

Made in the Suede Tote

with optional Tassel/Pompom

Technique:	Sewing, Decorative Stitching
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting Time:	Weekend
Finished size:	17" x 16" (43.18cm x 40.64cm), <i>excluding handles</i>

Featuring Coats Dual Duty XP®

Showcase your machine's decorative stitches on the band of this fun faux suede tote. Group them together to create a wide feature trim. Accent with a tassel and pompom.

Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose Thread in matching and contrasting colors
- 1 yd (.91m) faux suede, 60" (152.40cm) wide
- ¾ yd (68.58cm) cotton print for lining
- 3½ yds (3.20m) medium-weight fusible interfacing, 20" (50.80cm) wide
- Fusible stabilizer
- Pattern tracing paper
- Removable marker

Pattern Making

To create the bag body pattern, draw a 24" x 14" (60.96cm x 35.56cm) rectangle on the pattern tracing paper. The 24" (60.96cm) is the width of the piece and the 14" (35.56cm) is the height.

Make a mark on both lower corners 4" (10.16cm) in from the side edges. Make another mark 7" (17.78cm) up from the lower corner. Connect those two marks with a gentle curve. Repeat for both lower edges to complete the pattern.

Cutting

Note that faux suede has nap, meaning all pieces need to be cut in the same direction to avoid shading, so mark the upper edge of all pieces after cutting.

From the faux suede, cut:

- (2) bag body, for the tote front and back
- (2) strips, 24" x 3 1/2" (60.96cm x 7.82cm), for the straps
- (1) strip, 6 1/2" x 36" (16.51cm x .91m), for the outer band
- (1) strip, 4 1/2" x 32 1/2" (11.43cm x 82.55cm), for the band facing

From the lining, cut:

- (2) bag body lengthwise on the fabric

From the fusible interfacing, cut:

- (4) bag body
- (2) strips, 24" x 3 1/2" (60.96cm x 8.89cm) for the straps
- (1) strip, 6 1/2" x 36" (16.51cm x .91m), for the outer band
- (1) strip, 4 1/2" x 32 1/2" (11.43cm x 82.55cm), for the band facing

Seam allowances are 1/4" (.64cm).

Preparation

1. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing pieces to the wrong side of their respective fabric pieces.
2. Fuse stabilizer to the wrong side of the outer band.

Embellishing the Band

1. Using the removable marker, draw a center line along the length of the band fabric right side.
2. Select decorative stitches offered in your machine and create a 3"- 3 1/2" (7.62cm-8.89cm) stitched pattern. Begin stitching along the center marked line and build out from there making the band symmetrical (or not).
3. When the stitching is complete, center the design area and trim the band to 4 1/2" (11.43cm) wide and 32 1/2" (82.55cm) long.
4. If your stabilizer allows, trim out the excess in the top and bottom band seam allowances.
5. Stitch the short edges of the band together. Mark the top and bottom center and sides using the seam as the starting point for marking.

Assembling the Bag Body

1. Sew a line of gathering stitches 6" (15.24cm) on each side of the center upper edge for the bag front and bag back.
2. Place the front and back pieces right sides together and sew the sides and bottom seam.
3. Matching the centers and sides, pin the bag body to the upper band. Pull up the gathers to fit. Sew around the band. Press the seams toward the band.

Assembling the Lining

1. Repeat steps 1-3 for the Bag Body Assembly using the bag lining, except use 1/2" (1.27cm) seam allowance on the sides/bottom seam and leave an opening in the bottom seam for turning.
2. Topstitch the lower band facing seam.

Assemble the Straps

1. Fold each strap right sides together, matching the long edges. Sew the long edges together. Repeat for the second strap.
2. Turn the straps right side out and press, keeping the seam along one edge.
3. Topstitch both long edges of each strap.
4. With right sides together and being careful not to twist, baste the straps to the outer bag band 2 1/2" (6.35cm) on each side of the center mark. Repeat for the bag back.

Assembling the Tote

1. With right sides together, slide the lining over the tote, matching centers and sides, with the handles sandwiched between the layers.
2. Sew around the upper edge.
3. Turn the bag right side out through the lining opening.
4. Stitch the lining opening closed.
5. Push the lining into the bag and firmly press the upper edge. Edgestitch around the top of the tote with the handles extended.

Add a Tassel and Pompoms. Instructions on next page.

Tassel

Supplies (for two tassels)

- 4" x 9" (10.16cm x 22.86cm) lightweight suede
- (2) $\frac{3}{8}$ " (.95cm)-diameter flat-back embellishments
- Craft glue suitable for leather
- Spring clamps
- Chalk marker
- Rotary cutter
- Assorted charms for embellishment

Cutting

Trim the suede to create (2) 4" (10.16cm) squares for tassels and (2) $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 3" (.64cm x 7.62cm) strips for loops.

Assembling the Tassel

1. Fold the loop strip in half and glue the short ends together. Clamp until dry.
2. On the 4" (10.16cm) square wrong side, chalk-mark a line 1" (2.54cm) from one edge.
3. Using sharp scissors or the rotary cutter, slash the leather every $\frac{1}{8}$ " (.32cm) up to the marked line. Cut carefully and keep slashes parallel.
4. With the wrong side up, glue the loop to the unslashed portion of the suede, extending the short raw edges to the marked line.
5. Spread glue along the unslashed portion of the suede wrong side and beginning with the loop end, tightly roll the suede. Clamp to secure.

Finishing

1. When the tassel glue is dry, apply glue to the back of the embellishment and position on the front of the tassel. Clamp to secure.
2. Let the glue dry thoroughly and remove the clamps.

Pom Poms

Supplies

- 1 skein Red Heart yarn
- Susan Bate Pom Pom maker

Using tool, create (2) one-inch pom poms and (1) two-inch pom pom.

Follow instructions for the tool or view this video.
<http://www.redheart.com/Video/Learn-how-to-make-Pom-Poms/p/VID0160>

Leave yarn tails 4-6 inches long. Thread yarn tails through the loops on the tassels. Adjust cluster of tassels and pom poms as desired. Knot yarn ends and attach to inside band of purse.

