



10K jeans

CHOSEN FOR REDESIGN DIY



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Hi!

I am Paula Malleus-Lemettinen, a 43-year-old master seamstress and entrepreneur with 25 years of experience in the textile and fashion industry. I have been an entrepreneur since 2007 and my special expertise is in extending the life cycle of clothes and upcycling techniques. I have worked with the Chosen for Redesign project during autumn 2024 and directed the production of DIY tutorials.

The production of denim material consumes a lot of natural resources and causes significant environmental damage, especially in terms of water use: it can take up to 7,500-10,000 liters of water to make one pair of jeans. This is due both to the irrigation of cotton fields and the processes of dyeing and washing the fabric, which depletes water resources, especially in cotton producing regions such as India and Uzbekistan.

In addition, dyeing and softening denim material requires a high amount of harmful chemicals, which without proper treatment can end up in waterways and pollute the environment. The manufacturing and washing phase of denims consumes a lot of energy and the worldwide transportation of products further increases the carbon footprint.

Waste problems are also significant, as a lot of cut scraps are generated from the production of denim fabric. Used jeans also often end up in landfills. Upcycling techniques and redesign can reduce environmental impact: old jeans and cut scraps can be turned into new, unique products, saving water and energy and reducing waste. All of this supports a circular economy.

I hope you enjoy working through these tutorials and find them inspiring!

My tips for making the product:

- Read the instructions carefully first
- Find the materials you need
- Check that supplies and machinery are ready
- Proceed consistently step by step, ironing the product between each step



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10K jeans Technique: Fusion

This tutorial will show you how to disassemble and combine two pairs of jeans in a new way.

Description of the DIY product:

- Style: Chaps jeans
- Material: Consumer surplus jeans
- Material input: 2 pairs of jeans in different sizes: the smaller should fit you and the other should be larger than your normal size
- Tools needed: Sewing machine, overlocking machine, ironing board and steam iron, thread of appropriate colour, marking tool e.g. chalk, scissors, seam ripper, pincushion with pins and medium sized snap fastener



WORK ORDER

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Preparing the jeans

1. Choose two pairs of jeans. The second pair must be at least 4 cm larger at the waist width. The they can be slim or flared; they will become wider when they are done.

You can choose any colour of jeans you like - clearly contrasting colours are used here to make the work steps stand out.

2-3. Let out the hems of the legs (the whole length is required!).

4. Open the inseams (often the chain stitch opens by pulling when cut from the right point.)

Remember! If you deviate and modify the tutorial, the following instruction may no longer work as stated.



WORK ORDER

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Removing the top pair of jeans

Front piece:

1. Mark lines down the front of the jeans between the belt loops and the zip fly. The length is about 30 cm. Curve like a grappling hook to the edge of the inseam.
2. Cut the area from the bottom up towards the waistline.
3. Undo the waistband piece almost up to the first belt loop.
4. Cut out the parts to be removed.

Back piece:

5. Mark the area to be removed.
- 6.-7. Cut off the areas to be removed.
8. Undo the belt loops of the lower pair of jeans from the bottom edge
- 9.-10. Pin the jeans together so that the upper edge of the waistband buckle of the uppermost jeans follows the lower edge of the lower waistband buckle of the lower ones.

The jeans are now ready for the next step.



WORK ORDER

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Preparing the legs for joining

1. Lay the jeans on the table and align the upper one's leg under the lower one so that the side seams are aligned and the surplus is distributed over the edges of the lower leg.
2. Pin them in place at a height of about 10 cm. Mark and cut off these surpluses.
3. Turn the jeans and draw a curved line from the leg underneath to the area of the leg to be removed. The overlap should be at least 10 cm (follow the shape of the openings in the upper part). Copy the piece to be cut off to the other side and cut off.
4. Finish the cut lines.
5. Stitch the overlapping parts of the side seams to the inseams .

Note! If both pairs of jeans are almost the same size, there may not be a size difference in the inseam.



