

Recycled Denim Tote

Help the environment by reducing the use of paper and plastic bags when shopping. This market tote is large enough to pack in a variety of grocery purchases. The recycled denim and Kraft-tex combine into a sturdy, stylish, and eco-friendly tote.

Approximate Finished Size: 6¼" D x 13" W x 16" H

Supplies Needed:

- 2 or 3 pair of denim jeans
- Or
- ⅝ yd. denim fabric
- ⅝ yd. fabric for lining
- Natural Kraft-tex Kraft Paper Fabric
- 1½ yd. Heavy-weight all-purpose interfacing

Helpful Notions:

- Rotary cutter, mat, and ruler
- Hexagon Ruler
- Fabric marking pen or pencil
- Coordinating or accent all-purpose thread
- Rivets, size 8mm
- ¼" Create-A-Strap Interfacing
- Wash A Way Wonder Tape
- Crafter's knife
- Wonder Clips

Instructions:

Read all instructions before beginning project. All seam allowances are ¼", unless otherwise stated.

1. Prepare and cut fabrics:

- Denim jeans:
 - Wash and dry recycled jeans.
 - Cut denim jeans apart:
 - * Remove waistband, buttons, and zipper.
 - * Cut along seams to open pant legs. Denim fabric sections should lay flat. Press, if needed.
 - * Cut 20" long sections from jeans.
 - Piece sections together to achieve a fabric piece measuring approximately 20" x 40":
 - * Cut one piece 19¼" x 37".
 - Cut two 2½" x 19¾" rectangles from remaining jeans pieces for handles.
- Lining fabric:
 - Cut one 19¼" x 37" rectangle.
- Heavy-weight all-purpose interfacing:
 - Cut one 19¼" x 37" rectangle.
- Kraft-tex fabric:
 - Cut one 5½" x 37" rectangle for upper trim.
 - Cut one 5" x 37" rectangle for lower trim.
 - Cut two 1" x 18¾" strips for handles.

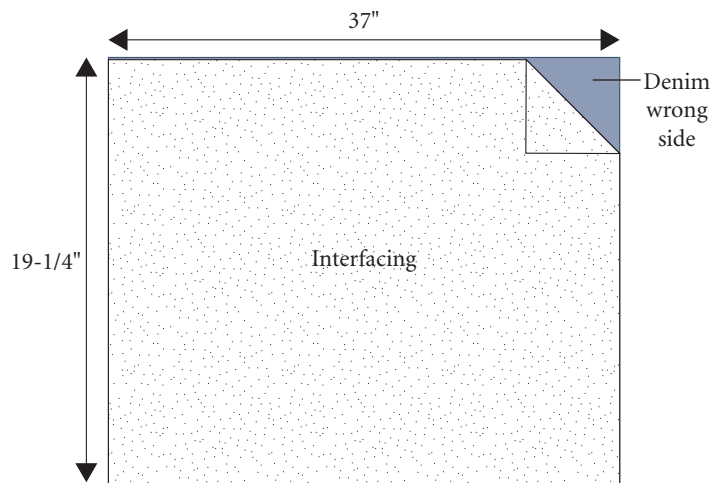
Note: Washing the Kraft-tex fabric is not necessary, but washing will give it a softer, more pliable feel.

- Cut one 5½" x 37" rectangle for upper trim.
- Cut one 5" x 37" rectangle for lower trim.
- Cut two 1" x 18¾" strips for handles.

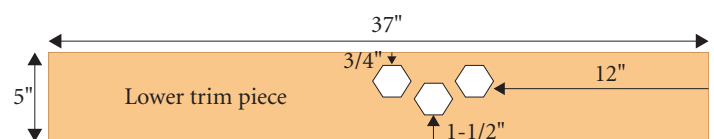


2. Create body of tote:

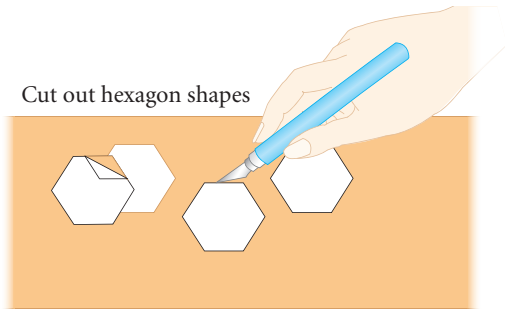
- Fuse heavy-weight interfacing to wrong side of denim rectangle following manufacturers' instructions. The interfacing will provide additional stability to the tote bag.



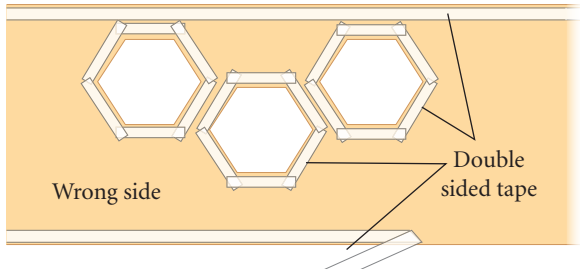
- Add hexagon accent to lower trim piece:
 - Cut three hexagon shapes from paper using the template provided and arrange them approximately 12" from right end, 1½" from lower edge, ¾" from top edge, and ½" between shapes.



