

Tote with Ribbon Embellished Flatlock Stitching



Your Husqvarna® VIKING® overlock machine can be used to add interesting surface design embellishments to your sewing projects! This simple tote has a striped design created by joining fabric strips using a 2-thread flatlock stitch. The “ladder” side of the flatlock stitching shows on the bag’s outer side, then, a narrow ribbon is woven in and out of the ladders for a decorative effect. Finished size of the bag shown is 15” long x 13” wide, plus the handles.

Supplies Needed:

- Husqvarna® VIKING® overlock machine with 2-thread capability
- Husqvarna® VIKING® sewing machine
- Total of 7 fabric strips for outer bag (2 cut 34” x 2¾”, 5 cut 34” x 2¼”)
- 2 fabric strips 30” long x 4” wide (for the 2 handles)
- 34” x 15” of lining fabric (will be trimmed to size after bag front is prepared)
- 7 yards of ⅛” wide ribbon

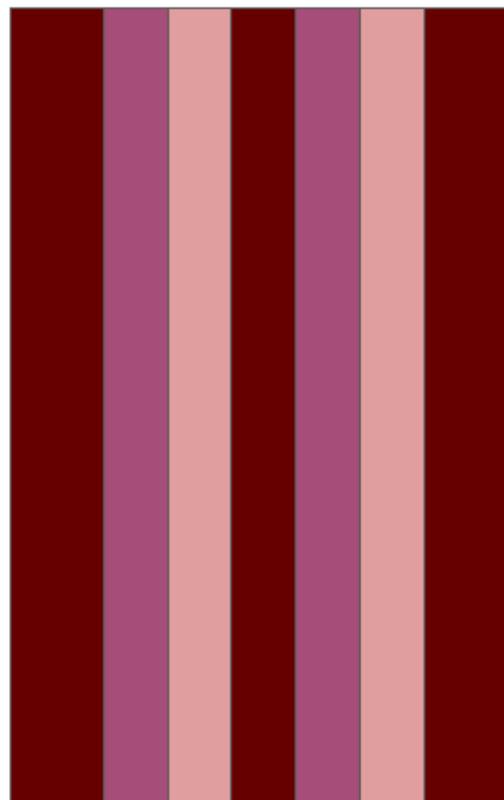
- 1 spool of construction thread for sewing machine
- Tapestry needle (for weaving the 1/8" ribbon in and out of the stitching)
- 3 cones overlock thread (for 2-thread flatlocking & 3-thread seam finishing)
- Fabric spray starch (optional, depending on fabric being used)

Preparing to Sew the Fabric Strips

The outer bag fabric is created by flatlock stitching the fabric strips together. For the "ladder" side of the stitches to appear on the front side of the fabric, the strips are stitched with right sides facing. Of the seven total strips cut to for the bag front, the two wider strips are placed on the far left and the far right, with the narrow strips in between these. Play with the color arrangement until you find the combination you like. Before you begin stitching, it may be helpful to apply fabric spray starch for added stability to the fabric strips as you work with them. Experiment with some scraps of the fabric you will be using to construct the bag, to help determine if the spray starch is desired. What you are looking for is for the strips to have a slight bit of firmness and body, so that they can support the manipulation you will be doing to the seams.

Set the machine for the 2-Thread Flatlock, Wide. Thread the machine and set the tensions per your instruction manual recommendations for the 2-Thread Flatlock, Wide. Set the Cutting Width to a medium setting. Set the Stitch Length to a medium setting as well. Test the stitch on some fabric scraps and fine tune the machine settings as needed. The stitch loops should meet at the edge of the fabric, without pulling to either side.

Here is a diagram of the strip layout used for the outer bag shown. (*Note: image is not to scale*)



Sewing the Flatlock Rows

Place the first fabric right side up on a flat surface. Place the 2nd fabric with its right side down, facing the first strip. Use the edge of the needle plate as a guide for the raw edges - you should only be trimming stray threads from the raw edges as you go.

