

Up-Styling A Canvas Tote

By: Dori Troutman



Supplies:

Thermoweb Fusible Adhesive Spray
Thermoweb Pressing Paper
Thermoweb Iron-On Ultra Hold Fusible Tape
Pre-made canvas tote
Fabric scraps of all sizes
Ribbon, trim, buttons etc... (as desired)
Hand sewing thread if desired
Iron
General sewing supplies



General Instructions

This is a project that you can sew as little or as much as you would like. I chose to do a little machine sewing and a little hand sewing.



Step One: Gather your supplies. I purchased a pre-made white canvas tote from Walmart for my project. Iron your tote bag and lay it out on a flat surface. Gather fabric scraps and begin laying them on top of the tote, cutting, and sewing together as you go until you have a piece large enough to cover the front of the tote. This is what you improvisational sewing! Which basically means you are figuring it out as you go! It can be really fun if aren't looking for perfection. Sometimes I get a little carried away with wanting things to look exactly perfect and this is not the project for that!

Step Two: After you get all your fabric scraps laid out the way you want, sew them together with your sewing machine. You can sew them right sides together so there are no raw edges, or you can literally sew them with raw edges showing. This is the fun of improvisational sewing!



Step Three: Iron your fabric panel so it is nice and flat.



Step Four: I decided that I wanted some Sashiko style stitches on my panel. Here is how I did it: thread embroidery thread in a large needle and just simply sew lines of stitching. I did not mark my lines. This is a fun style of hand sewing that doesn't have to look perfect. (There is that word improvisational again!)

Step Five: Attach lace, trim, buttons, etc... to your panel. You can use your sewing machine for this, or attach by hand. One thing that works great for attaching ribbons is to use HeatnBond UltraHold Tape. It is amazing how it works and holds permanently. Then you can hand sew at that time, if you'd like. I chose some simple little stitches on my ribbons and trim.



Step Six: Once your panel is complete and you have it just the way you want it, it is time to attach it to the canvas tote! We are going to follow the exact instructions on the Thermoweb website for using their Fusible Adhesive Spray:

Pre-wash all materials without fabric softeners. Always pre-test on materials before starting project and protect your work surface.

1. Preheat iron to cotton setting, no steam.
2. Shake well before each use.
3. Hold can upright, 8-10 inches from back of fabric surface. Press nozzle and apply adhesive in short bursts using a sweeping (side to side) motion to evenly coat surface, making sure to cover all edges.
4. Allow to dry. Place item, adhesive side down, on top of project.

5. Iron, using firm pressure for 30-45 seconds on each section until entire piece is bonded. Let cool. (Iron thicker fabrics an additional 6 seconds from the back of the project.)



The only thing I did differently in the above instructions was to place a piece of freezer paper under my panel when I sprayed it to keep from having overspray on my table. I also use a Thermoweb Pressing Sheet when I pressed my panel to the canvas tote.

I would like to add that I was advised that less is better on the adhesive spray. I have a tendency to really want to spray it on, so I took that advice. Also, be sure to spray burst along the corners and the edges so that it is covered. This is where having the freezer paper underneath is really great... you can spray all the way off the edge of your fabric.

Your Up-Styled Canvas Tote is complete!!! I really enjoyed this fun project and I think you will too!