- Add double-sided wash-away tape to backside of paper hexagons and place onto Kraft-tex fabric. With a craft knife, carefully cut out the hexagon shapes.

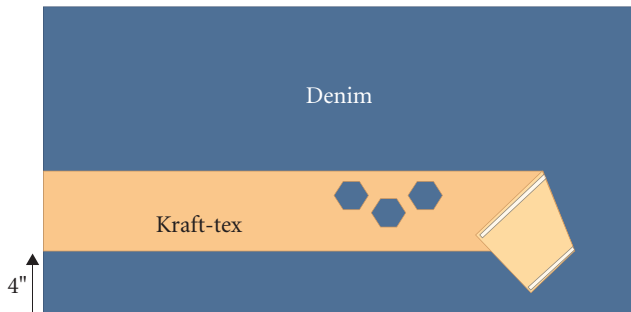


- Add lower Kraft-tex trim to right side of interfaced denim rectangle:
 - Apply double-sided wash-away tape to wrong side of Kraft-tex along upper and lower edges of lower trim. Also, place tape around hexagon shapes. The tape should keep trim flat and prevent shifting while topstitching.

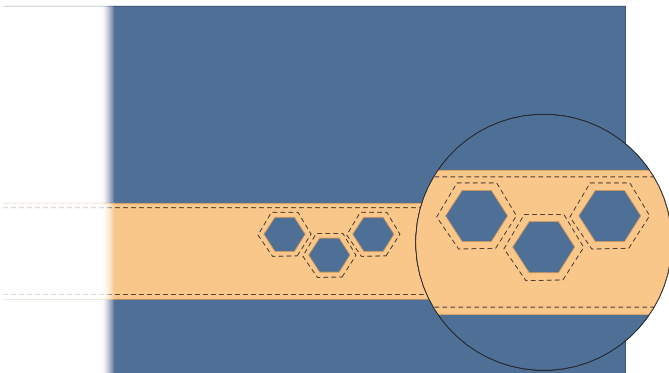


Note: Using double-sided wash-away tape in place of pins will eliminate pin holes in the Kraft-tex fabric.

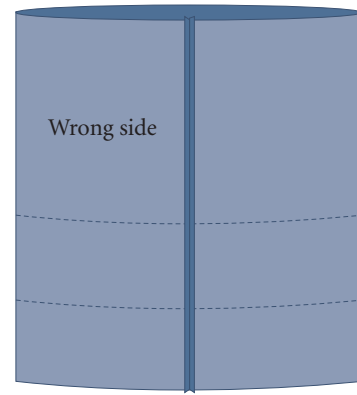
- Measure 4" up from lower edge of denim fabric. Secure Kraft-tex in place.



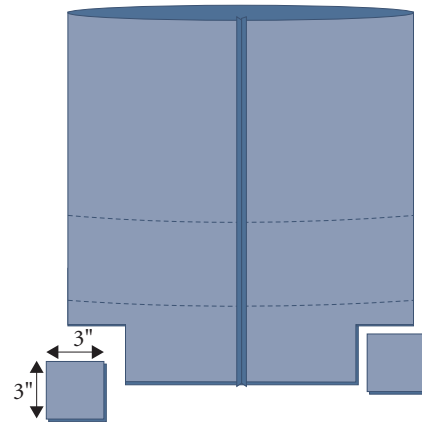
- Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from upper and lower edges of Kraft-tex trim.
- Topstitch a **scant** $\frac{1}{4}$ " around each hexagon shape.



- Stitch center back seam, with right sides together, edges even; creating a denim tube. Press seam flat, then open.



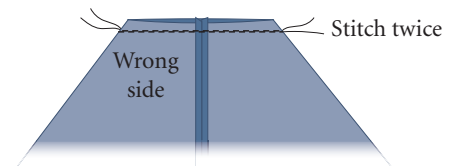
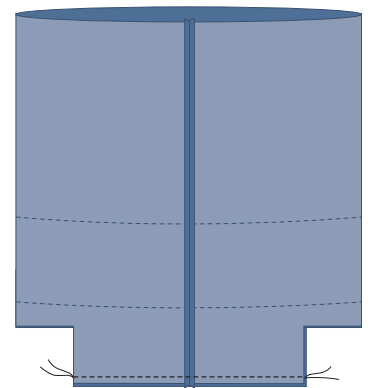
- Create tote base with box corners:
 - While tote is wrong side out, smooth tote layers, so center back seam is centered between the two side folds.
 - Cut a 3" square from each bottom corner.



- Stitch lower seam with right sides together and edges even.

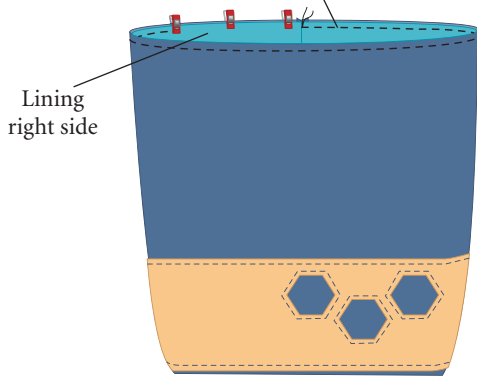
Note: The size of the cut square will determine the depth of the tote bag when boxed.