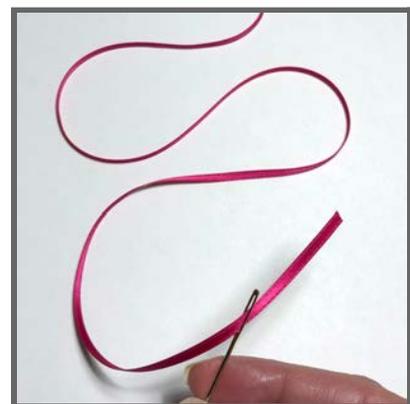
When finished stitching this first seam, gently pull the fabrics so that the seam lies flat. The "ladders" of the flatlock stitch will appear on the right side. Don't work the fabric too hard or the seam may distort - just take your time and gently pull the strips. Press when finished with the first row of stitching.

Place fabric strip #3 with its right side facing down onto the right side of strip #2. Stitch, with the raw edges lined up with the edge of the needle plate, just trimming any stray threads. When this row is finished, repeat as you did for the first row - gently pull the fabric strips so the stitch lies flat. Press. Continue this process until you have sewn all strips together.



Adding the Ribbon Embellishment

Cut a length of the 1/8" ribbon that is approximately 3" longer than the length of the fabric, so that you are sure to have enough extra while weaving the ribbon between the stitches. Thread the tapestry needle with the ribbon.



For this project, the ribbon is woven through the stitching so that it goes over 4 stitches, then under 4



stitches, repeating this rhythm throughout the entire length of the flatlock seam. (If you prefer, try a different pattern for weaving the ribbon, such as over 3 stitches and under 3 stitches, or perhaps over 2 stitches and under 4 stitches, etc. You may want to practice on a scrap fabric to determine the look you want for your project.)

Weave a length of ribbon through each of the flatlock seams.
When finished weaving all rows, lightly press the whole bag piece.

Trim the embellished bag front section so that it measures 31" x 14". Set aside for now to prepare the handles.

Note: It's a good idea to secure the ribbon at each end before you continue with the bag, to help prevent the ribbon from coming out of the stitches as you work. Use a hand needle and thread to secure the ribbon ends within the seam allowance at each end of the bag.

Making the Carry Handles

For each of the two 30" x 4" strips, fold in half lengthwise with the right side of the fabric out. Press. Open the pressed strip and now fold each long side so that the raw edges meet at the crease you just pressed. Press again. Now fold in half and press once more. You should now have a strip that measures 1" in width.

Using your Husqvarna® VIKING® sewing machine, edgestitch along each long side of both handles. Press, then set aside for now to prepare the lining.



Preparing the Lining

Using the bag front piece as a guide, trim the lining fabric so that it is the same size as the bag front piece (31" x 14"). Set the overlock machine for the

narrow 3-thread overlock stitch. Starting with the bag front piece, stitch along each long side of the piece, trimming only a scant amount at the edges to “clean finish”. Do the same for the bag lining fabric’s long edges as you did for the bag front long edges. Press both pieces.

Finishing the Bag

Pin one carry handle to one short side of the bag front, making sure that the handle isn’t twisted. Use a hand sewing needle to baste the handle ends in place within the seam allowance, then remove the pins. Repeat with the other carry handle at the other end of the bag front.



Thread your Husqvarna® VIKING® sewing machine and set it for sewing a straight stitch. Sew the two side seams of the bag front section, using a ½” seam allowance. Press the seam open.

Sew one side seam of the bag lining piece using a ½” seam allowance. Sew the other side seam with a ½” seam allowance, but leaving a 5” opening in the middle of the seam.

Note: This opening will be used for turning the bag right side out after the outer bag and lining pieces have been sewn together.

Press the seams open.

Turn the outer bag so it is right side out. With the lining wrong side out, pin the bag front and lining together at the top seam (the right side of the bag front should be facing the right side of the bag lining). Sew, using a ½" seam allowance.

Turn the bag right side out through the opening left in the lining.

Press, then topstitch around the top edge of the bag to help keep the carry handles secure.

