

Advance Solaris Getaway – Month 3 – Beach Tote

This month's project will take advantage of the sewing and embroidery side of the Solaris. Mesh fabric is used to create a beach friendly tote bag that is full of color and personality. The use of specialty stitching and embroidery techniques make it easy to personalize the tote and make it your own!



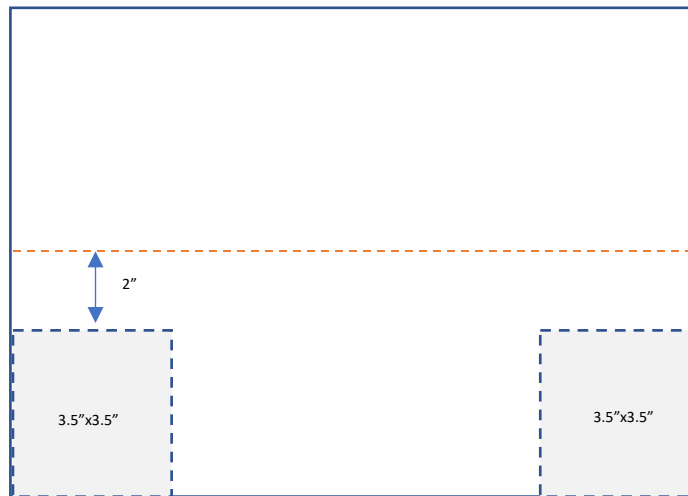
Materials List

- Mesh Fabric – 2 pieces cut to 20"x13" (We used Pam Damour's Mesh Fabric which can be found here: [Mesh Fabric - 0755907247743 \(pamdamour.com\)](https://www.pamdamour.com))
- Fabric A (Bottom of Tote and Handles) – Approximately 3/4 yd
- Fabric B (Top of Tote and Piping) – Approximately 1/2 yd
- Fusible Fleece – Approximately 1/2 yd
- Piping Cord – Approximately 1 yd
- Cardboard – 1 piece cut 12"x5"
- Coordinating thread of your choice for construction and embroidery
- 30 wt embroidery thread for Long-Stitch Design
- Pre-wound Bobbins of your choice
- Embroidery Foot (W Foot)
- J Foot (Comes with Machine)
- N or N+ Foot (Comes with Machine)
- Pearl and Piping Foot (ESG-PP)
- Dissolve Away Mesh (BLS500 or BLS500-20)
- General Sewing Notions (Scissors, Seam Ripper, Chalk or Fabric Markers, Wonder Clips, etc.)

Advance Solaris Getaway – Month 3 – Beach Tote

Getting Started

1. Trim the mesh panels to 20"x13".
2. Remove a 3.5"x3.5" square from the bottom left and bottom right corners of the mesh panels.
3. Measure 2" up from the bottom right and bottom left corner and draw a reference line across each panel. Complete for both panels.



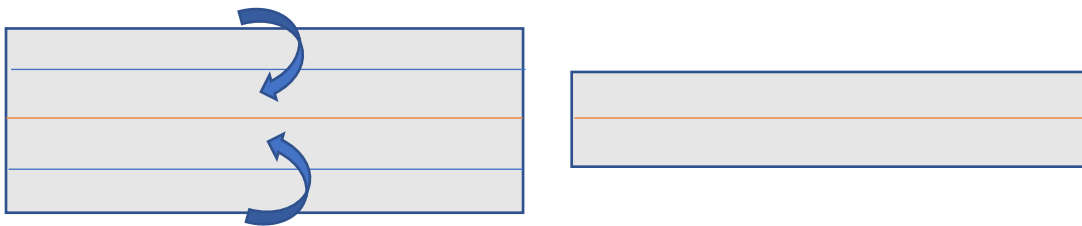
4. Set it aside while you create your piping.
5. From Fabric B, Cut a 2" strip WOF (Width of Fabric). Either finger press this strip in half or iron in half.
6. Set your machine up for sewing using the Pearl and Piping Foot (ESG-PP). Thread using an upper thread that matches your fabric and a pre-wound bobbin.
7. From the Utility Stitch Tab #1, select Stitch #1-01 or #1-02. Move the needle to the far-right position. This can be done by adjusting the L/R Shift or by opening the Stitch Editing Menu and using the Mirror key. The L/R Shift should reflect a position of +7.00mm. Leave the Length at 2.5mm.
8. Place the Piping cord in the fold of Fabric B leaving an extra length of the cording extending approximately 1.5" to 2" beyond the end of Fabric B. This will allow you to place the cording under the foot so that the cording extends past the foot, but the fabric is just up to the needle.
9. Stitch the Piping.
10. Divide the Piping into two sections, each slightly longer than the width of the panels.
11. Align the Piping on each panel with the reference line created in Step #3 and pin in place.
12. Using the same settings used in creating the Piping, stitch the Piping in place on each panel.
13. From Fabric A and the Fusible Fleece, cut two sets of fabric and fleece measuring 6.5"x22".
14. On each of the panels, with the right-side of the fabric facing down, line up the long edge of the Fabric A piece so that is approximately 1/4" BELOW the Piping (or slightly more if you want a little extra wiggle room).
15. Using the same settings as the previous steps, stitch Fabric A in place.

