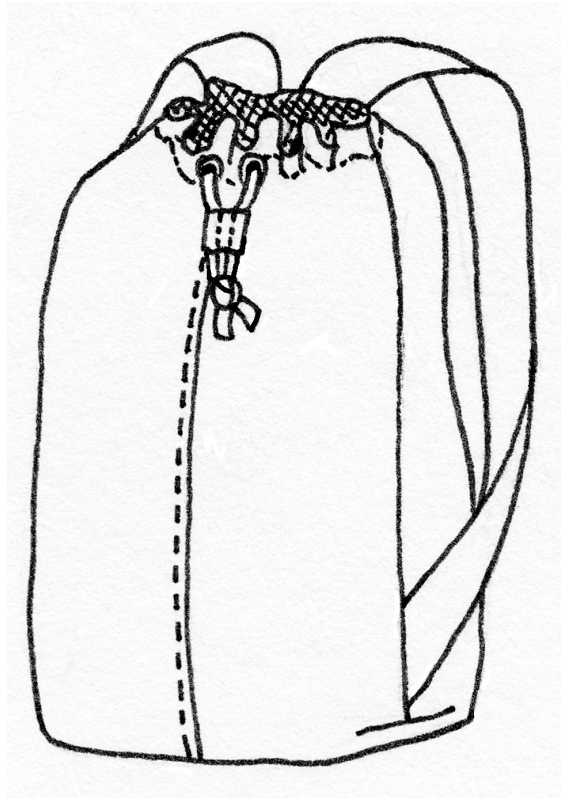


# 3 hour backpack

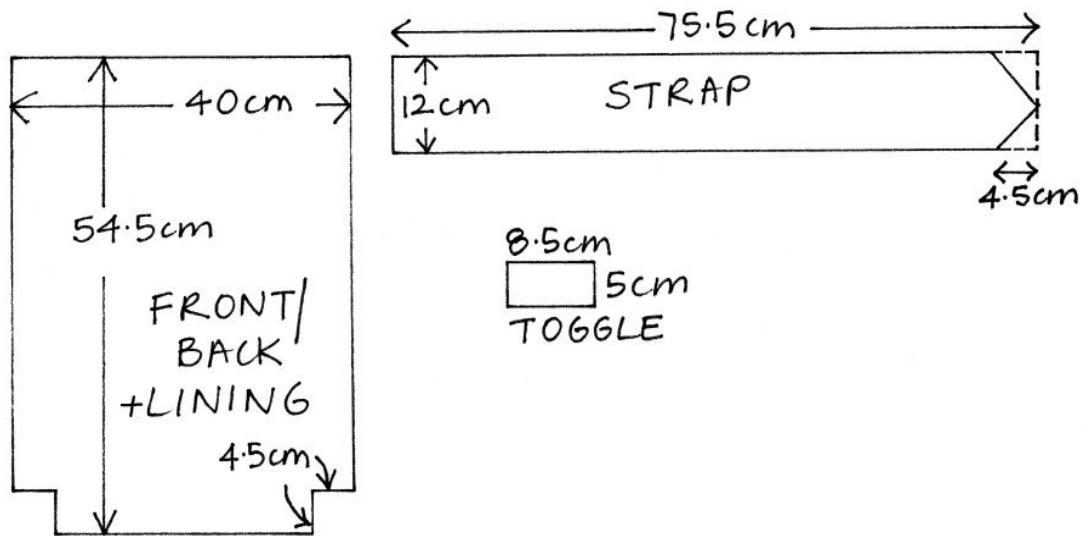
Sew yourself a handy backpack from old jeans



