

How to make an apron from second-hand textiles

THIS DURABLE DOUBLE SIDED APRON IS A LOVELY WAY TO RESCUE SOME OLD CLOTHES SUCH AS JEANS AND A SKIRT - AND PROTECT THE ITEMS YOU DO STILL WEAR!

CREATIVE
CRAFTS

11

YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ A pair of old jeans (two pairs if they are children's jeans)
- ✓ A piece of upcycled non-stretch fabric large enough to make an apron with, e.g. cotton skirt
- ✓ A length of 2.5cm wide cotton tape/webbing in a suitable colour
- ✓ Long ruler or straight length of wood
- ✓ Sewing kit
- ✓ Seam ripper
- ✓ Tailor's chalk
- ✓ Sewing machine
- ✓ Steam iron and ironing board
- ✓ Pattern/template - make a pattern using another apron as a guide if possible. Remember to add on a 1.5cm seam allowance all round and ensure the pattern is equal when folded in half along the length of the apron
- ✓ Chopstick or similar tool.

DIFFICULTY

EASY

NOTE

We hope that you find the tips and suggestions in these videos and guides helpful and fun to follow. Please note that no guarantees are given that any particular results will be achieved when following our guides. We recommend that you avoid using highly flammable materials and if the product is intended for use by a child that particular care is taken with small parts. The products shown in our guides are not intended for use by children under the age of three.

METHOD

1

Deconstruct the upcycled fabric if necessary. We used an old cotton skirt and opened the seam to create a flat piece of fabric.

REMEMBER

Remember not to put any scraps of fabric in the bin - any offcuts that can't be used should be taken to a textiles bank

2

Cut up the inside legs of the jeans and cut off the top sections. You will now have pieces of flat usable fabric with a seam running down each centre (two pieces if you are using adult jeans, four pieces if you are using children's jeans).

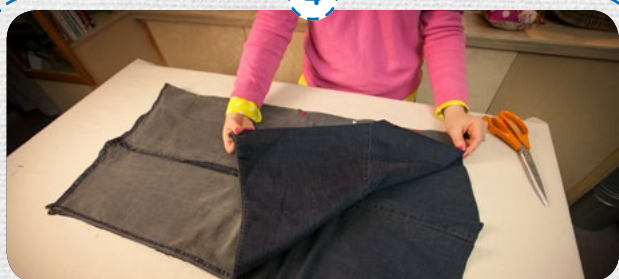


3

Cut around the back pockets of the jeans then unpick each pocket from the back of the jeans using a stitch ripper, so you can re-use them on the apron.



4



Lay one of the opened out jeans legs on the table right side facing up. Place the other leg on top so that the right sides are together, matching the bottom hems. Use a long ruler or straight length of wood and tailor's chalk, draw a straight line at a right angle to the hem along one of the edges of the denim.



5

Pin the layers together and machine sew them along the chalked line using a 1cm seam allowance and a straight stitch. Note: If you are using children's jeans, repeat this step, ensuring all of the seams are sewn on straight edges, and the four pieces of fabric are sewn together to make one large piece of fabric.

6

Trim any excess fabric away and press open the seam(s) with a hot steam iron.

7

Place the denim right side up and pin the apron template/pattern in place, keeping an eye on the position of the seams. Carefully cut the apron out and then remove the template and pins.



8

Plan where it will be useful for you to have the pockets, then position them on the front of the apron. Pin and then stitch them along three sides using a matching coloured thread. Don't stitch up the top!



9

Lay the other piece of fabric out, right side facing up. Place the denim apron on top of it, right sides together. Pin in place and cut out.



10

Measure and cut the cotton tape/webbing to make a neck strap. Place the tape around your neck to find the perfect length for you and add 3cm seam allowance.

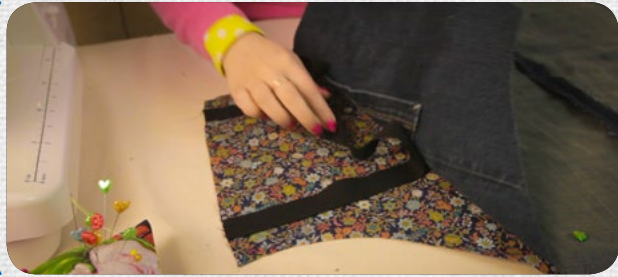


11

Cut two lengths of tape to make side ties. Allow enough length to go around the back of the waist and to tie a bow, then add 1.5cm seam allowance to each tie.

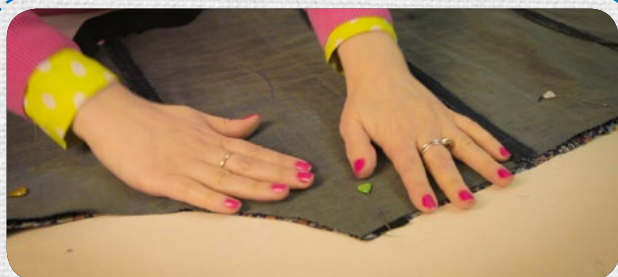
12

Sandwich the neck strap between the two layers of fabric at the top edge of the apron approx. 1.5cm in from the edge, and pin into place. Make sure that the tape is on the inside of the apron.

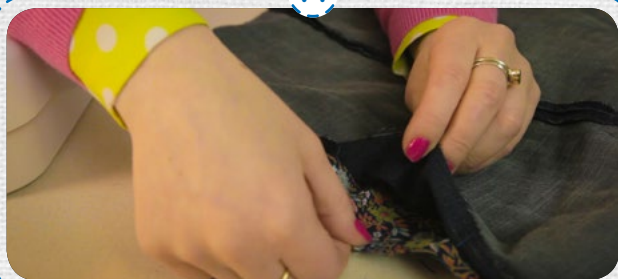


13

Repeat the process for the side ties, placing them approx. 1.5cm from the top of the side seam.



14



Starting from the bottom edge, sew around the whole apron using a 1.5cm seam allowance. Make sure to leave a 10cm gap between the beginning and end of the stitch line so you can get your hand inside the apron to turn it the right way out. Remove all of the pins.

15

Diagonally cut off the corners to reduce the bulk and clip in to the curves to allow the seam to sit properly.



16

Turn the apron right side out by pulling the whole thing through the 10cm gap (tugging on the straps will help with this).

17

Use a chopstick or similar tool to carefully poke the corners out.

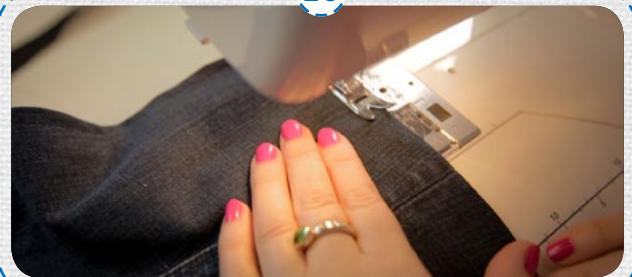
18

Pin the 10cm gap closed turning the edges inside to create a neatened edge.

19

Carefully press all of the seams with a hot steam iron.

20



Topstitch close to the edge all around the apron (with the denim side facing upwards). You can use the edge of the sewing machine foot as a guide for the stitching. This will hold the apron edges in place and close the 10cm gap.

