



Technique Tote for Janome/Necchi/Elna Sewing Machines

Approx size 18" x 14" x 4"

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This is a great project to help you review many sewing machine techniques like patchwork, decorative stitch quilting, clean finishing, buttonholes, top stitching, blind stitching and putting a zipper in! Plus when it's complete, this bag makes a great oversized purse, or carry-on tote!

Materials:

- 48 (minimum) 3 1/2" squares for patchwork
 - 1/2 yd of coordinating fabric for bottom, zipper flange, handles
 - 1 yd lining fabric
 - 22 x 45" cotton batting
 - 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 yd of 1" wide cotton webbing for handles
 - 50 wt cotton thread in a neutral color for construction (fill a bobbin)
 - 40 wt Sulky rayon thread for decorative and top stitching (make sure you have a full spool and fill a bobbin)
 - 18" zipper
 - Snap hook or carabiner clip for key leash
 - 4" x 12" piece of cardboard or foam core board for bag bottom support
 - 2 pieces of paper backed fusible web 1 1/2" x 15"
- Basic sewing supplies to include: pins, seam ripper, seam gauge, Wonder Tape, loop turner or FasTurn kit, chaco liner, hemostats, Clover large yo yo maker, hand needle & hand quilting thread, etc
- Sewing machine in good working order with all accessories including walking foot, point turner, 1/4" foot, clean finish foot (C or M), blind hem foot (G), open toe foot (F2), all purpose foot (A), zipper foot (E)

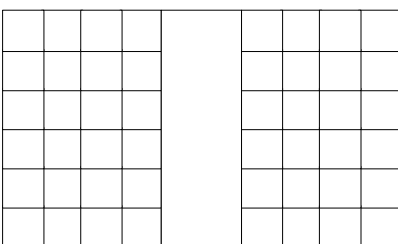
** If you want to make a yo yo flower you will need (2) 4 1/2" -5" squares for leaves and one 4 1/2" - 5" square for the yo yo flower and a pin back and a 2 1/2" square of plastic canvas*

From the 1/2 yd of coordinating fabric cut:

- (1) 8 1/2" strips across width of fabric (from selvedge to selvedge) and then sub-cut (1) piece 8 1/2" x 18 1/2". From the remaining 8 1/2" x 22" section, sub-cut 2 pieces that measure 4 1/4" x 22" for the zipper flange.
- (2) 2 3/4" x width of fabric strips for the handles

From the lining fabric, cut (1) 6" strip across the width of the fabric; then sub-cut (2) 6" squares for the patch pocket and save the remaining strip to cover the bag bottom support.

Put the 1/4" foot on your machine and neutral colored thread, fold each 2 3/4" handle strip in half, RST (right sides together) and sew. Turn RSO and insert cotton webbing with loop turner or FasTurn. Adjust the webbing inside the fabric tube so that the seam runs long one edge and the webbing is within about 1" from one end. Edge stitch using the decorative thread- put the F2 foot on your machine, straight stitch, center needle position, stitch length 3.0 and guide the edge of the handles just to the inside of the right toe of the foot, edge stitch the full length of the fabric. Trim the handles even in length. Sew about 1/2" - 1" buttonhole in one of the pieces of excess handle fabric that you cut off, about 1 1/2" up from the bottom. Fold under the bottom edge and top stitch. Cut down to 6" and save for the key leash



Using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew the 3 1/2" squares into two groups of 6 across by 4 down, press the seams open, sew the 8 1/2" x 18 1/2" section in between (adjusting the length, if necessary). Layer the lining right sides down, batting, and patchwork right side up, pin baste or use hair spray to base layers together, Trim middle and bottom layer to about 1" beyond edge of patchwork. Chalk lines on the bottom to connect the patchwork seams. Install walking foot and decorative thread top & bottom and quilt thru all seams. Pin raw edges of handles to top, outside edges of bag, centered and 6" apart. Pin raw edge of key leash to top inside edge, baste handles and leash in place.

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After the quilting is all completed, trim all layers even and then put the clean finish foot on your machine (C or M) set the zig zag width to 5.0 and sl to 2.5 and clean finish all edges.

Measure the width of the bag in several places and take an average and write the measurement HERE: _____ . Find the two pieces of the 4 1/2" x 22" coordinating fabric that you reserved for the zipper flange – trim these pieces down to the measurement you wrote MINUS 1/4". Press each flange piece in half, WST. Open the flange pieces up, place them RST and sew down the short sides with your All Purpose (A) presser foot to make a big double layer loop. Re-fold the flange pieces and then insert the paper backed fusible web inside each side of the flange, iron, remove the protective paper, fold the fabric layers back WST and press again.

To insert zipper into flange: Tear off little pieces about 1" or so of Wonder Tape – do not cut! Place the sections of Wonder Tape along the very outside edge of both sides of the zipper tape. Peel off the protective paper of the sections of Wonder Tape along just one side of the zipper. Place the zipper tape underneath one folded edge of the flange circle, starting so that the top of the zipper tape is at a side seam. Open up the zipper all the way. It's OK if the zipper is longer than the flange! Using a zipper foot (E) stitch thru all layers close to the fold of the fabric.

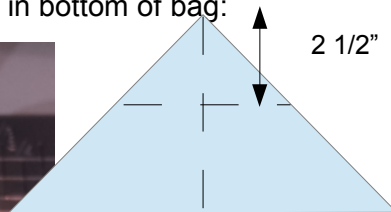
Leave about 1" unsewn towards the bottom end of the zipper. Remove the protective paper from the Wonder Tape sections on the other side of the zipper and place this zipper tape underneath the fold along the other side of the flange circle and stitch in place



Inside pocket: cut (1) 6" square of batting, if desired, and place under one of the 6" squares of lining fabric. Put other 6" square of lining fabric right side together and stitch around with 1/4" seam, leaving an opening for turning. Trim corners, turn RSO and press. Center pocket on lining side about 4 1/2" from top, pin in place. Fold bag fabric back so that the pocket is on the bottom and about 1/8" of the pocket sticks out beyond folded part of bag. Use G blind hem foot and blind stitch to secure pocket to bag. Then sew bag side seams using A foot and make butt cheeks in bottom of bag:



Bag Pocket



fold each bottom corner into a triangle point and measure 2 1/2" from the point and chalk a line. Baste first, then turn bag RSO to check butt cheeks, adjust seam if necessary and then sew again on line across the base of the triangle. Cut off excess fabric triangle, leaving approx. 1/4" seam allowance and clean finish.

When you've completed the flange, position the flange unit so that the top side of the zipper is at the bottom and the raw edges of the flange are along the top (see picture). The "right" side of the flange unit is to the inside. Open up the zipper all the way and slide the flange over the top of the bag so that the raw edges are even, and line the side seams up. The right side of the flange and the right side of the bag are facing each other. Pin in place and sew around the top of the bag using the A presser foot. Fold the flange up and over the seam and into the bag. Manipulate the fabric so that the seam is at the very top and stitch thru all layers using the A presser foot and move the needle to the left one WHOLE number so that you are not sewing thru all the bulk.

Make a fabric sleeve to cover the bag bottom support – make sure that it is a bit wider than needed to account for the thickness of the card or foam board. When complete, insert into bottom of bag.