

# How to Make a Purse

20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags & More



*How to Make a Purse: 20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags and More*

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## Letter from the Editors

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Hello, Readers!

It's time to strut your stuff! Learn how to create your own totes and bags using materials such as leather, felt and even old sweatshirts. Whether you're making a giant carryall or a tiny clutch, it's easy to create DIY designs using the patterns in this free eBook. Save your copy of *How to Make a Purse: 20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags and More* and refer to it whenever you need a quick wardrobe makeover. Fool your friends and tell them your handmade bag was purchased at a fancy department store – they'll never know the difference!

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Sincerely,

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## **How to Make a Purse: 20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags and More eBook**

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## Patterns for Sewing Totes

### A Whale of a Tale Tote Bag

By: Ashley Thurman for Cherished Bliss

Little girls of all ages will love this adorable bag. Made with colorful Ric Rac and a nautical stamp, this simple sewn tote bag can be used by girls and adults alike.

#### Materials:



- White fabric
- Ric Rac (I did 4 blue, 3 white of the Ric Rac)
- Piece of scrap fabric to paint your little whale
- Sewing machine and your basic sewing tools
- Invisible thread (to sew down the Ric Rac)
- Whale die cut or stamp

#### Instructions:

1. This is where I used my whale die cut. I used it just like I normally do.

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2. Once you are done cutting it out you will be left with this:



3. Then I taped this down on a little scrap piece of white fabric and painted my little whale on with some regular acrylic paint. You can use a fabric medium if you want to get all technical, but I didn't think it was that big of a deal since it's such a small area.
4. Then I took my scrap fabric with my painted whale and attached it to the top center of one of my main fabric bag pieces. I didn't follow applique techniques. I just used a zig zag stitch to attach it. Sort of like how you would a clothing tag.

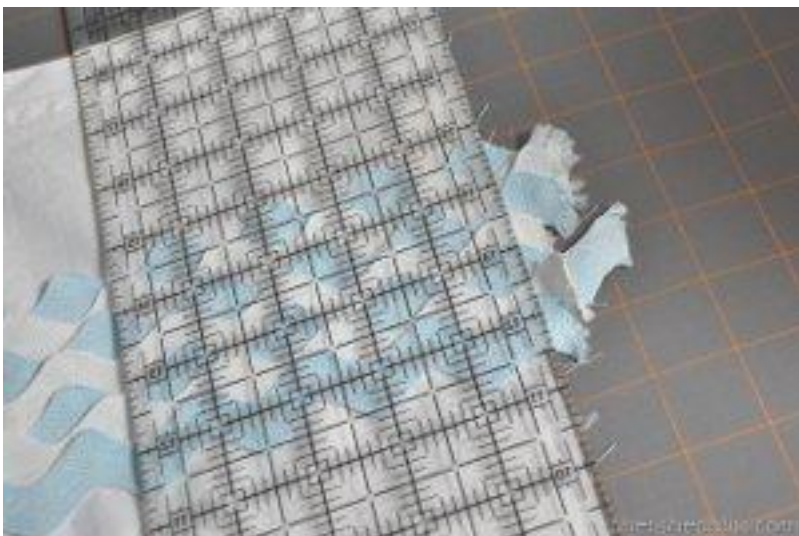


5. Next I laid out my Ric Rac to see roughly how I wanted it to look.

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6. Once you have it in place you will start sewing down your Ric Rac starting with your top piece (the one directly under your whale tag). I sewed as close to the bottom of the Ric Rac as possible, still staying in the center of it. I just kind of eyeballed it as I went making sure the bag didn't show through and it looked like waves. Doesn't have to be perfect!



7. Once you are done sewing them all down, you are going to trim of the edges with a straight edge or scissors if you don't have one.
8. Now take your lining fabric and your main fabric you just sewed the Ric Rac to and put those right sides together. Sew across the top.

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9. Now repeat with your other Main Fabric and Lining pieces. When you are done, press your seams towards the main fabric on both pieces.
10. Now you will take both your pieces you just pressed and lay them right sides together. Make sure you line up your two seams.



11. Now stitch all the way around, starting on the lining pieces. Make sure to backstitch at the beginning and end and leave a small hole to turn right side out.





12. This is optional. I decided after I got this far to add gussets to the bottom, so I did that on all 4 corners (the lining and the main bag) if you don't want to, just move on to the next step. Here is how the gussets look. I only made them about an inch. Just to give it a little shape.

13. Clip your corners (if you chose not to do the gussets), and turn right side out. Press your opening and topstitch closed.



14. Now put your lining inside your bag and top stitch all the way around the edge of your bag.

15. Now set that aside and let's work on the straps.

16. Take your strips and press each raw edge in about 1/4" – 1/2" I was exact with this measurement either. You just want to make sure you have a solid straight line when you are done pressing. Once you do both sides fold it in half and press.

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17. Now top stitch along each edge.

18. Now you are going to fold up your raw edge and pin it in place on the front of your bag.



19. Make sure you line up the front and back so it is all nice and pretty when you carry it.

20. Then sew them on in a square around the edges. You can do the “x” in the center of your square if you want, but I knew she wouldn’t be carrying much weight around so I didn’t do it.

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21. Repeat on the back and then you have a pretty little mini tote!



## Team Pride Jersey Tote

By: [Tiffany Threadgould](#) for RePlayGround

Show your team spirit (and "green" spirit) with a tote. This project is a breeze to make, even for sewing beginners. If you have an old jersey lying around, you're halfway there! If not, you can probably find one at a local thrift store or resale shop.



### Materials:

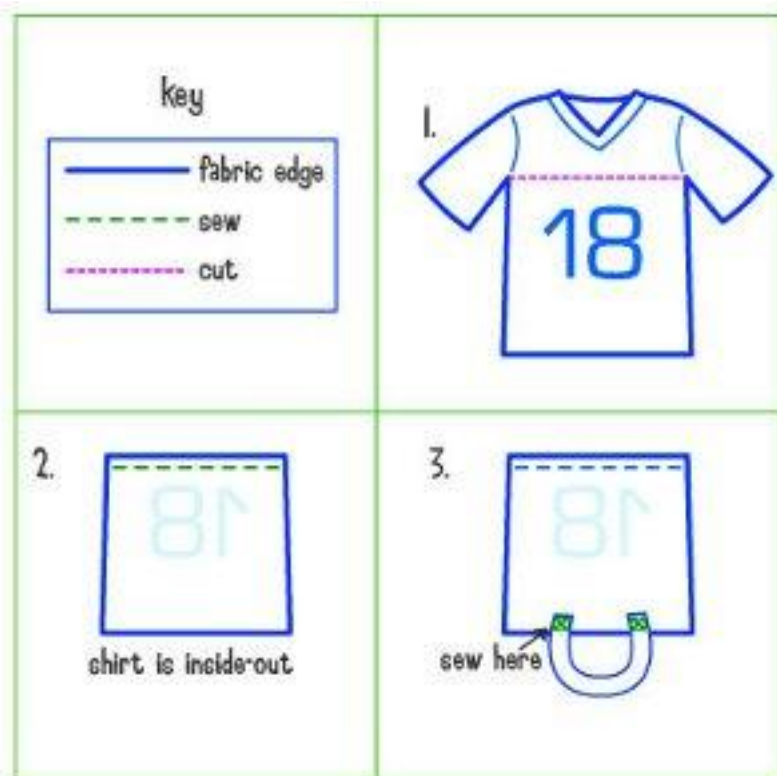
- Old sports jersey
- Webbing or grosgrain ribbon for handle
- Needle and thread or sewing machine
- Fabric scissors
- Straight pins

### Instructions:

1. Cut off your jersey at the arms and neck.
2. Turn the jersey inside out. Sew along cut edge. The bottom of the shirt will become the top of the bag.
3. Cut two 18-inch pieces of ribbon or strapping. Sew as handles near the top of the bag. Sew one handle to each side.

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4. Flip your bag to the right side and you're finished!



## Batwing Tote Bag

By: [Rose Smith](#)

Learn how to sew a purse with using this free quilt pattern. This tote bag is a stylish, quilted accessory that you can carry anywhere.



### Materials:

- 2 strips 3.1/2" X 9.1/2" each of black, red and orange fabric
- 2 strips 3.1/2" X 11" in red fabric for the straps
- Strip 3.1/2" X 16" in black fabric for the facing

### Instructions:

1. With right sides together and using a 1/4" seam, sew the 9.1/2" strips together as in the photo: 1 patch of orange, red, orange and 1 patch of black, red, black.



2. Cut each square across both diagonals to make 4 triangles.

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3. Rearrange the triangles as shown to make 2 different panels.

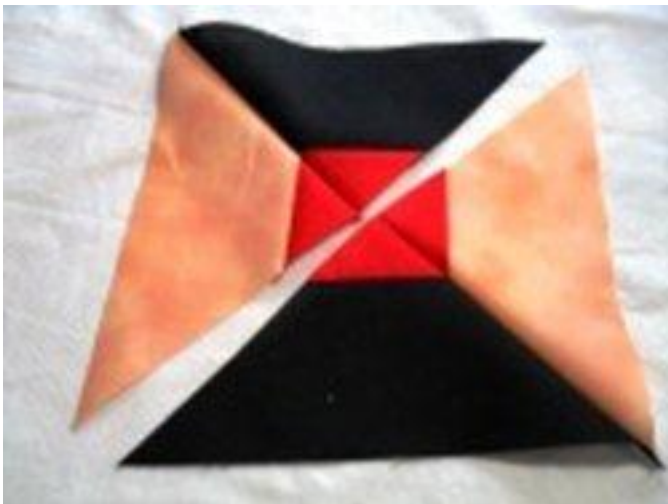


4. The left hand panel is the batwing pattern for the front of the bag. The right hand one uses up the other triangles for the back of the bag. A cross to keep away the evil spirits?

