

Elegant Tote Bag

by Paula Nelson-Hart

This little bag just effuses glamour and panache. It could be a very special gift bag, or a great way to glam up a pair of jeans. I love the possibilities of changing out the trim or beads and giving this little tote a whole new look. If you were in a hurry, you could purchase a trim that was already beaded and adhere it to the bag edge instead of beading it yourself.

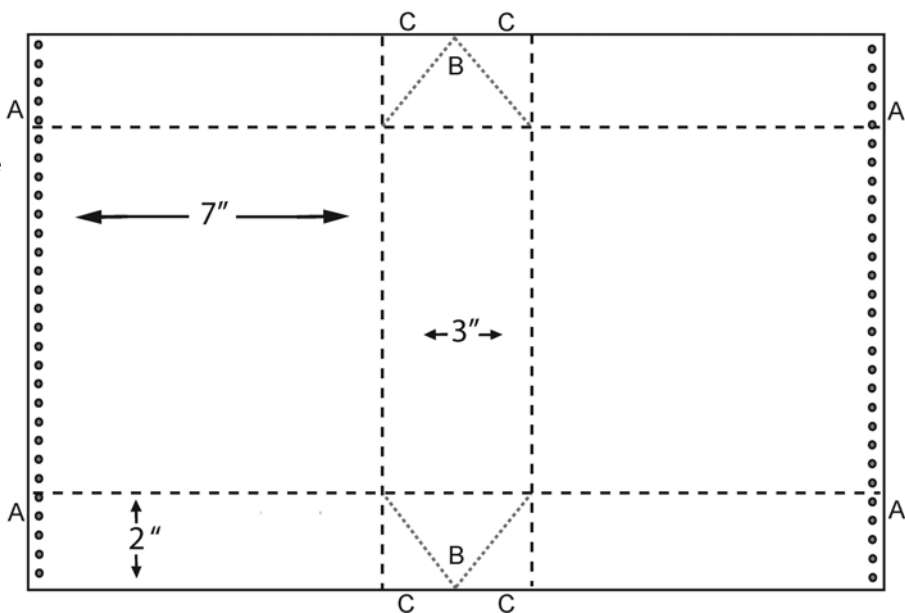
Supplies:

- Freestyle Kit (Purple Cows®)
- 13" Hot Laminator (Purple Cows®)
- 11" x 17" Hot Pockets (Purple Cows®)
- 1/3 yard tulle/net
- Clear Packing Tape 1.88" width (Scotch® 3850 Series)
- 2 1/4" silver eyelets (Darice®)
- Black Feather Boa (Darice®)
- 4 mm Pearls (Darice® Big Value)
- 8 mm Pearls (Darice® Big Value)
- 1mm Pearls (Darice® Big Value)
- 3/4" x 18" Black Satin Ribbon (Offray®)
- Fray Check™ (Dritz®)
- 1/8" Hole Punch
- Beading Needle
- Black Beading Thread (Darice®)



Directions for Bag:

1. Cut a rectangle from netting: 11" x 17" .
2. Place rectangle of netting into the laminator hot pocket, making sure the material is centered and straight in the pocket.
3. Heat up the laminator; when green light appears, feed the hot pocket into the laminator with a scrap piece of 12" x 12" cardstock underneath. (This is very important; it will keep the netting from getting stuck in the laminator.)
4. Using the Freestyle Cutter Scoring Blade, carefully score the laminated netting along both long sides 2" from the edge. (see diagram A)
5. Score for the bottom of the bag 7" from short edges B.
6. Punch holes 1/4" apart and 1/4" from the edge along the two short sides. (see diagram)
7. Using Freestyle Cutter with Scoring Blade, score diagonal lines from B to intersection between A and C. (See diagram)
8. Fold long edges along scored lines towards center. Do not unfold.



9. Fold one side along short perforated lines—crease. Repeat for other side.
10. With bag piece on a flat surface, and the short edge facing you, lift corner A until the bag side is at a 45° angle to work surface. Fold from notch to crease intersection along scored line. Place a small piece of tape along scored line and bag bottom to hold in place. Repeat with the other side.
11. Using the same technique as step 10, lift the other side of the bag into place, folding on scored line. Place a piece of tape over the entire triangle at the bag bottom on each side to secure.
12. Cut a piece of packing tape approximately an inch longer than the length of the side panel. With side panels overlapping ½", carefully center the tape along the side panel overlapping the bag bottom and top edge about ½". Repeat for the other side.
13. Repunch the holes on the side panels covered by tape.
14. Punch hole in bag side 1 ½" from top edge, centered between bag edges.
15. Set ¼" silver eyelet in hole.
16. Repeat for other side.

Directions for Beads

1. Thread needle with crochet thread and fasten to a hole at bag side. String on (3) bugle beads, (1) 4 mm pearl, (1) 8mm pearl and (1) 1mm pearl, (see diagram) sew back through 8mm pearl, 4mm pearl, bugle beads and back through the hole and into next hole in bag. Repeat around the bag to the first bead fringe; fasten off; weave in ends and secure knot with Fray Check™.

Trim

1. Measure a piece of boa that will fit around the top edge of the bag with about ½" overlap.
2. Thread needle with crochet thread and fasten thread by knotting it in a hole on one bag side. Using an over edge stitch*, secure the trim around the top edges of the bag. Fasten off and weave in ends. (From inside of bag thread needle through hole to outside, holding trim along top edge above the holes, carry needle over trim and sew into next hole from inside to outside of bag, thread will go under and around the trim to hold it in place.)
3. Secure knot with Fray Check™.

Handle

1. Cut a piece ¾" ribbon 18" long.
2. Coat ends of ribbon with Fray Check™.
3. From inside of bag, thread the ribbon through to outside under the trim, in one of the center most holes on bag side. Knot ribbon.
4. Repeat step 3 with other end of ribbon on the other bag side.

