

Project: Fun Lunch Bag

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Repurpose an old pair of jeans into a hip lunch box!

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Materials

- Pair of denim jeans with at least an 11"-wide leg
- $\frac{5}{8}$ "-diameter red button (or size that will fit in waistband buttonhole)
- Scissors
- Seam ripper
- Sewing machine
- Thread to match jeans
- Fabric marking pencil

Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance unless otherwise stated.

Step 1

Using a sharp scissors, cut away 16" of the jeans waistband, starting at the buttonhole end (**photo 1**). This will be the closure for the bag. If there are belt loops, remove them with a seam ripper.

TIP: Belt loops have reinforced seams and may need adult help.

Step 2

Cut one pocket from back of jeans (**photo 2**).

Step 3

Cut along inner seam of each pant leg (**photo 3**). Open jeans flat. Cut a denim 11×15" rectangle from each pant leg.

Step 4

Place a denim 11×15" rectangle right side up on a flat surface. Place Step 2 pocket 4" from top short edge of denim rectangle; pin in place (**photo 4**). Topstitch pocket to rectangle along side and bottom edges to make bag front.

TIP: Do not sew over pins. Stop stitching and remove each pin right before the needle gets to it.

Step 5

Place remaining denim 11×15" rectangle right side up on a flat surface. Center Step 1 waistband on rectangle, with buttonhole end extending over top short edge; pin in place (**photo 5**). Starting at bottom short edge, topstitch along one long edge of waistband, stopping 2" from top edge; pivot 90°, stitch across waistband, pivot 90°, and stitch down other long edge of waistband to make bag back.

Step 6

Layer bag front and bag back with right sides together; place pocket opening and buttonhole end in same direction. Join side and bottom edges to make bag body (**photo 6**).

Step 7

To shape bottom of bag, at one corner match side seam and bottom center of bag body to create a flattened triangle. Measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from point of triangle, draw a line across triangle. Sew on drawn line (**photo 7**). Trim excess fabric, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Repeat with remaining corner. Turn bag body right side out.

Step 8

Fold over top raw edge $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward right side of bag body, folding buttonhole end out of the way; pin. Zigzag-stitch in place to hem top edge of bag body (**photo 8**).

TIP: Make sure to ask for help setting the sewing machine to a zigzag stitch.

Step 9

Starting at one side, pinch edges together; pin. Topstitch along pinched edges and bottom (**photo 9**).

Step 10

Hand-sew button to bag front above pocket to complete lunch bag (**photo 10**).

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PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

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PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6

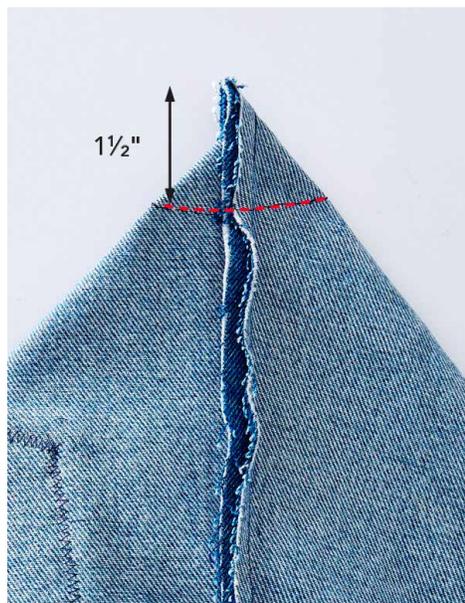


PHOTO 7



PHOTO 8

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PHOTO 9



PHOTO 10