Advance Solaris Getaway – Month 3 – Beach Tote

16. This fabric will fold downward to create the bottom section of the bag, but before folding Fabric A, place one piece of the fusible fleece so that the top edge aligns with the stitch line that was just created. The fusible side of the fleece should be facing up. Fold Fabric A over the fleece and iron in place.
17. Change to the J Foot. Using the same stitch and stitch settings as above, stitch around the raw edge of Fabric A to secure both Fabric A and Fleece to the Mesh Fabric. By leaving the needle in the right-hand position and aligning the right edge of the J Foot to the raw edge of the fabric, this will create a stitch that will be covered with binding later in construction.
18. Complete this process for the second Mesh Fabric panel.
19. Select Stitch #1-05 (Triple Stretch Stitch). This is a left-aligned bean stitch. Using the left side of the J Foot to align to the bottom edge of the Piping, stitch a row of the Triple Stitch under the edge of the Piping. Repeat for the second panel.
20. Next, the bottom of the bag will be channel quilting. This can be done a couple of different ways. Any of the straight stitches can be used. The distance between the rows of quilting is a personal choice and can be adjusted as desired. Using a method of your choice, channel quilt the remainder of Fabric A on both panels.

The following methods are just a couple of options for channel quilting:

- a. Use the width of the J Foot to create the spacing between the rows of stitching,
 - b. Use the Projected Guideline to establish a reference by adjusting the distance between the Main Guideline and the Subsidiary Guideline to the desired width,
 - c. Use the Grid option on the Subsidiary Guideline to mimic a quilting bar,
 - d. Using a Quilting Bar to set the width.
21. To create the top edge binding of the panels, cut a piece of Fabric B to 5" by WOF. Fold and iron the strip of fabric to create a double fold binding.



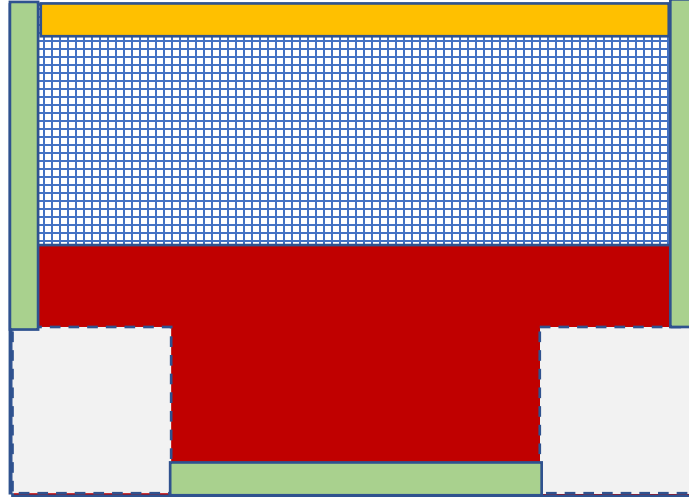
To do this, find the center line of the fabric strip and fold each raw edge of the fabric to meet at the center line. Press.