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5. Still using a 1/4" seam, sew together 2 triangles at a time and then sew the 2 pairs of triangles together.



6. Mark 2 eyes in each red triangle and sew a few stitches with black thread over each mark.



7. With right sides together, sew the 2 panels together around 3 sides. Turn the bag right side out and gently push out the bottom corners to square them. That completes the body of the bag.



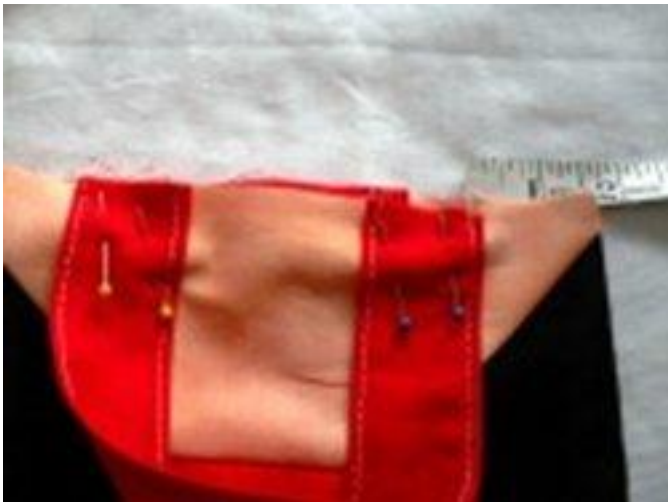


8. Adding the Straps: Fold the two 11" red strips along the long edge with right sides together and sew the raw edges together to make a tube. By pulling the top end of the tube down over the outside of the tube, turn the tube right side out. Press and sew close to the edge on both sides of the strap to help the straps keep their shape (especially when the bag is full of sweeties!).



9. Measure 1.1/2" from the top edge of the bag and pin the straps facing downwards with all raw edges together. You will need a half twist in the strap. If in doubt, hold the strap up as it will be when the bag is being carried to check that the straps aren't twisted.

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10. Sewing on the Facing: Fold the 16" black facing strip in half along the long edge with wrong sides together. Zigzag the short edges of the folded strip to prevent fraying. Starting on one side of the bag, pin the strap to the outside of the bag, going over the straps and right round to where the facing began. The fold of the facing strip should be pointing down and the raw edges should be in line with the top of the bag and of the straps.



11. Using a 1/4" seam, sew around the top of the bag, making sure that you catch all the layers of fabric in your stitching.
12. Flip the facing to the inside of the bag and topstitch around the top of the bag on the outside to hold the facing in place.

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## Oversize Beach Tote

By: [Jane Skoch](#)

Sew up a tote for your trip to the beach, the park or storage around your home. This step-by-step tutorial shows you how to make a tote that stores 8 towels.

### Materials:

- 1/2 yard of 44" wide fabric or 3/4 yard of 54" wide fabric
- 2 yards of webbing for the handle
- Cutting mat (optional)



### Instructions:

1. In this example, I am using a 44" wide fabric. Because this bag is extra deep, I folded the fabric so that the selvages lined up. (With a 54" wide fabric, a standard fold is fine.)

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2. Cut the fabric at 27" wide.



3. Fold fabric right sides together.

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4. Stitch along sides of bag using a 1/2" seam allowance. On the selvedge side, the seam allowance is larger to make sure the white selvedge does not show on the right side. No further finishing is necessary on the selvedge seam. On the other seams, you can serge, stitch and then zig-zag or pink the edges, whichever finishing methods you prefer.

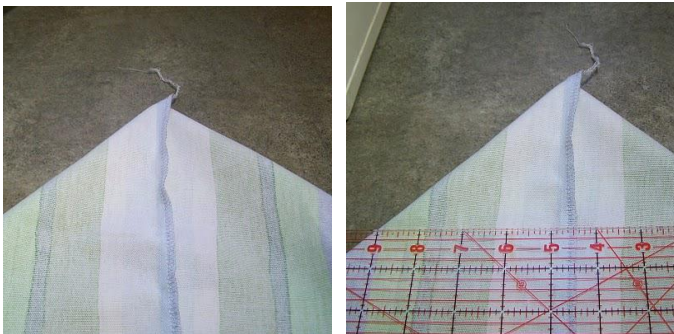


5. Take a stitched corner and pull apart the sides so that a triangle is formed and the side seam is in the center.

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6. Even out the triangle and use a ruler to find the point where it is 9" across. Draw a line at this point.



7. Stitch along the line. Cut off the triangle and finish the seam. This creates a boxed bottom for the bag.



8. Repeat step 6 and 7 for the other corner. Press all seams.
9. Fold 3" of the top edge of the bag to the inside and press.

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10. Fold the raw edge under 1/2", press and pin.



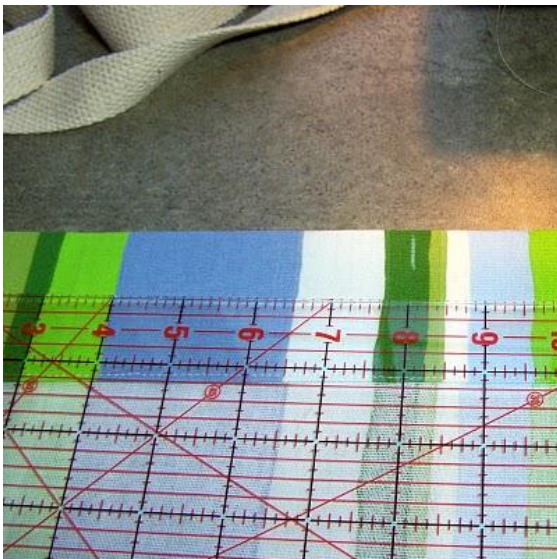
11. Stitch the top hem close to the folded edge and go completely around the circle of the bag.



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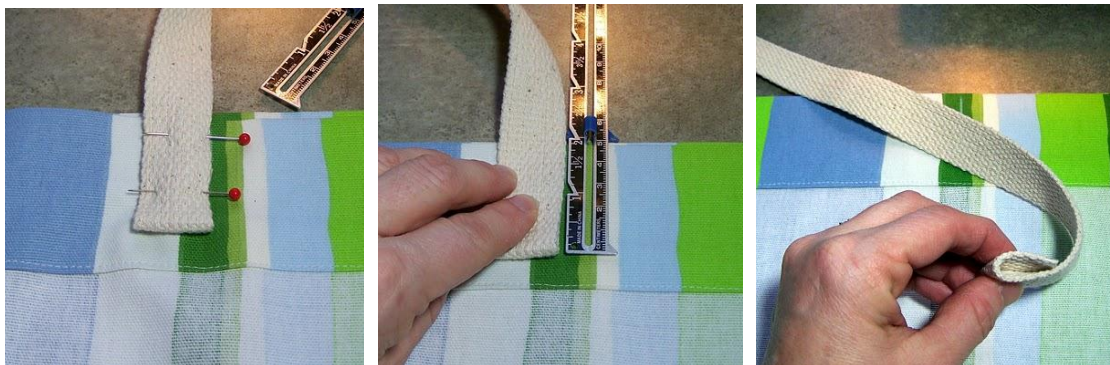
12. Lay the bag open with seams to side. Mark a line 8" from the seam edge on both sides.



13. Fold the strap under 1" and place to the left side of the marked line (or to the right of the marked line on the right side).

14. The fold of the strap should be two inches below the top. The fold of the strap should be two inches below the top. Secure with pins.

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15. This part is the most difficult in the entire process. Below you see the finished stitching from the outside of the bag. I stitch it from the inside. Starting with a backstitch to lock the stitches, I sew around the rectangle. Then I stitch one diagonal line, stitch across the bottom and stitch the second diagonal line. You can stitch it in any manner you wish. The main idea here is to reinforce the handles.



## Fabric Frill Tote

By: [Heather Valentine](#) for The Sewing Loft

Dress up a boring old tote bag with this easy sewing project. All it takes is some scrap fabric and basic sewing skills to make a tote. Your plain canvas bag will be reborn with a few fancy fabric frills.



### Materials:

- Tote bag
- Strips of fabric (I used two patterns)

### Instructions:

1. Determine what direction you would like your ruffles to go in and how many ruffles you would like. I made mine vertical and used two different ruffles. My tote bag is small (11 inches tall x 8 inches wide), so you may need to adjust your ruffle sizing. (Note: If I did it again, I would make them smaller.)
2. Rip your larger ruffle 4 1/2 inches wide x 22 inches long. Rip your smaller ruffle 2 1/2 inches wide x 21 inches long. (Ruffle length is roughly double the length of the bag.)
3. Fold the top edge of your ruffle strips under about 1/2 inch for a clean edge; pin in place at top and bottom. (Note: It is important to pin at the bottom. At first I did not, and my ruffle curved towards the center. I had to rip out a few stitches, pin in place, and restitch.)
4. Using your machine on a standard straight stitch, stitch down the center of the ruffle. As you are stitching with the needle in the down position, lift up your presser foot and bunch up the fabric into a ruffle. This is very free form; if you are looking for something more uniform, pin your ruffles in place. Just be sure not to stitch through your pins.
5. When you come to the bottom of your ruffle, turn under about 1/2 inch of each ruffle for a clean edge. Be sure to back stitch at top and bottom.

