

Quilt for All Deurstikwerk vir Alma

DENIM TOTE BAG

COMPILED BY LINDA VENTER FOR BERNINA RSA 2025

Denim Tote bag with small blocks, making use of various patchwork and sewing machine techniques.

Please take note that these are only images of denim tote bags, as we will not do the same techniques, but just given you an idea of what the bag could look like.



Six-month challenge starting in March 2025 and the final challenge in August 2025.

The size of the finished bag will be 16" x 16" and the measurement of the all the blocks assembled on the backing, will be 36" x 26"

This challenge is an individual project, and all participants will be required to do one section of the bag per month, using the patchwork/quilting technique specified in the monthly challenge.

The final challenge will require that you assemble the Denim Tote Bag and finish it off with binding.

The quilting may be done on your domestic machine or using a quilt frame.



Participants must post a photograph of the monthly patchwork row, and a short description on how they implemented the patchwork technique, on the [Quilt for All / Deurstikwerk vir Almal](#) Facebook page.

If you are not a Facebook user, you can email the pictures and a short description of your monthly progress to lorette@berninasa.com and she will post it to Facebook on your behalf.

Fabric requirements



- You will need denim fabric – new or recycled – as well as some scrap fabric for patchwork and applique. Keep in mind that the blocks will be fairly small. As a backing fabric, you may use a cotton backing, or if your denim is thin enough, you can use that as well. We will add an inner zip pocket.
- For the backing, handles and inner pocket, you will need 1.5m x 75cm wide fabric. This could be a cotton fabric or denim.
- Batting for the bag 50cm x 50cm
- Appliqué paper.
- Cords and yarn for couching.
- 40cm zipper for inside pocket.
- Double/Twin needle
- Thicker thread for Bobbin work

We will make use of a selection of presser feet:

- Patchwork; walking foot; free motion quilting foot, couching foot, ruler foot, etc.
- Coordinating threads in the colour of your choice.

Please note that you do not have to use denim fabric, you can do all the blocks in ordinary quilt fabric.

You may also do some blocks using denim, and other blocks using quilt fabric only. You're choice.

Challenge #1

We are going to do a few blocks with every challenge and quilt each block separately.

Not all the blocks need to be the same size – they can be square, oblong, etc.

This is a fun project, and we hope that you will all enjoy this project.

Seminole Patchwork technique

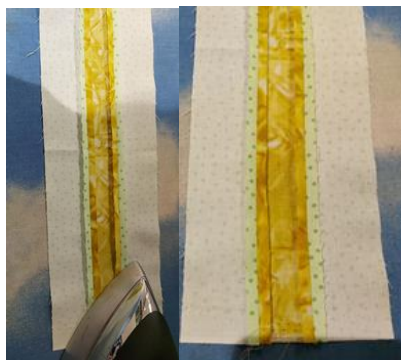


- Cut the strips as follows:
 - Two strips in main colour 2" wide
 - One strip in contrast colour 1½" wide
- Sew them together with a ¼" seam allowance, using any one of your ¼" presser feet.

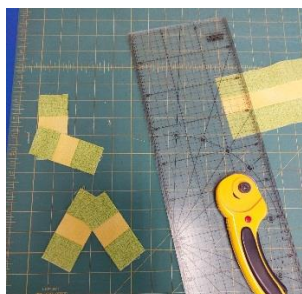


HINT

To avoid bulkiness on the seams, press the seams allowances open.



- Cut the narrow strips into 1½" pieces.



- Once the strips are cut, place them in a 45-degree angle and sew them together with a ¼" seam allowance.



- Make sure that the strips match as per the photograph and do make use of pins, to avoid the seams from moving.



HINT

Because these seams are now on the bias, you need to take extra care when pressing the seams and **DO NOT USE STEAM!**

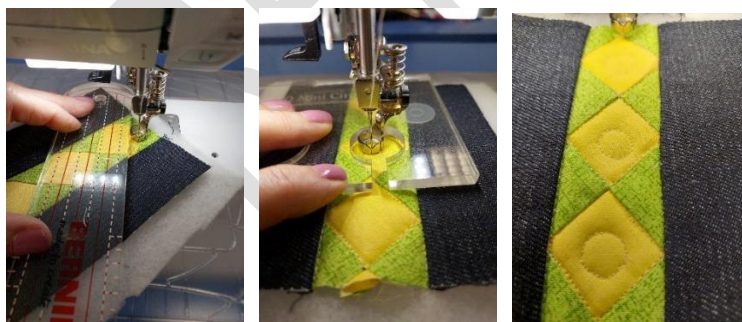
- Cut 2 strips of denim 2" wide.
- Sew the denim strips on either side of the Seminole patchwork strip.



- Square the block and place the block on batting.



- Quilt using a quilt ruler, free motion quilting or your walking foot.



Decorative strip technique



- Cut a square of denim fabric and a few denim strips of 2cm wide.
- Place the 1st strip diagonally across the block and sew in place using a decorative stitch in a contrast colour thread.



