

Upcycled Tote Bag

Created by: Katy Mitchell, Janome Educator



Time to do something about those old denim pants. Upcycle them into a tote bag to carry around your warm weather must-haves. Pack away your picnic supplies in this sturdy tote for a fun day outside with friends and family!

Janome Supplies:

- Serger
- Sewing machine

Fabric and Notions:

- 1 pair of blue jeans. (Goodwill is great for finding these)
- 1/2 yard cotton fabric for belt / tie
- Serger and sewing machine
- 4 spools serger thread in a fun color

Supplies:

- Scissors
- Pins
- Seam sealant

Instructions:

1. Set serger for 4 thread overcast.
2. Turn jeans inside out and fold in half, making sure it is smooth and has no puckers in the fabric.
3. Draw a line across the width at the crotch, and then cut along that line. Keep the excess legs for the straps.



4. Open jeans up and align top /waist as best you can. You will notice that bottom is wonky, so with a marker draw a line across to straighten. This will be your sewing line.



5. Pin center crotch seam together by offsetting thick seam to make it easier to serge through.



Upcycled Tote Bag

6. Following the marked line, serge across, being sure to catch pockets in with the seam.



7. To make boxed bottom, fold side seam and bottom seam to line them up to form a peak.
8. Measure 3" from peak and draw a line across.



9. Serge on drawn line on both sides.



10. Place a couple drops of seam sealant on tails, let dry, and trim off.

11. From leftover legs, cut 4 3" x 15" strips.



12. Sew 2 pieces together to form a 3" x 30" strap. Make 2.
13. Fold in half lengthwise. Serge the raw edge together.
14. Serge the folded edge, just barely cutting off the fold.



15. Pin straps into place on waste band of tote.
16. Use straight stitch on your sewing machine to sew across at waist band seams to hold straps in place.

Belt

1. Cut two 5" strips of cotton fabric.
2. Serger short edges together to make one length.
3. Measure around the waist of tote adding another 12" for the ties and cut to this size, sample used 50".
4. On both ends of belt, fold in half and cut into a point.

Upcycled Tote Bag



5. Change serger for 3 thread rolled hem.
6. Serge around the entire belt.
7. Use seam sealant to secure tails. Let dry completely and then trim off.

Weave through the belt loops of your tote and tie in center front.

You are now ready to fill with all kinds of goodies...

