

A free project, compliments of...

# Two Creative Studios

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## Pouch Bag by Sue Bleiweiss

You won't believe how quickly this pouch bag goes together and how super easy it is to size up to a tote bag, or down to the perfect size for carrying an ipod or cell phone.

Sew your two outside panels together by placing them right sides facing and sewing along the side and bottom edges. Turn the bag right side out and set it aside.

<b>Note</b>	All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{2}$ " unless specified otherwise.
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### Outside Panels

Start by preparing your front and back outside panels. Cut these panels 10"x 11".



To make my panels I stitched some strips of batik fabric onto some nice heavyweight denim material and added two 'Go Girl' faces. I used a zig-zag stitch to attach the 'Go Girl' faces to the denim.



### Lining

To make the lining cut two pieces of fabric 10"x11" and apply some fusible interfacing to the wrong side of each piece. Place the pieces right sides together and sew along the sides and bottom edges leaving a 5" opening along the bottom edge. Do not turn the lining right side out. If you would like your bag to close with a magnetic snap then install it into the lining at this point placing it 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the center top of the lining.

## Handle

To make the handle, cut a piece of fabric 2" x 45" and a piece of rope 30" long. Fold the fabric right sides together and stitch along the long edge using a ¼" seam allowance creating a long tube. Turn the tube right sides out and insert the rope. Put a piece of tape on each end of the piece of rope so that it doesn't unravel. The easiest way to insert the rope into the tube is to attach a large safety pin to one end of the rope and then using the safety pin feed the rope through the channel. There's more fabric than rope so take care to watch that you don't accidentally let the free end of the rope travel up into the tube.

Once you have fed the rope into the tube secure it by stitching it to the ends of the tube and distribute the fullness along the strap. There will be a lot of bulk depending on the thickness of your rope so stitch slowly and use a heavier sewing machine needle such as a denim needle. Otherwise use a few hand stitches to secure the ends.



Sew each end of the gathered strap to the outside of the bag at the side seams.



Sew the lining to the bag right sides together by slipping the bag into the lining and aligning the top raw edges. Make sure to tuck the handle inside the bag. There will be a lot of bulk to sew over when you get to the side seams so once again stitch very slowly and use a heavier needle such as a denim needle.



Turn the bag right sides out through the opening in the lining. Sew the opening closed and then tuck the lining into the bag. Give your bag a good press and you're done!



Faces by Terri Stegmiller are available at [www.joggles.com](http://www.joggles.com)

Below is another version of the pouch bag. The outer panel on this bag was woven with strips of batik fabrics. The bag also features a double flap closure with a 'Go Girl' face on the top flap. This bag also has a flat strap.

