



12" x 15-1/4"

Tic-Tac-Toe Denim Carrying Bag

"Tic-Tac-Toe" project patterned in the Fall 2011 issue of Simple Quilts & Sewing

Web Bonus pattern by Jenny Wilding Cardon

Materials:

Remaining denim from the jeans used for the tic-tac-toe game or (3) pairs of adult-size denim jeans: one light blue, one medium blue, and one dark blue

(2) back pockets from a pair of jeans (remove from jeans with a seam ripper)

Preparation:

Note: Every pair of pants will yield a different amount of fabric. Cut and prepare additional pant legs as needed.

1. Start by cutting one pant leg from each pair of jeans. Starting at the bottom hem, cut the inner pant leg along the seam up to the waistband. Cut along the waistband, around the pocket, and down the outer seam of the pant leg. To remove the back of the pant leg, cut from the crotch to the waistband; then cut across the waistband. Leave any seaming on the pants. You should have two separate pieces.

2. Following the straight of grain, make a straightening cut on each of the outer pant legs.

Cutting:

From the light blue denim:

(8) 4-1/2" squares

From the medium blue denim:

(8) 4-1/2" squares

From the dark blue denim:

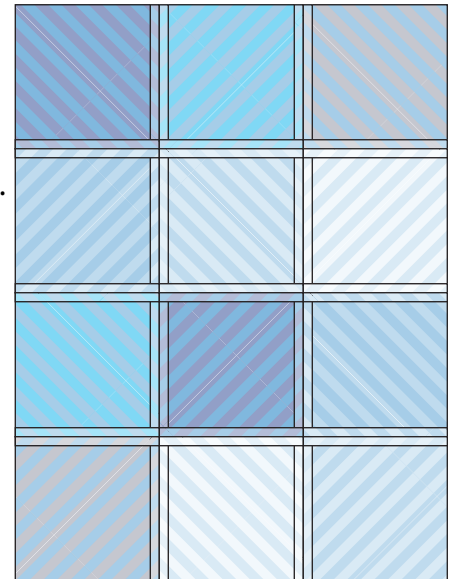
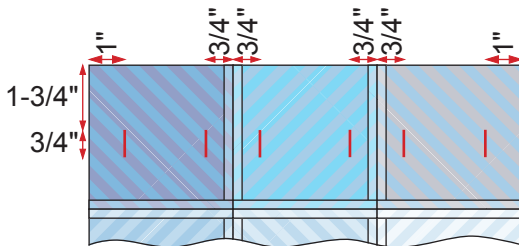
(8) 4-1/2" squares

From the remaining denim:

120" of 1/2" strips (piece together short ends of different colors of denim, right sides together, to achieve strip length)

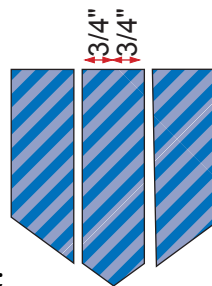
Making the Bag:

1. Arrange the 4-1/2" squares into (4) rows of (3) squares each, placing colors randomly for the game bag front. If desired, randomly turn some squares so the direction of the diagonal twill weave of the denim varies. With wrong sides together, use a 1/4" seam to sew the squares into rows, and then join the rows. Press seams open. Repeat to make the game bag back.

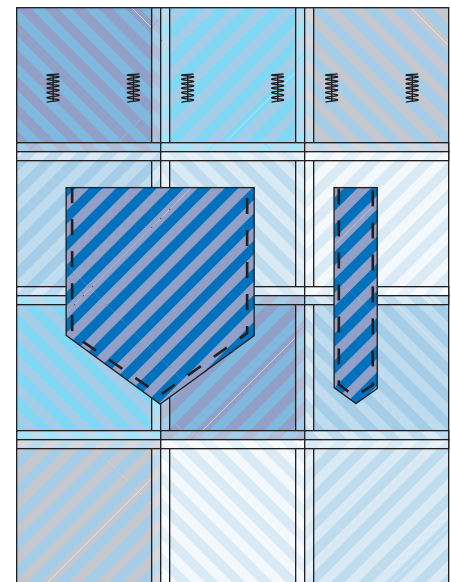


2. Using a washable marker and starting 1-3/4" from the top of the bag pieces, mark 3/4" vertical slits 3/4" away from the sewn sides of each square and 1" away from the side edges. Use a seam ripper to pierce and cut the fabric along the drawn lines. You should end up with 12 vertical slits, six on the front and six on the back. Remove any loose threads.

3. Using a tight zigzag stitch, sew from the top to bottom on one side of a slit; turn the piece and sew from the bottom to the top on the other side of the slit. Repeat for the remaining 11 slits.



4. Find the center bottom of one back pocket; cut the pocket vertically 3/4" from the center on both sides. Turn the raw edges under 1/4"; press. This is your pen holder. Pin this piece and the other back pocket you unpicked to the front of the bag, using the illustration below and the project photo for placement. Stitch along the sides and bottom using a 1/8" seam allowance and/or following the stitching lines on the pocket. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each piece.



5. Place the front and back bag pieces right sides together; pin. Use a straight stitch to sew a 1/4" seam around the sides and bottom of the bag, backstitching at the beginning and end of your seam. Sew a zigzag or overlock stitch along the seam you just sewed to prevent fraying. Clip the two bottom corners of the bag diagonally close to the seam; this will create sharper corners when you turn the bag inside out.

6. Fold the top of the bag down 1/2" and press. Repeat. Sew this hem down 1/8" away from the bottom edge. Turn the bag right sides out.

7. To make the drawstring, cut the 1/2" x 120" jean strip into (2) 57" lengths. Layer the two strips wrong sides together, and stitch using a 1/8" seam.

8. Wash and dry the bag and the strip by machine using normal cycles. Cut away any loose threads with scissors. Press the seams on the bag open. Thread the cord in and out of the vertical slits in the bag; tie a knot at each end of the cord. Pack your game board and pieces inside the bag. Anyone up for a game?