

Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Tool Clutch



Week 3

- Rethink Your Ribbon & Trim
- Repurpose Your Clothes, Patterns and Notions
- Research Sewing & Embroidery Tools
- **Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Tool Clutch**

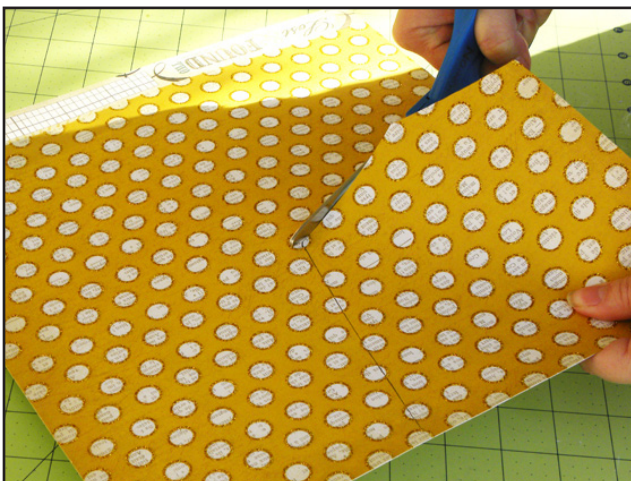
Supplies:

- 3 Pockets from old jeans, shirts, etc.
- Chipboard
- Fabric Scissors & Cutting Mat
- Craft Knife or Rotary Cutter
- Iron
- Needle and Thread
- Hot Glue Gun and Sticks
- Elastic, Velcro and Fray Check
- Misc. Ribbons, Buttons and Bling
- Large Patterned Paper Scraps
- Inkjet Printer & Printable Image Transfer Sheets

Notes:

When looking for your pockets don't worry if they aren't the same. Different colors, shapes and sizes will add to the character of your clutch! In my clutch I used three completely different pockets and layered them over one another largest to smallest.

The supplies listed above are the supplies I used for my clutch and also include the supplies I used to add personal flair and extra function to my clutch. Ideas for adding these features to your own clutch follow the tutorial.

**Step 1****Step 4-5****Step 6**

Are you ready to repurpose some of your old clothes, use up some of your ribbon stash and make a cute little clutch for your sewing tools? Then let's get started!

1. Go through your old and outgrown duds to find pockets and other fun details to use in your clutch. I chose to use pockets from three different pairs of jeans for a little bit of variety and the button flap from a ruffled blouse.
2. Next extract your details from their respective articles of clothing. To extract my pockets I used a rotary blade and cutting mat and cut around the finished edge of the pocket. You want the pocket to be intact so lay out the article of clothing flat to make sure you don't accidentally cut through any part of your clothing you intend to use.
3. If you are using fabric shears to extract your pockets and other details I would still recommend laying your article of clothing flat so that you can see all of your layers and you can avoid any cutting mishaps.
4. Next take your largest pocket and use it as a pattern to cut your chipboard from. This piece will help to give your tool clutch a little bit more stability. If you want your clutch to be completely pliable then skip this step. If you want your clutch to be extra-durable then cut chipboard stabilizers for your other two pockets as well. I've chosen to stabilize my largest pocket which will act as the base for my clutch.
5. I used my rotary cutter to cut out my cardboard stabilizer--you could also use a craft knife.
6. Cover one side of your cardboard stabilizer(s) with the finish of your choice--I've used a large patterned paper scrap that coordinates with the color scheme I've chosen.

**Step 7**

7. Next set two series of eyelets on each side of your base chipboard stabilizer--this is the stabilizer for the pocket in the center. These will eventually be used to bind your clutch together so based on the size of your pockets that you create make sure you choose an adequate number of eyelets to keep your clutch secure and intact. I've used two eyelets on each side of my base.
8. If you are making stabilizers for your other two pockets as well, you'll need to create eyelets on the inside edge of these stabilizers as well--these will be along the edge that you will be connecting to your base.
9. Next attach the backs of each of the pockets you've chosen to stabilize to their chipboard pieces using a glue gun or other tacky adhesive.
10. **Now would be a good time to settle on your clutch's layout. Lets take a closer look at my clutch to help you get a better idea of how you want to piece yours together.**

**Step 9**

- I have used my largest pocket as the base for my clutch and have stabilized it with a piece of cardboard. The side of my stabilizer that I've covered with paper will be the back of my clutch--but visible from the outside. And my base pocket will be adhered to the unfinished side of my stabilizer.
- Next I have two pockets that will attach to the stabilized base and be folded out to reveal all of my tools when in use and then folded in for easy storage.
- I've decided that I want the fronts of my pockets be visible when folded for storage and that the back side of my pockets will act as extra storage for my tools when in use. This way when my tool clutch is open it serves a functional purpose and when its folded it is aesthetically pleasing.

Now its your turn to decide how you want the pieces of your tool clutch to come together--for each of your pieces decide:

- Which will be the front/decorative side?
- Which will be the back/functional side?
- Do you want all of your fronts visible once your clutch is folded out for use?
- Do you want your fronts visible when your clutch is folded up?
- If you are not stabilizing your outer pockets how will you finish the backs of your pockets--will you use them to serve a functional purpose or will you decorate them?

11. Once you've decided on your clutch's layout, place one of your side pockets on top of your base so that it is facing the direction you've decided on when the side pockets are folded in. Then line up the edges--making sure that your side pocket is centered over top of the eyelets set in the base pocket.

12. Now take a 6 inch length of ribbon and fold it in half to thread it through the head of a large needle.

13. Then using your eyelets as guides, pull your ribbon strip through both pockets.

14. Lay your pockets out on a flat surface and tie your ribbon ends in a bow--repeat this step with each set of eyelets until both of your pockets are adequately secured to your base pocket.

15. Next you may decide you want to go around the edges of your pockets and treat them with a little bit of fray check or you can let the frayed edges add to the home-spun look of your tool clutch.

Congratulations! You've finished the base of your tool clutch! Now its time to add a little bit of personal character and some extra function!



Step 12-13



Step 14

Adding Personal Flair to Your Tool Clutch

Below are a few ways you can add some extra special touches to make your tool clutch truly YOU:

- Use this week's printable to add a beautiful transfer image to spice up the backs of your side pockets or to add some personal style to the front of your clutch.
- Add handmade embellishments made from your leftover notions inspired by this week's video techniques.
- Add buttons, bling and other small accents for a few finishing touches.



Use this weeks printable to add some flair to your clutch!

Add Additional Function to Your Tool Clutch

It's up to you to decide whether you want to use the insides of your side pockets to add character or to use them as an opportunity to create more function.

- Add an elastic band to the inside of your side pockets and separate it with stitches to create compartments tailored to hold your tools.
- Double your function and holding power by backing your side pockets with another pocket.



Add extra storage features that are tailored to your specific needs.

Add Extra Security For Your Tools

You may want to consider adding some type of closure(s) to your tool clutch to keep everything secure below are a some of ideas:

- Create a button or velcro flap for your tool clutch to keep your tools secure.
- Use your punch tool to add a snap feature to your pockets.
- Tie your clutch shut with a ribbon closure.

Have fun making your tool clutches and tailoring them to your needs and personal style--I look forward to seeing your projects in the gallery!



Finish things off with snap or flap to keep your tools secure.