WORK ORDER

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Attaching the jeans to each other

1. Sew the jeans together at the top of the top pair's waistband buckle. You can run over the belt loops.

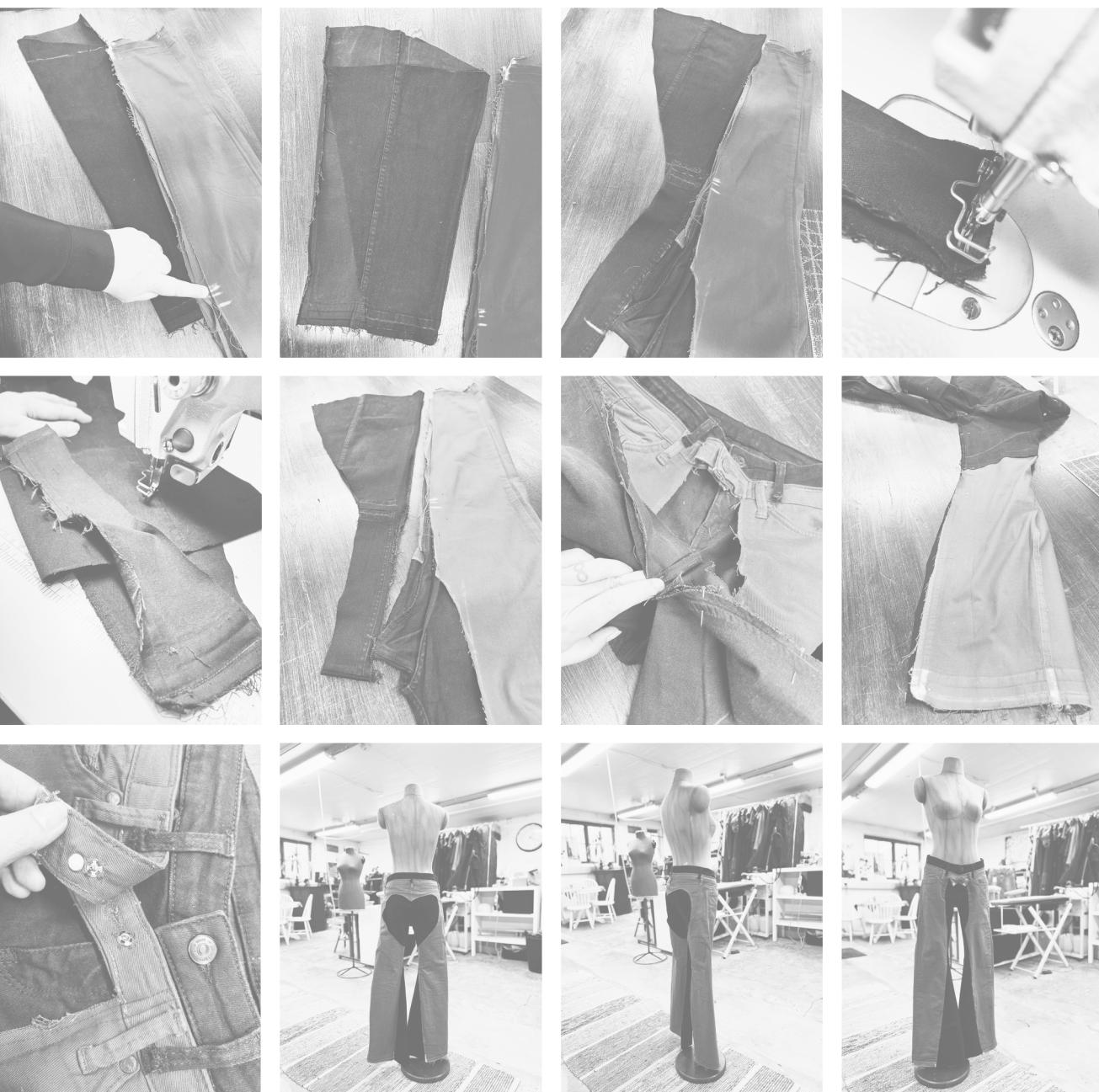
2. Sew the buttonhole areas back together. You can leave the seam allowances at the ends straight, which gives the ends length. You can also do this first and only then attach the jeans to each other.

