

Summer Back in Style



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Everything Old is New Again

Back-to-school time is almost upon us. It seems like moms and students shop earlier every year to pick up supplies and new clothes. Backpacks and book bags are big purchases, too. This year, instead of heading off to class with the same old, same old, try making your own!



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Denim is always in big supply at Goodwill. Make your tote really stand out with a pair of blue jeans with decorated back pockets. (Really, that's all you'll need!)

1 Cut It

Turn the pants inside out. Cut off the legs about two inches from the crotch.



2 Sew It

Fold the pants so the back and front seams are left and right. Draw a straight line from the waistband or zipper to the bottom. Sew on these lines.



3 Fold it

Next, fold the pants so the side seams are at the side (the pockets and zipper will be in the middle). Sew a seam across the bottom.



4 Flatten it

Flatten the bottom seam so there's points at each corner. Make a gusset by sewing a seam about two inches from the point. Turn the bag right side out.



5 Press it

To make straps, cut two pieces from the cut-off legs three-inches wide by 28-30 inches long. You can make yours any length you prefer. Fold each strip in half then fold in the raw edges $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Press and sew.



6 That's it!

I added a belt that can be tightened so you can close the top of the tote.

