

Shoes. Matching handbag.

Scrapbook supplies. These are a few of my favorite things. Happily, I've found a way to combine two of them into one. A layout tote is a great way to make a darling handbag storing all my favorite supplies. And the best part is it's really quite simple. Now I just need to find the shoes to match!

materials two 8 x 8 layouts made on cardstock • three 3 x 8 matching pieces of cardstock • self-adhesive laminating sheets (Avery) • craft lace • eight ¼" sewing eyelets • standard hole punch • eyelet setting tool • hammer • twenty-two inches of clear ½" inch vinyl tubing • four loose-leaf ring clips



Instructions

- Make two 8 x 8 layouts using heavyweight cardstock. The layouts become the front and the back of the bag. Be sure to keep the layout designs as flat as possible. Don't use bulky items such as brads, eyelets or fibers on your layout.
- Cut three 3 x 8 strips of heavyweight cardstock and set aside.
- Using heavy-duty self-adhesive laminating sheets, laminate both 8 x 8 layouts and all three 3 x 8 strips of cardstock. Leave a ¼-inch margin on all four sides of each item you laminate.
- Punch holes in the sides and bottoms—not the tops—of both 8 x 8 layouts, and two of the 3 x 8 pieces. Again, do not punch holes on the tops of these pieces. The remaining 3 x 8 piece constitutes the bottom of your bag, where you'll need to punch holes on all four sides (figure 1).

Note: Wondering how to punch the holes? The best way is to take your pieces to a copy center such as FedEx Kinko's or Staples. Ask them to punch the piece using the same setting as if you were going to spiral-bind a book.

- Using a standard hole punch, punch two holes in the top of each of your 8 x 8 laminated layouts. Holes should be ½ inch from top and 1½ inches from each side. Set a large ¼-inch sewing eyelet in each hole, using a universal eyelet setter (figures 2 and 3). Note: Sewing eyelets can be purchased in a kit that includes an eyelet setter.
- Using a long piece of craft lace or vinyl cording with a knot tied in the end, begin lacing your bag together. Take one 8 x 8 laminated layout and one side piece and place them backsides together. Line up the holes and lace them together using overhand stitches (figure 4). Pull the vinyl cording tight, but be sure it's not so tight that it pulls or bends the laminate. After front and side pieces are hooked together, continue on and lace the bottom piece to the 8 x 8 piece. Then lace the other side in place (figure 5). Add the other 8 x 8 laminated layout and repeat the process until all sides are laced together.



MAKING A SCRAPBOOK SUPPLIES TOTE



- To make the handles, cut the vinyl tubing into two 11-inch pieces. Take one piece and punch a hole through one side (the tubing is too thick to punch both sides at the same time), then squish tubing together, mark the other side, and punch another hole. You'll need to punch around the first hole to slightly enlarge it so the eyelet will fit (figure 6).

- After holes are punched, place eyelet through hole. Add back piece to the eyelet, squish the tubing together (figure 7), and secure the two together using eyelet setter. Only set one eyelet per tubing handle for now, leaving the other two ends open.

- Using leftover scraps of cardstock, punch a large amount of circles with the hole punch (figure 8). Place circles inside the vinyl tubing—as many or as few as you'd like (figure 9). Once you've filled the two tubes to your liking, close the other ends of the tubing handles by punching holes and setting an eyelet on each end.

- Now that both handles are completed, attach handles to your bag. Place a loose-leaf ring through one of the eyelets on the bag and one eyelet on the end of a handle (see figure 10). Repeat until all four loose leaf rings are in place.