22. Cut the Binding Strip in half to create two equal lengths. Place one of the Binding Strips along the top edge of one of the panels and fold in half to cover the raw edge of the panel. Pin in place.
23. Using the J Foot and Stitch #1-01 or #1-02, align the left edge of the J Foot with the edge of the Binding and stitch. This will create a straight stitch along the bottom edge of the Binding, holding both the front and back of the binding in place. Repeat for the second panel.



Advance Solaris Getaway – Month 3 – Beach Tote

24. The process of binding the raw edge of the panels is repeated for the sides and bottom of the panels (not the cut corners), with the only differences as follows:
- The width of the Binding Strips is reduced to 2.5" by WOF.
 - Fold the Binding Strips in the same manner as noted in Step #21.
 - Place the Binding as indicated (green areas) in the diagram below on both panels.



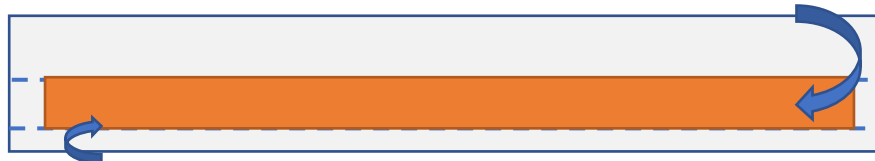
25. Set the machine up for embroidery. If you have been sewing with the Sewing Table on, be sure to turn the machine off to remove the Sewing Table and attach the Embroidery Unit. Attach the W Foot.
26. To embroider the Binding on the top edge of the panels, the Large Continuous Border Hoop was used (BLMA-CBH). By using this hoop, it is easy to reposition the panel without having to remove the hoop from the machine and no stabilizer will be required since the Mesh Fabric provides a stable foundation. ** If you do not own the Large Continuous Border Hoop, any of the larger (10"x10" or larger) regular hoops can be used in conjunction with Stick-Tear, Tear-Away (BLT102 or BLT102-20) stabilizer. Hoop the panel so that the upper Binding is in the embroidery field of the hoop. Insert the hoop into the Embroidery Unit.
27. From the Home Screen of the machine, select Embroidery. Select Design Category #6. Select Tab #3. Select Pattern 154 (or design of your choice). Select Set.
28. Select the Camera Icon. Select Scan. This will take a "snapshot" of the hooped panels. Select Close to exit the Scan Panel.
29. Using the Size keys in conjunction with the scanned image, determine the desired size for the pattern. Be sure to use Resize with Stitch Recalculation. The pattern will need to fit in-between the straight stitch used to attach the Binding and the top edge of the bag. Select OK to close the Size window.
30. Select the Border Key. Use the vertical repeat to add copies of the pattern to the top and bottom of the resized pattern. The size hoop used will determine how many repeats can be added to a single hooping. If using the Large Continuous Border Hoop, a total of five or six repeats can be used. Select OK to exit the Border panel.
31. Use the Move and Rotate keys to align the patterns as desired.
32. Select Embroidery.

