

Easy to make back door denim rugs

The technique used is similar to the rag quilts that are so popular.

Gather old denim jeans—for rugs, I use the jeans that are badly stained--other jeans are used in denim quilts. Use a heavy-duty denim needle size 100, 110, or 120.

Cut denim into desired size squares or strips. Filler squares (strips) can be cut from scraps of batting, old towels, or even old t-shirts. (Using larger squares makes sewing quicker.)

Size of cut square	No squares each side (2 sides)	No of filler squares cut 1 ½ to 2" smaller than denim	Approximate finished size
11"	6 (2x3) (12)	6	20 x 30
9"	8 (2x4) (16)	8	16 x 32
8"	12 (3x4) (24)	12	21 x 28
6"	24 (4x6) (48)	24	20 x 30
5"	35 (5x7) (70)	35	20 x 28

Pair 2 denim squares with wrong sides together.

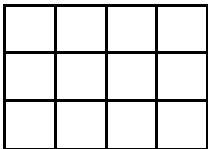
In between each pair of denim squares, sandwich a filler square centering the smaller square on the larger square (eyeballing it is fine).

Sew an x through all three layers of fabric. Using a bright colored thread (gold or red) brightens the rug, or use up odds and ends threads from bobbins.

Sew x'd squares together row-by-row using a 5/8" seam allowance. I use my straight stretch stitch for a stronger seam. Press seams to one side.

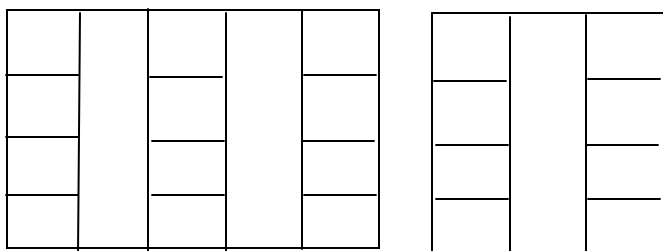
Sew rows together butting the seams up against each other as if you were sewing for a quilt..

Below is the grid pattern for 8" cut squares (4 x 3)

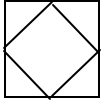


Sew 5/8" away from outside edges. This time press outer edge seams open to help reduce bulk. With scissors, snip every inch or so on exposed seams, being careful not to cut into the stitching. This speeds the fraying process. Your dryer lint trap will be full of little fringes for several washings-this is normal. I wash these rugs with the everyday jeans.

Another way to reduce bulk at intersecting corners is to put 2 long strips of denim one for each side of rug instead of a row of squares between the squares. Your rug could look like either of these:



I have been experimenting with another technique. Using the same idea of a grid system as on page 1, but omit the filler. Cut out desired number of squares for both front and back. Before sewing together, place a smaller denim square on the diagonal on top of each grid square and sew down about 1/2 to 1 inch from outer edge of diagonal square—your preference. This is a good time to snip the edges of the diagonal square again being careful not to snip into the stitching.



Place two of these wrong sides together and sew squares together row-by-row using a 5/8" seam allowance. The diagonal square outside edge should be pulled away from the edges. Do not sew the diagonal square edges in the seam allowance. I use my straight stretch stitch for a stronger seam. Press seams to one side.

Sew rows together butting the seams up against each other as if you were sewing for a quilt. Sew 5/8" away from outside edges. This time press outer edge seams open to help reduce bulk. With scissors, snip every inch or so on exposed seams, being careful not to cut into the stitching, just as you would on a rag quilt.

This method gives the added weight to the rug without the bulkiness, especially in the seams. Again the solid strips between patched strips help reduce bulky seams as well.

These are pics of two of my well used rugs. The square one needs to head to the washer. The bottom one is long and narrow and nestles next to the wall for barn boots under the jacket hooks in the mud room

