

🧵 Complete Denim Tote with Ruffle Accent Tutorial (All Measurements in cm)

This step-by-step guide will walk you through creating a stylish denim tote bag with a decorative ruffle and netting accent. Follow carefully, and you'll be able to complete this project from start to finish—even as a beginner.

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COMPLETE DENIM TOTE WITH RUFFLE ACCENT TUTORIAL (Measurements in CM)

STAGE 1: PATTERN & FABRIC PREP

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MATERIALS

- Body Panel: 300 CM
- Bottom Panel: 12cm x 35cm
- Handles: 8cm x 50cm
- Ruffle Strip: 15cm x 60cm
- Netting Strip: 12cm x 55cm

STAGE 2: CONSTRUCT THE TOTES (P)

SEWING METHODS

- (A)** - Appliqué
- (P)** - Piecing
- (T)** - Topstitching

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(a) Join Body Panels and Bottom Panel.

(b) Box corners for structure.

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STAGE 3: PREPARE THE RUFFLE & NETTING ACCENT (R)

(a) Gather both strips separately with parallel stitch lines (T).

(b) Diagram ruffle to a finished width of 35cm.

Machine Hand

STAGE 4: ATTACH RUFFLE & ACCENT (A)

(a) Lay Ruffle strip (R) and Netting strip RST (Right sidered/itan). Stitch along gathered line.

(b) Place assembled ruffle unit over the curved denim body seam RST.

(e) Turn ruffle out and topstitch (T) the gathered edge.

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STAGE 6: COMPLETED PROJECT & LEGEND (L)

Finished Size:
35cm W x 38cm H x 12cm D

Netting position

Fold rdw edges

Stitch (T)

US SEWING & QUILT METHODS LEGEND:

- (A) APPLIQUE - Stitching one fabric piece to another.
- (P) PIECING - Joining varied fabric shapes (Body Panels).
- (Q) QUILTING - Layering top, batting, and backing (future uses).
- (R) RUFFLING - Creating gathers for accent.
- (T) TOPSTITCHING - Decorative parallel stitching on the right side.
- (P) FINISHING - Final assembly & edge binding.

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STAGE 5: HANDLES & BINDING (F)

Fold raw edges

2.5cm

From side seams

8cm wiatra

(a) Position handles (e.g., 8cm from side seams) and pin to body.

(b) Apply denim binding to top edge.

4cm

4cm width (T)

38 H

35cm

12cm

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Stage 1: Pattern & Fabric Preparation

Cut Your Fabric Pieces

From denim (or similar sturdy fabric), cut:

- **Body Panels (2 pieces):** 35 cm (W) × 40 cm (H)
- **Bottom Panel (1 piece):** 35 cm (W) × 12 cm (H)
- **Handles (2 pieces):** 8 cm (W) × 50 cm (L)
- **Ruffle Strip (1 piece):** 60 cm (L) × 15 cm (H)
- **Netting Strip (1 piece):** 55 cm (L) × 12 cm (H)

 Tip: If repurposing old jeans, cut panels from the legs to maximize fabric use.

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Stage 2: Construct the Tote Body

Join Main Panels

1. Place the two body panels **right sides together**.
2. Sew along both side edges using a straight stitch.
3. Attach the **bottom panel** to the lower edges of the body, aligning carefully.

Create Boxed Corners

1. At each bottom corner, flatten the seam so side seam aligns with bottom seam.
2. Measure **6 cm inward** from the tip of the corner.
3. Sew straight across.
4. Trim excess fabric if desired.

 This step gives your tote depth and structure.

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Stage 3: Prepare the Ruffle & Netting Accent

Gather the Fabric

1. Take both the **ruffle strip** and **netting strip** separately.
2. Sew two parallel gathering stitches along the top edge of each strip.
3. Gently pull threads to gather until each strip reduces to **35 cm width**.

Shape the Ruffle

- Ensure the gathers are evenly distributed.
- Both strips should now match the width of your tote body panel.

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Stage 4: Attach the Ruffle & Netting Accent

Layer and Stitch

1. Place the **netting strip on top of the ruffle strip**, right sides aligned.
2. Stitch along the gathered edge to secure them together.

Attach to Tote Body

1. Position the ruffle unit along a curved line across one body panel.
2. Pin in place carefully.
3. Sew along the gathered edge to attach.

Finish the Edge

- Flip the ruffle outward.
- Topstitch along the seam for a clean, professional look.

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Stage 5: Handles & Binding

Make the Handles

1. Fold each handle strip lengthwise, right sides together.
2. Sew along the long edge.
3. Turn right side out and press flat.
4. Topstitch along both long edges.

Attach Handles

1. Position handles **8 cm inward from each side seam**.
2. Ensure handles are not twisted.
3. Stitch securely with reinforced stitching (backstitch or box stitch).

Add Top Binding

1. Fold raw top edge of tote inward.
2. Attach a **4 cm wide binding strip** around the opening.
3. Stitch neatly around the top edge.

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Stage 6: Finished Project

Final Dimensions

- **Width:** 35 cm
- **Height:** 38 cm
- **Depth:** 12 cm

You Did It!

You now have a fully functional denim tote bag with a beautiful ruffle accent. It's perfect for daily use, shopping, or as a handmade gift.

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Helpful Sewing Notes

- **Appliqué:** Attaching one fabric onto another
- **Piecing:** Joining fabric sections
- **Topstitching:** Decorative stitching on the outside
- **Ruffling:** Gathering fabric for volume
- **Binding:** Finishing edges neatly

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Pro Tips

- Use a **denim needle (size 90/14)** for best results
- Press seams after every step for a clean finish
- Use matching or contrasting thread for style
- Practice gathering on scrap fabric first if new