



No-sew Pencil Pouch

By: Jessica Margenau, Senior Marketing Specialist for Goodwill

Back in my school years, I always loved adding my own personal touch to my school supplies. In fact, I still like adding my own touch to my office supplies nowadays. After all, most school/office supplies come pretty standard in appearance. And, when it comes to supplies like pens and pencils, the lover of writing in me can always use a pop of inspiration – even if it's from the item holding my pencils!

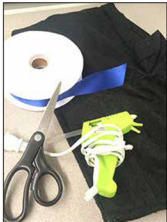
I scoured the internet for tutorials on DIY pencil pouches, and unfortunately all of them required sewing skills. If you've read any of my prior articles, you know that those are skills I have never been blessed with. I was immediately drawn to this tutorial, because kids of all ages can help make it!

For my project I referred to a tutorial from the blog Reuse It, but you'll find my interpretation of it on the next page.

**Take school supplies
from drab to fab
with this easy-to-do
pencil pouch!**

Supplies needed:

- Scissors
- Sturdy fabric (jeans, woven blanket, etc.)
- Hot glue
- Decorative ribbon



(continued on next page)

Make It!

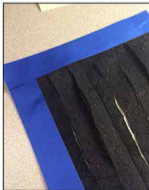
1 The tutorial I referenced used jeans for the fabric. I didn't have any spare jeans on hand, but I did have a pair of dressy lace shorts that I thought would add a fun look to the pencil case, so I used those. I recommend using a more heavy-duty fabric, like denim, for your pencil case, as I felt my finished product could have been sturdier. Don't forget to check the racks at Goodwill for denim; you'll find dozens of options in a variety of denim shades!

2 Cut your fabric into an 8-inch by 8-inch piece.



3 Cut six horizontal slits in the middle of the fabric, spacing each about $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch apart. Do not cut all the way across the fabric; leave about a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch space on each side – this will keep your writing utensils in place!

4 Cut four strips of ribbon to measure about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long – you'll want the strips long enough to hang slightly past the edge of your fabric. Hot glue these strips down to the edges of the fabric, so that you've created a decorative border to the pencil case.



5 Weave your pencils, pens or markers in and out of the slits.



6 Roll your utensils up in the fabric so that they fit nice and snug.

If you'd like, you can complete the pencil case by tying the bundle together with an additional piece of ribbon.

Throw the pencil case in your work bag, or your kiddo's backpack and you're set!

