T-Shirt Tote

materials needed

- T-shirt
- thread-cottonsewingthread
- Iris Embroidery thread
- MIY2: Your Space Embroidery Designs from Cactus Punch
- ½ yard of fusible knit interfacing
- 1 yard of cotton fabric for lining
- Sticky water soluble stabilizer – like Aqua Magic Plus
- Fusible mesh stabilizer – like Fusible No-Show Mesh
- 2 yards of cording for handles
- Rotary tools – cutting mat, ruler, rotary cutter

cutting instructions

1. Cut your t-shirt sleeves off 1/2" inside the sleeve seam.
2. Cut off the neckline just below the neck hole.
3. Cut up one of the side seams to open up the t-shirt for embroidery.

instructions

1. If you are working with a light weight knit or would like your bag to have a little more stability when you are finished then fuse the knit interfacing to the wrong side of your t-shirt. No dimensions are necessary just cover the entire wrong side of the shirt with the fusible interfacing.

2. If you are going to embroider your shirt now is the time! To prep your shirt, fuse the mesh stabilizer to the wrong side of your t-shirt on top of the interfacing. Hoop the water soluble sticky stabilizer in the hoop as directed.

*Note: If you want some tips and hints on this project watch the T-Shirt Tote Video under Iris Free Download Projects.

………….figure 1

✂ *T-Shirt Tote*

3. Load the embroidery design of your choice is onto your embroidery machine. Make sure you take the time to fix in the hoop (sometimes called basting in the hoop). This will keep all your layers together for wrinkle free embroidery and is especially important on knits. Embroider your design onto the t-shirt.

4. When your design is done embroidering, remove from the hoop. Take the time to cut or peel the extra stabilizer away from the t-shirt leaving the water soluble stabilizer and the fusible knit interfacing. You will wash the water soluble stabilizer away at the end of the project.

✂ *Note: If you don't have an embroidery machine don't throw this project out! Some of the cutest t-shirt totes I've made just feature the t-shirt design on the front of the shirt! You can also follow the stabilizing pointers in steps 1 and 2 and select some decorative stitches to create your own pattern on your shirt.

5. Lay the two sides of the shirt on top of each other with wrong sides together. Match the cut side seam, bottom hem as well as the neck and armhole cuts. Using your rotary tools cut the largest square area possible from your t-shirt to create the tote front and back. Cut the cotton lining fabric the same width measurement but 1" less on the height measurement.
Ex: If your t-shirt dimensions are 14" tall by 20"wide cut your lining 13" tall by 20" wide.

✂ *Note: If you want rounded corners, use a circular object to round the bottom two corners of your bag and lining pieces at this time in the project.

6. Pin the tote front and back pieces right sides together along the side and bottom edges. Using a marking pen, make a dot 4" down from the top of the tote along each side of the bag. Select a straight stitch and sew from dot to dot making sure to backstitch or reinforce your stitching at each dot. Finish the edges of your seams and trim your corners as necessary.

7. Repeat step 6 for your two lining pieces except make your dots 3" from the top of the bag. Place the bag body and lining right sides together matching the top edges only. Sew the lining and bag pieces together along these two top edges. Press the seam open. Turn the bag right side out through one of the side seam openings.

8. Turn the separated sides to the inside of the bag 1/2". Pin in place. Pin the bag and lining together at this point on each side of the bag. Match the points along the sides of the bag where the bag opens up and separates. The lining will pull the t-shirt 1" into the inside of the bag. Press the top edge of the bag with the t-shirt 1" inside. Pin. Stitch along the seam on each side to create a casing. Stitch down each side to close the openings.

9. Cut your cording in half so you have two pieces of cording each 1 yard long. Thread the cording through the casing you created in step 8. Tie the ends together and let them unravel to create a little pompom effect at the end.