

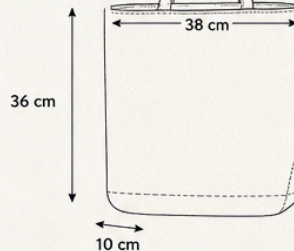
PATCHWORK FLOWER DENIM TOTE BAG

SEWING TUTORIAL – STEP BY STEP



FINISHED SIZE

Width: 38 cm
Height: 36 cm
Depth (bottom): 10 cm
Handle drop: 24 cm



MATERIALS

- Denim fabric (main): 60 cm
- Cotton fabric (USA – quilting cotton): assorted prints
- Fusible interfacing (light): 60 cm
- Cotton lining fabric: 60 cm
- Thread to match
- Sewing machine
- Scissors, pins, iron
- Fabric marker
- Ruler
- Magnetic snap (optional)



RECOMMENDED FABRICS (USA)

- 100% Cotton Quilting Fabrics
- Moda Fabrics
 - Riley Blake Designs
 - Robert Kaufman
 - Clothworks
 - QT Fabrics

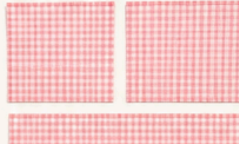
CUTTING (SEAM ALLOWANCE 1 cm INCLUDED)

MAIN FABRIC (DENIM)



- Front panel: 38 cm x 36 cm (1)
- Back panel: 38 cm x 36 cm (1)
- Bottom panel: 38 cm x 10 cm (1)
- Side panels: 36 cm x 10 cm (2)
- Handles: 60 cm x 8 cm (2)

LINING FABRIC



- Lining front: 38 cm x 36 cm (1)
- Lining back: 38 cm x 36 cm (1)
- Lining bottom: 38 cm x 10 cm (1)
- Lining side panels: 36 cm x 10 cm (2)
- Inner pocket: 20 cm x 18 cm (1)

PATCHWORK FLOWER – APPLIQUÉ

1. CUT THE FLOWER PIECES

- Petals: 12 pieces (6 pairs with different fabrics)
- Center circle: 8 cm diameter (brown)
- Inner flower circle: 8 cm diameter (cream)



2. ARRANGE AND APPLIQUÉ

- Arrange petals in a circle.
- Appliqué the petals onto the front panel.
- Add the cream inner flower and brown center.



3. APPLIQUÉ METHOD

- Use fusible interfacing on the back of each piece.
- Fuse, then stitch around the edge with a straight stitch.



PATCHWORK CORNER & BOTTOM DETAIL

4. PATCHWORK CORNER

- Sew fabric squares (6.5 cm x 6.5 cm) together.
- Press seams.
- Stitch the patchwork block to the left side of the bag.



5. BOTTOM CORNERS

- Cut two squares 10 cm x 10 cm from denim or plaid fabric.
- Draw a diagonal line.
- Stitch along the line and trim the corner.
- Turn right side out and press.



METHODS USED (SEWING BASICS)

- Straight Stitch – for all seams and topstitching.
- Appliqué – with fusible interfacing and straight stitch.
- Pressing – always press seams open or to the side.
- Topstitching – for strength and decoration.
- Turning – turning corners and handles.
- Edgestitch – to finish edges cleanly.



FINISHED!



TIPS

- Use denim for durability.
- Mix and match cotton prints for a cheerful look.
- Topstitching gives a professional finish.
- This bag is perfect for everyday use!



