

Projects > Camera Strap Part 1

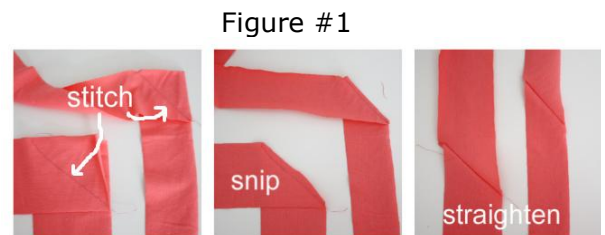
Raechel Myers truly enjoys creating things for reasons other than visual appearance. She believes that things that are personal to you should be as unique as you are. She feels that camera strap covers have become quite personal and that having a strap that doesn't reflect you to its upmost ability is a shame. She designed her own universal fit camera strap cover with a hand-gathered knit ruffle to reflect her taste and personality, and now wishes to share the project with you. Here is her tutorial:

Materials and Supplies

- [Brother Sewing/Embroidery Machine](#)
- Knit (interlock) material
- Quilting Weight Stone
- Fabric for body of strap (A Shirt was used in this tutorial)

Instructions

1. **6" x 30"** piece of your body fabric
Two strips of your knit ruffle fabric: **1.75" x 60"** & **2.5" x 60"**
{the length of your knit strips can really be give or take. I figured a 1:2 ratio with the body fabric for good fullness in the ruffle.}
You'll likely have to piece together your pieces of knit fabric to get the 60" length (if you're cutting it from the bolt you may be able to get that length all in one cut). Simply align your strips at 90 degree angle, stitch from corner to corner, snip the excess material, then straighten them out and press the seams. **See Figure #1.**



2. There. Now you have your materials.
3. Now, draw a line **1 3/4"** from one side of your body fabric. It's ideal to use an air soluble pen for this, but since your mark will be hidden by your ruffle, it's not super necessary. Still, I'm a purist on this one. **See Figure #2.**
4. Now we're going to gather the ruffle.
You may remember how to gather strips of fabric from my ruffled neckline tutorial, but just in case you don't I'll give you the rundown.
Set your stitch length to a 5. Nice, long stitches are easier to gather.



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5. Now, lay your narrower strip on top of your wider strip and (using a coordinating top thread and white bobbin thread) send them through the machine together, taking care to keep your stitch right on center. **See Figure #3.**
6. When you're finished, the top of your strip should look like this. **See Figure #4.**
7. Now, grasping your knit strip loosely in your left hand, grab the white bobbin thread in your right hand. Slide the knit fabric gently down the bobbin thread. It will gather as you pull.
8. Take care to gather your fabric evenly along your bobbin thread. You'll be finished when your fabric is gathered evenly and your knit strip is the same length as your body fabric (30"). **See Figure #5.**

Lens Cap Pocket (Optional)

Now I'm going to give you an option. Some of y'all have requested that I show you how to make a lens cap pocket for the camera strap cover. If you don't want a pocket, you can skip smoothing the gather and attaching the pocket. If you do want a lens cap pocket, pay close attention:

1. At one end of your knit strip, pull your gathers out starting at about 3" from the end of the body fabric. (Your pocket will wrap around this area, so it will help to smooth the gathers to prevent bulk and bunching.) **See Figure #6.**
2. Now take a peek under your strip and do your best to align your white bobbin thread with the mark you made on your body fabric (1.75" from the edge).
3. Pin the ruffle in place in several spots.
4. Now adjust your stitch length to 3. We're going to attach your ruffle to your main fabric.

Figure #3



Figure #4



Figure #5



Figure #6



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5. Go as slowly as you need to here, taking care to stitch right on top of the previous stitch line. Feel free to double check as many times as you like to be sure that your stitching is right onto the line you drew on the body fabric. **See Figure #7.**

6. Now it's attached!

7. And now you feel great!

8. Cut a piece of coordinating fabric (or the same fabric you used for the body, if you like) **6" x 3 1/2"**. **See Figure #8.**

9. Press the top edge down 1/2" and stitch in place. {I stitched two lines because I think it makes things look more finished.}

10. Now align the pocket fabric with the bottom edge of your body fabric {on the end where you pulled out the gather, of course}.

11. Be sure to backstitch at the top of the pocket for strength. **See Figure #9.**

12. Turn both ends of the body fabric under 1/2" and press. We're just hemming the edges.

13. Stitch at least one line to hold your hem in place. (Again, I like the look of 2 or 3 lines. It's up to you.) **See Figure #10.**

14. Now fold the cover in half lengthwise, right sides together. **See Figure #11.**

15. Using a 1/2" seam allowance and backstitching thoroughly at the beginning and end, stitch the strap cover closed.

{**Important note:** You really do need to use a 1/2" seam allowance so that the ruffle and pocket will be centered on your finished piece. If you're nervous about the ruffle catching in your stitches, just push it out of the way as you go.}

Figure #7



Figure #8



Figure #9



Figure #10



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16. When you're finished stitching, your strap will look like this. It's a good idea to secure the raw edges by serging them. If you don't have a serger, you can use a zigzag stitch. **See Figure #12.**
17. Now turn your creation right side out. I use a small dowel rod for most of my inverting needs. **See Figure #13.**
18. When you've turned it right side out and it looks all rumpy and sad, don't panic! It just needs a little iron love and it will feel much better.
19. Just lift the ruffle out of the way and press the long stitched side first, then the other side. There's no need to press the ruffle itself.
20. Presto! Your creation is now a masterpiece! It reflects your style and your personality and it only took a sneeze of fabric!

Figure #11



Figure #12



Figure #13