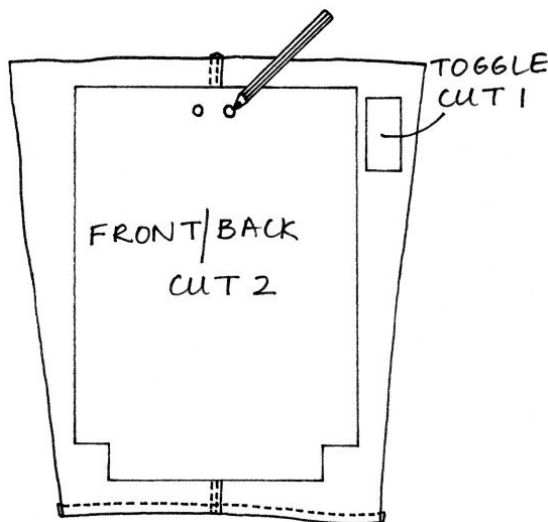
## You'll need

- ✂ 2 pairs of adult jeans, one to have a leg width of at least 22cm (8 $\frac{5}{8}$ " ) to cut the backpack's Front/Back. The second pair (for the straps) can be skinny jeans. If you're making two backpacks, you'll only need 3 pairs of jeans and two of them need a leg width of at least 22cm (8 $\frac{5}{8}$ " ).
- ✂ 1 pillowcase for the lining, or 55cm x 90cm wide (22" x 36" wide) fabric
- ✂ 2 metal eyelets with a hole 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " )
- ✂ 1.10 metre of cord at least 6mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) diameter thick and able to pass through the hole in the eyelets. Cotton rope is suitable.
- ✂ Size 16 sewing machine needles to sew the denim
- ✂ Sewing machine, thread and sewing kit

## Make a pattern



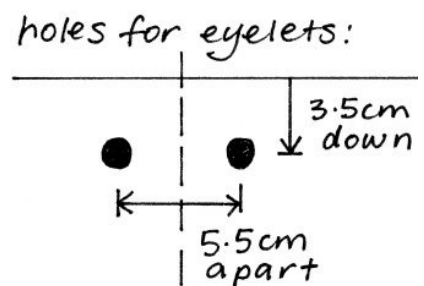
## To cut



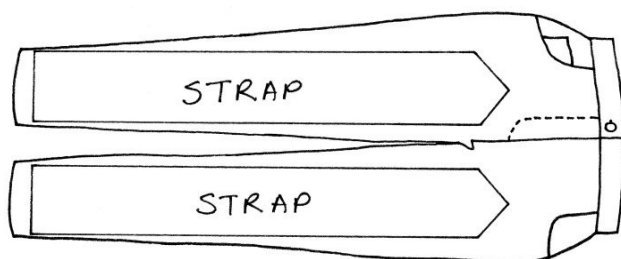
**Front/Back** Take the jeans with the wider leg and use the legs for the Front/Back. You may be able to use the rest of the jeans for shorts.

Cut open the leg along the non-topstitched leg seam. Lay it out flat and cut the Front/Back out, centring the topstitched seam if possible. You'll have to cut each leg one at a time.

On the piece that will be the Front, draw in the 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " ) eyelet hole positions.



**Toggle** Cut a Toggle from a scrap of denim.



**Straps** From the second pair of jeans (which may be skinny jeans), cut 2 Straps. You may need to cut these both from the front legs OR unpick the back pockets and use the back legs.

**Lining** Cut 2 Lining of the lining fabric. Optional: cut some pieces to make inside pockets.

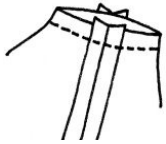
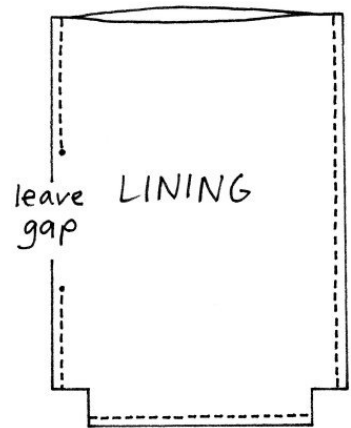
## To sew

All seams are 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " )

### 1. Lining

Optional: sew any inside pockets if desired.

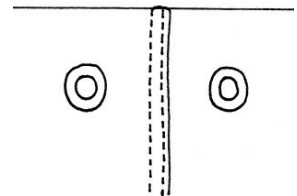
Place the two Lining pieces right sides together and sew the three long sides. Leave a gap in one about the size of your fist—this is for turning the backpack through at the end.



Fold each corner together with the seams matching and sew across.

