



Technique:	Sewing, Recycling
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting Time:	Weekend
Finished size:	12" x 18" (30.48cm x 45.72cm) (top), excluding handles

## Featuring Coats Dual Duty XP®

Whether you have old jeans around the house, or you're a thrift store shopper, this casual bag is a great way to showcase the waistbands. And, you can save the rest for other recycling projects. A hint of the stripe lining bands the top and a handy fob keeps your keys within easy reach.

## Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread
- Assorted denim jeans, 4-6 pair with a waist circumference of at least 20" (50.80cm)
- ½ yd (45.72cm) denim, 60" (152.40cm) wide
- ½ yd (45.72cm) striped fabric for lining (we used Free-Spirit Woven Broad Stripes, WBROAD.DARKX)
- 1¼ yds (1.60m) medium-weight fusible interfacing, 20" (50.80cm) wide
- 1½ yds (1.22m) faux leather strapping, 1" (2.54cm) wide
- (1) swivel hook, ¾" (1.91cm)
- Size 100 topstitching or denim machine needles
- Zipper foot
- Spring clips
- Pattern tracing paper

## Notes on working with jeans

Select jeans with straight waistbands (not contoured bands) for best results. Leave the belt loops intact and any labels that you like.

Trim waistbands from the jeans allowing 2 1/2" (6.35cm) below the band bottom. Begin by cutting at the center back, then trimming around below the band. Save one pair of jeans out for the bottom band and cut as directed below.

Cut out the jeans zipper and the fly underlay, and any pocket bags to help reduce bulk.

Portions of this bag are VERY thick. We suggest having multiple sewing machine needles on hand in the event of breakage. Extra thickness emerges around zipper openings, pockets, labels and seams, so stitch carefully.

Plan carefully to avoid placing rivets and fasteners in the seam allowances.

Use a hammer to help flatten the seams if need be.

## Preparation

Trace the bag body pattern onto pattern tracing paper and cut out.

## Cutting

### From the denim, cut:

- (2) bag body
- (1) strip, 2 1/2" x 5" (6.35cm x 12.70cm), for key fob

### From the lining, cut:

- (2) bag body

### From the fusible interfacing, cut:

- (4) bag body

## Apply Interfacing

Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse a bag body interfacing piece to the wrong side of each denim and lining bag body piece.

## Bag Front Embellishment

1. Chalk-mark a line 1" (2.54cm) from the upper bag front edge.
2. Position the top of the first waistband along the marked line and stitch in place along the upper edge. A zipper foot and left needle position will allow for easier access around rivets and closures. Work with the lower portion of the band to ensure it lies flat. Since jeans are shaped to fit the body, a few tucks are allowable to get the lower edge to lie flat.
3. Position the top of the second waistband parallel to the first band overlapping at least 1/4" (.64cm) minimum and staggering the position of the zipper opening to avoid bulk, and as close as you prefer. Stitch the upper edge in place.  
*Note:* If you left the zipper in the jeans, avoid stitching over the teeth—just skip that area.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to cover most of the bag front. When you get near the lower bag, lay out the reserved pair of jeans and see how much length is needed to cover the remaining bag bottom. Cut that pair accordingly so that the entire front/bottom of the bag is covered. Stitch the lower waistband in place like the previous ones.
5. Baste around the bag front shape close to the edges and trim off the excess waistband overhang.

Seam allowances are 1/2" (1.27cm) unless otherwise noted.

## Assembling the Bag

1. With right sides together, place the bag back over the bag front, matching all edges. Use the spring clips to hold the layers together. Sew both sides and the bag bottom.
2. Press the seams open and pound flat if needed.
3. To box the lower corners, place the side seam over the bottom seam and sew across the straight edge. Repeat for the second corner. Note that this can be very thick, so sew carefully.

## Assembling the Key Fob

1. Press the denim key fob strip in half, then unfold and press both edges to the middle. Press in half again. Topstitch both long edges.
2. Zigzag finish one end of the folded strip and slide it through the loop of the swivel hook for 1/2" (1.27cm). Stitch in place by hand or machine.
3. Baste the key fob to the tote front, just in front of the side seam, with right sides together and raw edges matching.

## Attaching the Handles

4. Mark the bag front and back upper center. Measure out 3 1/2" (8.89cm) from the center on each side and mark.
5. Cut the faux leather strapping in half and with right sides together, baste the cut ends to the marked strap location.

## Assembling the Bag

1. Construct the lining by sewing the bag front and back side seams using a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.59cm) seam allowance. Then sew the bottom seam, leaving a 6" (15.24cm) opening for turning. To box the lower corners, place the side seam over the bottom seam and sew across the straight edge. Repeat for the second corner.
2. With right sides together, place the lining over the bag and sew around the top edge, keeping the handles straight and between the layers. Press the seam toward the upper edge.
3. Turn the bag right side out through the lining opening. Sew the opening closed.
4. Push the lining into the bag and firmly press the top edge, allowing the lining to extend over the seam allowance to mimic binding. Stitch in the ditch around the upper bag, leaving the handles free.
5. Fold the handles up and hand-stitch to the extended stripe edges.
6. Fold the key fob into the bag and hand-stitch in place at the upper edge.



↑ Cut on fold ↑

9 1/2" (24mm)

Jeans Tote  
Bag Body

5 3/4" (14mm)

2" (5mm)

2" (5mm)

13" (33mm)

This square should  
measure 1" x 1"  
(2.54cm x 2.54cm)  
when printed.

\*\*\* Measure templates before cutting to confirm printing at 100%\*\*\*