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### Knot Tote

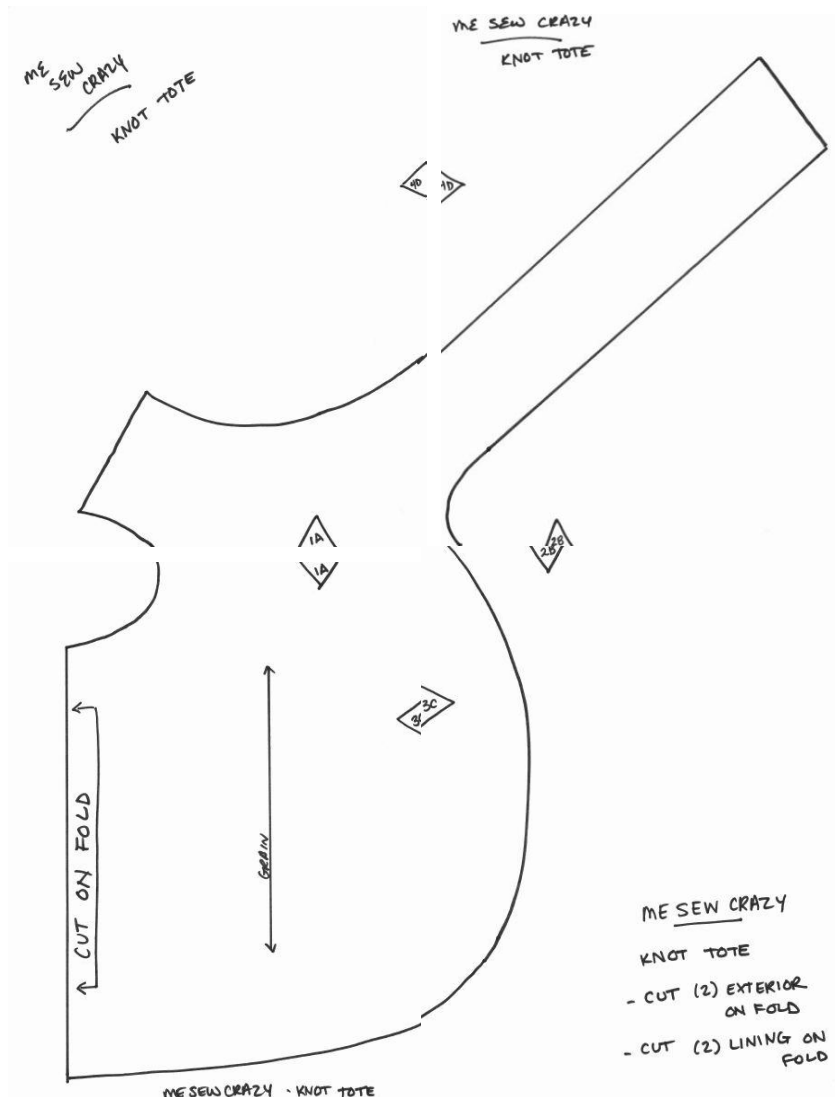
By: [Jessica Gerblick](#) for Me Sew Crazy

This perfect summer bag made of lightweight materials and it takes under a half hour to make! You can also use heavier materials like suede and make a pretty bag for fall.



#### Materials:

- 1 yd exterior fabric
- 1 yd lining
- Coordinating thread
- Pattern



**Instructions:**

1. Print and cut out pattern pieces.
2. Lay one exterior fabric piece on top of one lining piece, right sides together. Pin around all edges, but leave a 3 inch opening along the bottom. Repeat for other purse pieces.
3. Turn right side out through opening, push out all seams, and press. Whipstitch opening closed.
4. Edge stitch around entire edge. Take the small tabs in the top middle, and literally tie them in a knot, securing with a pin on top.
5. Sew along top edge. Repeat for both sides.
6. Put the purse pattern pieces right sides together and pin along the purse bottom, stopping approximately 1 inch before where the purse handle begins.
7. Sew together. Turn right side out, and knot together straps as you desire.

## Felt Flower Mini Tote

By: [Betz White](#)

Use felted wool sweaters to sew a mini felt tote adorned with felt flowers and other embellishments. Reinvent your old or damaged wool sweaters or pick some up from the thrift store for this clever sewing craft.



### Materials:

- Wool Sweater, "felted" by washing in hot water
- Felt scraps (either from felted wool sweaters or wool craft felt)
- Assorted buttons
- Sewing Machine (optional)
- Craft Glue
- Needle and thread

### Instructions:

1. Make Pattern and Cut- Using a piece of 8.5 x 11" office paper, measure a trapezoid following the measurements above. The top width of the bag will be 10", the bottom width will be 7" and the height will be 8.5". The oval for the base should be 1" shorter in length than the width of the bottom of the bag, about 6". I made my base 3.5" wide. Using your paper pattern, cut out 2 trapezoid sides and one oval base. I lucked out and found this sweet pink sweater with a basket weave look. Any sort of texture or pattern would be adorable for this. Cables, fair isle, etc. Note that a fair isle will tend to felt more firmly due to the stranding on the back. A ribbed texture may not appear to felt at all.



2. Sew Sides and Base- Right sides together, pin then sew side seams. Pin then sew oval base to bottom opening, aligning mid-points of oval to side seams. Resist the urge to zigzag your seam allowances. There is no need (the felted sweater will not ravel) and a zigzag will cause your seams to get all woopy. Trust me, I know woopy.



3. Hem Top Edge- Fold down 1" around the top opening. Pin, evenly distributing the fabric. Straight stitch 7/8" from the folded edge. The bulk and the flare of the trapezoid will cause the opening to curve out slightly giving it a cute basket-y shape. At this point, you could line the bag, if you are a liner.





4. Cut Straps- For double handles, Cut 2 strips measuring approx. 2.5" x 11". Fold raw edges in toward each other. Butt edges together firmly and stitch down the center of the strap using a wide zigzag. Stitch the full length of the strap. (For a single handle, cut a strip measuring 3" x 14". Stitch as described above. This gives the tote more of a basket look.)



5. Attach Handles- Pin handles to the inside hem of the opening, making sure they are spaced equally from the side seams. Stitch along the previous stitch line to secure. Gather some bright sweater scraps together for embellishment.



6. Add Leaves- I was going to make flowers all around the edge, but decided to start with leaves instead. (Why do I love pink and green?) The tote is pretty small and softly constructed. I didn't think it would hold up to a whole bouquet of flowers around the edge. Cut some simple leaves from scraps and glue into place. Pin until dry. (There will be plenty of hand sewing to come. Go ahead, glue the leaves.)



7. Make Flower Pieces- For my flower, I pretty much made my standard brooch. Cut scraps into strips. To make loopy petals, cut 2" X 6" strips, fold lengthwise and sew edge (yellow and dark pink above). For straight petals, cut a strip 1" X 4" (orange). Next you'll snip the strips every 1/4" to make petals.

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8. Roll Petal Strips- Roll the strips up and hand stitch the base together catching all layers. Wrap with a second color strip and stitch. For the flower on this tote I cut a daisy shaped base and glued the rolled petals onto it.



9. Finishing Touches- After making several flowers, I chose the one I liked best for this project. I sewed my flower in place then added a few vintage buttons for an extra dash of color. I like the different textures of the fuzzy felt with the smooth buttons. Besides, it's nice to have something pretty to look at when you're sitting in church all hopped up on Easter candy.

## Inside Out Tote Bag

By: Felicity Miller

With this free purse pattern, sew an inside out tote bag, perfect for taking on long bike trips! Learn how to sew your own purse and you'll never have to answer "paper or plastic?" again.

### Materials:

- Main fabric
- Canvas fabric
- Sewing supplies



### Instructions:

1. Cut two 17" X 17" squares from main fabric.
2. Cut two 3" X 30" strips from main fabric for straps.
3. Cut two 17" X 20" rectangles from Canvas fabric.
4. Cut two 3" X 30" strips from canvas fabric for straps.
5. Place two 17" X 17" squares of main fabric right sides together and sew three sides of squares together using 1/2" seam allowance.
6. With bag still wrong side out, to form corners of bottom, pinch side seam and bottom seam together to form triangle.
7. Stitch across triangle 2" from point of the triangle and trim leaving 1/2" seam allowance.
8. Place two 17" X 20" rectangles of canvas fabric right sides together. Sew three sides of bag together using 1/2" seam allowance. To form corners on bottom of bag, follow instructions for main fabric bag.
9. With main fabric bag right side out and canvas bag wrong side out, slip inside bag inside Main Fabric bag matching side seams. Fold top of canvas fabric bag to inside 1/2" and press. Then fold down another 2" over the Main Fabric bag, press and pin. Top stitch 1/4" from top and bottom edge of 2" band.

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10. To make straps for bag, place one main fabric strap and one canvas fabric strap right sides together and sew using 1/2" seam allowance down both long sides of strap. Turn right side out and press. Repeat for second strap for bag. Turn to inside of strap 1/2" on each end and press. Attach to outside of bag front and back approx. 4" from each side seam, on 2" band. Top stitch each strap by stitching a square with an X in the middle.

## Patterns for Bags and Purses

### Camping or Sleepover Bag

By: Noelle Beegle of The Home Ec Teacher's Daughter

Ever struggle to get your sleeping bag back into that tiny sack you bought it in? Get a little creative and sew up a much more convenient bag in colorful fabric to transport your sleeping bag and other essentials. These are great for kids going to sleep-overs or anyone going on a camping trip.



#### Materials:

- Fabric (this will depend on the size of your sleeping bags ours were pretty small so half to three quarters of a yard were used.)
- String/Ribbon and Clip (I reused the string and the clip from the bags we originally got)
- Thread
- Sewing Machine
- Scissors, Pinking Shears, and Rotary cutter if you have one
- Ruler
- Iron and Ironing Board
- Safety pin (a small one)
- You could also plan to add ribbon or Ric Rac in the process as well. Another option would be to do some hand/Machine embroidery on the bag especially if you have kids

#### Instructions:

1. First things first - get out that ruler and the sleeping bag you plan to make a new bag for. Roll up the sleeping bag as best as you can so you can get the measurements of the cylinder shape. Here are the measurements you will need: Height + Radius of top of bag (Remember radius is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the diameter see geometry does come back to haunt you!).
2. My Measurements were as follows: Height + Radius =  $13 + 3 = 16$  inches. Diameter of bottom = 6 inches.