Advance Solaris Getaway – Month 3 – Beach Tote

33. Since this is a single-color design, use the Monochrome key to have the entire design stitch non-stop. To do this, select Layout and then select Monochrome.
34. Since this design will need to be stitched more than once to cover the entire length of the Binding, there are several ways to align the first stitch out with the second. Choose the method that is most appealing to you. Here are some choices:
 - a. Stitch the first set of patterns. Re-hoop making sure the last part of the previous stitch-out is in the embroider area of the next hooping. Use any of the manual alignment tools to move and adjust the new patterns so that they connect as desired to the section already stitched.
 - b. Prior to stitching the first section, select Layout and Pattern Connectivity. Stitch the first section. Follow the prompts on the screen from Pattern Connectivity to align the second section of the design. This is a more automated method but will also limit the number of adjustments that can be made if the binding is not straight.
35. Repeat the embroidery process for the second panel.
36. Using the 8"x8" hoop or larger, hoop or larger, hoop a single piece of Dissolve Away Mesh (BLS500 or BLS500-20).
37. On the panel where the Long Stitch Embroidery will be added, use a tape measure or ruler to find the center of the exposed mesh section. Mark the center.
38. The mesh will be difficult to hoop and may show signs of hoop burn, so this part of the project will be embroidered using the floating hooping method. Lay the panel on top of the Dissolve Away Mesh that has been hooped, aligning the center mark with the center of the hoop (as much as possible). Pin the panel in place to the Dissolve Away Mesh. Load the hoop on the machine.
39. From the Home Screen, Select Embroidery. Select Design Category #8 – Long Stitch Embroidery. Select Design #001 (or any other design of your choice if it fits on the project and the selected hoop). Select Set.
40. Long Stitch Designs can not be freely edited like other designs. Using the method of your choice, reposition the design so that it is aligned with the center of the mesh panel (as marked). Some of the methods that are available are as follows:
 - a. Scan using the Camera and use the Move tools to realign,
 - b. Use the Projector to superimpose the design onto the hooped fabric and use the Move tools to align,
 - c. Use the Needle Drop Projection (found on the Embroidery Layout Screen under the W Foot icon) in conjunction with the Move tools to align.
41. Once the design is properly aligned, move to the Embroidery Layout Screen, and stitch this design. **Because Mesh Fabric is being used, a heavier weight thread was chosen to make the design more prominent. A 40 wt thread is typically used in embroidery, but in this case a 30 wt is used (keep in mind that the lower the number, the thicker the thread). Make sure to use the appropriate needle size for the thread used. It is also important to point out that the speed of the machine is instantly reduced when stitching Long Stitch Designs.
42. Remove the hoop and cut away as much of the Dissolve Away Mesh as possible. Using warm water (or warm water on a sponge), dissolve away the remaining stabilizer so that only the stitches are left.

Advance Solaris Getaway – Month 3 – Beach Tote

43. The front and back panels are both completed and ready to be joined. Place the two panels so that they are right-side together. Clips can be used to hold the two panels in place.
44. Switch the machine over to sewing (again, if you are removing the embroidery unit to be replaced by the sewing table, be sure to do so with the power off). Attach the J Foot and thread as desired.
45. From the Home Screen, select Sewing. From Tab 1, select Stitch #1-03 or #1-04.
46. Stitch the side seams and bottom seam of the panels together using the Binding as the guidelines for the stitching (stitch just to the inside edge of the bindings).
47. Using the end of the ironing board, or a pressing ham, press all the seams open.
48. OPTIONAL STEP – If desired, the bond seam allowance, which are now pressed open on the inside of the bag, can be stitched down in place. This can be done with basic straight stitching or using any of the character stitches. It is important to note that character stitches often have more movement in their creation, so this could make the process of keeping the stitches straight.
49. The notches bottom corners of the panels that were created by removing the 3.5" squares will be used to box the bottom of the tote. By bringing the side seam and bottom seam together on one side, a straight seam is created. Clip or pin the seam together. Using a straight stitch and the J Foot to stitch the seam together so that it is just shy of a 1/4" seam allowance.
50. This newly formed seam will also be covered with Binding. Follow the steps used in covering the Side Seams and Bottom Center Seam to add the Binding to this seam. ** Note – this is a single seam, so there is no need to press in a specific direction.
51. Repeat this process for the other bottom corner of the tote.
52. Turn the tote right-side out. Press where needed.
53. To create the handles:
 - a. Cut two strips of Fabric A to 4.5" x 21".
 - b. Cut two strips of Fusible Fleece to 1.5" x 18".
 - c. Fuse the fleece to the wrong side of Fabric A following the image below:



- d. Press the handle so that the fusible fleece is fully encased.
 - e. Using the J Foot and either Stitch #1-03 or #1-04, stitch down each side of the handle straps.
 - f. On both ends of each handle, fold the fabric to create a point and stitch in place.
 - g. Measure approximately 3" in from each point and mark the handle. The area between the markings is folded in half and on top this area is top stitched to create a more substantial handle.
 - h. To attach the handles, align the points of the handles as desired on top of the top binding and use a straight stitch to attach.
54. The bag is complete! If desired, a closure can be attached such as a button closure, zipper, magnet, or snap.