

Denim Bear Hanging Organizer

ILLUSTRATED SEWING & QUILTING TUTORIAL • US ENGLISH • A4 PRINT EDITION



Turn soft, recycled denim into a friendly wall organizer with two open-top pockets, floppy arms and an appliqued bear face.

Finished body: 16 × 27 cm (6.3 × 10.6 in). Head: 12.5 × 11 cm (4.9 × 4.3 in). Approximate assembled height: 36 cm (14.2 in), excluding ears and hanging loop.

This is a reconstructed pattern based on the supplied design, not a tested commercial pattern. The source drawings contain inconsistent proportions. The written measurements and full-size working templates in this guide form one consistent version; make a scrap-fabric sample first.

01 Gather & prepare

LIGHTWEIGHT DENIM • LINED POCKETS • LOW-LOFT QUILTING

Materials

Prewashed, non-stretch light or medium denim: about 60 × 90 cm (24 × 36 in), or equivalent flat pieces from old jeans. Cotton pocket lining: 25 × 40 cm (10 × 16 in). Low-loft batting: 25 × 50 cm (10 × 20 in), plus optional small scraps for ears and arms. Medium woven fusible interfacing: about 20 × 40 cm (8 × 16 in).

Face & notions

White or cream felt: 10 × 10 cm (4 × 4 in). Black felt scraps, black embroidery floss, matching polyester thread and optional golden topstitching thread. Use sewn felt or embroidered eyes; no loose buttons are needed. Have scissors, pins or clips, a ruler, removable marker, iron and hand needle ready.

Machine setup

Use a denim needle suitable for your fabric, usually 90/14 or 100/16. Start with a 2.5-3 mm straight stitch; use 3-3.5 mm for visible topstitching. Test through the thickest stack. A walking foot helps feed denim, lining and batting evenly.

Prepare the fabric

Wash and dry the denim and cotton before cutting. Avoid worn knees, stretch panels and bulky original jeans seams. Press flat. Keep the length of the body parallel to the denim grain. Place mirrored arm pieces together before cutting.

Seam & measurement rules

Centimeters are the working units; inches are rounded. Full-size templates show FINISHED SEAM LINES, not cutting edges. Add 0.7 cm (about 1/4 in) outside all sewn-piece outlines. Felt applique has no seam allowance. Loop dimensions are cutting dimensions and already include all folds.

Printing

Print pages 8-11 on A4 at 100% / Actual size. Turn off Fit or Shrink. Check the 5 cm test square before tracing. Page 12 is the supplied reference diagram only: its pieces have different scales and must not be cut directly at printed size.

02 Cutting list

CUT ALL PARTS BEFORE ASSEMBLY • DIMENSIONS BELOW ARE FINISHED UNLESS NOTED

Piece	Quantity & material	Size / cutting rule
Body	2 denim + 1 batting	16 × 27 cm; add 0.7 cm
Head	2 denim + 1 batting	12.5 × 11 cm; add 0.7 cm
Ears	4 denim; batting optional	5 × 4.5 cm; add 0.7 cm
Arms	4 denim, mirrored pairs	3.5 × 11 cm; add 0.7 cm
Pockets	2 denim + 2 cotton lining	16 × 12 cm; cut 17.4 × 13.4 cm
Hanging loop	1 denim strip	CUT 4 × 14 cm; no extra allowance
Muzzle	1 cream felt oval	4.8 × 4.2 cm; no allowance
Eyes	2 black felt ovals	About 0.7 × 0.9 cm
Nose	1 rounded black triangle	About 1.4 × 1.2 cm

Interfacing and batting

Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the body front and head back, following its instructions. Reinforce the loop anchor with a 3 × 4 cm patch. Cut batting to the seam-line shape so it adds less bulk at the edges. Use only a very thin layer in the head.

