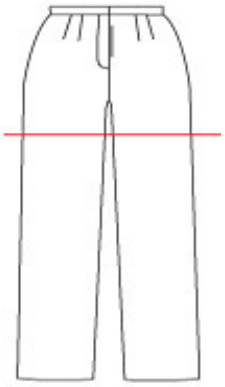
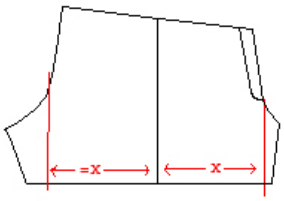
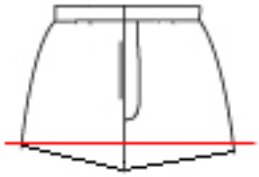
How to make a 100% upcycled shopping bag



- Take an old pair of pants and lay them out flat.
- Mark across the legs about 18" down. Make sure you have about 24" of leg left to make the straps. Adjust if needed. (A)
- Cut across the line marked.
- Take the top portion and turn inside out matching side seam to side seam. (B)
- Starting with the front, mark a vertical line as shown. Measure from the side seam to the mark on the front. Note the number of inches.
- Measure from the side seam towards the back the same number of inches. Mark the back.
- Sew and cut away the extra. Finish the seams (zig zag, bias bind or overlock)
- Still inside out, match center front and center back with the sides in their natural position. You will find your line is no longer straight. Remark the line and cut. Optionally, round the corners. (C)
- Sew across the bottom of the bag and finish the seam however you are most comfortable.





Making and attaching the straps

- Take the legs (avoid the knee which is often worn) and cut two strips about 24" x 5".
- Sew each one lengthwise with right sides together and turn.
- Finish the ends how ever you are most comfortable. Turning in and top stitching is an option here.
- On the inside of the waistband, mark thirds on both the front and back sides.
- Sew the straps to the inside of the waistband at the marked position.

Now take your bag shopping.