

## A Cool Fashion Project for You and Your Daughter

We all know this is the age young girls grow like weeds, so I'm sure there are one or two pairs of pants or skirts that fit your daughter last fall, but now look like something she would wear in a flood. But, wait! Before you toss those jeans (or any others) in a bag for Goodwill, you and your daughter can transform them into a cool fashion accessory. Here is how you transform those old jeans into a purse that will be one-of-a-kind.

### **What you will need:**

- ♥ An old pair of jeans or skirt
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Needle and thread or a sewing machine.
- ♥ Pins

### **Optional:**

- ♥ Extra Fabric
- ♥ Glitter paint
- ♥ Patches
- ♥ Anything else you want to decorate your purse with.

1. Measure from the waist down to a point above the crotch and inseam of the legs. Use a marking pencil to trace a line across. (If your daughter wants a bigger purse, you may need to find a pair of adult giveaways.)
2. Cut away the parts of the jeans one inch below your line
3. Turn the pants inside out
4. Using pins, pin the bottom of the bag leaving about one inch of fabric below the pins.
5. Using either the sewing machine or needle and thread, sew the bottom of the bag closed. Use a stitch that will hold up under the stress of lots of "stuff."
6. Turn the bag right-side-out.

### **Optional:**

7. You can use strips of jeans cut from the legs to create a strap for your purse. Just cut them open and measure a straight strip three inches wide or more, turn inside out and pin, sew as above, turn right side out, and then sew them to the inside sides of your purse. (As an alternative, you can use ribbon, chains, an old belt, macramé, or rawhide as a strap.)
8. Use any arts and crafts material to decorate the outside of your purse and make it all your own!

(PS: You can make a smaller bag using the castoff leg of the jeans: simply sew together the bottom, hem the edges of the top, and use snaps, buttons, or Velcro to close.)

Below, Josie, age 10, models a skirt and purse she made from an old pair of jeans. She's all set with an outfit no one at school will be able to duplicate—and it's all her!