- Draw a line 1" away on either side of the sewn strip.
- Place another strip in the middle of the line and sew in place using a decorative stitch.
- Continue in this way until the block is covered with the strips with a 1" spacing in-between.



- We used different colours thread and various decorative stitches.
- Fray the edges of each strip to create some texture.
- Square the block.
- Place the block on a piece of batting and stitch a decorative stitch in-between each strip that will create a bit of a puffy effect.



Confetti quilting technique



- Cut a square in denim fabric.



- Cut a few colours of fabric into small pieces, so that it gives the effect of confetti.



- Place the various colour, small confetti pieces, on top of the block, to create a background.



- You may spray the denim block with temporary glue spray to keep all the small pieces of confetti in place.
- Once the background is done, you can add a few solid motifs on top of the background.



- We have cut out a few small flowers and placed them in different spots on top of the confetti.



- You can cut out anything from a printed off cut piece of fabric and place that on top of the confetti.
- Place the block on batting and add a piece of black netting over the block.



- Quilt the block, using a meandering free motions technique that will not show on the bloc, but keep all the small pieces in place.



- Square the block.

Machine appliqué



- Appliqué is a technique of applying fabric shapes to a background and then stitching it in place along the edges of the shape.
- Typically, the edges are secured with a straight-, satin-, blanket-, or any decorative stitch.
- You may also have to stabilize the background fabric if needed – curved line patchwork block. Use a stitch & tear or wash away stabilizer.
- Decide on an appliqué shape that you want to appliqué on your curved line patchwork
- Draw your appliqué shape on appliqué paper. Use Fuse & Fix or any other appliqué fusing. Reverse the shape so that it will be correct when you place it on the background fabric.
- Iron the shape on the wrong side of the appliqué fabric and cut it out.
- Remove the paper backing and place the shape in position on the right side of your patchwork block. Place a hot iron on the shape to fuse it in position.



- Place the block on batting.



You are now ready to stitch the edges of the shape, using any stitch of your choice. The type of stitch will determine which presser foot to use.

There are a variety of presser feet available that you can use:

Embroidery foot #6 for satin stitch appliqué.



Open embroidery foot #20 that is the same as the standard embroidery foot but has an open area in front that will give you better visibility on the edge of the stitching area.



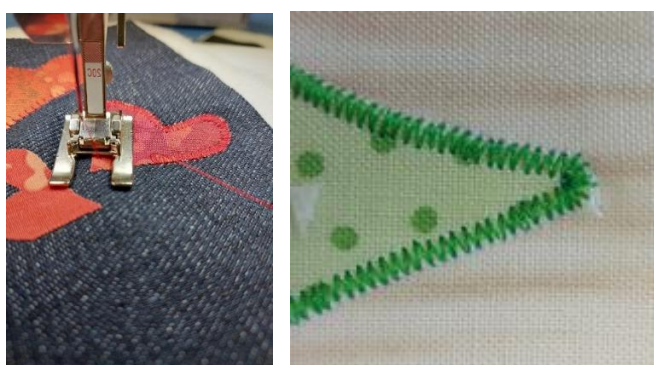
Clear Appliqué foot #23 that is designed specifically for a 2mm satin stitch. The clear sole of the foot offers you good visibility, making it easier to follow the edge of the appliqué shape.



Clear embroidery foot #39 that is exactly the same as the standard embroidery foot, but it has a clear sole for better visibility.



Satin stitch appliqué



Satin stitch is simply a zigzag stitch with a short stitch length, giving a rich, filled look to the stitch that will enhance the design edge.

Use the open toe embroidery foot #20 or the appliqué foot #23.

Guide the cut edge of the appliqué shape in the right-hand corner of the presser foot.

This will allow the stitch to sew mainly on the shape. When the needle moves over to the right-hand side of the foot, it will go just off the cut edge of the shape, resulting in a perfect satin stitch finish.

Take care when you sew around corners, so that the stitching is not too bulky especially when using a satin stitch.

Always start on a straight edge, as it is much easier to match the beginning and end of the stitching line.

Never cut the thread at the end of the stitching – pull it to the back of the block and work it away.

Blanket stitch appliqué



This type of stitch has a more open, casual look than the satin stitch.

Traditionally you will use a thread that blends in with the appliqué fabric to create a texture rather than a feature of the appliqué shape.

Always start on a straight edge or somewhere where you can easily match the beginning and end of the appliqué stitch.

Guide the cut edge of the shape in the right-hand corner of the presser foot.

Follow the instructions as per satin stitch appliqué.

Straight Stitch Appliqué / Raw Edge Appliqué

Using a straight stitch for appliqué is simple and very easy to do.

Set the machine for a straight stitch, using a fairly short stitch length.

Guide the edge of the appliqué motif so that the straight stitch is sewn just off the cut edge of the motif.



You can fray the edge afterwards to create a textured effect.

Well done, you have made it!!

Now you are ready for the next challenge!

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