

Picnic Tote and Tablecloth



The ants go marching one by one on this easy-to-make picnic tote and tablecloth. Strap in some picnic ware and napkins, and you're ready for a summer outing!

Skill Level: Beginner

Created by: Madra Prater, Amazing Designs Educator

Required Designs/Software:

Amazing Designs® Edit 'N Stitch™

Amazing Designs Personalize 'N Stitch™

Amazing Designs Ants In Your Pants premium design collection (ADP-24J), designs ANT107, ANT108, ANT109, ANT110, ANT112 and ANT117

Supplies:

Embroidery/Sewing Machine with a 5" x 7" or larger hoop

Assorted machine embroidery thread and machine embroidery bobbin thread

Dressmaker thread to construct the tote and tablecloth

Amazing Designs Stabilize It!™ 1.8 oz. Medium Weight Tear-Away Stabilizer

1-1/3 yards of large red checked 45" wide fabric for tablecloth

1-1/3 yards of small red checked 45" wide fabric for tote

3/4 yard of red 45" wide fabric for tote handles

Supplies (continued):

5 yards of medium size (1/2" wide) black rick-rack
15" x 30" piece of Firm-Flex Double-Sided Fusible Interfacing
15" x 27" piece of fusible low loft batting
30" piece of 3/4 inch white or black elastic
1/2 yard of craft weight iron-on interfacing
Fabric marking pen/chalk

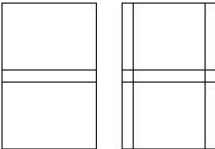
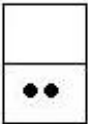
Cutting the fabric:

1. Cut off the selvage from both edges of the large red checked fabric. This will leave the fabric approximately 44" wide, then cut it 44" long. You will have a square.
2. Cut two pieces that are 15" x 27" (tote and lining), one piece that is 11" x 18" (outside pocket) and one piece that is 6" x 22" (plate pocket) from the small red checked fabric.
3. Cut two that are 4" x 45" pieces, two 4" x 6" pieces and one 1" x 45" piece from the red fabric. The remaining red fabric will be used for binding the tote.
4. Cut one piece that is 15" x 27" and one piece that is 2-3/4" x 15" from the Firm-Flex.
5. Cut enough 4" wide strips of the interfacing to iron on the handles

At the computer:

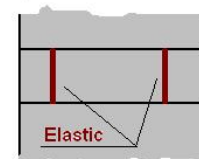
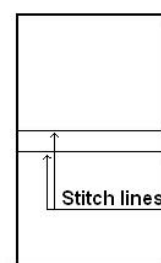
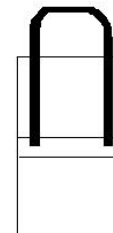
1. Open Edit 'N Stitch, open each design listed above, except ANT117, print a template and "Save As" in your sewing machine format.
2. Open design ANT117, click on the Select Hoop tool and rotate the hoop. Rotate the design and drag it to the top of the hoop grid.
3. Open the Personalize 'N Stitch™ Monogram Wizard by clicking on the "M" on the right side of the Edit 'N Stitch™ program. Click *Next* and select the "Classic Monogram" under "Font", type in your monogram in the "Text" field, and change the "Height" to 40. Click *Finish*. Drag the monogram to center it under the design, click *Select All* and then click on the "Center" tool. Print a template, and "Save As" in your sewing machine format.

Sewing/Embroidery:

