

Kanky Panky Cowgirl Apron *by Nancy Minsky*



This is an easy and crafty way to make a cool denim apron. It's made from an old, cast-off pair of jeans, that have been cut-up and combined with handkerchief shaped cotton fabrics and colorful trims. With a "cowgirl" charm, it has the feeling of a carefree summer day. Enjoy sewing this playful and fun project - that can be completed in a couple of hours.

Any pair of discarded jeans you have in your recycle bin will adapt stylishly as the base - from youth-sized to over-sized or ripped - no jean will be too small, too big or too worn. And the same thing goes with the contrasting fabrics and trims - either follow the color story in the photo of pink, blue and red - or adopt it to what you have on hand, or your favorite colors.

Materials

- A pair of cast-off jeans
- 3 different cotton fabrics (pink gingham, blue floral and a blue and pink stripe) - you need enough yardage to cut the ruffle pattern 4 times
- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2 yards red, cotton rick-rack
- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2 yards of green and red patterned ribbon
- $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 2 yards red patterned ribbon for the belt
- Red thread (or some other bright shade to contrast the denim)
- Sewing machine, straight pins, scissors, hand-sewing needle, paper, pencil, tape measure, yardstick.



Step-by-Step Instructions

♥ *Make the ruffles:*

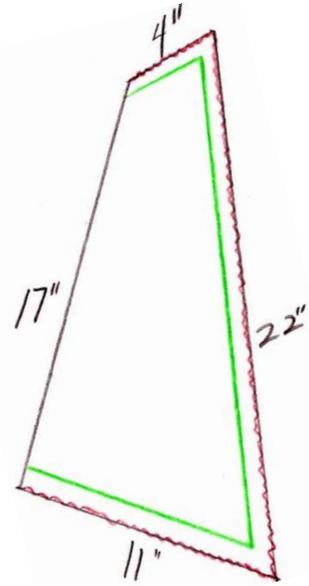
-With the pencil, paper and tape measure, draw the ruffle pattern, following the sketched dimensions in the diagram.

-Cut 2 pieces of the ruffle pattern in the gingham, and 1 piece of each of the other fabrics. Note: the 22" side should be placed on the true bias.

-Finish the edge with a zigzag stitch as marked on the diagram in red.

-Zigzag stitch the ribbon or rick-rack, $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge, as marked on the diagram in green.

-Press.



♥ *Cut the denim:*

- Cut the denim front, starting at the top, 1" beyond the side seam (you want to keep the front pockets in-tack), cut straight down the side 10", then straight across the bottom to 1" beyond the other side seam and finally back up to the top.

- Cut the front crotch seam off and overlap the excess so that it will lay flat, pin and zigzag stitch closed.

- Cut 2 extra belt loops from the back of the jeans, and stitch them to the waist, one on each the side seam.

- Cut 2 pieces, 26" long x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide (this will be used for the belt.)

♥ *Tuck and pin on the ruffles:*

- Using the photos as a guide, pin the ruffles around the jean sides and hem, tucking each ruffle 4 or 5 times, and overlapping the different fabrics a couple of inches. Play with the folds a bit, to get the overlap and tucking balanced, until you are satisfied. Baste, remove pins, and zigzag stitch the denim, down one side, across the bottom and up the other side, $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge.

- Turn the apron over to the back side and trim the cotton fabric seam allowance to $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

♥ **Make the belt:**

- Pin the 26" long denim pieces together with a 1" overlap, to form one long sash. Zigzag stitch overlap together. Remove pins.

- Center and pin the 7/8" wide ribbon to the denim belt.

- Zigzag stitch all around the perimeter of the ribbon. Remove the pins.

♥ **Finishing:**

- Machine wash and dry the finished apron and belt.

- All the cut edges of the cotton fabric and denim will gently fray.

- Clip off any really dangly denim threads. Press.



For more denim projects, see Nancy's book "Denim Revolution" and visit <http://21centurydressmakers.blogspot.com>