

Summer Serger Mesh Tote

1. Piping: Set serger for a 4 thread overlock. Stitch selector: A, Length: 3, Width: 7, Differential: N. Place the cording foot on the machine. Place the cut piping fabric over the cord about 2"-3" down on the cord. Place the cord under the cording foot into the groove with the exposed cord out the back of the foot, with the raw edges toward the serger blade. Keeping the cord tight in the fold of the fabric, serge to the end. Repeat with second piping piece.
2. Top of bag: On one top band piece, place piping on the right side of the fabric with the raw edges even. Clip well and place another top band piece right side together. Place this unit in the cording foot with cord in the groove, raw edges toward the serger blade. Serge and repeat with other top band. You will have 2. Turn to expose piping and press well. Press the other raw edges about ¼-1/2" to wrong side, making sure when you lay it out, both edges are even with each other. Set aside.
3. Body/Pocket of bag: With remaining piping, place the piping on the top of one bag body piece, as above, with right side of bag and raw edges even. Clip well and place another bag body on top of piping with right sides together. Place unit on the serger with the piping in the groove of the foot, raw edges toward blade and machine. Serger. Repeat with other bag body pieces. Turn out to expose piping and press well. Turn under the raw edges and press, as above. Make sure the edges are even.
4. Lay out the mesh piece. If the short edges are uneven, use your rotary cutter and ruler to even out straight. Place one of the bag top pieces over the top raw edge of the mesh. Piping on the top and the bands on each side of the mesh. Pin or tape well in place, making sure the band pieces match from front to back.
5. Change serger to a cover stitch-right narrow. Needles: C2 & C3. Upper looper: down. Blade: lock. Chain needle tension: 4-6. Chain looper tension: 1-2. Length: 2-4. Sewing table: on. Foot: regular foot. Place topstitching/decorative thread on machine. Test stitch on practice fabric.
6. Place bag top band on serger. Serge on the folded under edge to attach to mesh. Piece will be bigger than mesh. Repeat to the other edge of the mesh piece. If your serger does not have cover stitch, do this step on a sewing machine.
7. Measure down from the top piped edge 6". Place the piping on the body piece on this mark. Lay out flat and pin/clip to secure body piece. Again, you may need Stitch Perfection Tape. Cover stitch the bottom edge of bag body piece. Repeat with other bag body piece from the opposite edge. If your serger does not have cover stitch, do this step on your sewing machine with a straight stitch. Set piece aside.
8. Handles: Fold handle fabrics in half lengthwise, wrong side together, and press. Open handle fabric and bring raw edges to the pressed line. Press again. Fold in half again, press and clip. Cover stitch both long sides of the handles. Again, you can do this step on your sewing machine.
9. On the bag body, mark with a Frixion pen, 4" from each raw edge. On your sewing machine, stitch on each line to make pocket, use tie off at beginning and end. You may use different measurements for pockets sizes of your choice. On top panels, mark 3 ½" in from each raw edge. Place handle edges on these marks. Place right side raw edge of

handle right side down toward the piped edge. Fold the handle up to show right side. Stitch on your sewing machine in a square to attach. Repeat with other handles, watching that the top of handle is right side up.

10. Set the serger to a 4 Thread overlock. SS: A. L: 2.5-3. W: 6.5-7.5. D: N.

Fold mesh in half, right sides together. Line up the top band pieces and the body bag pieces. Clip well. Serge the sides starting at the folded edge. Use a double needle to weave thread ends into serged seam or use fray block to seal threads. Fold the bottom corners to box out. Measure and mark in 3". Serge along the marked edge.

Turn bag right side out and get ready for the pool or beach!