

# BLUE JEAN PURSE

Front

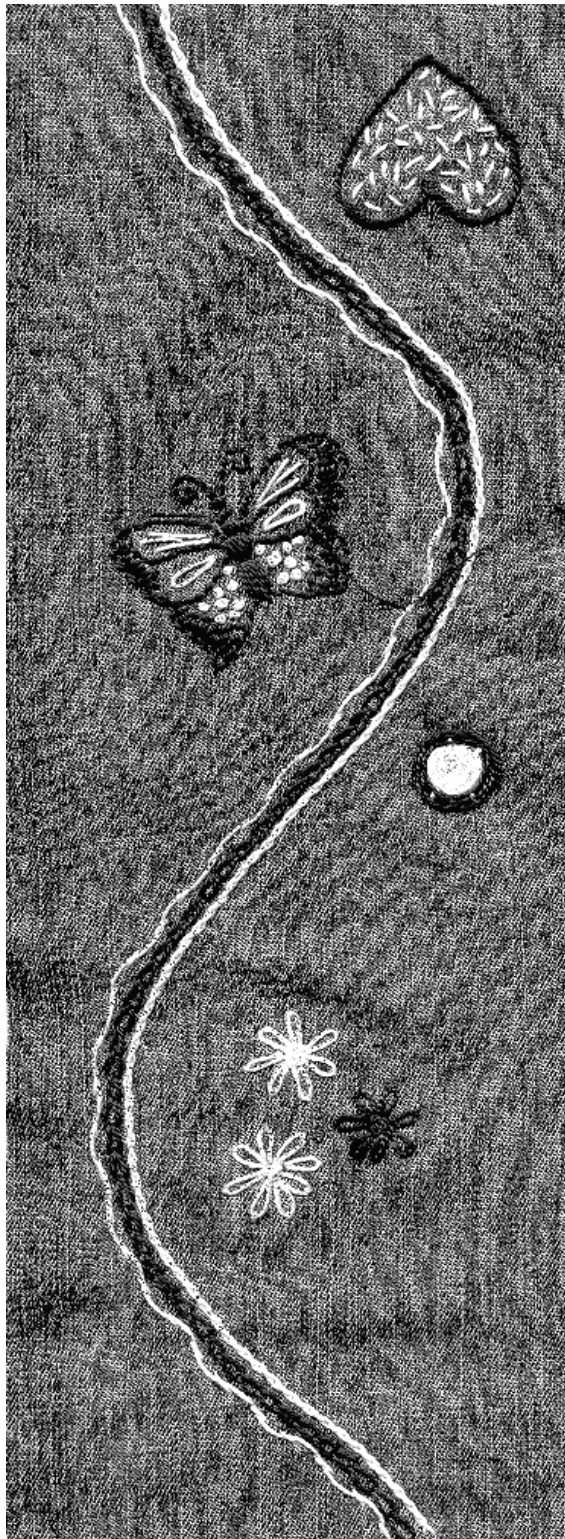


Back

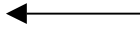


Diagrams & Directions © Carol Storie

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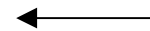


To the left is a scan of stitching done on a piece of blue jean fabric. This is going to be made into a purse. The scan is about one-half as large as the actual size



Use whatever designs, motifs, stitches and threads you want for your own purse. Let your imagination take over! Use beads, sequins, appliques, whatever your heart desires. My purse is quite plain, but yours doesn't have to be!!

Try some of the stitches under the Try A New Stitch on the Youth Resources page.



### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Cut your fabric about 13.5 cm x 36 cm. That's allowing about a centimetre for your seam allowance for when we sew the purse up. Use whatever kind of fabric you wish. Plan your design, threads, etc, and stitch on the fabric.

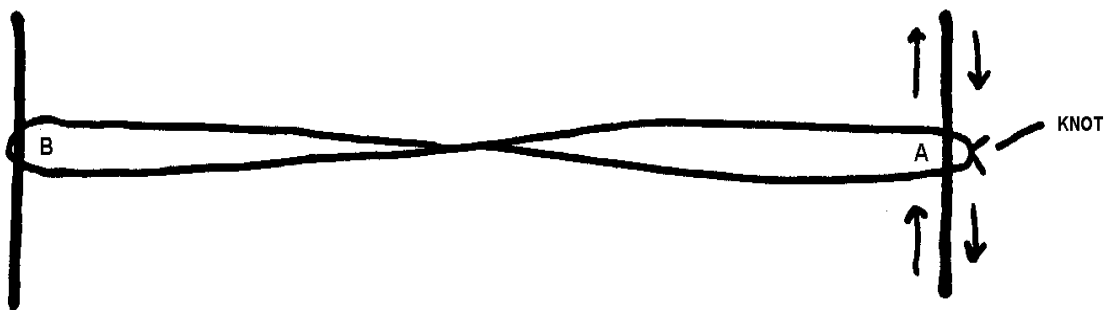
Note that the heart on my purse is upside down. That is because it is going to be the flap for the purse, so it will look right when the purse is complete.

See the arrows on the diagram. That is approximately where your purse will be folded when you are finishing it. (Try folding it and see what I mean.)

The first step to finishing your purse is to make a twisted cord for the shoulder strap. It will be sewn into your purse at the same time as you are putting the backing material in.

To make the shoulder strap, first measure the thread by pretending that the strap is over your shoulder and around the purse. Cut lengths of thread three times the measurement you need using DMC #5 Perle Cotton or Embroidery Cotton in the colour you want. With the DMC #5 Perle cotton, I needed five strands of thread to make the cord the thickness that I wanted it to be. So again, that's your measurement times three, and then that measurement times five.

To make the twisted cord, take the lengths of thread and knot together at each end. Loop one of the ends around a chair back or lamp pole and the other end around a pencil. Twist the pencil until the threads begin to kink. Have someone hold the twisted thread in the centre, and knot points A and B together. Let go of the threads a bit at a time, and they will twist around each other, forming a cord. A quicker way to make the twisted thread is to tie one of the knotted ends onto your hand mixer (use only one beater). It really works, and it's fast too.



After making the twisted cord, measure where the bottom fold of your purse will be. Put the right sides together with your material that will be the inside of the purse, and put the twisted cord in place. Machine sew around, leaving an opening to turn your purse right side out.

After your purse has been machine sewn, fold it to make the size you want. Hand-stitch the bottom sections together. Sew your twisted cord around the sides of the purse as shown in the pictures on the next page. Note these pictures are smaller than the actual size of the purse.

Voila! When you go out, wear your purse with pride, and be the envy of all your friends