Working pattern choices

The photographed version has no visible feet, so this tutorial omits the optional leg shapes shown on the reference sheet. Two equal-height pockets reproduce the stacked-pocket layout. Use the new working templates for both pockets; the source sheet is retained for visual comparison.

Mark before sewing

Mark body center, head center and the horizontal join line on the body template. Mark pocket top edges 3 cm and 14 cm below the top center of the body. Mark both arm anchors 2.5 cm below the top center. Transfer marks to the fabric wrong side.

03 Sew ears, arms & face

SMALL COMPONENTS FIRST • KEEP CURVED SEAMS SMOOTH



1. Make two ears

Place two ear pieces right sides together. Stitch the curved perimeter at 0.7 cm, leaving the short base open. Trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip the curve without cutting stitches. Turn, shape with a blunt tool, press and topstitch 2-3 mm from the edge. Repeat. Thin batting is optional.

2. Make two arms

Pair the mirrored arm pieces right sides together. Sew around each long curve, leaving a 2 cm opening at the narrow top. Trim, clip, turn and press. Keep them flat, with no stuffing, or use one thin batting layer. Topstitch the curved edges. Baste the open ends closed.

3. Applique the face

On the head front, center the muzzle horizontally with its bottom about 1.2 cm above the lower finished edge. Sew close to the felt edge. Position the eyes symmetrically above the muzzle. Sew the nose near the top of the muzzle. With black floss, backstitch a short vertical line and two curved smile branches.

4. Check symmetry

Pin the ears behind the head temporarily and view the face upright. Adjust before sewing the head closed. Secure every felt piece with stitching rather than adhesive alone. The 3D illustrations explain the appearance; use the working templates for exact sizes.

04 Finish the head & loop

A SEPARATE FINISHED HEAD IS JOINED TO THE BODY LATER



5. Fold the loop

Press the 4 × 14 cm strip in half lengthwise. Open it; press both long edges to the center. Fold closed again to make a 1 × 14 cm band. Stitch along both edges.

Fold the band in half crosswise. Its two raw ends will sit together at the head top. After a 0.7 cm seam, the loop projects about 6.3 cm.

6. Baste ears and loop

Lay the face right side up. Position the ears at the upper left and upper right, with their finished portions pointing inward over the face and their raw bases aligned with the head cutting edge. Place the loop inward too, centered at the top, with both raw ends aligned with that edge. Baste 4 mm from the edge.

7. Close the head

Secure the head batting to the wrong side of the front within the seam line. Put the head back right side down over the front. Sew around at 0.7 cm, leaving a 4 cm opening along the lower curve. Stitch over the loop anchor again. Trim and clip the curved allowance; do not cut the loop stitching.

8. Turn and finish

Turn the head through the opening. Ease the seam out smoothly and press with a cloth. Tuck the opening allowance inward. Ladder-stitch closed, then topstitch 2-3 mm around the head. Check that the loop and ears stand outside the seam and that all basting threads are hidden.

05 Build the two pockets

OPEN TOPS • SECURE BOTTOMS • SIDE EDGES ENCLOSED IN THE BODY SEAM



9. Line each pocket

For each pocket, place a 17.4 × 13.4 cm denim rectangle and a matching cotton lining rectangle right sides together. Sew only the top and bottom edges with 0.7 cm seams. Leave both side edges open. Turn through a side opening and press. The result is 17.4 cm wide, including raw side allowances, and 12 cm high.

10. Topstitch the opening

Keep the lining rolled slightly to the inside. Topstitch across the upper edge 3 mm below the fold. Add a second line 7 mm below it for the denim look. Do not stitch the upper edge to the body. Press each pocket flat; these are flat pockets, with no gussets or pleats.

11. Attach the upper pocket

Lay the body front flat, right side up. Position the first pocket top 3 cm below the body top center; its bottom lies at 15 cm. Align its raw sides with the body raw sides. Stitch across the folded pocket bottom 2-3 mm above the edge. Baste the side edges within the 0.7 cm allowance.