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3. From this we create the new measurements now this is where you have to get a little inventive on your own:
  1. Increase the Diameter of the bottom by at least 1.5 inches (I increased by 3.5 and found a 9.5 round plate). Use this to make the circular pattern piece for the bottom (I traced the plate on the fabric I had).



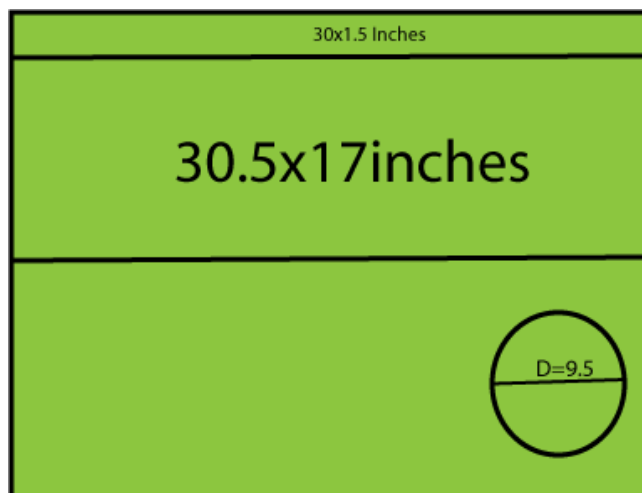
2. You have to calculate the Circumference of the circle which is  $\text{Pi} \times \text{Diameter}$  or  $3.14 \times \text{Diameter} = 3.14 \times 9.5 = 30$  inches (approx.) and then add a seam allowance of half an inch so 30.5 inches.
3. Add at least 4 inches to the height  $13 + 4 = 17$  inches (you can add more to the height if you want the bag to be deeper to fit more items. With the second and third measurements you will cut one large rectangle measuring 30.5 X 17 inches (or whatever the measurements you came up with).



4. If you are using string or cording that is pretty thin you need to cut a strip of fabric that is 1.5 inches X 30 inches. If you are using ribbon take the width and multiply by 2 and add 1 inch (if you have ribbon that is half an inch wide then your strip should be 2 inches wide).



4. Here is it mapped out on fabric:



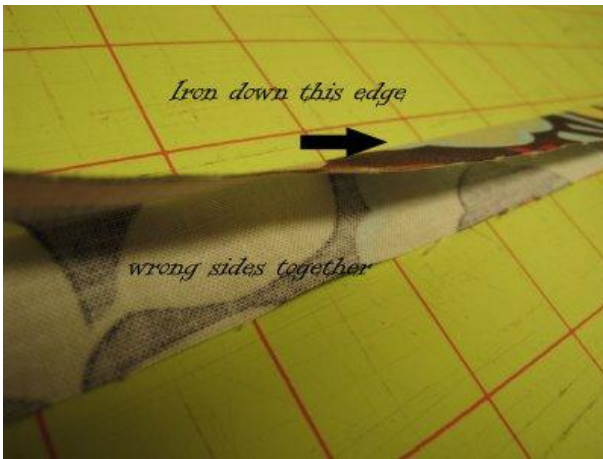
5. Assembly: First if you want to add embroidery or some Ric Rac this is the time to do it! I would add it only to the large rectangle and the circle.
6. Take the small rectangle and fold the short edges over so they are  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch, iron flat, and sew down.



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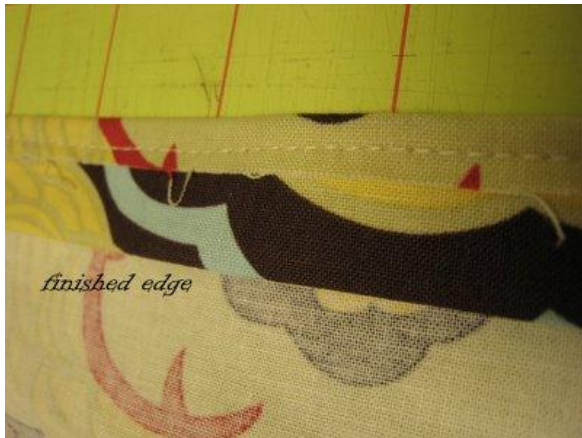
7. Next fold the long edge over in 1/2 and iron flat.



8. Take the large square and on the long edge fold over 1/4 inch and iron.



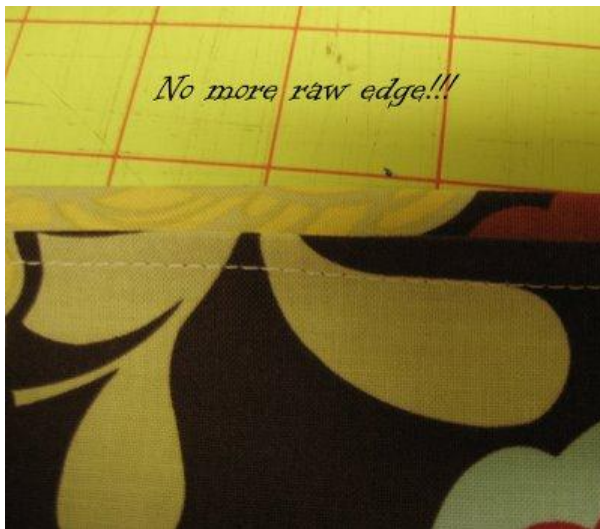
9. Pin the raw edge of the small rectangle under the flap on the large rectangle. Make sure you center it (there should be some of the large rectangle on either side).
10. Sew the flap down. There really is no seam allowance here, just trying to make it in the middle of the flap. This makes a casing for the cord/ribbon.



11. From here you are going to enclose the raw edge of the flap on the large rectangle. This is going to sound difficult but it's really easy. Iron the casing so it's going up.



12. Next flip over the fabric so you are looking at the right side of all the fabrics and iron the seam you just made up over the raw edge of the flap.



13. You can either pin this down or hold it down as you sew. When you sew it down you want to sew close to the first seam you made (you can do it on top of the first seam if you like. This will completely enclose all the raw edges on the top of the bag.



14. Now for the French Seams: Fold your bag in half so the short edges meet up with the wrong sides of the fabric together. Sew a quarter inch seam on the edge of the fabric (you will be sewing on the right side of the fabric). Next take pinking shears to the seam you just made cutting it down a bit. Turn fabric so the wrong side of the fabric is on the outside and the right sides of the fabric are together. Iron the seam and sew down with a quarter inch seam. Turn so the right side is out and notice the seam is enclosed. Easy Peasy right?



15. Now you're ready to attach the circle to the bottom. Turn the tube you just made so the wrong side of the fabric is on the outside. Pin the circle to the edges of the bottom of the tube (where the raw edge is). Use lots and lots of pins!!! It should look like this.



16. (You may need to make some adjustments to the tube if it's too big. I just add a new seam that make the tube smaller at the bottom and then angle off to the old seam).
17. Next sew the circle to the tube using a 3/8 seam. Add a zig zag stitch to finish the edge and using pinking shears to finish edges as well.

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18. You're almost there now - taking the safety pin and ribbon and thread through the casing you made, add your clip or tie a bow and you're done.



19. This project can be modified to make a dirty clothes bag, gift bags, makeup bags, etc. - the options are limitless!

## Sherpa Messenger Bag

By: Springs Creative

Use Sherpa suede to create this comfortable and functional messenger bag. This easy-to-sew bag is great for daily errands.

### Materials:

- Sherpa Suede Fabric from Springs Creative
- Sewing Machine and Thread

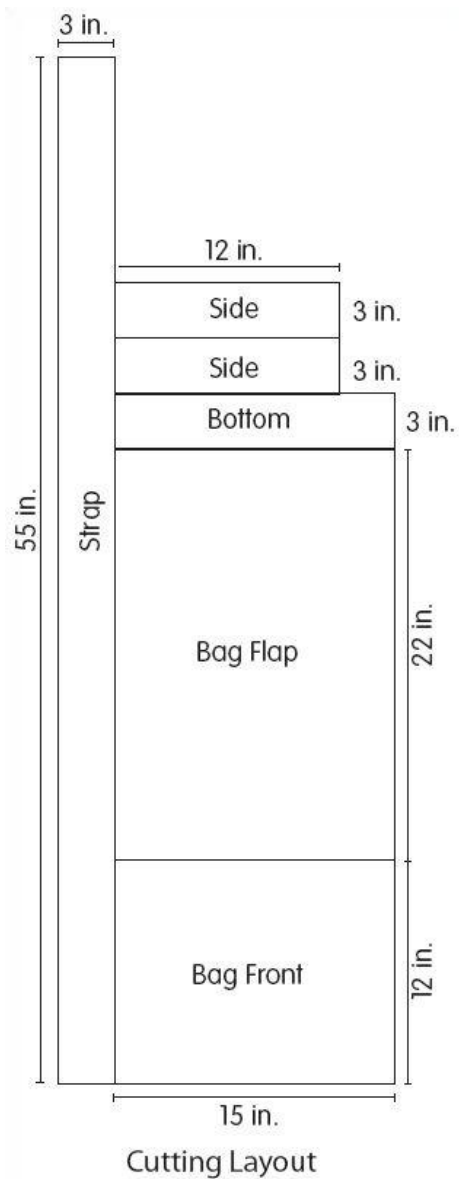
### Cutting Instructions:

1. Cut one 3"x 55" for strap.
2. Cut one 15"x 12" for bag front.
3. Cut one 15"x 22" for bag back/flap.
4. Cut one 3x 15" for bag bottom.



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5. Cut two 3x 12" bag sides.



