

## Shoe Tote

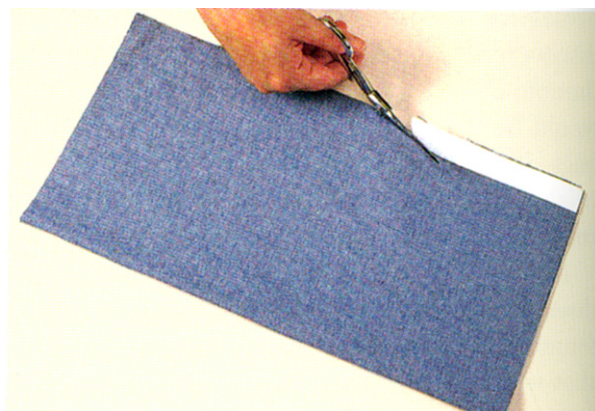


While traveling, I have found it handy to have several shoe totes to protect my clothing from my shoes. Rather than a single hole, this tote has two legs so that the shoes are kept together, yet they don't rub against each other.

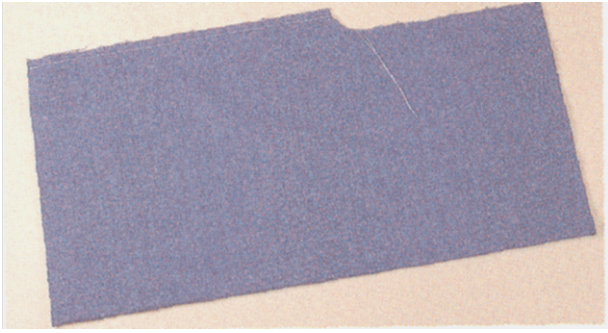
### **You will need:**

- Two 16" or 18" square pieces of fabric (smaller for ladies shoe tote, larger for mens)
- 12" to 15" of 1/4" elastic
- Thread to match and for decoration

### **Instructions:**



**1** Lightweight denim or quilting weight cottons are nice fabrics to use for this project because they don't add a lot of bulk in the suitcase. Fold each fabric square in half and place the template on the **cut** edge and trim around. The fabric will look like a very small pair of pants and the stitching procedure is very similar to sewing a pair of pants.



**2** Using a 1/4" seam allowance throughout, stitch the straight seam from the template cutout to the other end as shown. Repeat this on the other fabric piece.

**3** Turn one leg right side out. Place it inside the other leg, so right sides of each leg face each other. Matching the seam allowance, align the curves from the template cutout and stitch this curved seam, which is like a crotch seam.



**4** Pull one leg form inside the other leg and match the seam to the original fold as shown. Stitch across each leg to form the bottom of the tote.



**5** At the remaining opening, fold under 1/4", press and fold an additional 1" to form a casing. Stitch the casing in place, leaving a hole to insert the elastic. Using a safety pin or other tool, pull the elastic through the casing. Experiment with your shoes to determine how tight the elastic should be. I like mine fairly loose since some of my shoes are cumbersome and bulky while others are more streamlined. Stitch the elastic ends together and close the opening.

