

Step by Step



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This set of sewing instructions will teach you how to make a jean pocket purse. Before you begin the cutting and sewing, read all of the following directions and make sure you have a responsible adult to help you with your project. If you have any questions about the instructions, be sure to ask for help. *As always, be very careful with the scissors, iron, and sewing machine.* Are you ready to start? Let's begin.

Jean Pocket Purse

Section 1: Preparation

Below is a list of materials that you will need to make your jean pocket purse. Make sure you have all of these. If you don't have everything, ask an adult.

Materials

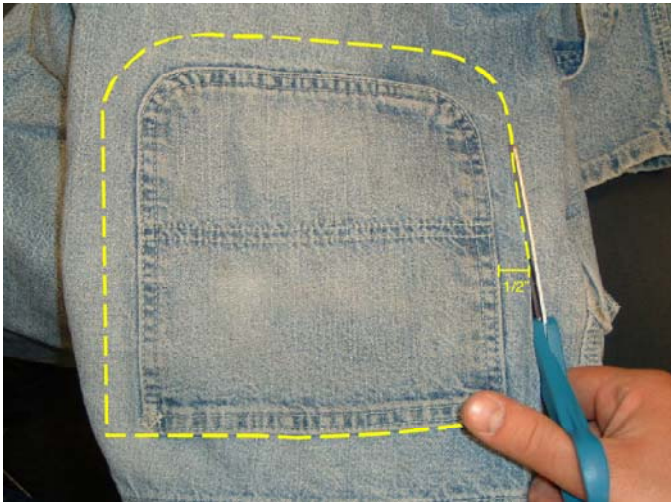
- 2 pockets that are exactly the same size
- About 3 feet of cord or rope (for the strap)
- Matching thread and contrasting thread for basting
- Decoration—lace, buttons, **appliqué**—optional
- Scissors
- Thimble
- Iron
- Sewing machine that can handle **bulky** material or a special sewing machine attachment. If you cannot get either of these, you may stitch the purse by hand.
- Pins
- Needle

Helpful Hint: Check off each box as you gather materials.

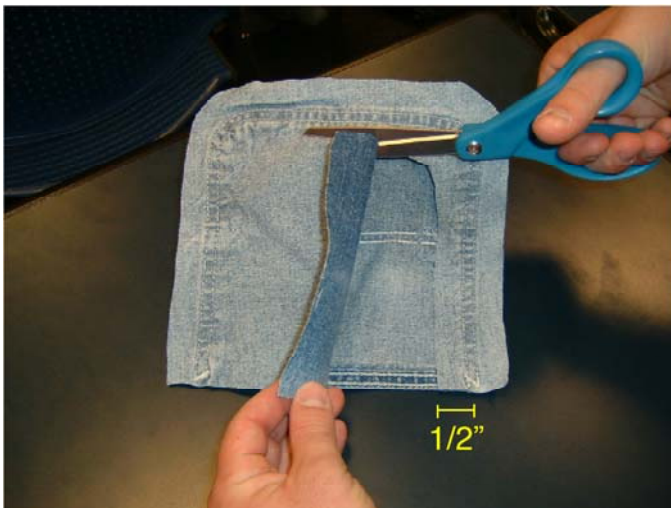
Definitions

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Appliqué | A piece of material added strictly for decoration |
| Baste Stitch | A longer stitch used to keep material in place before the final stitch. The baste stitch is then later removed. |
| Blanket Stitch | Refer to the “Hand Stitches” section of the <i>Stitch by Stitch</i> manual |
| Bulky Material | A heavy, thick material that may be difficult to sew |
| Right Side | The side of the material that is showing on a finished project |
| Wrong Side | The reverse side of the fabric |

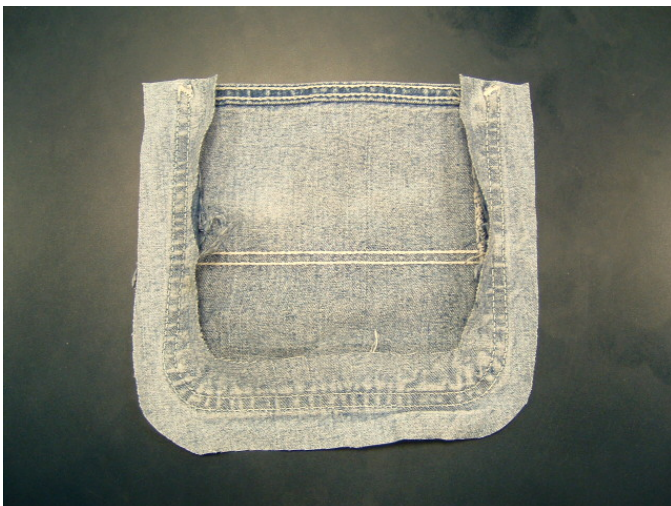
Section 2: Cutting the Material



1. Using a pair of scissors carefully cut out the back pocket from a pair of jeans. When cutting be sure to leave $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the jeans around the outside of the pocket seam.



2. Next, cut the jean material out from the backside of the pocket. Again, be sure to leave $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of material around the pocket seam.



3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the other pocket.

Section 3: Preparation before Sewing



4. **Optional Step:** If you wish to add a design to the purse, you may sew an appliqué, buttons, patches, or anything else you want to the **right side** of the pockets.
5. Stitch as close to the pocket edge as possible. This stitch will provide security against fraying and will make the next steps easier.