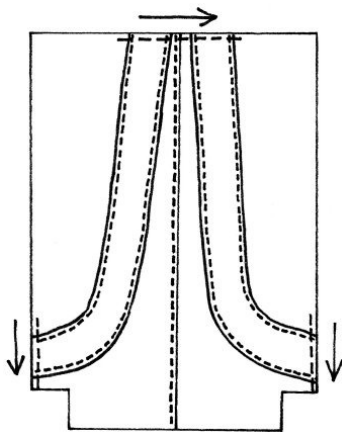
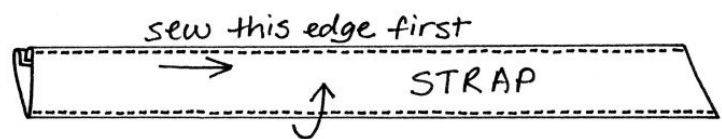
### 2. Install the eyelets

On the backpack's *front*, place a scrap of fabric behind the eyelet holes to reinforce them, then install the eyelets: cut the hole in the fabric with scissors. Push the eyelet front through then place the back on. Lay the eyelet on the tool and hammer. A practice one first is highly recommend.



### 3. Make the straps

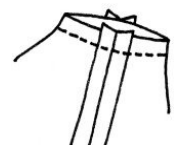
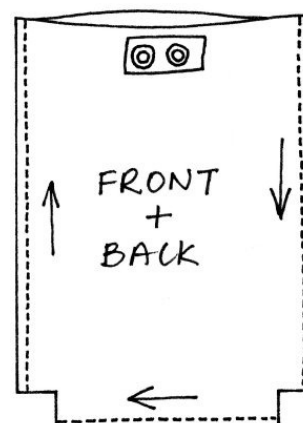
Fold the long edges in 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " ), wrong sides facing, and press. Sew down each side, holding the strap taut as you do.



Pin or tack the straps in position on the backpack's *back*. Leave a gap between the straps at the top. At the sides, position the straps 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " ) above the square cut out.

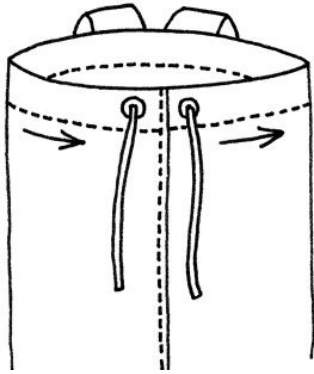
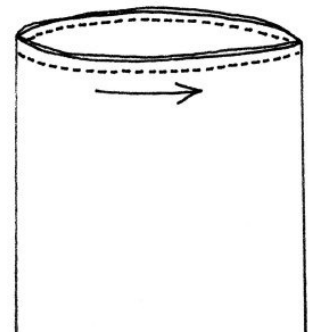
### 4. Sew the backpack together

Sew the Front and Back backpack together in the same way as the lining but without leaving a gap.



### 5. Attach the lining

Press the lining and backpack thoroughly first before joining. Put the backpack inside the lining, right sides together, and sew around the top. Turn through the right way and press thoroughly.

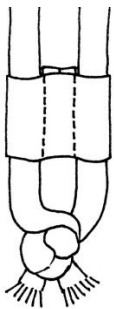
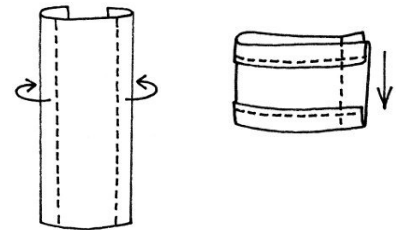


### 6. Add the cord

Insert the cord (via the gap in the lining) so it lies around the top edge of the backpack with the ends coming out of the eyelets. Topstitch around the top of the bag, clearing the eyelets, to form a casing.

### 7. Make the toggle

Fold each long edge of the toggle under 1cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " ) and stitch. Fold the right sides together and sew the short ends. Turn the right way.



Wrap the toggle around the cords with the seam centred at the back. Stitch close to the cord on each side using a zipper foot, making sure you don't catch the cord in. Knot the ends of the cord together.

### 8. Finishing off

Sew up the gap in the lining by pressing the edges together like a pair of lips and machining close to the edge.

