

Denim Patchwork & Appliqué Pocket Box Tutorial

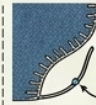


DENIM PATCHWORK & APPLIQUÉ POCKET BOX TUTORIAL

KEY METHODS LEGEND

SEWING (Hand & Machine)

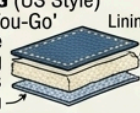
----- Straight
 ~~~~~ Zigzag  
 ○○○○○○○○ Overlock



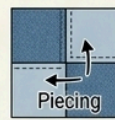
**APPLIQUÉ:**  
 Hand-sewn edges with blanket stitch and tiny beads (beading needle)

#### QUILTING (US Style)

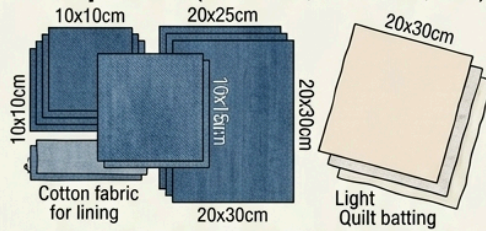
'Quilt-As-You-Go'  
 with decorative hand-stitching through layers



**PATCHWORK:**  
 Piecing fabric squares together with seam allowance



### A. Preparation (10x15cm, 20x25cm, etc.)



**A. CUT DENIM AND LINING FABRICS** to specific sizes for your box (e.g., Top, Front, Back, Sides, Pockets). Example: Cut top panel (20x20cm), front/back panels (20x15cm), side panels (15x15cm), various pockets (e.g., and denim.). Cut matching cotton lining for all large panels. **KEY STEP:** Interlace or fuse light batting to the inside of larger denim panels for structure.

### B. Make Pockets Side Panels



**B. ATTACH POCKETS AND LINING:** Fold top edge of pockets. Machine-sew pockets to side panels. Then, place lining and side panel right sides together, sew, flip, and top-stitch to form finished side pieces with inner/outer pockets. (Pocket size: 8x10cm)



### C. Assemble Top Cover & Appliqués

#### C. CONSTRUCT THE TOP COVER:

##### • QUILT-AS-YOU-GO:

1. Machine-piece denim scraps into a patchwork top.
2. Sandwich with **batting** and quilt with lines and the small star.

3. **APPLY APPLIQUÉS:** Hand-sew large detailed butterfly (with tiny turquoise beads), crocheted flower (button center), small cloth flowers, beaded moon, star, and gold-finish star. Sew large beaded butterfly with fine thread and blanket stitch, then hand-embroider the antennae and star-compass. Place **bowl of buttons/coins** to mark location.

• **US QUILTING:** Notice the varied hand-stitching. (Finished Top: 20x20cm)

### D. Form the Box

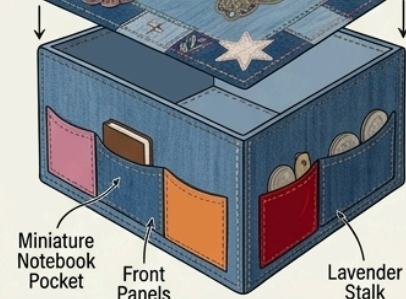
#### D. SEW BOX BODY AND LIDS:

Stitch front, back, and two side panels (with pockets) together to form the box walls (use machine sewing with heavy needle). **Attach the completed patchwork top cover** to the top edge of the box walls, making sure all seams are strong. Insert the metal tray to hold shape if desired. Attach any final details (like dried lavender).

Final dimensions: approx 20x20x15cm.



Completed Box in Context





## A. Preparation: Materials & Cutting

Start by gathering all your materials and preparing your fabric pieces carefully. Precision here will make the entire project much easier.

### Materials Needed

- Assorted denim fabric scraps (various shades)
- Cotton fabric for lining
- Light quilt batting (thin padding)
- Sewing machine and hand-sewing needles
- Thread (matching and contrasting colors)
- Beading needle (for appliqué details)
- Small beads (optional, for decoration)
- Buttons, coins, or embellishments
- Fabric scissors or rotary cutter
- Pins or clips
- Iron

### Fabric Cutting Guide

Cut your fabrics according to these approximate sizes:

- Top panel: 20 x 20 cm (8 x 8 inches)
- Front & back panels: 20 x 15 cm (8 x 6 inches)
- Side panels: 15 x 15 cm (6 x 6 inches)
- Pocket pieces: about 8 x 10 cm (3 x 4 inches)
- Lining pieces: same sizes as outer panels
- Batting: same size as top panel (20 x 20 cm)

Also prepare smaller denim squares (like 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 inches) and rectangles (up to 20 x 25 cm / 8 x 10 inches) for patchwork.

