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Reindeer Tote Bag

Perfect for bringing all those Christmas goodies home with you!



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Reindeer Tote Bag

There's always lots of extra shopping to carry home at Christmas - and a good strong bag is an absolute essential! This one definitely fits the bill and with its easy applique Reindeer head will help foster your Christmas spirit too!

So simple to make - won't take more than a couple of hours - why not make two - one for each hand?!

Finished tote measures 12"w x 3"d x 16"h.



Materials

- ¾ yard medium weight red gingham fabric
- ¾ yard lining fabric
- 15" x 12" rectangle cream felt
- 9" square brown felt
- 4" square light brown felt
- 8" square tweedy brown fabric
- Scraps of red and black felt
- Black and cream thread for sewing machine needle
- Embroidery foot for machine
- White embroidery floss or perle
- Temporary fabric marker
- Bondaweb
- Pinking shears (optional)

Note: Seam allowance is ¼"



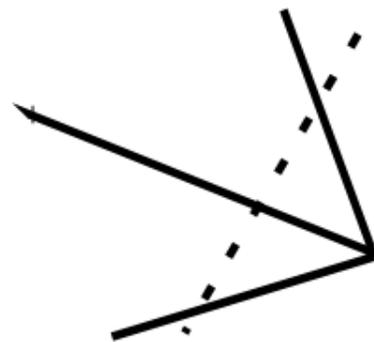
Method

Create your Applique

- Trim ¼" around the edges of your cream felt with pinking shears (optional, but does look nice).
- The template is given actual size and reversed for tracing onto the paper side of your Bondaweb. Trace individual applique shapes onto the Bondaweb, allowing a little extra on the ends of the antlers so they can be overlapped by the ears. Peel off the paper backing.
- Position your reindeer head on your cream fabric with the bottom of the chin centred vertically and ¾" up from the bottom edge of your fabric. Tuck the ends of the antlers under the ears, then position the rest of the applique shapes using the photo as a guide. When you are happy with the position of your pieces press with a hot iron to fuse into place, protecting your work with a clean cloth depending upon the fabrics you've used.
- Following the photo as a guide, mark in his mouth with your temporary fabric marker pen.
- Lower the feed dogs on your sewing machine and fit embroidery foot. Then stitch around the edge of each applique piece twice, not too neatly - you want a sort of scribbled effect. Stitch his mouth and lines to suggest a round nose in the same way.
- With your white floss or perle thread, hand stitch highlights for his eyes and a shiny bit on his nose. Remove the temporary marker lines.
- Your reindeer is now finished.

Assemble your Bag

- From your red gingham fabric cut two rectangles, each measuring 12 ½" x 18" and two strips, each measuring 2" x 14". Repeat with your lining fabric
- Take one piece of red gingham fabric and position your applique panel centrally with the top edge 1" down from the top edge of the red gingham.
- Secure with spray adhesive, or pin/baste then machine stitch into place around the edges with cream thread in your needle. I used a decorative stitch to add a little extra textural interest, but this is not essential.
- Place your two pieces of red gingham together with right sides facing and join around 3 edges, leaving the top edge open.
- Make the box shape for the bottom of the bag by centering one of the side seams so it lines up with the bottom seam. Pinch the seams together and lay the bag on your work surface. Use pins to hold the seams together.
- Use a ruler and measure up 1 ½" from the point of the fabric and draw a line (dotted line on diagram below). The line should measure 3" long with 1 ½" of fabric on either side of the seam. Repeat this for the other side of the tote bag.



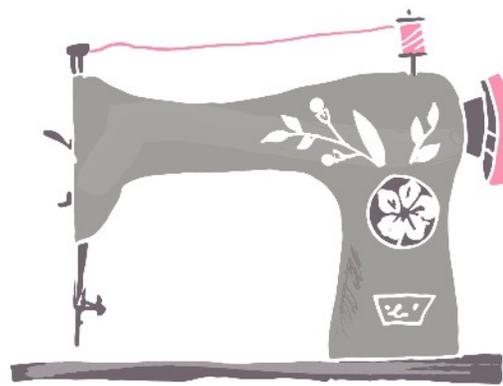
- To complete the box bottom of the tote bag, sew along each line you drew. Lock stitch (sew back and forth) when you start and when you finish sewing.
- Trim the threads and then cut off the points, leaving about 1/2" of fabric.
- Repeat with the lining, but leave a gap of 4" at the base of the lining for turning at the end.
- To make handles, take your four small strips (2 outer fabric and 2 lining fabric) and turn over 1/4" down the long sides.
- Place the strips wrong sides together and machine along each long edge less than 1/4" from the edge, hiding the raw edges.