### Assembly Instructions:

1. Turn and pin the Sherpa edge  $\frac{1}{2}$ " onto the suede side along both 55" edges of the strap. Topstitch both sides  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge.
2. Pin and sew the bag bottom to the bag front.
3. Pin and sew the bag bottom to the bag back.

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4. Pin and sew the bag side to the bag front/back. Beginning with the bag front, sew down to the bag bottom and with the needle in the down position pivot at the corner, sew across the bottom and then up the back side. Repeat for the other side.
5. Pin the straps to the sides of the bag and stitch the X to reinforce the strap. This is a good time to adjust the length of the strap as needed to fit your body.
6. Turn and pin Sherpa edge of the bag flap  $\frac{1}{2}$ " onto the suede side, topstitch around  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge.

#### **Notes:**

1. Use  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance unless otherwise noted.
2. Read all instructions before beginning project.
3. All seams will be sewn together with Sherpa side to Sherpa side.
4. Use the longest possible straight stitch for all seams.



## Ribbon Stripes Bag

By: Cathy Stapleton for Prym Consumer USA

Use various-colored ribbons and wood handles to bring this little bag to life. This project is quick and easy because the bag and lining are made together.



### Materials:

- 1/2 yard - lining/foundation fabric
- 1/2 yard – fusible interfacing
- 2 yards – 1/2" ribbon (ties)
- Yard each of assorted ribbon to equal a 9" width of bag. ( ex. Six ribbons with a width of 1 ½" equals 9")
- Fray Check™ - Dritz® # 674
- Plastic Canvas – 2 ½" by 8 ½" rectangle
- Sewing/Craft Glue Stick – Dritz #401
- Sewing Machine with zig-zag stitch
- Bag Boutique™ Handles

### Instructions:

1. Before beginning, create a design chart by cutting a small amount from each ribbon and tape them to an index card in placement order. Label top and bottom ribbon.
2. From foundation/lining fabric, cut one 9 ½" by 26" rectangle (bag foundation), one 2" by 26" strip (bag bottom) and one 3" by 18" rectangle (plastic canvas cover). Interface each piece following manufacturer's instructions.
3. Place wrong side of 2" strip on right side of foundation fabric along one 26" length. Stitch using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam allowance toward wrong side of foundation fabric.
4. On opposite 26" length, fold and press a ¼" hem, wrong sides together.
5. Referring to design chart and aligning along top edge over hem, place top ribbon, right side up on wrong side of foundation fabric. Set sewing machine to a narrow zig-zag stitch and stitch ribbon along top edge of bag covering hem. Tip – use Sewing/Craft Glue Stick to temporary baste ribbon in place.

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6. Select next ribbon from chart and place on bag butting edges together. Again, zig-zag along edges making sure to catch both edges to join ribbon.
7. Continue aligning and sewing ribbon along wrong side of foundation fabric with last ribbon covering seam edge. Continue and zig-zag last ribbon on bottom edge to secure in place.
8. Using a rotary cutter and mat, trim ribbon evenly with sides of foundation fabric. Apply Fray Check to ribbon edges to prevent fraying.
9. Set machine to regular straight stitch. With ribbon side of fabric together, turn and stitch sides using 1/2" seam allowance. Press seam open.
10. Returning to zig-zag stitch, secure edges of seam by stitching down each seam allowance, creating center back seam of finished bag.
11. Continue with right sides together, and create the bag bottom by stitching remaining bottom fabric together using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam open.
12. To create a bottom gusset, fold bag with right sides together so bottom seam is centered and facing up, forming triangles on each end. Stitch across bottom of triangle using last zig-zag seam as guide. Turn bag right side out.
13. Center bag handles on each side of bag and mark placement for ties.
14. Cut 1/2" ribbon to eight 9" lengths. Using two 9" pieces together, fold in half and mark center. Attach to bag by stitching on the right side of bag, across center mark of ribbon at handle placements. Tie ribbon to handles to attach.
15. With right sides together, fold 3" by 18" fabric piece in half to create a 3" by 9" piece. Stitch each 9" side together using 1/4" seam allowance. Turn and insert plastic canvas. Fold opening and hand or machine stitch in place. Place in bottom of bag for stability.

## Bright Stripe Bag

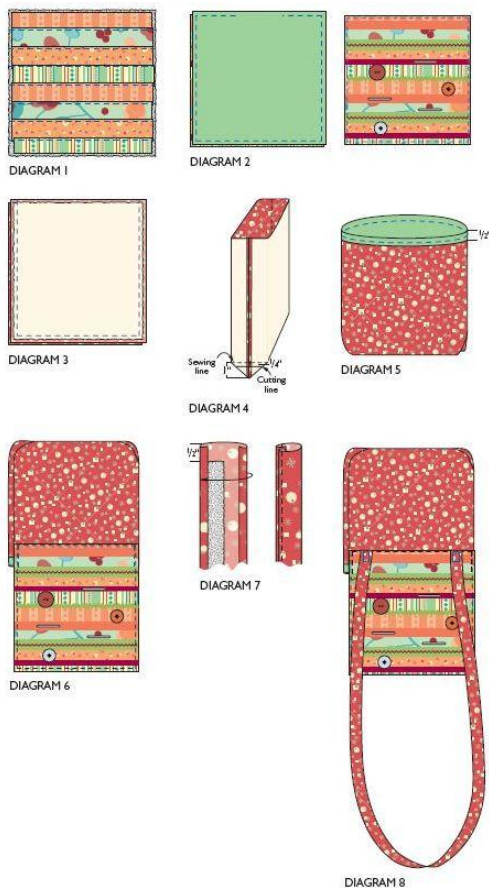
By: [Pat Sloan](#)

Use four, bright coordinating fabrics to create a beautiful stripe bag adorned with ribbons, Ric Rac and embellishments. This colorful stripe bag would be a cherished present for Mother's Day or a birthday.



### Materials:

- Four 1/8-yard pieces coordinating prints (flap)
- 1/2 yard red print (bag, strap)
- 1/3 yard green print (bag and flap linings)
- 12" X 50" thin cotton batting
- 1/4 yard fusible fleece
- 7 or more 10" lengths of ribbon, yarn, rickrack, or other trim
- Assorted embellishments such as beads, charms, and antique buttons
- Diagrams:



## ***How to Make a Purse: 20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags and More***

### **Instructions:**

1. Finished Bag: 7-1/2 X 8-1/4"
2. Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics. All measurements include a 1/4" seam allowance. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

### **Cut the Fabrics**

1. To make the best use of your fabrics, cut the pieces in the order that follows:
  - a. From each of four coordinating prints, cut: 2 -- 1-1/2x9" strips
  - b. From red print, cut: 2 -- 2x42" strips, 2 -- 8x9-1/2" rectangles
  - c. From green print, cut: 1 -- 8-1/2" square, 2 -- 8x10-1/2" rectangles
  - d. From thin cotton batting, cut: 1 -- 3/4x48" strip, 1 -- 9" square
  - e. From fusible fleece, cut: 2 -- 8x9-1/2" rectangles

### **Assemble and Embellish Flap**

1. Referring to Diagram 1, cover the 9" batting square with the eight coordinating print 1-1/2" X 9" strips, overlapping strip edges by about 3/8". Topstitch through all layers along each strip raw edge to make flap front.
2. Cover raw edges where strips overlap with 10" lengths of ribbon, yarn, rickrack, or other trim; machine-stitch in place. To couch yarn or small cording, zigzag over it with clear monofilament thread. Sew wide ribbons in place with a straight stitch along both edges or a wide zigzag stitch. Attach rickrack and other narrow trims with a straight stitch down the center. If beaded trim has a decorative header (like this purse trim's satin ribbon), you don't have to hide it in a seam; straight-stitch in place instead.
3. Hand-stitch any small beads or charms as desired, placing them at least 1" away from the flap front raw edges. (Attaching these small embellishments now ensures that most knots will be hidden inside the finished flap.)
4. Trim flap front to 8-1/2" square. With right sides together, sew the flap front and the green print 8-1/2" square on all sides, leaving an opening for turning in the center of the top edge (Diagram 2). Turn right side out and press, turning under raw edges. Topstitch 1/8" from all edges to complete the flap.

## **Assemble Bag**

1. Following the manufacturer's instructions, press the fusible fleece 8" X 9-1/2" rectangles onto backs of the red print 8" X 9- 1/2" rectangles; let cool. Sew together red print rectangles along both 9-1/2"-long edges (the sides) and one 8" edge (the bottom) to make the bag body (Diagram 3). Press seams open.
2. To box a bottom corner of the bag body, match the bottom seam and side seam; stitch across the resulting triangle 1" from the point (Diagram 4). Trim the seam allowance to 1/4". Repeat to box the remaining bottom corner. Turn bag body right side out.
3. Join green print rectangles along 10-1/2"-long edges (the sides) and one 8" edge (the bottom) to make the bag lining. Press seams open.
4. Repeat Step 2 to box the bottom corners of the bag lining. Do not turn bag lining right side out.
5. With wrong sides together, insert bag lining into the bag body; the lining should extend 1" above bag body. Fold lining top edge less than 1/2" twice; topstitch through all layers close to folded edge of lining (Diagram 5).
6. Referring to Diagram 6, lap the top edge of the flap 1-1/2" over the top edge of the bag back; flap will extend slightly beyond bag side edges. Being careful not to catch bag front in stitching, topstitch across flap two or three times to secure.

## **Finish Bag**

1. Cut and piece red print 2" X 42" strips to make a 2" X 49" handle strip.
2. Press less than 1/4" along each long edge of the red print handle strip. Insert the batting 3/4x48" strip under one fold; batting strip should end 1/2" from handle strip ends. Fold the handle strip in half along the batting edge and topstitch 1/8" from folded edges to make the handle (Diagram 7).
3. Turn under handle ends 1/2". Referring to Diagram 8, position ends along flap top edge, 3/4" from flap sides. Topstitch in place, being careful not to catch bag front in stitching.
4. Hand-stitch buttons and larger charms to flap, stacking two or more buttons if desired.