12. Attach the lower pocket

Place the second pocket top at 14 cm and its bottom at 26 cm below the body top center. It overlaps the upper pocket bottom by 1 cm. Sew the lower bottom to the body only and baste its raw sides. Keep both pocket mouths free. Reinforce each opening at the sides after the final body seam is complete.

06 Assemble, quilt & finish

CHECK POCKET ACCESS BEFORE FINAL TOPSTITCHING

13. Prepare the body

Baste batting to the wrong side of the body back. Quilt only this back-and-batting layer with widely spaced straight lines if desired. Keep batting out of seam allowances. Do not quilt through finished pocket openings.

Baste each arm to the body front side edge at the marked anchor. Point the arm inward so it lies over the front during assembly. Keep loose arm ends away from the body seam.



14. Sew and turn the body

Place body front and back right sides together, with pockets and arms enclosed between them. Sew around the outline at 0.7 cm, leaving a 6 cm turning opening along the top. Catch pocket side edges in the side seams. Trim bulk at corners, clip curves and turn. Press; ladder-stitch the opening closed.

15. Topstitch and attach the head

Topstitch around the body 3 mm from the edge. Add short reinforcing bar tacks at pocket opening ends, through pocket and body, without closing the mouths. Center the finished head over the upper body with a 2 cm overlap. Sew two close parallel curved lines across the overlapping lower head area, through all layers. Secure the back of the overlap with small hand stitches if needed.

16. Final checks and care

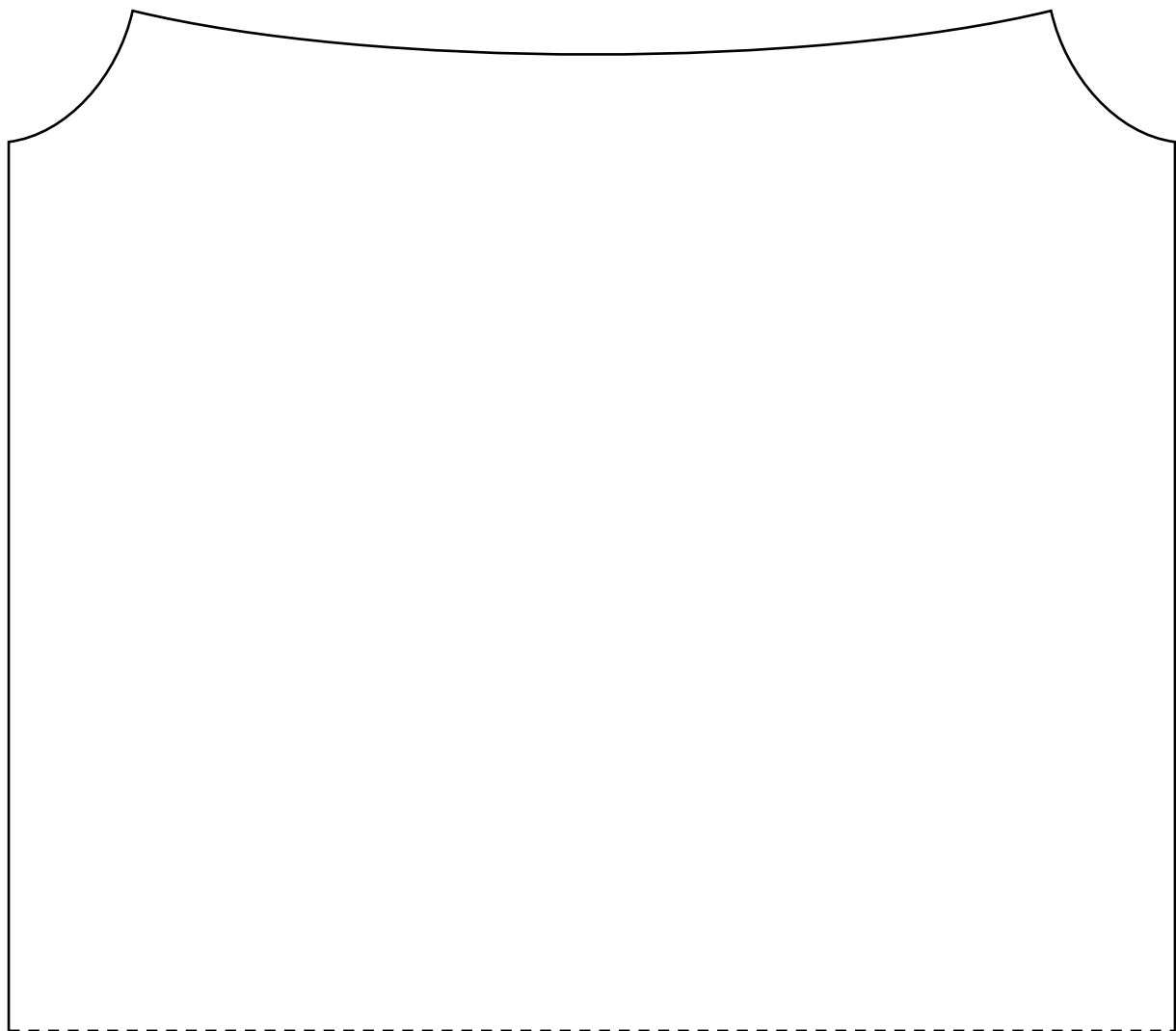
Remove pins and basting. Check every pocket with your hand. Tug gently on the loop, head joint and arms. Use for light sewing notions; this design has no tested load rating. Hang on a secure wall hook away from small children. Spot-clean first; if washing is needed, wash gently in cool water and reshape flat.

