



Pattern of the Month - December 2014

By Evelyn George

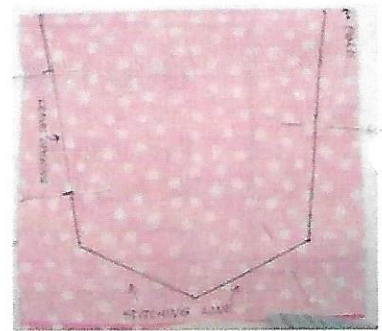
Recycled Jeans Pocket

Do you recycle your family's jeans into quilts, aprons or other useful things? Here's a fun way to use the pockets. Embellish as much as you want, add a ribbon for carrying or hanging, and you have a cute tiny "purse" for a little girl, a gift card holder, or a holiday pocket to hang in any room.



This method works for pockets which are stitched on the back of jeans, without rivets or flaps: Carefully remove pocket by cutting stitching between pocket and pants with sharp snips or a single edge razor blade. Be sure to cut *away* from yourself, like Mama told you, and put down your sharp instrument whenever you feel the urge to tug on the pocket to loosen the stitching. Once you have pocket safely removed, use an old toothbrush to remove loose threads and any lint or grit hiding inside the folds. A piece of tape is useful to pick up loose bits.

Make a new pocket back as follows: fold a piece of fabric in half, right sides together, and lay pocket, with its outer edges still pressed under, on top of fabric, and upper edge of pocket lined up with fold. There should be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond pocket around sides and bottom. Mark around sides and bottom, following pocket edge, making it a little bigger than the pocket itself; this will be your stitching line. Pin the two thicknesses of fabric together, marking an opening on one side for turning. Stitch on line, remembering to leave opening. Trim seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and clip corners slightly to reduce bulk. Turn right side out, and press, folding seam allowances inside opening. Set aside.



Embellish the pocket front with holiday appliques, lace, rickrack, doilies, buttons, beads, woven trim, little ribbon flowers, embroidery, etc. Most of this is easiest to do before pocket and back are joined together; just leave yourself room around the edges to stitch layers together. Try not to add any more thickness at the upper corners, as that is already the thickest place to sew through, and the ribbon handle will be attached there, also. (Of course if the pocket was originally embellished, you can add more if you like!)

If you want to insert lace or ruffles around bottom and sides of pocket, baste it in position on reverse side of pocket front before joining front and back together. Lace or trim can also be stitched along the upper edge of pocket. Lace cutouts or appliques can be fused or pinned in place and stitched with matching or contrasting thread by hand or machine. Buttons, flowers etc. can be stitched by hand.

To finish the pocket, cut a length of ribbon or cord as long as you want for handle, stitch ends inside upper corners of pocket front. Lay front on top of back and pin in place. Using matching or contrasting thread, stitch around sides and bottom edges, following original stitching marks and backstitching at beginning and end.