ASSEMBLY

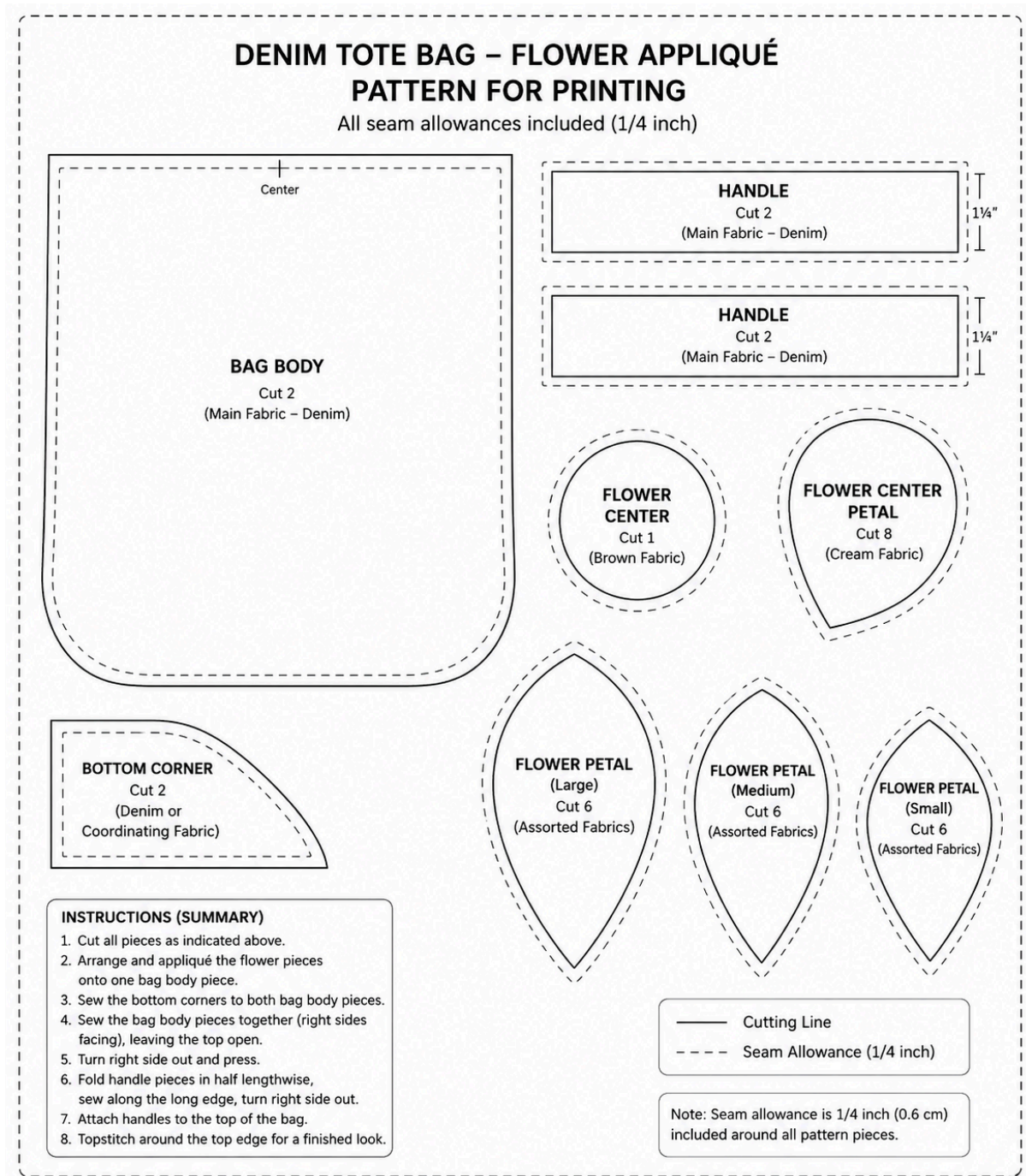
- 1. Prepare the body**
 - Sew the side panels to the front and back panels.
 - Sew the bottom panel to the bag.
- 2. Make the lining**
 - Sew the lining pieces the same way, but leave a 10 cm opening in the bottom for turning.
- 3. Add inner pocket**
 - Finish the top edge of the pocket.
 - Stitch the pocket to the lining back panel.
- 4. Join bag and lining**
 - Insert the lining into the bag (right sides together).
 - Align the top edges and sew all around.
 - Turn the bag right side out.
 - Close the opening in the lining (by hand or machine).
- 5. Topstitch**
 - Topstitch around the top edge of the bag for a nice finish.
- 6. Add closure (optional)**
 - Attach a magnetic snap in the center top of the bag.
- 7. Attach handles**
 - Fold the handle strip in half lengthwise, right sides together.
 - Sew along the long edge, turn right side out, and press.
 - Topstitch along both long edges.
 - Attach handles 8 cm from the sides.



CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Hand wash or machine wash on gentle cycle.
- Use mild detergent.
- Do not bleach.
- Line dry.
- Iron on medium if needed.