Troubleshooting

Puckered seams: reduce pressure or lengthen the stitch slightly. Wavy pockets: press and align grain before sewing. Bulky curves: grade allowances and use thinner lining. A tilting head: check the center marks and resew the overlap evenly. Test the entire pattern in inexpensive fabric before cutting treasured denim.

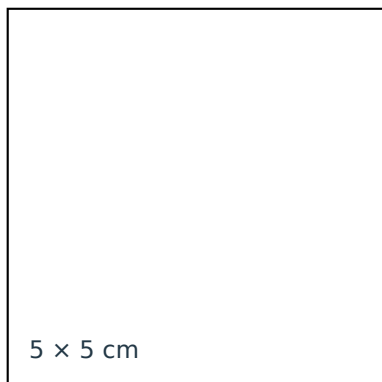
07 Body template A - upper

FULL SIZE AT 100% ON A4 • SOLID OUTLINES = SEAM LINES • ADD 0.7 cm



JOIN A TO B HERE - align dashed lines; do not add allowance at this join.

Trace the joined outline once for the front and once for the back. Add 0.7 cm around the outside only. Cut batting on the seam line. The joined body measures 16 × 27 cm at its widest and tallest points.



Assembly: cut paper at the dashed join line. Butt the two lines together and tape on the reverse; do not overlap. The shoulder curve dips below the top corner level.

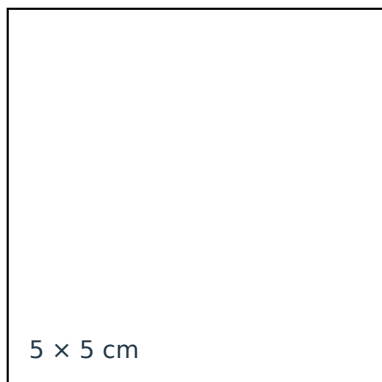
07 Body template B - lower

FULL SIZE AT 100% ON A4 • SOLID OUTLINES = SEAM LINES • ADD 0.7 cm

JOIN A TO B HERE - align dashed lines; do not add allowance at this join.



Trace the joined outline once for the front and once for the back. Add 0.7 cm around the outside only. Cut batting on the seam line. The joined body measures 16 × 27 cm at its widest and tallest points.



