

Downtown Tote

Designed by Lori Miller

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A sophisticated, designer tote bag with faux leather accents. This snazzy bag features leather-like trim and piped handles all made with kraft-tex™, Chocolate.

Materials

kraft-tex™ Roll, Chocolate

1 1/5 yd of 5/16" drapery cording

1/2 yd upholstery or decorator fabric for main bag

1/2 yd cotton fabric for lining

3/4 yd of heavyweight fusible interfacing

Coordinating thread

Small binder clips

Optional: Zipper foot

Instructions

NOTE: Use a 1/4" seam.

Cut the following out of the Chocolate kraft-tex™

2 strips, 2 1/2" x 17"

2 strips, 1 1/2" x 19"

2 strips, 1" x 17"

1. Wash the kraft-tex™ and dry until the material is only slightly damp. Crinkle the material a couple of times to give it a worn look and the look of leather. Smooth back out to finish drying.
2. From the main bag fabric, cut two rectangles, each 14" x 16". With the 16" sides on the bottom, cut out a 3" x 3" square from each of the bottom corners of the bag pieces.
3. From the lining, cut two rectangles, each 12 1/2" x 16". Again, with the 16" sides on the bottom, cut out a 3" x 3" square from each of the bottom corners of the bag pieces.
4. From the interfacing, cut two rectangles, each 12 1/2" x 16". Again, with the 16" sides on the bottom, cut out a 3" x 3" square from each of the bottom corners of the bag pieces. Trim the pieces slightly smaller than the lining pieces and iron on to the wrong side of the lining.

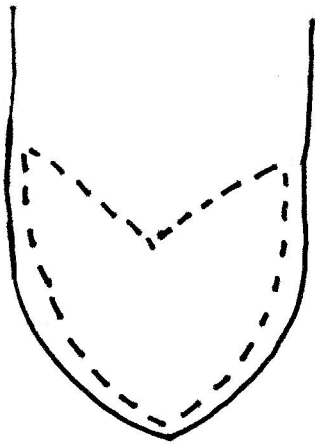


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5. From the main bag fabric, cut out two strips, each 2" x 17". You will use these at the top of the lining.
6. Stitch the 2" x 17" strips to the top of the lining. Open the seam and topstitch close to the edge on the bag material. With right sides together, stitch the sides and bottom of the lining together. Then pinch together the raw edges that you cut out from the lining to form the bottom of the lining. Stitch across each of them to finish the lining.
7. Embellish the main bag fabric. Position the 2 1/2" x 17" kraft-tex strips approximately 5 1/2" from the bottom of the bag, parallel to the bottom of the bag, and use clips to hold in place.
8. Using two strands of thread in the top of your sewing machine (this will make the stitches stand out a little more) and a 4.0mm length stitch, topstitch the kraft-tex accent onto the bag. Stitch at the top and the bottom, 1/8" away from the edge. Sew the accent to both sides of the bag.



9. Assemble the handles. Using the template above, cut the curved shape at the end of each of the 1 1/2" x 19" strips for the handle base. Cut two pieces of drapery cording, 17" each. Centering the cording, wrap the kraft-tex strip around the cording and hold in place with some clips. Using the zipper foot and double strands of thread, starting about 1 1/2" from the end of the strip and stitch the cording into the center of the strip. Sew until you are 1 1/2" away from the other end. Sew both handles this way.
10. Position the handles onto the bag approximately 3 1/4" away from each side and 3" down from the top of the bag. Stitch only the big "V"-stitch design at this time. You will add a reinforcing stitch after the lining is added. Stitch all four handle ends onto each side of the bag.
11. With right sides together, stitch the sides and bottom of the bag together. Then pinch together the raw edges that you cut out from the bag to form the bottom of the bag and stitch across each of them to form the main bag.
12. Carefully insert the lining inside the bag, wrong sides together. Align the top edges and pin. Stitch around the top of the bag very close to the edge.
13. Take the 1" x 17" strips of kraft-tex and sew them together end to end. Fold the strip in half the long way and crease. Iron it to really get a good fold. Wrap this piece of kraft-tex over the top of the bag and clip in place to hold. Align the seams with the side of the bag. Overlap the strips where they come together.
14. Carefully topstitch around the bag about 1/4" down from the top.
15. To finish the handles, firmly press the handles to the bag and stitch through the bag and the lining with a straight stitch across the top of the rounded ends to secure them in place.