

# sew with Jo-Ann



## SUPPLIES & TOOLS:

- 5 coordinating fabrics, 1/8 yd each
- Canvas totes
- Needle for hand stitching
- Seam ripper
- Coordinating thread
- Rotary cutting tool
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Quilting ruler
- Cutting mat
- Sewing machine
- Iron & ironing surface

## DIRECTIONS:



1. Measure the width of the tote. Using the rotary cutting tool, quilting ruler and cutting mat, cut 5 coordinating fabric strips to 3" wide. Trim the length of the strip so it measures double the width of the tote.
2. To hem each strip, fold one long edge of the strip up 1/4" and iron. Be conscious of which edge is being hemmed if a directional printed fabric is used. Fold the same edge up 1/4" again and iron.

Tip: With most fabrics, ironing will hold the crease long enough for stitching, but be prepared to use pins to assist with finicky fabrics.



3. Stitch the ruffle using a coordinating color of thread, stitching as close to the outside edge as possible to create the hem. Hem both short ends up in the same fashion.

Tip: It is easier to sew through the bulk at the corners by trimming off the excess. Cut the fabric at a 45-degree angle at the corners prior to hemming each short end.

4. To ruffle each strip, stitch along the remaining raw edge using the longest stitch length the sewing machine will allow. Make sure to allow a long thread tail at both the beginning and ends. Pull the top thread at one end and the bottom thread at the other to gather ruffle. DO NOT clip these threads yet in case adjustments to ruffle length need to be made.



5. Lay ruffles out on top of tote to get desired order in which the ruffles will be layered.



6. Pin each end of the first ruffle to the tote at opposite side seams approximately 1" from the top edge. For the first ruffle only, tuck under the raw edge while pinning the ruffle in place to create a finished edge. Stitch the ruffle to the tote, making sure not to catch the handles or the back side of the tote while stitching.

Tip: Removing the tray from the sewing machine will allow more room and an easier time stitching the ruffles to the tote. If there is not a removable tray, another alternative is to use a seam ripper to open the side seams of the tote, sew on ruffles, then re-sew the side seams of the tote.



7. Continue pinning and stitching ruffles, each 1" below the one above. The spacing can be adjusted at discretion if using a wider ruffle. Make sure the ruffle above will cover the stitching.



8. Trim all threads and iron any creases.

Tip: If multiple ruffles are too much of an undertaking, consider a single ruffle with a simple fabric rosette embellishment.

Single-Ruffle Tote:



1. Cut fabric to 7" wide and double the width of the tote lengthwise. Fold in half and sew the long seam. Turn inside out and iron so the crease is in the middle. Tuck the raw edge of both ends inside the tube, pin and stitch closed.



2. Pin the ends to each side seam of the tote, making sure the top edge of the fabric is flush with the top of the tote. Then find the middle of the fabric and pin to the top-middle of the tote. Continue pinning the remaining fabric, gathering in a ruffle-like fashion while pinning. Stitch the fabric down the middle of the strip across the width of the tote.



3. To create the rosette, create a long tube of fabric in the same fashion, using the same measurements. Start rolling and pleating one end of the fabric, hand stitching each pleat and tucking in place to create rosette. Tack the rosette to the tote with several more hand stitches.

Several ways to change the look of this tote:

- Adjust the fabric measurement on the 5-tiered ruffle tote so each ruffle is longer and they cover the entire front.
- Ruffles all the way around – just make double the ruffles and sew them on both the front and back of the tote.
- Make the ruffles the same color as the tote.
- Dye the totes with fabric dye prior to sewing on ruffles.

Created by Fiskars® Corporation

Skill Level 2: Some experience necessary

Approximate Crafting Time: 1 hour

Please read and follow all manufacturers' instructions for all tools and materials used.  
Provide adult supervision if children participate in this project.  
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