

# Personalized Tote Bags

Arts | Fashion



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## WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Making your own custom tote bag is meaningful because it allows you to create something unique that reflects your personality and creativity. It's a personal project where you can express your style, interests, and individuality. Every time you use your custom tote, you'll feel proud of your creation and enjoy the special touch it adds to your daily life.

## TIME

15+ Minutes

## MATERIALS

- Plain canvas tote bag (\$10+)
- Fabric markers or fabric paint (\$5+)
- Stencils (optional) (\$10+)
- Iron-on patches or fabric stickers (optional) (\$5+)
- Scrap fabric
- Fabric glue (optional) (\$5+)
- Decorative items like buttons, sequins, or ribbon (optional)
- Newspaper or cardboard (or something to protect the inside of the bag)



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## INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Set Up Your Workspace:** Find a clean, flat surface to work on. Slide a piece of cardboard or a few layers of newspaper inside the tote bag to prevent any paint or markers from bleeding through to the other side.
2. **Plan Your Design:** Think about what you want your tote bag to look like. You can write your name, draw pictures, or create a fun pattern. If you're using stencils, lay them out on the bag to see how your design will look before you start.
3. **Start Decorating with Fabric Markers or Paint:** Use fabric markers or paint to draw or write on your tote bag. If you're using fabric paint, make sure to use a paint brush or sponge for even application. If you're using stencils, hold them firmly in place and color inside the lines.
4. **Add Iron-On Patches or Stickers (Optional):** If you want to add extra decorations, iron-on patches or fabric stickers are a great option. Place the patch or sticker where you want it on the bag. With a supervisor's help, use an iron to press the patch onto the bag, following the instructions on the package.
5. **Glue on Decorations (Optional):** For an extra touch of flair, you can glue on buttons, sequins, or ribbons. Use fabric glue to attach these items to your bag. Arrange them in a pattern, around the edges, or however you like.
6. **Let It Dry:** Once you're done decorating, let your tote bag dry completely. This might take a few hours, depending on the materials you used. Make sure the paint or glue is fully set before you use your bag.
7. **Show Off Your Tote Bag:** Your personalized tote bag is now ready to use! Carry it to school, the park, or the store, and enjoy showing off your one-of-a-kind creation.

## RESOURCES

\*all prices are estimated from item listings on *Amazon*

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## **SUPPORTS NEEDED**

Some individuals may need assistance with the finer motor skills associated with the craft. Supervise and step in if needed. Some tools such as scissors, glue and an iron will require supervision and assistance. Encourage individual creativity here!

## **OTHER THINGS TO NOTE**

Mix and match colors and designs to make your tote bag truly unique. If you make a mistake, don't worry! You can always cover it up with a patch or another layer of paint. Personalize your bag with your favorite quotes, drawings, or even a design that represents something special to you.