1. Tablecloth: Hem the edges of the tablecloth with a 1/4" double hem. Designs ANT108, ANT109, ANT110 and ANT112 go on the corners of the tablecloth. Hoop the tear-away stabilizer and the tablecloth and embroidery the designs. Stitch the rick-rack around the edge (approximately 1/2" from the edge) of the tablecloth.
2. Using a fabric marking pen/chalk, mark one of the 15" by 27" pieces of small red checked fabric 12" inches from each end horizontally across the fabric, this will leave 3" in the middle of the fabric for the tote bottom. Mark lines that are 2-1/2" vertically on both sides, these are for handle placement. 
3. Locate the center of the top half of the fabric, use template of design ANT117 to mark placement of the design with monogram. Hoop the tear-away stabilizer and fabric, and embroider the design.
4. Embroidered outside pocket: Using a fabric marking pen/chalk, mark the horizontal center of the 11"x 18" piece of small check fabric. On the bottom half, locate the center and use template of design ANT104 to mark placement for design. Hoop the tear-away stabilizer and the design and embroidery.  Remove the stabilizer, fold the fabric in half with right sides together and stitch across the bottom using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn to right side and press. Pin a 1/2" pleat on each side of the design. The side edges will be stitched when the handles are stitched in place.

Construction:

1. Press the tote fabric that has the embroidered design on the Firm-Flex, being sure to place a Teflon pressing sheet under it because the Firm-Flex is fusible on both sides.
2. **Handles:** Straight stitch one of the 4" x 6" piece of red fabric to the 4" by 45" piece of red fabric. Press the seam open and iron on the 4" wide pieces of interfacing on the wrong side of the fabric. Fold the long raw edges of the fabric handle strip on each side so they meet in the middle and press. Then fold in half again. The handle will be 1" wide. Topstitch on each side approximately 1/8" from each side. Repeat the above instructions for the second handle.
3. Pin the outside pocket so the bottom is 1/2" from the bottom line on plain end of tote. Pin the sides in place, and straight stitch across the bottom.
4. Pin the first handle in place on the inside of the vertical lines. Each end should be in the center of the bottom of the tote. Make a mark across the handle 1" from the top edge of the tote. Straight stitch the edges down, start at the bottom on one side, when you reach the mark across the handle stitch across the handle on the line and back down to the bottom. Repeat for the other side. Use the same instructions for the second handle, butt the ends of the handle together, be sure the edges of the pocket are under the handle and stitch in place. Use a 3mm wide satin stitch to cover the raw edges of the handle.
5. Use a fabric marking pen/chalk and mark a horizontal line 12" from each end of the tote lining fabric, iron the fusible batting to the tote lining.
6. **Plate pocket:** *Note: This pocket is for a 9" plate. If using smaller or larger plates, the size of the pocket will have to be adjusted.* Fold the 6" x 22" piece of fabric right sides together, stitch the three open sides using a 1/4" inch seam allowance, be sure to leave an opening to turn pocket. Turn pocket and press. It will be 6" wide x 10-1/2" long. Stitch black rick-rack across the top of the pocket. Pin a 1/4" pleat in the center of the pocket. Center the pocket on one end of the lining 1/2" from the bottom, and top stitch the ends and the bottom to the tote lining.
7. On the other side of tote lining, pin the elastic across the 15" width 6" from the top edge of the tote. Use a narrow satin stitch to divide the elastic in sections. Use a fabric marking pen/chalk to mark the following measurements across the elastic: 2-1/4 inches from edge, 2" (these first two sections are for salt and pepper), six 1" sections (for silverware) and the remaining section is for napkins.
8. Pin the 2-3/4" piece of Firm-Flex in the center of the bottom, being sure to pin from the top side of the fabric. This piece is used to reinforce the bottom. Pin the tote front and lining wrong sides together and press. Stitch across the width of the tote on the lines that form the bottom, catching the 2-3/4" piece of Firm-Flex between the two stitch lines. Fold the bag along the stitch lines and press to form the bottom of the bag.
9. Lay the glassware on its side on the bottom of the bag to measure the length of the elastic. It should go over the glass and fit snugly. Do not stretch elastic. Cut two pieces of elastic this length, one for each glass, and stitch in desired location with a 3mm wide satin stitch in the bottom seam line.
10. To make the ties, fold the 1" x 45" piece of fabric in fourths, stitch on the edge and cut in half so you have two 22-1/2" pieces. Pin each piece in the center of the outside tote. This will form a tie to secure the tote and will be stitched with the binding.
11. Bind using you favorite method.



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