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 **Patchwork Flower Denim Tote Bag –
Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial**

Create a beautiful **Patchwork Flower Denim Tote Bag** with this complete tutorial designed especially for beginners and experienced sewists alike. This guide follows the layout and measurements shown in the tutorial chart while expanding every step with professional sewing techniques, helpful tips, and clear explanations.

The finished tote is sturdy, practical, and perfect for everyday use. The combination of denim, colorful quilting cottons, and dimensional appliqué creates a modern handmade bag that is both functional and decorative.

Whether you are making this bag for yourself, as a gift, or to sell at craft fairs, this tutorial will guide you from preparing the fabrics to sewing the final topstitch.



Finished Size

- Width: **38 cm (15")**
- Height: **36 cm (14¼")**
- Bottom Depth: **10 cm (4")**
- Handle Drop: **24 cm (9½")**

The finished tote is large enough for books, groceries, sewing projects, tablets, or everyday essentials.



Materials Needed

Prepare all materials before beginning.

Fabrics

- 60 cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ yard) medium-weight denim
- 60 cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ yard) cotton lining fabric
- Assorted quilting cotton scraps for flower petals and patchwork
- Lightweight fusible interfacing
- Small piece of brown fabric for flower center
- Cream fabric for the inner flower

Sewing Supplies

- Sewing machine
- Universal needle (90/14 recommended for denim)
- Matching thread
- Fabric scissors
- Rotary cutter and mat (optional)
- Quilting ruler
- Fabric marker or chalk
- Iron and ironing board
- Pins or sewing clips
- Seam ripper

- Magnetic snap (optional)

Fabric Cutting Guide

Use a **1 cm (3/8") seam allowance** throughout the entire project.

Denim Pieces

Cut:

- Front Panel — 38 × 36 cm (1)
- Back Panel — 38 × 36 cm (1)
- Bottom Panel — 38 × 10 cm (1)
- Side Panels — 36 × 10 cm (2)
- Handles — 60 × 8 cm (2)

Lining Pieces

Cut:

- Front Lining — 38 × 36 cm (1)
- Back Lining — 38 × 36 cm (1)
- Bottom Lining — 38 × 10 cm (1)
- Side Lining Panels — 36 × 10 cm (2)
- Pocket — 20 × 18 cm (1)

H2 – Step 1: Making the Patchwork Flower

The flower is the focal point of the bag.

Cut:

- 12 petals
- 6 different coordinating fabrics
- 2 petals from each fabric

Cut one:

- Brown center circle (8 cm diameter)

Cut one:

- Cream flower circle (8 cm diameter)

Arrange the petals into a circle before sewing.

Alternate colors to create balance.

Take time to experiment with the layout until the flower looks symmetrical.

The sample uses cheerful shades of:

- Pink
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green
- Coral
- Aqua

H2 – Step 2: Preparing the Appliqué Pieces

Fuse lightweight interfacing to the wrong side of every petal.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Allow the pieces to cool completely before handling.

Trim neatly around every shape.

This helps the petals keep their form during sewing.

The interfacing also prevents fraying and adds durability.

H2 – Step 3: Attaching the Flower

Center the flower on the denim front panel.

Lay the petals first.

Then position the cream flower.

Finish by placing the brown center.

Pin everything securely.

Sew around every petal using a straight stitch close to the edge.

Sew slowly around curves.

Backstitch at the beginning and end.

Finally sew around both center circles.

Press the appliqué gently from the wrong side.

H2 – Step 4: Creating the Patchwork Corner

Cut fabric squares measuring:

6.5 × 6.5 cm

Mix coordinating prints.

Arrange the pieces into a small patchwork block.

Sew the squares together.

Press every seam open or to one side.

Square the block if necessary.

Attach it to the lower left corner of the front panel.

Topstitch if desired.



H2 – Step 5: Preparing the Bag Body

Place one side panel right sides together with the front panel.

Sew using a 1 cm seam allowance.

Repeat for the second side.

Attach the back panel.

Finally sew the bottom panel between both sides.

Press every seam carefully.

Topstitch along each seam if you want a professional denim finish.



H2 – Step 6: Boxing the Bottom Corners

To give the bag depth:

Flatten one bottom corner.

Align the side seam with the bottom seam.

Measure a 10 cm line.

Mark with fabric chalk.

Sew directly across the line.

Trim the excess fabric, leaving approximately 1 cm.