- Separate layers of tote at cut corner. Pull side fold and base seam together, matching fold and seam, as illustrated.
- Stitch seam. Stitch again for reinforcement. Repeat steps for remaining corner.



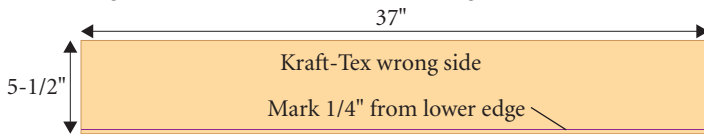
- Turn tote bag to right side.
- 3. Create lining and add to tote body:
 - Stitch lining following step 2 for tote body and corners using a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

- Place lining inside tote with wrong side together. Align upper edges, matching center back seams, pin or Wonder Clip in place. Baste edges together, removing pins as you go along.

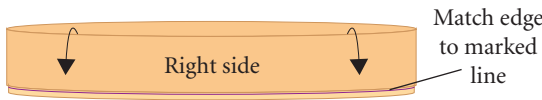
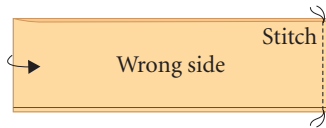


4. Add Kraft-tex trim to top edge of tote:

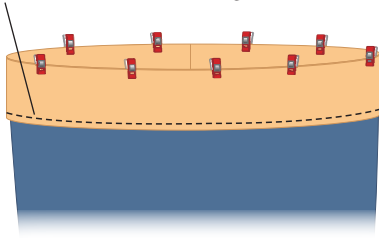
- With a fabric marking pen or pencil, mark $\frac{1}{4}$ " from lower edge which will be considered wrong side.



- Align short edges, with right sides together. Stitch seam. Press seam open.
- Fold trim in half lengthwise with wrong sides together, matching edge to $\frac{1}{4}$ " marking line. Press.

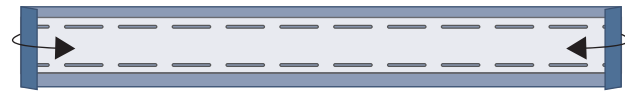


- Apply double-sided wash-away tape to upper and lower edges to wrong side of upper trim.
- Add trim to tote's upper edge:
 - Place trim over upper edge of tote, making sure the $\frac{1}{4}$ " side is placed on the inside, and working to get upper edge up to the fold of trim. Secure the trim in place with the double-sided tape. This will hold trim in place and prevent trim from shifting when topstitching.
 - Add Wonder Chips at folded edge to help hold upper edge in place.
 - Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from lower edge of trim.



5. Create handles:

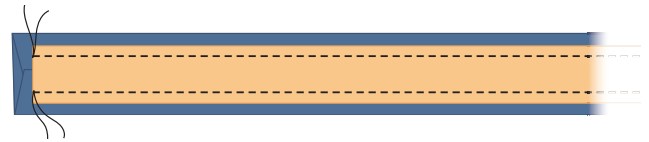
- Cut two pieces $18\frac{3}{4}$ " of Create-A-Strap and center interfacing on wrong side of denim strip, fuse in place. Fold short ends up $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press.



- Fold along perforations to inside and press flat.



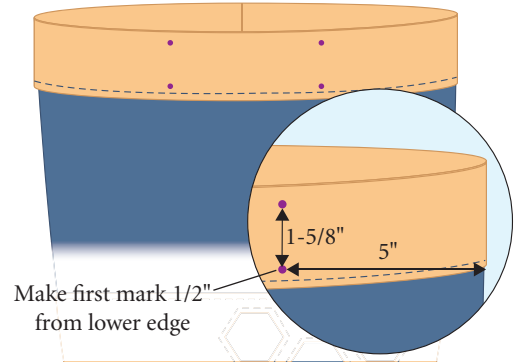
- Add double-sided tape to Kraft-tex and secure in place covering the raw edges. Use Wonder Clips to help hold trim in place.
- Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both edges of Kraft-tex.



- Repeat steps for remaining handle.

6. Add handles to tote with rivets:

- Mark tote for rivet placement:
 - Lay tote flat on work surface. With fabric marking pen or pencil place first mark 5 " toward center from right side of tote and $\frac{1}{2}$ " up from trim edge. The second marking is $1\frac{5}{8}$ " up from first marking.
 - Repeat step for left side of tote.



- Repeat step for opposite side of tote.
- Mark handles for rivet placement:
 - With fabric marking pen or pencil, place first mark $\frac{1}{2}$ " from lower edge of handle. The second marking is $1\frac{5}{8}$ " up from first marking.
 - Repeat markings for opposite end of handle and remaining handle.
- Punch holes at marked points through Kraft-tex and denim layer on both tote body and handles.
- Align holes and add rivets following manufacturer's instructions.

