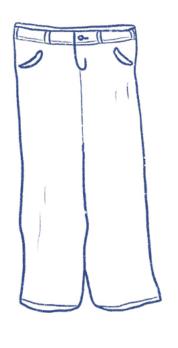
Make a Sustainable Bag







use old jeans or trousers









use old top or shirt for lining

Pattern designed and illustrated by Tamsin McLaughlan for Hundred Heroines @tamsin_illustration

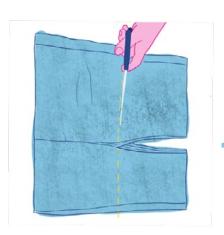


- needle
- thread
- scissors
- pins
- measuring tape
- any patches or accessories for customising bag



2

Then cut the inside of both trouser legs to the crotch. These parts will be later sewn together to make the bag shape.



First, get a pair of old jeans/trousers.
These will be used to make your bag.
Cut off the legs about 17 inches from the waist.



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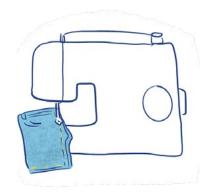
Once cut you will be able to open the bottom part of the jeans and turn the trousers inside out.



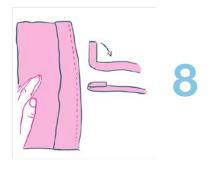
Once the jeans are inside out, pin from the crotch downwards and then across the bottom, where you cut the trouser legs off. This will make the bottom of your bag.



Now for the inside of the bag! Get an old t-shirt or blouse and cut across the body of the shirt starting under the armpit. This will be the lining of your denim bag. You can discard the arms.



Sew from the crotch downwards, then tie off the ends of the cotton thread. Repeat with the bottom of the trouser leg. This can be done by hand or with a sewing machine.



Turn the top inside out and sew the bottom of the shirt the same way as the trouser leg. For the opening at the top, fold over the edging of the fabric and sew it down to give a tidy edging.



Now cut away the excess material (outside where you have sewn) to leave a nice, straight and tidy line. If you have have a machine you can overlock the edge to add strength.



Once finished, keep the lining inside out and place it inside the denim pouch. Pin the lining to the top of the denim pouch.



Sew the lining to the pouch by hand or with a machine. You may have to sew by hand due to the thickness of the denim at the waist.





Next, pin the straps to the waistline of the jeans. You can place them by the belt hook so they are in the same position and straight. Do two crossstitches on the end of each strap twice for extra strength.



Next, you need to make the straps for the bag. To do this you will need the trouser legs. Cut the legs in half at the sides of the trousers so the single leg is in two halves.



Now you have a sustainable shopping bag! You can customise it to make it more unique to you.



Once cut, fold the edging of the straps, pin it and sew in a straight line. Repeat this with the tips of the strap to give a tidy edging.

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