## Felted Mini Handbag

By: Amy Law for Kreinik

Choose autumn colors to make this trendy mini bag perfect for cool nights out on the town or day-trips to the store.

### Materials:

- Carded wool (color optional)
- Curly merino locks, dyed gold and brown white & copper silk wool yarn (rust colored)
- Large piece of plain fabric (like muslin)
- Safety pins
- Two shades of wool yarn cording drill & weight 1 spool of Serica, 7136 Dark Mocha Needle



### Instructions:

1. Begin by laying out your fabric on your work surface. Your fabric piece should be big enough to fold in half around your "batt" (the flat layer of wool that will serve as your felt base) like an envelope, and extend past the edges as well. Keep in mind that your finished felt piece will be about 2/3 of the size of your unfelted fibers, so for a 5" x 5" finished bag, you will need to start with an 8" x 15" batt of wool and an 18" x 17" piece of fabric.
2. Begin laying down horizontal strips of roving as your base. Pull a piece of roving the length you want (about 15") and use your fingers to gently tug the fibers, widening the piece of roving until you can see through it. Lay it down on the bottom half of your fabric. Pull another piece and do the same, laying it down parallel to your first piece so that they overlap slightly. Continue until you have your first 8" x 15" layer.
3. Next, create your second layer of wool. This layer should be 8" strips of roving, laid down vertically (perpendicular to the direction of the first layer.) This will make your felt piece sturdy like fabric. When that layer is finished, create a third layer of fibers running horizontally again (like your first layer.) Once you have finished your third layer, you are ready to create your design.
4. Using your Merino locks, silk, and bits of yarn, create a design on top of your layered batts. The silk can be spread out like your wool roving, or made into small puffs like cotton for dots or circles. You can overlap your yarn with other things (like the locks or silk) for a dimensional effect. When finished arranging your design, add a VERY thin layer of wool over the top (so

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thin you can barely see it) to help hold everything in place.

5. Fold your fabric over your design. Using the safety pins, begin pinning through the "sandwich" of fabric and design, starting in the middle. Make sure your pins go all the way through! Continue pinning, adding a pin every 2" or so, all the way out to the edges. Fold the extra fabric over at the edges and pin them. Your design is now ready to be felted.
6. Before you get started with felting however, you need to make the strap for your bag. Decide how long you want the strap to be, and then multiply that by four. Cut two pieces of wool yarn to that length and tie them together at each end. Pin one end to something heavy (or have a friend hold it) and loop the other end around the hook on your cording drill. Follow the drill's instructions to make your cord. Tie the ends together when finished.
7. You're ready to begin felting! Place your cord and your bag design in the sink. Wearing a pair of rubber gloves to protect your hands, begin soaking your projects in alternating hot and cold water. First run the hot water over them, as hot as you can stand, and then switch to cold while gently wringing and kneading the pieces with your fingers. (Be careful of the pins!) This agitation and the shock of alternating temperatures is what cause the fibers to felt. Continue this process for about 5-10 minutes, long enough for your design to begin to interlock. Then, place your design and cord in your washing machine on the gentle cycle with a little gentle detergent (like Woolite). You can then throw the pieces into the dryer as well, or air-dry them.
8. Remove the pins from your design- you now have a large piece of felt from which to make your bag! Fold the piece in half. Lay your corded strap down around the bag so the strap is the length you want. (The excess cord will be stitched down the sides of your bag and the remainder can be couched onto the surface of the bag (as we did) or trimmed off.) Tie a knot (for reference) in each end of the cord where it will meet the bottom corner of your bag. If you want to couch the remaining ends onto your bag, do it now before you sew up the sides.
9. Begin sewing the sides of your bag. Using a needle and thread (we used Silk Serica), stitch along each side of your bag, sewing around and through the cord as you go to hold it in place. Your bag is now finished!

## Kids Messenger Bag

By: Lelanie Denso for To Sew With Love

Send your little angels to their first day of school with style. This cute bag will hold their crayons and pencils as well as their little lunch boxes. Homemade crafts for kids have never been this cute and easy. The other kids will be jealous.



### Materials:

- 4 pcs. 9" by 8.5" for front and back panels
- 4 pcs. 3" by 6.5" side panels
- 2 pcs. 9" by 3" base
- 2 pcs. 9" by 4" front pocket
- 2 pcs. 1.5" by 23" sling

### Instructions:

1. Get your front pocket pieces, place them facing right sides together and sew a straight stitch along the longer side.
2. With your pocket pieces wrong sides together, topstitch.



3. Get one of your front/back pieces and sew on your pocket using a basting stitch.
4. Sew on your embellishment if you decide to put one. I used felt for my Lil Guy's first name's initial.



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5. Take one of your base pieces and place it right sides together with your front piece (you could see my basting stitches). Sew a straight stitch then zigzag stitch to keep your edges from fraying. After attaching your base piece, it will look like this:



6. Now, get one of your bigger pieces for your bag's back side. Make sure your print is not upside down and attach it to your base piece.
7. Get one of your side panels and place it right sides together and aligned with your base piece. Sew it on with a straight stitch and zigzag stitch.



8. Now, attach your back and front panels to the long side of your side panel. Straight stitch then zigzag stitch. Do the same to the other side.
9. Get one of your bigger pieces and sew on your Velcro, about 1" from the top. Do the same to the other piece.
10. Attach your base and side panels. But do not forget to leave 2" unsewn on one side of your panels while you are attaching your side panel to your back or front panel.

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11. Get your sling piece. Place them right sides together and sew a straight stitch on both longer sides.
12. Turn your piece. Topstitch. You could also iron first then topstitch. You could also iron on some interfacing before sewing them on (procedure before this) but I did not have any interfacing on hand. I need to buy some the next time we go to the city.
13. Get your bag's outer piece (the one with the pocket) and sew on your sling with a basting stitch on each side.



14. Get both bag pieces; place your bag's inner piece inside the outer piece, right sides together. Make sure your sling piece is safely tucked inside.
15. Sew a straight stitch leaving 1/4" seam from the edge.
16. Turn your piece through the unsewn part of your bag.

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17. Topstitch, leaving a 1/8" seam from the top of your bag.



## Reversible Bucket Bag

By: Surayya Shiraz from Blissful Sewing

This bag is great for little girls. Depending on her mood, she can turn her purse inside out to reveal a whole new bag! This easy sewing pattern is also great for teens and adults. Make a purse that goes with everything with this project!

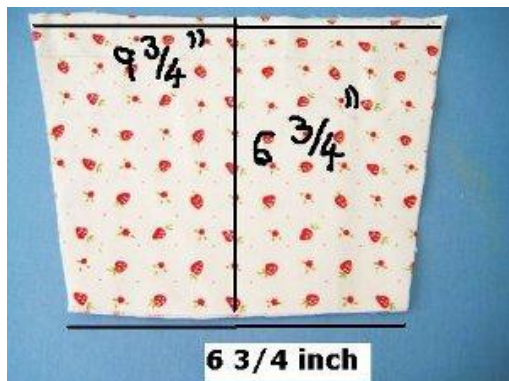


### Materials:

- 1/4 Yard of Denim fabric
- 1/4 Yard of the Strawberry Fabric
- 1/4 Yard of the Polka Dot Fabric
- Small piece of Red acrylic felt
- Safety pin to attach the flower
- Sewing notions and a sewing machine

### Instructions:

1. Cut out 2 pieces of the strawberry fabric with measurements as shown. Repeat the same with the denim fabric to get two pieces as shown above. You will get your pieces like this, 2 of each fabric.



2. Polka Dot Fabric Cutting
  1. Polka Dot for the Band at the top
    1. (Cut 4 of this size)
    2. 4 X 12 inches
  2. Polka Dot for the Handle

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1. (Cut 2 in this size)
2. 4 X 12 1/2 inches

3. Take the polka dot strips you cut for the bands, fold one of the raw edged inside along the length by 1 inch and press.



4. Fold the other raw edge in by 1-1/8 inch and press. So your band will now be a little less than 2 inches wide.



5. To make the handle, take the strips as per the table above, fold both the raw edges in by 1 inch and press just like you did for the band. Now fold it again at the middle and press to get a handle that is about 1 inch wide. Sew the long edges shut. Keep it aside.

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6. Fold the raw edge at the top (the widest side) of the strawberry piece by 2/8 inches to the right side and press. Repeat with the other strawberry and denim pieces.
7. Keep the band you made over the top wide edge of the bag on the right side and sew along the edges as shown by the blue lines. Repeat for all the 4 pieces.



8. Cut off the excess band along the side of the strawberry piece following its shape.

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9. After you finish attaching the bands it will look like this:



10. Keep the right sides together of both the strawberry pieces and sew as shown by blue line with a 2/8 inch seam allowance. Repeat with your denim pieces.



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11. Trim the bottom and top corners as well as the seams close to the stitch to reduce any bulk.



12. You will get two pouches like this:



13. Keep the denim pouch right side out and the strawberry one wrong side out. Insert the strawberry pouch into the denim one. You will now have the wrong sides of the pouches touching each other.



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14. Align the side and top seams.



15. Insert the bag handle between the two layers (almost 1 1/2 inches inside on each side) and pin in place.



16. Sew along the top edge as shown above joining the two pouches and sandwiching the handle in between.



17. Your completed bag will now look like this.



18. For the flower, cut out 2 flower motifs with pointy petals. My bigger layer was almost 2 1/2 inches and my smaller about 2 inches.



19. Overlap the two layers of petals.



20. Pinch the center and hand sew to make the petals stand up. Attach it to the bag with a safety pin. When you want to reverse your bag, take the flower off and pin it to the new right side of the bag.

