

For even more great painting projects and ideas subscribe to Painting® today!

# “comforts from home” tote

by Erika Joanne Frei

Striking out on your own for the first time or going away to college is an exciting and anxious time. To help make sure your child is prepared for the “not so good” days, create a customized “get well” tote filled with some reassuring comforts of home.

## materials

### Palette

- DecoArt Americana Acrylics: Bittersweet Chocolate, Blue Haze, Desert Turquoise, Hauser Light Green, Indian Turquoise, Lamp (Ebony) Black, Soft Blue, Victorian Blue

### Brushes

- Loew-Cornell: Scholastic Bristle: Round, Long Handle, Series 5000, #8, #12; La Corneille Golden Taklon: Wash/Glaze, Series, 7550, ¾”; Shader, Series 7300, #4, #8, #10; Script Liner, Series 7050, #10/0

### Supplies

- DecoArt DuraClear Varnish, Matte
- Self-adhesive drywall grid tape (found at your local home improvement stores)
- Various scrapbooking papers to match
- Hole punch
- Metallic elastic cord • Ribbon to match

### Surface

- Black nylon tote (approximately 9”x12”, found in luggage section at WalMart or Target, etc.)

## preparation

Refer to worksheet.

Use #12 scholastic bristle and Blue Haze to stipple and dry brush background of bag; color should be almost opaque for design background area then soften and fade away at edges.

For added interest and texture, cut an 8” piece of drywall tape; place over background area at an angle. Use #8 scholastic bristle and Desert Turquoise to dry brush over grid. Reposition tape over another area and repeat dry brush. Continue procedure until most of background is covered with grid design. Use same method to repeat here and there with Victorian Blue.

**Trace patterns.** Transfer stripes and circles onto front of bag.

## painting instructions

### Background Stripes and Circles

Tape off bottom edge of stripes; make sure tape adheres well to bag. Use #10 and #8 shader, and script liner to paint various stripes; start from edge of tape and pull color allowing stripes to fade into background. Randomly paint stripes Bittersweet Chocolate, Lamp Black, Desert Turquoise, Hauser Lt. Green, Indian Turquoise, and Victorian Blue. Remove tape. Let dry. Paint circles as indicated on pattern: Hauser Lt. Green (HLG), Bittersweet

Chocolate (BC), Victorian Blue (VB).

Cut another piece of drywall tape. Using same method as above, use Desert Turquoise to randomly dry brush grid over circles and stripes to soften.


### Scroll

Transfer scroll pattern. Use script liner and Turquoise to stroke over design. Repeat with random Soft Blue highlight strokes. Add random Lamp Black dip-dots around designs.

### Tags

Use three matching papers and cut each as indicated on pattern. Mat papers together and punch hole at top. Use Desert Turquoise to randomly dry brush drywall tape grid over matted tags. Transfer wording and trace over with black fine-line permanent marker. Use cording or ribbon to attach tags.

### Finishing

Apply varnish over painted areas if needed. 

Contact Erika Frei at P.O. Box 630, Manchester, WA 98353; e-mail: erika@erikajoanne.com or visit [www.erikajoanne.com](http://www.erikajoanne.com)

### more:

This design is not limited to a “get well tote”; create a custom design for your laptop bag or suit cases. How about a travel make-up bag with matching slippers? Or paint this design on a wooden plate to be displayed as a decorative showpiece on your shelves or table ends.



