

Sew a Tote Bag out of an old pair of Jeans

- 1) Rescue an old pair of jeans that you can't bear to part with, or buy some from a charity shop. Lay them flat on the table with front and back waistband matching, you may need to pull down the crotch to get it level.
- 2) Decide how long you want the bag to be and cut off the legs at this point, cut off the seam that goes between the legs.
- 3) Take the fly front on one hand and the centre back in the other, lay them on the table. Cut the sides in a straight line from under the zip.
- 4) Sew the new side seams.
- 5) Measure the opening at the bottom of the bag, cut out a piece of denim to use as the bottom of the bag from the legs you have cut off. Stitch that into the base of the bag.
- 6) If you want to decorate the bag (I didn't) this would be a good time to add any embellishments!
- 7) If you want to line the bag measure the sides and bottom of the bag, cut out 2 squares and a piece for the bottom from some lining fabric. I used an old patterned sheet, but any cotton fabric will do. Stitch together and place inside the bag, wrong sides together, tuck under the raw edge round the top and stitch into the jeans bag round the top.
- 8) Measure how long and wide you would like the handles, cut out strips from the remains of the legs that are 3x the finished width of

the size of handles you want. You will probably have to join some strips together to get the right length.

- 9) To make the handles, fold under a tiny hem down the length of the fabric and sew next to the fold. Then fold the fabric into 3 along the length of the strap (fold it towards the sewn edge, so there aren't any raw edges.) Stitch down both sides of each handle close to the edge.

Sew handles to the top of the bag, if you don't have enough denim to make the handles, you can either use some other fabric or some webbing.

Go out and enjoy your new unique tote bag!