



**Menonite
Church
USA**

Peace & Justice
Support Network

Peace packs (jeans backpack)

Young peacemakers need nurturing. Our Menonite children need to know that their church community cares about them and wants to support them as they make peaceful choices. At Pittsburgh 2011, the Peace and Justice Support Network will give children peace packs. While the children decorate them, our volunteers will be able to talk to them about Jesus and peacemaking. The children can then put peace handouts and other items in their backpacks. Each time they use their peace pack, they can think about peacemaking and that their church encourages them to be peacemakers.

Want to nurture peacemakers but not a seamstress?

Help us think—what can we give children to put in their peace packs? You can write notes of encouragement, send crayons or pencils or pens, tablets to draw on...what else can we think of?

Many thanks for your choice to nurture peacemakers!

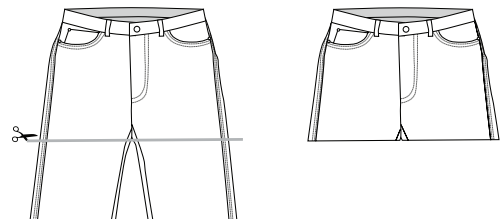
The size of the backpack is determined by the size of the jeans you choose. For children, the best sizes are children's jeans size 6 through adult women size 10/ men's 28" waist. Any color is fine, but don't use low-riders or the pouch will be too narrow. You may use jeans with holes in them, but please patch any holes in

the actual peace pack so children don't lose their treasures. You might want to use heavier than usual thread and needles when sewing through many layers of jeans!

Instructions

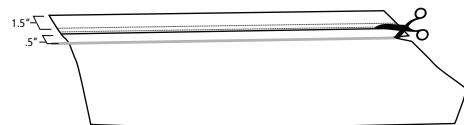
Preparing the pouch

- Lay the jeans flat.
- Cut straight across the legs just below the crotch and then cut the crotch seam so that now the jeans look like a miniskirt.
- Set this 'miniskirt' aside.

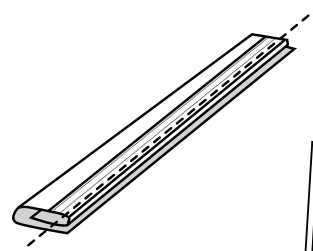


Making the straps

- Using the two jean legs that were just cut off, cut on both sides of the double outside seam—half inch on one side and 1 to 1.5 inches on the other.

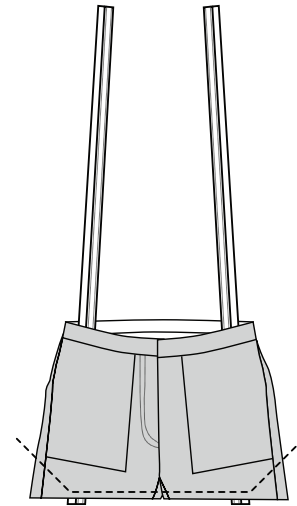


- With wrong sides facing up, fold the half inch side over the double seam.
- Then fold the cloth again so that the first fold lines up with the other edge of the cloth.
- Pin together, flip over and sew along the edge to make the straps.



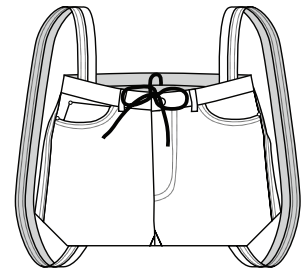
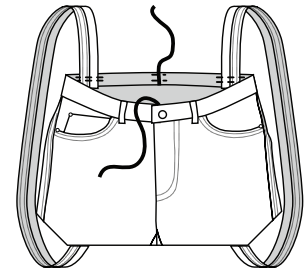
Attaching the straps

- Turn the “miniskirt” inside out and lay it flat.
- Take the two straps and thread them through the inside of the “miniskirt” so that they stick slightly out the bottom opening. Make sure both straps are the same distance from the outer edge (about two inches), and pin in place.
- Pin together the rest of the bottom opening of the “miniskirt.”
- Make sure the rest of the straps are not in the way and begin sewing from one side at a 45 degree angle down to the “miniskirt’s” bottom opening right next to where the strap comes down.
- Continue sewing across the strap, straight across the bottom of the “miniskirt.” Immediately on the other side of the second strap, make another 45 degree seam to the far edge.
- Tip: Sew over the strap area several times to make it more secure.
- Turn right side out again and lay with the front of the jeans facing up.
- Bring the the straps around the back side and secure them with a pin to the inside back waist.
- Sew across the straps several times to make them secure.



Three closure options

- Cut a shoelace in half. Securely sew one half to the back inside waist and one directly across from it on the inside of the front waist.
- Attach Velcro on the inside back of the waist and directly across on the inside front of the waist.
- Bandanas may also be used as a closure by threading them through the belt loops and tying the ends together.



Take a moment and write a special note to the young peacemaker who will be wearing your peace pack. You might include a prayer for them, a favorite Bible verse or a blessing. Hide it in a pocket! **Done!**

These peace packs will be used at Pittsburgh 2011, July 4–9, 2011. You may either mail your peace packs to PJSN, 11885 Keener Dr, Orrville OH 44667 by June 30, or bring them along to Pittsburgh with you. If you are bringing them to Pittsburgh, please send an email to SusanML@MennoniteUSA.org and let us know how many you are bringing, to help with our planning.

Many thanks for taking the time to nurture young peacemakers!

Questions?

Contact Susan Mark Landis at 330-683-6844 or SusanML@MennoniteUSA.org