6. Take the extra jean material around the outside of the pocket seam and fold it under the pocket. Press these flaps with an iron to secure them. This will help you with step 7—pressing will allow you to see where to remove the notches. You may have to baste the flaps in place.

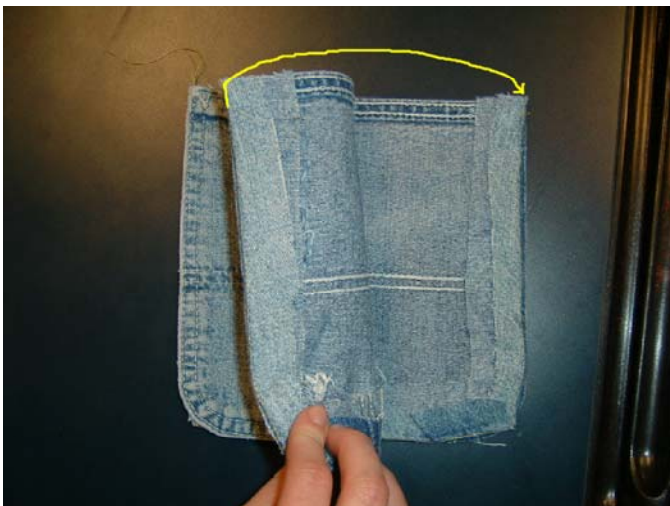


7. Cut notches out of the extra material. The notches should look like triangles (as shown in the picture). Removing these notches will make the sewing easier and less bulky. Note: Do not clip too close to the pockets.

Note: If your pocket is pointy, you will clip 3 notches; if the pocket is flat on the bottom, you will only clip 2 notches.



8. After cutting the notches, repress these flaps with an iron to secure them into place. This will make the sewing easier.
9. Repeat steps 4 through 7 on the other pocket.

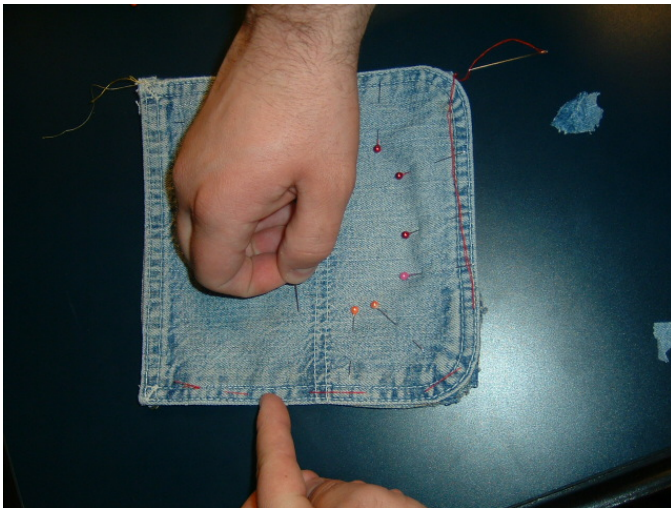


10. Place the two pockets together with the **wrong sides** touching. The two pockets should be perfectly aligned; you should not be able to see the pocket that is underneath the top one.



11. Pin the pockets together. The pins should be about 1 inch apart. Be sure that the pins go through both pockets (this may be difficult since the material is thick; using a thimble may help).

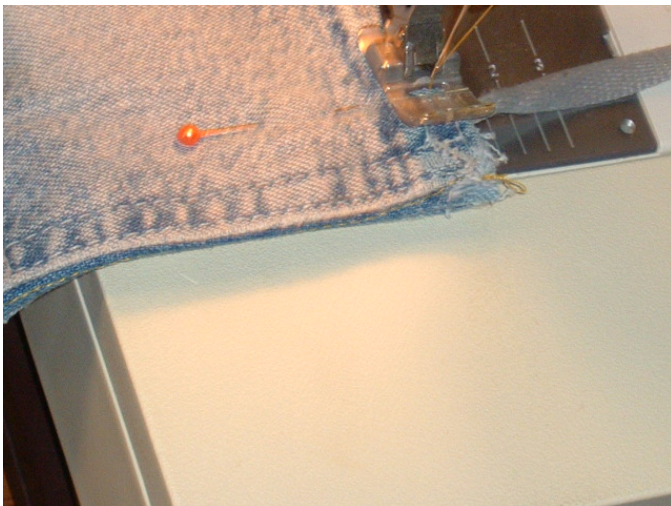
Helpful Hint: Go through each pocket one at a time.



12. To hold the material in place for sewing, baste the two pockets together.

Helpful Hint: Use a brightly colored thread, such as red, to make removing the stitches easier after the pockets are sewn together.

13. Remove the pins from the pockets.



14. Insert the ends of the cord you are using as a strap into the edges of the pocket. Make sure the cord is not twisted. Put at least ½ inch of the cord into each side. Baste stitch the cord ends in place.

Helpful Hint: A long shoelace works well as a strap because the ends won't fray.

Section 4: Sewing



15. Stitch along the seams of the pocket to hold them together from the right top of the pocket to the left of the top pocket. Try to match your stitching up with the stitching already in the pockets. **Note:** You may need to reinforce these stitches at the corners if they still seem a little loose.

Helpful Hint: If your sewing machine cannot handle the bulky material, **blanket stitch** by hand all around the pocket purse.



16. Remove the **basting** thread from the pocket purse.
17. Clip any loose threads and press the final project.
18. Give the purse as a gift or enjoy it yourself.

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