

Oilcloth Tote

by Cheryl Stranges



Prepare for April showers with a fun and functional water-resistant tote.

Kwik Sew
3545,
View B



SHOPPING LIST

- tote pattern (such as Kwik Sew 3545)
- oilcloth and lining fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- cotton batting (amount according to pattern envelope)
- notions (according to pattern envelope)
- lightweight tear-away stabilizer
- thread: 40-wt. embroidery, 60-wt. bobbin, invisible & polyester
- 1½"-wide grosgrain ribbon (amount determined by handle length)
- ¾"-wide ready-made single-fold bias tape (amount determined by handle length)
- ½"-wide fusible web (amount determined by handle length)
- small wire cutters
- fabric glue (optional)
- three ½"-diameter floral buttons (optional)
- built-in endless floral embroidery design

Embroider

- Choose a built-in design that isn't too dense because overly dense designs can cause oilcloth to tear during embroidery. Test-stitch the chosen design on an oilcloth scrap to make sure the design, stabilizer and fabric work well together.
- Print two templates of the chosen design. Center one template over each center tote strip; mark the design centers. Hoop one center tote strip with two pieces of tear-away stabilizer. Don't hoop the fabric too tightly, as

the fabric may pucker during embroidery. Thread the machine with 40-wt. embroidery thread in the needle and 60-wt. bobbin thread in the bobbin. Place the hoop onto the machine.

- Advance through any design basting stitches, if applicable, as the stitches will cause permanent holes in the fabric. Embroider the design. Once the embroidery is complete, tear away each stabilizer layer beyond the design perimeter. Repeat to embroider the remaining center tote strip.

Construct

- If using buttons, remove the shanks from each one using wire cutters. Secure the buttons to the tote front embroidered strip where desired using fabric glue **(A)**.
- Test-stitch an oilcloth scrap to determine the optimal stitch length. The featured tote used a 3mm stitch length. Thread the machine needle and bobbin with polyester thread.
- Construct the tote except for the handles, following the pattern instructions. Grade the lining and batting seams to reduce bulk.
- To construct the handles, cut two lengths of ribbon and bias tape each according to the handle length noted in the pattern instructions.
- Unfold each bias tape strip; press. Center pieces of fusible web over each ribbon strip wrong side. Center one ribbon strip right side up over each bias tape strip wrong side; fuse,



A Secure buttons using fabric glue.



B Fuse ribbon strip over bias tape strip.

following the manufacturer's instructions **(B)**. Use a press cloth when fusing to prevent the fusible web from adhering to the pressing board, if desired. Using invisible thread, stitch the handles to the tote, following the pattern instructions. ■

DESIGNS

Floral: Built-in design from the Designer Diamond Deluxe sewing and embroidery machine; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com

SOURCES

Husqvarna Viking provided Inspira Tear Away Light, Robinson Anton thread and the Designer Diamond Deluxe sewing and embroidery machine used to construct and embroider the oilcloth tote; (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com. Kwik Sew provided the tote pattern; (612) 521-7651, kwiksew.com.