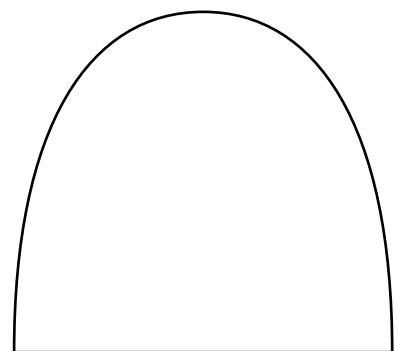
Assembly: cut paper at the dashed join line. Butt the two lines together and tape on the reverse; do not overlap. The shoulder curve dips below the top corner level.

08 Head, ear & arm templates

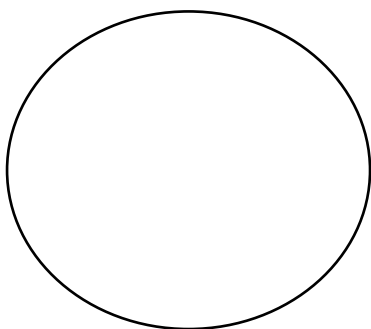
FULL SIZE AT 100% ON A4 • SOLID OUTLINES = SEAM LINES • ADD 0.7 cm



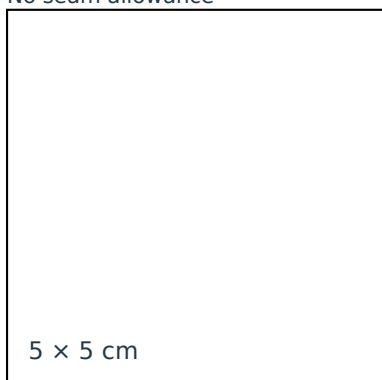
HEAD • cut 2 denim; add 0.7 cm



EAR • cut 4

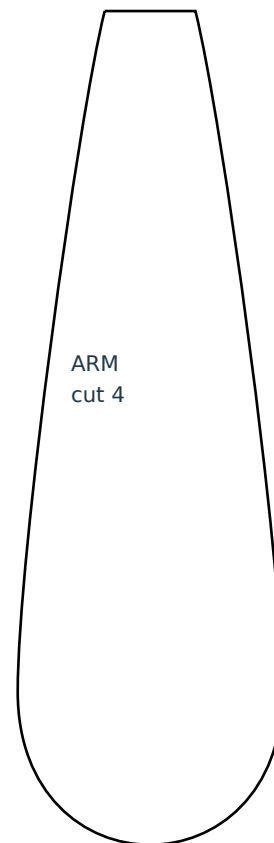


MUZZLE • cut 1 felt
No seam allowance



5 x 5 cm

Loop: cut one 4 x 14 cm strip. Face: cut the eyes and nose to the dimensions on page 3. Adjust their spacing on the actual head before sewing.



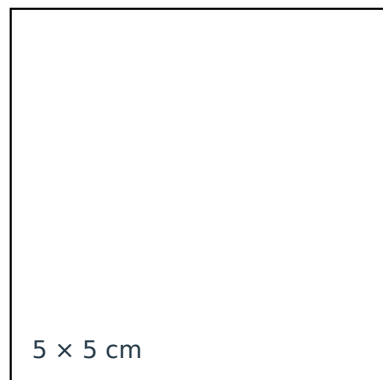
ARM
cut 4

09 Pocket template

FULL SIZE AT 100% ON A4 • SOLID OUTLINES = SEAM LINES • ADD 0.7 cm



The rectangle shows the finished seam boundaries. Sew top and bottom to the lining, turn through an open side, then press. Raw sides are caught inside the body side seams.



Reference-sheet note The final page preserves the supplied diagram. It is a visual reference, not a uniform-scale cutting sheet. Use the full-size templates on pages 8-11. The reference loop and muzzle dimensions differ from the working choices in this guide.

