

## Heather's Pocket Bag Sew Along

This part is cutting out the pieces. So, go find a pair of worn out jeans. You should only need the back side of one leg to complete this project. Cut out the back pocket area, from seam to seam and about an inch or two below the pocket. The size of the finished bag is up to you. The nice thing is that since the edges will fray, winging it doesn't really matter.



Next, you want to shape the area around the pocket. I placed the piece on my cutting mat lining up the corners and the bottom point of the pocket. I cut the piece so that there is an inch above and below the pocket. I also tapered the sides by an inch from top to bottom. You'll need to determine how your bag will be shaped based on the size of jeans your using.



Use that piece as a template to cut out the back piece of the bag.



Next, you need to make the sides and bottom of your bag. I cut these to be 4" wide by the length of the sides and of the bottom. This I just eyeballed by lining them up with the edges (kind of how the picture shows them).



Decide how long you want your straps to be. I made mine about 13" x 1 1/2". Cut 4 of these.



Next, use your denim as pattern pieces to cut out your lining (all but the straps).



First, the denim. You'll be using a 1/4" seam allowance and sewing all pieces **WRONG** sides together, so that the seams will fray. Start by sewing the straps. Take 2 of your strips and sew them together down the long edges. Do the same for the other 2 strips. Next, sew the side pieces to the front piece of the bag. Start sewing 1/4" from the edge, and stop 1/4" from the edge. This is because you want the seam allowances to be open, not tacked down.



Then sew on the back of the bag in the same way. Sewing the bottom piece is a bit tricky as you'll have to deal with the corners of the bag. Fold the seam allowance of the piece to which you are sewing the bottom out of the way.



Now you should have a strapless bag, like this.



The last thing is to attach the straps. Line the straps up where you want them and pin (or not, lol!). I had the outside edge of the strap lined up with the rivet on the pocket. Also, make sure the straps will be an even height when the bag is being carried, so you may have to adjust how much of the strap is attached to the bag (did that make sense?). Again, with a 1/4" seam allowance, sew along the top edge of the bag. Run over the strap and stop 1/4" from its edge. Then pivot and sew a box down the length of the strap, across the strap, back up the length, and back across the strap, following your previous line.



Continue to the end of the piece and stop 1/4" from the end. Sew along the remaining piece, attaching the straps in back to match the front. Now you should have an unlined bag.



Go throw that in the wash, and now you can assemble the lining. Okay, so you've washed and dried your bag, and it should look something like this:



Now you need to trim it up a bit. I like to pull on some of the 'hairs' to get the bag to fray more, then I snip them off. You can groom your bag, or leave it a little hairy. Mine cleaned up to look like this.



I trimmed every seam and the handles. Remember, the bag will fray more when washed again, but shouldn't be as messy as the first time. Oh! I almost forgot the wallet. Let's do that next. Cut a strip of denim for the wallet. Mine was 4"x 15", but yours can be shorter, thinner etc. This will be a sort of three-fold wallet, so keep that in mind when cutting. Now, use the denim to cut a lining piece of the same size.



Take the lining piece and fold under 1/4" (folding under to the wrong side. I pinned, which is easier than dragging out my iron, lol! Center it on your denim strip. You should have a border of about 1/4" of denim. Sorry about this crappy pic!



Now, sew the lining to the denim at one end, this will be the inside edge of the wallet. You need to decide how long your flap will be. Fold up the bottom (sewn) end to that point. You have a decision to make here about thread. I had my machine threaded with a top thread to match the lining and a bottom thread to match the denim. If you are feeling lazy (like me) you can just sew around the edge of the wallet (except the folded edge) about 1/4" in, making sure to catch the lining. Or, you could just sew around the top flap where the lining is exposed. Then change threads and do the sides of the wallet. That's how I did the first set I made. I just forgot to do that here. I might go fix it later.



Now you can attach a snap to the flap and the inside of the wallet and go throw it in the wash to fray.



Okay, back to the bag! Take the lining and stuff it inside the bag, so the wrong sides are together. Turn under about 1/4" of the lining (so no raw edge will show) and pin.



Sew close to the edge of the lining, much in the same way you assembled the bag. You don't want to run over the frayed edges, so stop and start very close to the corners. Your finished set might look something like this:



Now, I realize that there is more than one way to do this. Attaching the lining after you fray the bag results in 2 stitch lines on the outside. However, the first line is so close to the fray that you don't really see it. Also, matching thread helps. You might instead want to attach the lining and then wash the whole thing to fray. This won't leave you with a nice crisp lining though, so you decide! Hope you all found this helpful!