### Key Tip

Fuse or layer the quilt batting to the inside of your larger denim panels (especially the top piece). This adds structure and durability to your box.



## B. Make Pocket Side Panels

This step creates the functional outer sides of your box with pockets.

### Step 1: Prepare the Pockets

- Take each pocket piece and fold the top edge down about 1 cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$  inch).
- Sew along the folded edge using a straight stitch to create a clean top hem.

## Step 2: Attach Pockets to Side Panels

- Place each pocket onto a denim side panel.
- Pin in place, ensuring the bottom and sides align.
- Sew the pocket onto the panel using a straight stitch along the sides and bottom.

## Step 3: Add Lining

- Place the lining fabric on top of the panel (right sides together).
- Sew around the edges, leaving a small opening.
- Turn the piece right side out and press flat.

## Step 4: Top-Stitch

- Top-stitch around the edges to secure layers and give a finished look.
- This also strengthens the pocket edges.

Now you have completed side panels with functional pockets 🎉

## C. Assemble Top Cover & Appliqués

This is the decorative highlight of your project.

### Step 1: Create the Patchwork Top (Quilt-As-You-Go)

- Arrange your denim scraps into a pleasing layout.
- Sew pieces together one by one to form a 20 x 20 cm (8 x 8 inch) square.
- Press seams flat as you go.

### Step 2: Add Batting & Quilt

- Layer your patchwork top with batting underneath.
- Quilt through all layers using straight lines or decorative stitching.
- You can stitch along seams or create patterns.

### Step 3: Apply Appliqués

Now decorate your top panel with beautiful elements:

- Large butterfly (centerpiece)
- Small flowers (fabric or crocheted)
- Moon and stars (fabric shapes)
- Beaded accents (optional)

#### How to Attach Appliqués

- Use hand sewing with a blanket stitch around edges.
- Add beads using a beading needle for extra detail.
- Secure everything firmly, especially raised elements.

### Step 4: Decorative Stitching

- Add embroidery details like antennae for the butterfly.
- Use contrasting thread for visible decorative stitching.
- This gives a handmade, artistic finish.

### Step 5: Final Touch Placement

- Use buttons or coins to test placement before sewing permanently.
- Adjust until the composition looks balanced.

Your finished top should measure about 20 x 20 cm and be richly decorated ✨



## D. Form the Box

Now it's time to bring everything together into a sturdy box.

### Step 1: Assemble the Box Walls

- Take your front, back, and side panels.
- Sew them together along the edges to form a rectangular loop.
- Use strong stitching (a heavy needle is recommended for denim).

### Step 2: Reinforce Seams

- Go over seams again or use zigzag stitching for durability.
- Press seams open or to one side.

### **Step 3: Attach the Top Cover**

- Align the finished patchwork top with the upper edge of the box walls.
- Pin in place carefully.
- Sew around the top edge securely.

### **Step 4: Shape the Box**

- Insert a firm base or tray inside if desired to help hold shape.
- Adjust corners and edges neatly.

### **Step 5: Final Details**

- Add optional decorative elements like:
  - Small notebook pocket
  - Extra stitching accents
  - Lavender or scented filling (optional)

### **Finished Size**

Approximately 20 x 20 x 15 cm (8 x 8 x 6 inches)