

# UPCYCLED DENIM PILLOW PLAY

for kids, made by their favorite adult



a *During Quiet Time* design

## Upcycled Denim Pillow Play; a Free Pattern

This fun pillow is made *for* kids (ages 3-8), *by* adults! Use old denim jeans to create a fun, interactive pillow front theater of sorts. The theme shown is the “Three Little Bears.” Papa bear stows away in the zippered fly from Papa sized jeans; Mama in the mama sized jeans. Baby bear pops into the pocket of some baby sized jeans. Goldilocks gets a back pocket all to herself. Kids can entertain themselves by recounting the fairy tale.

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### Supplies:

One fat quarter of backing fabric

1 pair of Papa jeans

1 pair of Mama jeans

1 pair of Baby jeans

felt scraps

12-14” invisible zipper

embroidery floss

denim needle for sewing machine

Alphabet stamps and fabric ink pad

jumbo rickrack

fabric scraps

¼” wide ribbon scraps

**\*To print your patterns, set the print scaling to “none” or “100%.” If you are in Europe/UK, change the paper size on the print menu to US Letter and Borderless.**

1. First create your characters. If you want to use my “Three Little Bears” patterns, go on and print those out. The bears are cut out of two layers of felt. First I used embroidery floss to make French knot eyes and stitched mouths. Then I used a blanket stitch around the edges. There is a good blanket stitch tutorial here: [http://www.futuregirl.com/craft\\_blog/2007/09/tutorial-hand-sew-felt.aspx](http://www.futuregirl.com/craft_blog/2007/09/tutorial-hand-sew-felt.aspx) When you come to the hand, you will want to insert a ribbon and catch it several times with stitches so it is secure. Stuff with fiberfill.





2. Once you have three adorable bears on ribbons, it is time to make Goldilocks. I cut the body out of off white felt. The hair, dress and shoes were cut out and adhered to the felt with Steam a Seam iron on fusible web. I embroidered the facial features. Then I cut a piece of double sided heavy weight fusible interfacing to the same size as the finished, dressed, Goldilocks and adhered it to a piece of red felt, after inserting a piece of ribbon in the hand. Then I trimmed the red felt down leaving a little border. I stitched around the edges on my machine to secure them a bit. Set your figures aside and pick up your denim!



3. The goal for my pillow front with the “Three Little Bears” theme, was to have 3 sections of flies that could unzip to hide Papa, Mama, and Baby bear on strings. I used a pair of men’s jeans for the Papa fly, women’s jeans for the Mama fly, and found out that the fly on baby jeans makes for a very small opening so I opted to use the fly for looks only and the pocket for the bear. The pocket for Goldilocks is a women’s back pocket. Depending on the size of your jeans, the number of characters in you fairy tale, tears and such that you are cutting around, your layout will vary. This is how I approached the pillow front.



I sewed my Papa and Mama jeans together, lining up the finished upper edge, and adding jumbo rick rack for fun. Remember to change your sewing machine needle to a “denim” needle. I also lengthened my stitch to a 3.0 and used my walking foot.



(I should mention that I stamped the words “Papa,” “Mama,” “Baby” and “Goldilocks” on the appropriate spots at about this time. Not only is it fun but it helps make for clear illustrations!)

You will notice that the upper edge of the Papa/Mama jean unit is curved. Lay them on top of another piece of denim that is bigger because it will serve to line the openings where Mama and Papa Bear reside. Pin the upper edge as it wants to curve. Stitch along that upper edge. Square up this unit (mine was about 16 ½” wide and about 1” below the Papa fly and about 2” above the Papa/Mama unit).



Do the same with your Baby and Goldilocks sections. I had to add some length to the Baby section to make it equal to the Goldilocks section.

Pin along the bottom of the Papa/Mama unit and stitch along the upper finished edge as you did before, going through both layers of the Papa/Mama unit.

Square everything up again. Mine was about 16 ½” wide and 18 ½” long.



Using a rotary cutter through all these layers is a bad idea (don't ask me how I know). Instead, I used my ruler and lines on the cutting mat and marked my cutting line with a disappearing marker. I had to add two inches to the left to achieve an 18 ½" square.



4. Now it is time to attach the free ribbon edges belonging to each of your characters. I decided to knot Papa's ribbon to the belt loop. Mama's ribbon is stitched inside the fly.



I purposely allowed the stitches attaching Baby and Goldilocks ribbons to show for a touch of color.



5. Make sure your characters are snug in their flies and pockets now so that they don't get caught in your pillow side seams.



6. Cut an 18 1/2" square from your backing material and take out your invisible zipper.



7. There are many tutorials available for finishing a pillow using an invisible zipper so I won't go into that here. After stitching the edges of the pillow, I would recommend a zig zag edge stitch since denim ravel so easily. Clip the corners of your pillow and turn.
8. It's curtain time! Let the show begin!