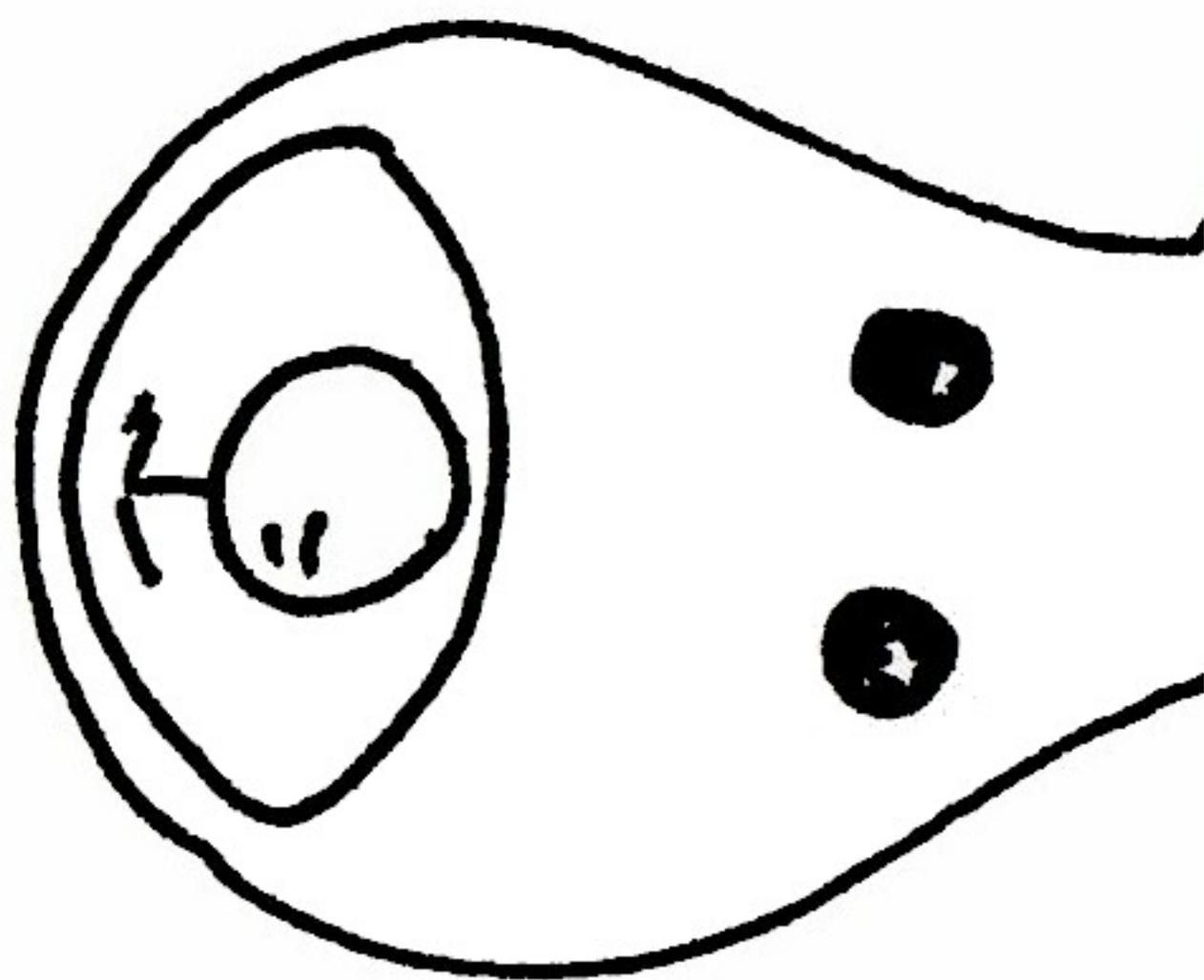


- Turn the lining right side out and place inside bag outer, aligning top edges and matching side seams.
- Lay the tote bag on its side. At the top edge of the tote bag, measure 4" from each seam.

Mark with a straight pin. Line up the outside edge of one end of a handle with one of the straight pins. Hold the end of the handle so it lines up with the top edge of the tote bag and pin in place. (the handle will be down inside the bag, between the lining and the outer) Pin the other end of the handle in place next to the other straight pin using this same method. Make sure that you match the lining side of the handle to the bag lining.

- Pin or tack all around the top edge of the bag then machine stitch together.
- Remove ALL pins (if you leave them in you'll be unable to remove them easily once you've turned the bag)
- Turn the bag right side out through the gap you left in the lining.
- Machine stitch the gap closed.
- Push lining down inside bag and press all around top edge.
- Machine stitch around top edge 1/4 " from the edge or less for a nice neat finish that will help the lining stay in place.
- Press seams. FINISHED!!









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Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you can keep up to date with all the latest news from Devon where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).



PS If you love stitching, then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's delivered by email to your in-box each month and is crammed full of ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more to inspire you. Your family and friends will soon be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations. To learn more please visit the [Bustle & Sew website](#).

Helen xx



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