

# Repurposed Denim Aprons

Just in time for Earth Day, this fun, environmentally friendly sewing project will have you creating head-turning aprons out of old pairs of jeans. By repurposing denim, you'll save money on materials and do your part to help the planet! Follow this easy, step-by-step tutorial and in no time, you'll stitch up a one-of-a-kind, upcycled apron you'll love to wear.

**TIP:** When choosing jeans for this project, check your closet for cast-offs or pick some up from local thrift shops. Be on the lookout for denim with interesting pocket or knee detailing as these features contribute to each apron's uniqueness. To get the most denim for your dollar, go for men's or plus size jeans. Unless you're using them for trim details, avoid skinny jeans or jeggings; there's just not enough fabric to make your aprons.

**Skill Level:** Beginner

**Time Required:** 1 – 1.5 hours per apron

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Brother Sewing Machine
- Brother Serger 3034D, 3534DT or 4234DT
- Brother Cover Stitch Machine CV3550
- Serger Gathering Foot SA213
- Bias Tape Binding Set SA224CV
- Old jeans
- Black or dark blue thread (if you want, you can use orange or yellow thread to match the stitching on your jeans)
- Lace trim
- Coordinating fabric or ribbon for gathers/binding (optional)
- Scissors
- Seam ripper
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Marking chalk
- 2 D-rings - 1.5" each



APRON #1



APRON #2

**brother**  
at your side

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## CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut the legs off just below the back pockets.



2. Cut down the middle of the back of one of the legs.
3. Use the finished hem of the jeans as the top of the apron.  
This will give you the largest amount of fabric to work with for the body of the apron.



**brother**  
at your side

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## SEWING & SERGING INSTRUCTIONS:

4. To create the arm curves, fold the wrong sides of the denim together and using a chalk marker, draw a curve from the top of the apron (bottom of the jean leg) approximately 1/3 of the way to the bottom of the jean leg.



5. Use the second leg of the jeans to cut three strips, each 2.5" wide and the length of the jean leg. These will become the neck and waist ties of the apron.
6. Use a seam ripper to remove one or two of the back pockets and any other interesting, decorative parts of the jeans like its label, buttons or trim.

(The following steps apply to Apron #1 and #2)

1. Fold the three 2.5" denim strips in half, wrong sides together and serge the long edges. You should have two ties for the waist and one for the neck tie.
2. Cut a 5" piece from the neck tie strip.
3. Position the pocket(s) on the apron and use your Sewing Machine to stitch in place.

### Apron #1

1. Position the label and stitch in place (optional).
2. Set up your Cover Stitch Machine CV3550 with the 5-thread option and serge the curve and side edges of the apron. You can use your Serger instead of a Cover Stitch Machine to serge the edges.
3. Position the waist ties just below the armhole curve and stitch in place.
4. Position the long neck tie on the left side of the top of the apron and stitch in place.
5. Thread 2 D-rings through the 5" piece of denim that you cut from the neck tie and stitch it at the right side of the top of the apron.

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## SEWING & SERGING INSTRUCTIONS (CONT'D):

### Apron #2

You can use your Serger to create beautiful gathered trim. Here are two ways to do it:

To gather fabric and attach the ruffle to the apron at the same time:

- Increase the differential feed to the highest number.
- Increase the stitch length to the highest number.
- Attach the Serger Gathering Foot.



The Serger Gathering Foot has a metal guide on the bottom. Anything that goes over the metal guide will not be gathered and anything that goes under the metal guide will be gathered.

- Place the fabric to be gathered face up under the Serger Gathering Foot.
- Place the apron fabric facedown between the metal parts on the Serger Gathering Foot.
- Guide the bottom fabric with your left hand and the top fabric with your right hand to keep it aligned under the Serger Gathering Foot.

To gather fabric and not attach the ruffle to the apron at the same time:

- Place the fabric to be gathered under the Serger Gathering Foot and stitch along the fabric edge.

To finish up your apron:

1. Use the Cover Stitch Binding Foot to trim and bind the arm curves of the apron.
2. Add lace trim to the edges of the pocket before attaching it to the apron. Add some lace trim to the top edge of the apron, too, if you want.
3. Attach the waist ties and neck ties following steps 3 to 5 from Apron #1.



And just like that, you've created an eco-conscious apron that's sure to get all your fashionista friends talking. Happy Earth Day from Brother Canada!



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Designed exclusively for you by the Brother Education Department.

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