

## Projects > Nautical Tote Bag

Whether you are heading for the beach or the boat dock, this nautical tote will help you arrive in style. Use this month's FREE Brother design to decorate the pocket of your tote. Line the tote bag with water resistant fabric and you are ready to head out a summer adventure! We paired this classic nautical embroidery design from Brother with a nautical print fabric. It is fun to coordinate Brother embroidery designs with novelty print fabrics. Be sure to visit [ibroidery.com](http://ibroidery.com) for an extensive selection of additional nautical designs. Find designs to fit themes for many different occasions when you visit [ibroidery.com](http://ibroidery.com).

### Materials and Supplies

- [Brother Sewing and Embroidery Machine](#)
- [Brother Hoop](#), 4-inch by 4-inch.
- [Brother Embroidery Threads](#)
- [Brother Bobbin Thread for Embroidery](#)
- [SA5810](#) Pacesetter® Medium Weight Tear-Away Stabilizer.
- [SA185](#) Brother ¼-inch Piecing Foot with Guide.
- [SA538](#) Brother Seam Guide, optional.
- Brother Overcast Foot "G".
- Brother **FREE** Anchor embroidery design.
- Size 11 embroidery needle for embroidering.
- Basic sewing notions including sewing thread to match fabrics.
- Size 14 jeans needle for constructing tote.

### Fabrics:

For the body of the tote bag purchase 5/8-yard of 44/45-inch wide firm, woven nautical print fabric.

For lining the tote purchase 5/8-yard of rip stop nylon fabric.

**NOTE:** Check the home décor department for various fabric options. Fabric should be washable. Pre-wash all fabrics prior to sewing.

Cut the following pieces from your chosen fabrics:

- For body of tote bag: Cut two pieces of nautical print fabric, having each piece measure 17-inches Wide X 18-inches Long.
- For braided handles: Cut six strips of nautical fabric, having each piece measure 1 & 3/4 -inches Wide X 20-inches Long.
- For lining tote bag: Cut two pieces of rip stop nylon fabric, having each piece measure 17-inches Wide X 18-inches Long.
- For embroidered pocket piece: Cut one 8-inch square of solid coordinating fabric.
- For pocket lining: Cut one piece of light weight fabric measuring 7-inches Wide X 8-inches Long.



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### Instructions for Creating Pocket

1. Layer the 8-inch square of solid fabric with a piece of lightweight tear away. Hoop the square, having it centered in the four inch hoop. Embroider the anchor, adding a circular frame shape using the rope style stitch pattern from the built in Frame pattern menu.

\*See **Figure #1**.

**NOTE:** If your machine is equipped with Embroidery Edit mode you can combine the design prior to stitching. Otherwise, embroider the anchor and then add a frame, taking care to make sure the frame size surrounds the anchor. Note the required minimum size in **Figure #1**.

2. Lightly press the pocket piece. Do not remove the stabilizer. Trim the pocket piece to equal 7-inches Wide by 8-inches Long. Set up the machine for sewing. Select a decorative stitch to accent the top and side edges of the pocket piece. This example features a coordinating rope style decorative stitch, size small with increased density.

\*See **Figure #2**. Stitch rows along the edges, having the stitch form approximately 1-inch from the raw edge. Remove stabilizer.

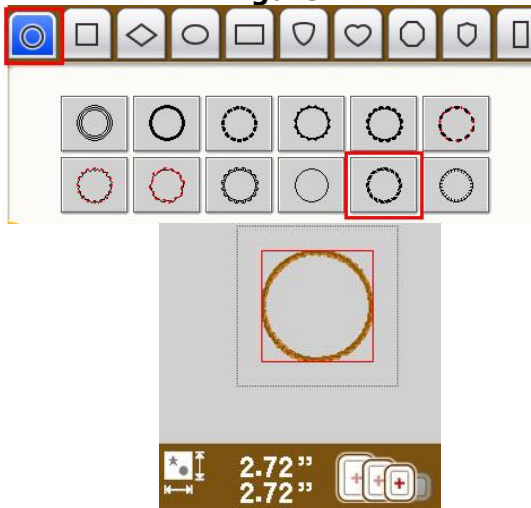
3. Select the pocket lining piece. Place pocket and lining pieces right sides together and sew around top and sides of pocket using a 1/2-inch seam allowance. Turn the pocket right sides out through the bottom opening. Fold and press the bottom edges 1/2-inch to the inside to close up the bottom of the pocket. Center the pocket on one of the bag pieces, having the top edge of the pocket 4 to 5-inches from the upper edge. Attach the pocket to the bag, stitching close to the finished edge with a straight stitch. \*See **Figure #3**.