## Leather Clutch Purse

By: [Jenya](#) of MyEvaForeva

Use recycled leather from an old jacket or bag to create a stylish little leather clutch purse. Follow this sewing tutorial from Jenya of MyEvaForeva to make this quick and easy clutch.



### Materials:

- Leather
- Fabric for lining
- Sewing Machine
- Thread

### Instructions:

1. You will start with two identical pieces - one leather piece and one lining.



2. Determine where the sides of your clutch will end - mark it with a pen. Sew the pieces together (wrong side out) only around the closure part and the opposite side like it's shown in the photo below.

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3. When you turn it the right side out it should look like this:



4. Turn it the wrong side out again and fold it as shown on the photo below. You will need to sew the sides of leather pieces and then the sides of the lining (just one side of the lining actually).



5. It should look like this:

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6. Turn it the right side out.



7. Close the opening in the lining.



8. When you insert the lining inside the clutch it's going to look like this. Not really complete look, right?

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9. Sew all around along the edge. I secured it on the right side to keep the clutch closed when not in use.



## Petals and Fringe Handbag

By: Suzie Shinseki for [I Love to Create](#)

This bag is great for a night out or a day spent shopping. The colorful flower makes this fringe purse perfect for summer or spring and the fabulous fringe is always a fun addition to your accessories!

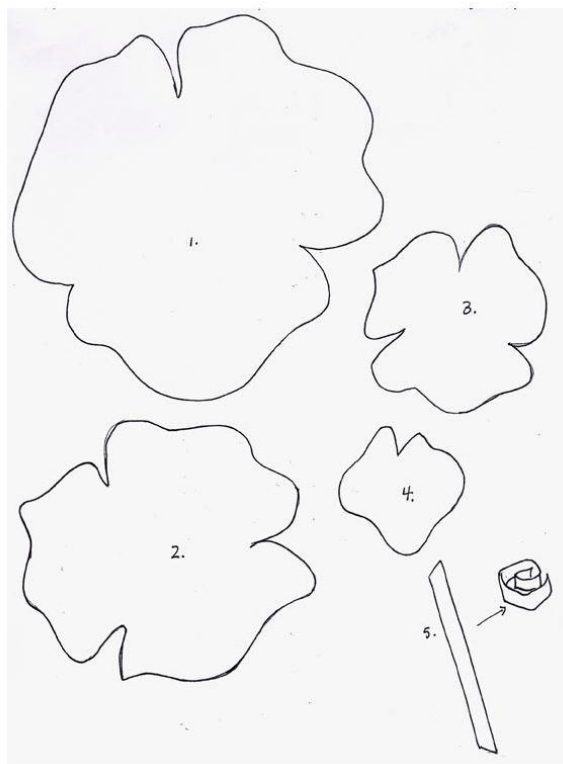


### Materials:

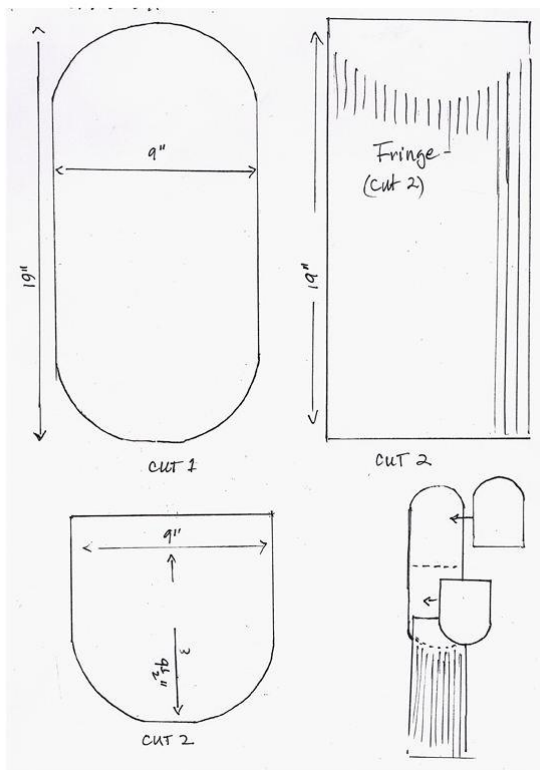
- Aleene's® Platinum Bond Super Fabric™ Textile Adhesive
- Aleene's® Crystal Clear Acid Free Tacky Spray™
- Tulip Soft® Fabric Paint (Ebony and Holiday Green)
- Sewing pins
- Needle
- Split rings or D-rings
- Pleather or leather-like fabric, Black, approximately 1 yard
- Yardstick
- Painter's tape and/or clothespins
- Brush, ½" dry brush or bristle brush
- Sewing machine
- Pleather or leather-like fabric, Lime (or color of choice), approximately ½ yard
- Thread to match
- Dowel, 3/8", approximately 12 – 15" long
- Scissors
- Black trim of choice, approximately 4 – 5 yards
- White chalk pencil
- Pattern 1



**How to Make a Purse: 20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags and More**



- **Pattern 2**



**Instructions:**

1. Enlarge pattern of purse and rose to 50% or create own pattern using pattern dimensions.
2. Lay purse patterns on black fabric, pin, and cut out. Cut one of the elongated oval-shaped pieces in half; these pieces will serve as the underside of the purse. Repeat step for fringe section. Note: If you would like both sides of the fringe to have the leather look, cut a second piece identical to the first and spray with Aleene's® Crystal Clear Tacky Spray™ and adhere pieces together (leather side out).
3. Lay rose petal patterns on Lime fabric, pin and cut out. For center piece, cut a small strip approximately 3" X 1/2".
4. Rose petals: On backs of the larger petals, roughly draw a half dollar size circle in center. Hand-sew gather stitches around circle and gather fabric slightly. Knot thread. Repeat gather with remaining petals. Shape the small strip of fabric into a coil to resemble center of a rose. Stitch to hold together.
5. Arrange petals on top of one another, with larger ones on bottom (refer to picture) and stitch together down center part of rose. Set aside.
6. Lay out the elongated purse piece, leather side up. Place fringe portion on top of purse piece, about 3 inches up from bottom, leaving a nice length for the fringe. Place one of the halves, which will serve as the bottom piece of purse (leather side down) on top, sandwiching the fringe piece in between. Mark with chalk or pencil where fringe piece will be inserted. Remove fringe piece. Pin together the purse pieces and stitch approximately 1/2" seams down up to the mark for the fringes. Turn purse right side out.
7. Fit fringe portion up inside bottom of purse, making sure it fits well. Turn edges of curvature under on both top and bottom sides of purse and hand baste to make sure both top and bottom are flush when machine stitching.
8. Stitch sides of purse together, with fringe piece sandwiched in between. When fringe portion is machine stitched on, begin cutting the fringes into 3/8"-wide strips.
9. Take the remaining half of leather fabric and using Crystal Clear Tacky Spray™, spray back of fabric and press onto inside top flap of purse.
10. Using Platinum Bond Super Fabric Textile Adhesive™, glue trim all around edges of both sides of the purse. Use painter's tape and/or clothespins to secure until dry.

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11. Stitch D-rings or split rings on edges of purse where flap folds over.
12. Cut a 3" X 30" strip of the leather purse fabric. Fold in half vertically with wrong side out and stitch 3/8" seam down the length. Turn right side out (use dowel to help push fabric out).
13. Insert ends of strap into rings, fold over and stitch to secure.
14. Apply Platinum Bond Super Fabric Textile Adhesive under the central part of back of flower and adhere to top center of purse flap. Let dry. Add a few stitches down core of rose for additional support if desired.
15. Arrange petals and lift areas for more dimension as desired and tack down with Textile Adhesive.
16. Pour Holiday Green paint onto foil. For added dimensionality, darken Holiday Green with Ebony. Using a dry brush\* technique, brush paint from inner petals outward to create a soft gradated effect, blending into the lime fabric (refer to picture).
17. DRY BRUSH: Dip dry brush into color and brush across paper towel to remove heavier concentrations of paint. The effects should be a soft, darker hint of color blending into the lime.

## How to Sew a Bag Using Upcycled Materials

### Repurposed Fabric Tote

By: [Cyndee Kromminga](#) for FaveCrafts

Repurpose an old velvet wall hanging and turn it into a tote. Easy fabric crafts like this one are perfect for beginners but look sophisticated at the same time. Choose fabric with a vibrant pattern so your bag stands out from the crowd.



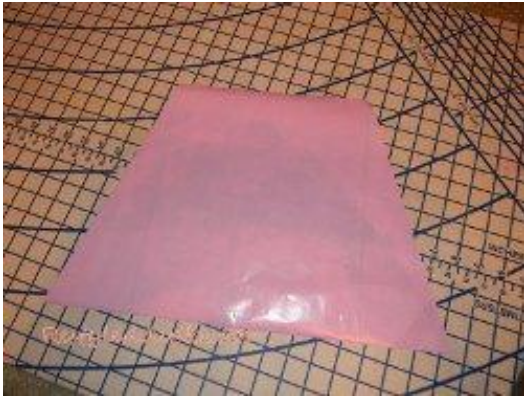
#### Materials:

- Wrapping paper
- Yardstick
- Marking pen
- Scissors
- Velvet wall hanging
- Fabric for the lining
- Straight pins
- 1-inch-wide ribbon
- Sewing machine
- Hand sewing needle and thread

#### Instructions:

1. Trace a 12-inch-wide by 18-inch-long rectangle on the back of wrapping paper. Tip: Wrapping paper with a grid printed on the back will speed up this process. Cut out the rectangle. Turn the rectangle with the long edges running horizontal. Measure in 4 inches from each top corner and mark on the long edge. Lay your yardstick from the top left mark to the bottom left corner of the rectangle and trace a line to connect. Repeat on the right hand side of the rectangle. Cut along the traced lines. You now have your trapezoid pattern.