Repeat on the second corner.

Turn the bag right side out temporarily to check the shape.

The bag should now stand upright.



H2 – Step 7: Sewing the Handles

Fold each handle strip lengthwise with right sides together.

Sew along the long edge.

Turn right side out.

Press flat.

Topstitch along both long edges.

This strengthens the handles while giving them a clean professional appearance.



H2 – Step 8: Making the Lining

Repeat the exact same construction steps used for the outer bag.

Join:

- Front
- Back
- Side panels
- Bottom

Box both bottom corners.

Leave a 10 cm opening in the bottom seam.

This opening will later allow the bag to be turned right side out.



H2 – Step 9: Sewing the Interior Pocket

Fold the pocket piece.

Finish the upper edge first.

Press.

Topstitch the upper folded edge.

Position the pocket on the lining back panel.

Pin securely.

Sew around three sides.

Backstitch at the beginning and end.

Optionally divide the pocket into two sections with one vertical stitch.

H2 – Step 10: Attaching the Handles

Measure approximately 8 cm from each side edge.

Position the handles evenly.

Make sure they are not twisted.

Baste them temporarily to the outer bag.

Double-check the spacing before continuing.

H2 – Step 11: Installing the Magnetic Snap (Optional)

If using a magnetic snap:

Mark the center of the bag.

Install one half on the outer bag.

Install the matching half on the lining.

Reinforce the fabric with interfacing before attaching the hardware.

H2 – Step 12: Joining the Bag and Lining

Place the outer bag inside the lining.

Both right sides should face each other.

Align:

- Side seams
- Top edges
- Handles

Pin around the entire opening.

Sew completely around the top edge.

Take extra care around the handle areas.

These receive the most stress during everyday use.

H2 – Step 13: Turning the Bag

Pull the entire bag through the opening left in the lining.

Work slowly.

Push out the corners using a blunt turning tool.

Close the lining opening with either:

- Hand ladder stitch
- Machine topstitch

Push the lining inside the bag.

Press the upper edge carefully.

H2 – Step 14: Topstitching

Topstitch around the entire top opening.

Keep the stitching even.

A topstitch not only looks professional but also helps the lining stay in place during daily use.

For denim, slightly longer stitch lengths (3.0–3.5 mm) create a beautiful finish.

H2 – Step 15: Final Inspection

Inspect every seam.

Trim loose threads.

Press the entire bag one last time.

Check that:

- Handles are secure
- Bottom corners are symmetrical
- Pocket is firmly attached
- Flower appliqué lies flat
- Lining fits smoothly

Your tote bag is now complete.

Sewing Techniques Used

Throughout this project you will practice:

- Straight stitching
- Topstitching
- Basic appliqué
- Fusible interfacing application
- Boxing corners
- Constructing bag linings
- Creating reinforced handles
- Installing magnetic snaps
- Professional pressing techniques



Helpful Tips

- 🌻 Use denim that is not overly thick for easier sewing.
- 🌻 Mix floral, gingham, polka dot, and plaid fabrics for a cheerful patchwork effect.
- 🌻 Press every seam immediately after sewing.
- 🌻 Use sewing clips instead of pins for thick denim layers.
- 🌻 A denim needle helps prevent skipped stitches.
- 🌻 Matching topstitch thread gives the bag a professional appearance.
- 🌻 Test your stitch length on scrap fabric before sewing the project.
- 🌻 Reinforce the handle attachment area by sewing a small square with an "X" through the center if extra strength is desired.
- 🌻 Keep the flower centered before permanently stitching.
- 🌻 Take your time—accurate cutting and careful pressing make the biggest difference in the final result.



Care Instructions

- Hand wash or machine wash on a gentle cycle.
- Use mild detergent.
- Do not bleach.
- Reshape while damp.
- Line dry.
- Iron on medium heat if necessary.
- Avoid high dryer temperatures to preserve the appliqué and interfacing.



Congratulations!

You have successfully completed your **Patchwork Flower Denim Tote Bag**. This versatile bag combines durable denim construction with colorful patchwork and appliqué, creating a handmade accessory that is both beautiful and practical. With the techniques learned in this project, you can easily customize future bags by changing fabrics, flower colors, pocket styles, or adding additional decorative quilting to make each tote uniquely your own.

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