 730, 748, 755, 767, 680, 644, and 613. Avoid a DENSE stitch because the fabric in that area might tend to pull inward.

*For this jacket I slit a basic sweatshirt at the front center and cut off the ribbed bottom and sleeves. Then I bound those areas with decorative fabric and topstitched them in place. I scattered bits and pieces of the same decorative fabrics (backed with fusible web) and used a decorative stitch to secure them (with stabilizer on the back side of the sweatshirt). I used one of the cut-off sleeve pieces for a pocket.*

Figure 1