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2. Fold a velvet wall hanging into two layers with the right sides facing each other. Lay the trapezoid pattern on the wall hanging and pin through both layers. Cut out the velvet shapes. Repeat with your chosen lining fabric.
3. Cut two 18-inch lengths of 1-inch-wide ribbon. These are your handles, so you will want the ribbon to be able to withstand the weight of the bag and constant handling, as well as the ability to keep its shape.



4. Pin the short angled ends and the bottom of the velvet trapezoid shapes together. Sew the pinned edges using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Repeat with the lining shapes, leaving a 4-inch opening in the center of the bottom edge.
5. Turn the velvet bag right side out. Use the point of your scissors to poke out the corners. Lay the bag flat on your work surface. Center the ends of one handle on the top edge and separate by 4 inches. Pin the ends to the top edge. The loop of the handle will be upside down and laying on the side of the bag. Flip the bag over and pin the remaining handle to the other side.

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6. Slip the right-side-out velvet trapezoid bag inside the wrong-side-out lining bag. Line up the top edges and the side seams. Pin the top edge of the velvet bag to the top edge of the lining bag. Sew around the pinned edge using a 1/4-inch seam allowance.



7. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining. Hand-sew the opening in the bottom seam closed.
8. Since the velvet will likely melt or shine if ironed, finger press the top edge of the bag and pin. Top stitch around the pinned edge 1/4 inch from the edge.
9. Before cutting, I arranged the pattern over an area of the wall hanging I wanted to showcase on the side of the bag.

## Sweatshirt Tote

By: [Jane Skoch](#)

Looking for unique free craft ideas? Try transforming your old sweatshirts into a tote with this step-by-step tutorial.



### Materials:

- Old sweatshirt
- Stretch Needle
- Thread
- Scissors

### Instructions:

1. Cut off bottom band of sweatshirt.

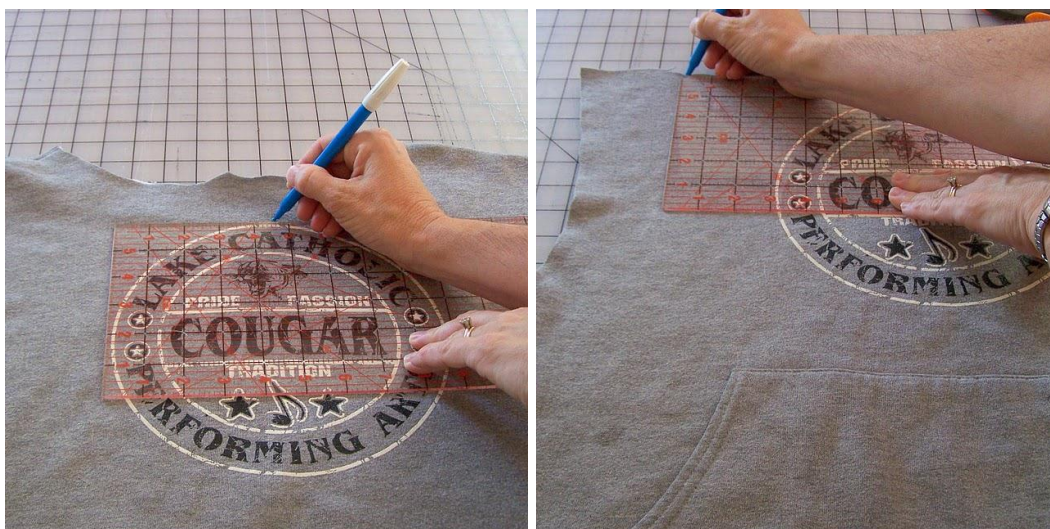


2. Cut off hood and sleeves as close to the seam as possible.

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3. Smooth out sweatshirt front and back. Determine center of motif and the desired width and length of tote.



4. I wanted the tote to have a finished size of 14" X 16", so I cut the sweatshirt to 15" X 18".



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5. Cut and remove the sleeve band and cut sleeve open along seam.



6. Using the sweatshirt sleeve, cut 1" strips. These will be used to create a strap.

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7. Place sweatshirt front and back right sides together, pin and stitch using a 1/2" seam allowance. I used a serger to sew along the sides and bottoms. You can use a regular sewing machine and use a "stretch" stitch if your machine has one. If not, use a small zig zag stitch.



8. Press the seams. (Be careful not to use a hot iron near the motif.)

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9. Fold the top of the bag to the inside and press. I pressed approximately an inch. This was dictated by the location of the sweatshirt motif on the right side.



10. Stitch the folded fabric near the raw edge. I used a three-step zig zag stitch, but a regular zig zag or even straight stitch would be fine.

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11. The strap will be created by braiding three long strips. Create the long strip by sewing together three 1" wide strips. Overlap the ends and use a zig zag stitch to secure. My strips were 52" long.



12. Take three strips and lay the ends on top of one another. Stitch these together using a zig zag stitch.

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13. Secure the ends under your needle and braid the long straps. Use your creativity when you braid. I folded the material as I braided to create a solid look. You could use the reverse size of the sweatshirt for a fuzzier look. My finished strap measures 42" long. The straps stretch a bit, so adjust it to your desired length.

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14. Secure the other end of the braid with a zig zag stitch and trim the excess fabric. Sew the strap to the two seam sides of the tote. I stitched the strap near the very top of the tote and then, from the outside, stitched the strap over the other stitching.



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## Upcycled Denim Tote Bag

By: [Cyndee Kromminga](#) for FaveCrafts

Recycled fabric projects can extend the life of your old clothes and help you save money on supplies. Use an oversized or outdated pair of jeans to create a sturdy tote bag. You can use this bag all year long and store everything you need.

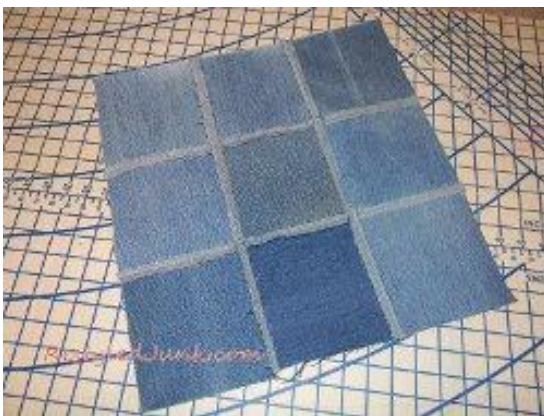
### Materials:

- Old blue jeans
- Measuring tape
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine
- Fabric for the lining
- Iron



### Instructions:

1. Cut 18, 6-inch squares from your stash of old blue jeans.
2. Position your squares in two different nine-patch arrangements. The nine-patches will be the front and back to the tote. Sew the arranged patches together by placing each square with the wrong sides facing each other and using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. The raw seams will be on the outside of the tote bag. Open the seams and iron them flat.



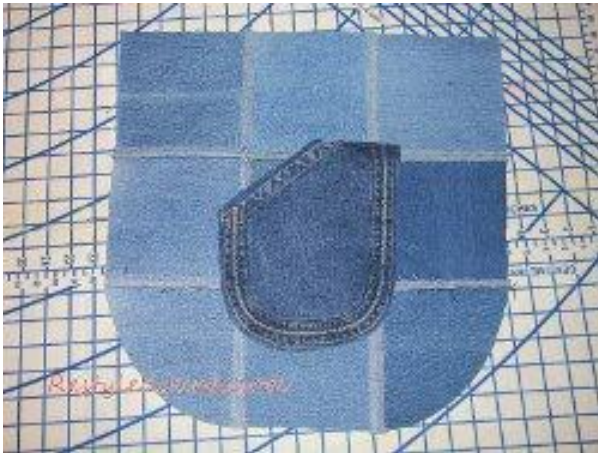
3. Place the two, nine-patches together with the wrongs sides facing each other. Align the edges and choose which edge will be the bottom of your tote. Cutting through both layers, round



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the bottom corners.

4. Cut out a jean pocket 1/4-inch beyond the edges. Center the pocket on the front of one tote bag side and pin. Sewing through the extra fabric at the edge of the pocket, attach the pocket.  
Tip: A zipper foot will allow you to get as close to the edge of the pocket as possible.



5. Fold your chosen lining fabric into two layers with the right sides facing each other. Place one tote bag side on the layers with the right side facing up. Using the bag side as your pattern, cut through both layers of the lining fabric. Including the tote bag side, you now have three stacked layers. Lay the remaining tote bag side on your work surface with the wrong side facing up. Place the layered stack on top. Pin around the sides and bottom to keep the pieces from shifting. Do not pin along the top edge or the first couple of inches down from the top.
6. Cut two 2-1/2 inch wide by 18-inch-long strips from the lining fabric. These are your handles. Fold one handle in half with the right sides facing and the long edges matching. Pin the long edges together and sew using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Do not sew the ends. Repeat with the remaining handle strip. Turn the handles right side out and press. Top stitch along both long edges of each handle 1/4-inch from the edge.
7. Lay the tote on your work surface. Insert 1/2 inch of the ends on one handle between the top two layers of the stack. Center one end behind the seam of the first two squares and the other end behind the seam of the last two squares. Pin the two layers and the handle together. Flip the bag over and pin the remaining handle in the same way.

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8. Fold the top edge on the back of the tote out of the way. Sew the top edge on the front using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. This will secure the handles and finish the top edge. Flip the bag over and sew the other top edge in the same way.
9. Sewing through all the layers of the tote bag, sew the pinned side and bottom edges.





# favecrafts

Filled with sewing patterns for purses, totes and bags, *How to Make a Purse: 20 Patterns for Sewing Totes, Bags and More* is a great go-to guide for handmade accessories. From upcycling ideas to fun fabric crafts, these patterns are great for anyone who's looking for ways to save money and look good at the same time. Become a fashion designer with a little help from this free sewing eBook.