### Instructions for Creating Handles

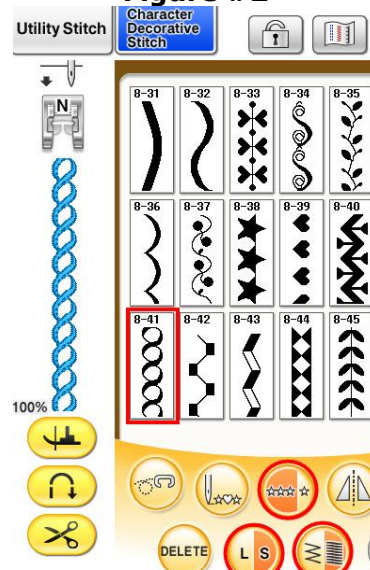
1. Attach the 1/4-inch foot to the machine. Set machine for a straight stitch in the center needle position. Select the six fabric strips. Proceed to stitch 1/4-inch along long edges of each strip. \*See **Figure #4**. Next, fold and press along each line of stitching, pressing under 1/4-inch to the wrong side.
2. To form narrow finished strips, fold and press each strip in half, having the wrong sides and folded edges facing each other. Select a zig zag stitch using a width of 3.5 and a length of 3.5. Using the "G" overcast foot, zig zag over each of the long edges, guiding the edges along the long toe of the presser foot. Take care to begin stitching having the fabric completely under the presser foot.

\*See **Figure #5**.

**Figure #1**



**Figure #2**



**Figure #3**





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3. To form two handles, lightly braid each set of three strips.  
**NOTE:** To easily braid the strips pin the ends to a padded surface such as the ironing board. \*See **Figure #6a** and **6b**.
4. Trim the ends so they are even, taking care to make sure each of the two handles are the same length. Stitch across the raw ends to hold them together.

### Instructions for Finishing Tote

1. Select the lining pieces. Sew side seams and then the bottom seam, having right sides together and using a ½-inch seam allowance. Re-enforce each line of stitching with a second line of stitching ¼-inch from the raw edge.
2. Create boxed corners on the bottom by forming a triangle, matching the bottom seam to the side seam. Measure and mark a line 1 & ½-inches inches from the point. Stitch along this line. \*See **Figure #7**.
3. Using a short straight stitch, stitch ½-inch from the top raw edge of the tote lining. **NOTE:** The seam guide makes it easy to accurately stitch an even distance from the edge. \*See **Figure #8**. Press under a ½-inch hem, folding the fabric along the stitching line.
4. Overcast or serge finish all raw edges of tote pieces. Sew side seams, bottom seam and boxed corners as you did for lining. Turn tote bag so the right side faces out.
5. Select one of the handles and pin to top edge of bag, having it line up with the position of the pocket. Machine-baste across the ends, stitching close to the edge and again 1-inch from the edge. \*See **Figure #9**. Pin and stitch the second handle on the opposite side, lining up the position with the first handle.
6. Turn and press under a 1-inch hem at the top of the bag. Slip the tote lining inside the bag, having wrong sides facing. Pin along the top edge, having the lining hem ½-inch from the top of the tote. \*See **Figure #10**. Topstitch along this line to attach the lining to the bag and secure the handles in the process. Stitch again approximately ¼-inch from the top edge of the bag. To re-enforce the handles, stitch one more time, between the two lines of stitching. Remove any basting stitches that show.

You are finished!

Pack up your tote and head out for some summer fun!

**Figure #4**



**Figure #5**



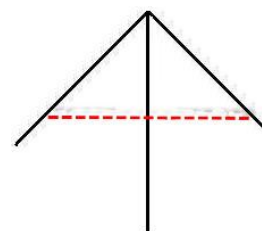
**Figure #6a**



**Figure #6b**



**Figure #7**



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### Additional Sewing Tips:

- Be sure to use a new needle and sharp pins for sewing rip stop fabric. In addition, use good quality polyester sewing thread and shorten the stitch length to 2.0 for sewing seams on this fabric.
- For novelty print fabrics, check to make sure one way printed fabrics are sewn upright.

### Options and Ideas:

- Add hook and loop tape to the pocket area to create a secure closure.
- As an alternative, use solid color duck cloth or denim. Embroider a variety of nautical motifs all across your solid colored fabric.
- Add pockets to the lining prior to constructing the bag.
- Monogram the pocket or add a clever nautical phrase to the embroidered motif.

Figure #8

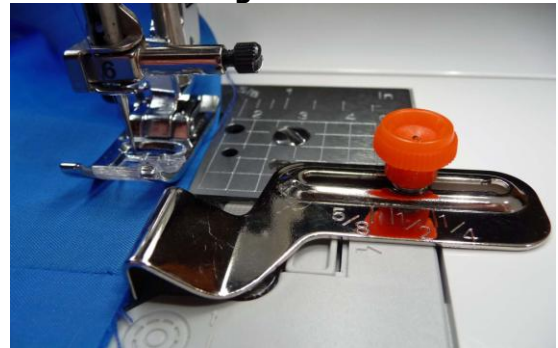


Figure #9



Figure #10

