

TEACH THE WORLD TO SEW DAY™

Denim Mini Tote Project

Let's get sewing! There's nothing like the joy of making something with your own two hands — and this mini denim tote is the perfect place to start. Whether you've never sewn a stitch or you're just getting back into it, this beginner-friendly project will walk you through the basics and leave you with a simple, everyday item you can actually use and reminds you that you made it yourself.

As you sew alongside hundreds of others today you're becoming part of something bigger: a movement to inspire creativity, spark learning, and connect through the power of sewing. Let's make something meaningful, together.

Supplies

- 1 – 11"W x 30"L main (outside) denim fabric
- 1 – 11"W x 30"L main (inside) cotton fabric
- 2 – 1" W x 27" L cotton webbing straps
- Patch of your choice
- SINGER sewing machine
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Seam ripper
- Point turner
- Rotary cutter and mat or scissors
- Iron and ironing board

Let's Sew with SVP Project Instructions

Patch Application

Before we sew our bag together, first secure the ironed on patch by sewing around the outer edge next to the red stitching.

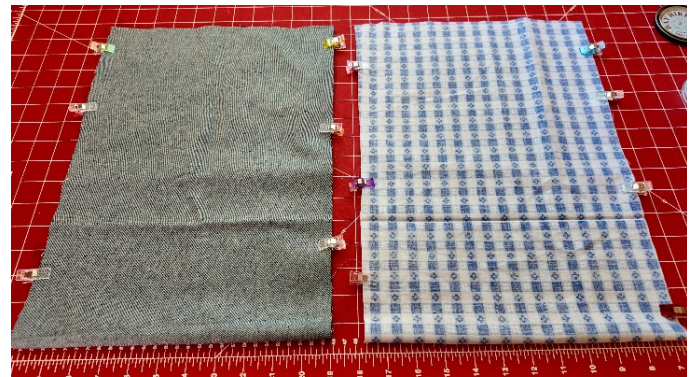
Tip: Sew nice and slow to keep it neat and secure.



Sew Side Seams:

1. Fold both outer and inner fabric pieces in half, right sides facing each other.

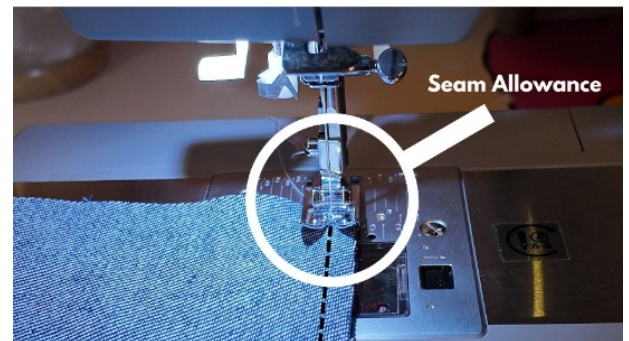
- Right sides are the “good” sides — the sides you want showing on the finished bag. These should be touching on the inside.



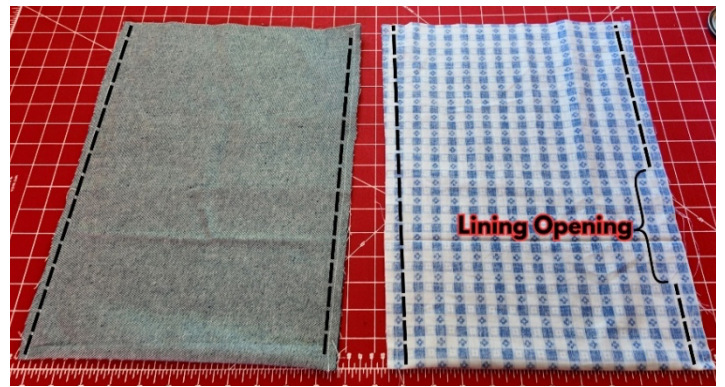
2. Clip or pin along both sides to hold the layers in place before sewing.

3. Sew the long side edges of your outer fabric piece. Use a standard straight stitch at a length of 2.5.

- Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Depending upon your machine, use the right side of the presser foot for your seam allowance.
- Use a backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam to secure your stitches.



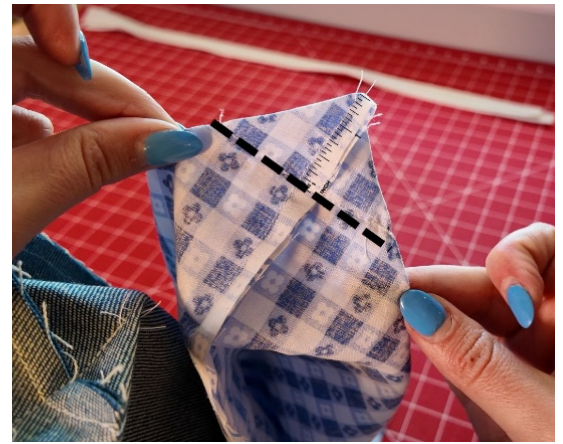
4. Sew the long side edges of the lining fabric leaving a 3–4 inch opening about halfway down one of the side seams.
 - This gap will be used to turn your tote right side out later.
 - Use a backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam to secure your stitches



Sew Corners

Box the corners to give your bag depth

5. Take each of the four bottom corners (two on the outer fabric and two on the lining) and pinch and flatten them so the side seam and bottom fold line up to form a triangle.
6. Sew straight across the triangle about 1.5"–2" from the corner point, depending on how wide you want the base of your bag to be.
7. Repeat for all four corners.
Optional: Trim off the excess fabric from each corner, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ " past the seam to reduce bulk.



Attach Straps & Sew Around Top Edge

8. Turn your outer (denim) fabric right side out.
- Gently push out the corners so they're nice and crisp — this will help give your bag its finished shape.



9. Position your straps on the outer fabric, making sure they're spaced evenly from each side seam.
- The strap ends should be pointing downward, with no twists. Clip them in place.

10. With your straps clipped on, place the outer bag (right side out) inside the lining (which should still be wrong side out).
- The right sides of the fabrics will now be facing each other.



11. Match up the side seams and clip around the top edge — your straps should be sandwiched in between the layers and still facing down.



12. Remove the accessory tray from your sewing machine if needed, to give more space around the circular top edge.

13. Sew completely around the top of the bag, securing the straps between the layers.

Sew Lining Hole Closed & Finishing Touches

14. Reach through the hole you left in the lining and gently pull the outer bag through it. Keep pulling until both the outer fabric and the lining are fully right side out, with all the good sides showing.



15. To close the hole in the lining, tuck the raw, unfinished edges of the opening inside the lining so they're even, and use clips or pins to hold it closed.
16. Topstitch close to the edge to neatly seal the opening.
17. Push the lining down into your bag and give all your seams a good press with an iron.

Smooth everything out all around the bag—and just like that, your bag is complete!

