



Technique:	Sewing
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting Time:	Weekend
Finished size:	12½" x 14" x 3" (31.75cm x 35.56cm x 7.62cm) (excluding straps)

## Featuring Coats® Jeans & Topstitching thread

Highlight an everyday denim bag with fun shirring on the front. The secret? Using heavyweight Jeans thread to make the shirring.

## Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread
- Coats® Jeans & Topstitching thread\*\*
- 1 yd (.91m) lightweight novelty print denim, 60" (152.40cm) wide\*
- ½ yd (57.15cm) cotton print lining
- 1 yd (.91m) medium-weight fusible interfacing, 20" (50.80cm) wide
- Pattern tracing cloth

*\*Fabric note: Some denims are very stiff and heavy and won't work well with this shirring technique, so look for soft denims that will shirr nicely.*

*\*\*Coats Dual Duty XP® Heavy thread may also be used.*

## Preparation

Trace the Bag Body and Strap pattern onto pattern tracing cloth and cut out.

## Cutting

Draw all the pieces onto the denim before cutting for best use of fabric.

### From the denim, cut:

- (1) Bag Body, for tote back
- (2) strips, 3¾" x 19" for gussets
- (4) Straps
- (1) rectangle, 18" x 26" (45.72cm x 66.04cm) for shirred bag front

### From the lining fabric, cut:

- (2) Bag Body
- (2) strips, 3¾" x 19" for gussets

### From the interfacing, cut:

- (2) Bag Body
- (2) strips, 3¾" x 19" for gussets

Seam allowances are ¼" (.64cm).

## Shirring the Bag Front

1. On the wrong side of the denim rectangle, draw a line down the center length. Draw another line 4" (10.16cm) away on either side, and then another line 3" (7.62cm) from that one.
2. Cut off a length of Jeans Thread about 66" (167.64cm) long. Fold it in half and twist slight. Position the thread along the drawn center line, leaving about 3" (7.72cm) extending on each end. Set the machine for a 4-5mm wide and 2mm long zigzag. Sew over the Jeans Thread, being careful not to catch it in the stitching (photo).

3. Repeat Step 2 to stitch along all the marked lines.
4. Tie knots at one end of the threads to secure them, then gently pull the Jeans Thread to shirr the fabric to about 15" (38.10cm) long. Tie off the threads to secure and repeat for each row. Smooth out the gathers evenly.
5. With the denim wrong side up and matching centers, position the fusible side of the interfacing Bag Body piece over the shirred denim rectangle. Firmly press the edges in place and lightly press the remaining portion to the shirring.
6. Stitch twice around the interfacing close to the edge, securing the gathers in place. Trim the shirred denim to match the interfacing.



## Making the Straps

1. Place two Strap pieces right sides together matching edges. Stitch both sides, pivoting at the point, and leaving the straight end open for turning. Repeat for the second strap. Trim the seam allowances at the point to reduce bulk.
2. Turn the Straps right side out and gently poke out the points.
3. Press the edges firmly and topstitch ¼" (.64cm) from the edges.

## Assembling the Bag

1. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse corresponding interfacing pieces to the denim bag back and gussets.
2. Sew the short edges of the gussets together and press the seam open.
3. Matching centers, sew one long gusset edge to the bag back. Press the seam allowances toward the bag back and topstitch close to the seam.
4. Sew the opposite side of the gusset to the shirred front. Press seam allowances toward the gusset.
5. Repeat Steps 2-4 for the lining, omitting the topstitching, and leaving a 3" (7.62cm) opening in one gusset seam lower portion for turning.
6. Center a strap on each bag gusset upper edge and baste in place.
7. With right sides together and the straps tucked between, pin the lining to the bag upper edge matching the gusset seams. Stitch around the top of the bag. Press the seam allowances open.

## Finishing the Bag

1. Turn the bag right side out through the lining opening. Stitch the opening closed.
2. Push the lining into the bag and firmly press the upper edge, rolling the lining under. Topstitch around the bag ¼" (.64cm) from the edge and continuing across both strap seams.
3. Adjust the straps to the desired length and tie in a knot near the pointed ends.

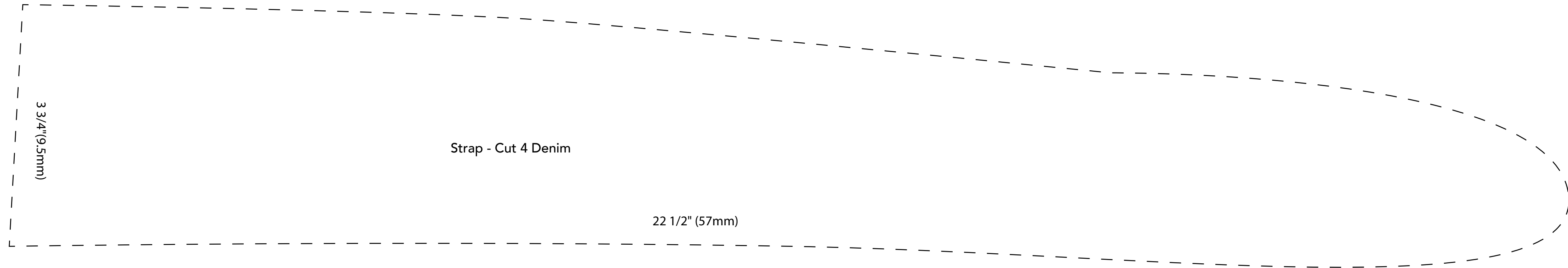
↑ Cut on fold ↑

## Shirred Bag

Bag Body  
Cut 2 Interfacing  
Cut 1 Denim  
Cut 2 Lining

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

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



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

**Printing instructions for strap:**

Be sure to check 'actual size', 'landscape' and print in  
'Poster' format. Tape pieces together to form pattern.

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