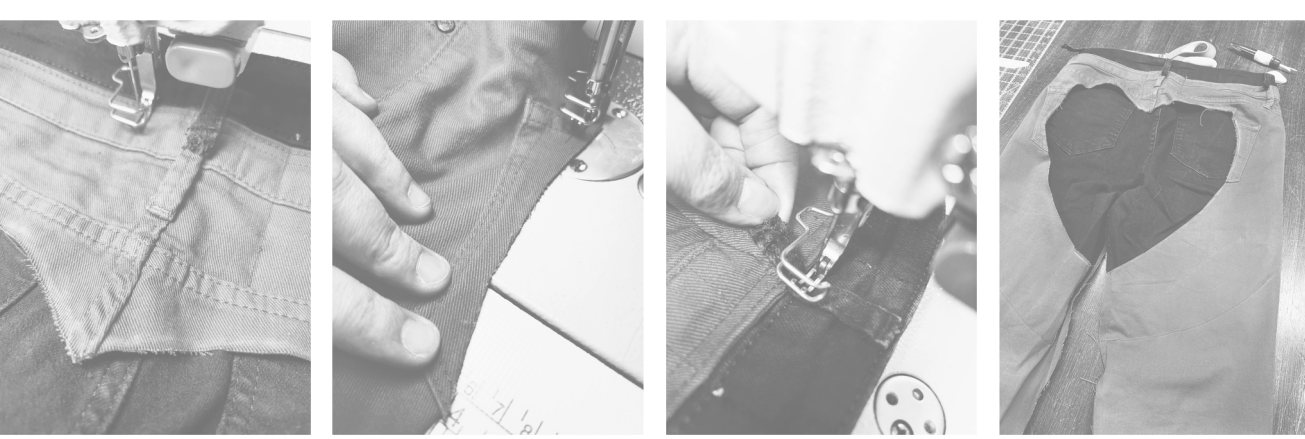
3.-4. Pin and sew the edges of the top jeans on the sides of the zipper slit (fly) of the bottom jeans using two stitches. Note! You can leave a raw edge or turn the edges for a more finished look and end result. In this case, you will need to sew the entire line in place.

5. Sew two vertical stitches in the back, running through both pairs of trousers. This prevents the piece under the waistband at the back from being able to "rise up" anymore.

6. Tack along the edge to fix the remnants of the back pocket.

Stitch the belt loops through back to their places. If you prefer and do not intend to use belt loops, you can also do the stitching vertically, in which case it goes through easier.





WORK ORDER

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Creating the fork and insert piece

Use the leg pieces left over from the original jeans for this (you can also leave out the extra pieces if you want a slimmer, straighter pair of jeans).

1. Fold the leg piece in two (the seam doesn't have to go in the middle or even be straight). Position the piece so that the wider part is left on the side of the leg. Use all the width available.

2. Use the maximum height of the folded piece. Check the height by placing the folded piece alongside the inseam of the jeans. Make sure you get a straight hem line at the bottom and mark the point on the leg where the insert ends at the top with chalk. A width of 6 cm is sufficient for the top edge of the insert. Next, cut a wedge-shaped section from the piece and use it to cut another identical section.

3. From the leftover pieces, cut two identical straight sheets sufficient to fill the height of the fork in the inseam area at the end.

4.-5. Join the four pieces together with straight stitching and overlocking.

6.-7. The finished part is first attached to the inseam of the front piece (using a straight stitch and overlocking). Iron the seam to make it neat.

8. Attach the back pieces in the same way. Note! The model piece was left with raw edges, but you can overlock and sew a shallow turn on the edge. I don't recommend double-fold hemming here.

9. You can sew a snap button in the fastening area of the waistband that cross in front to keep the flaps neatly crossed.





PERSONALISATION

How can you vary the appearance of your product?

The original jeans are really rough. You can make them neater by, for example, finishing and turning the edges of the front and back parts. Note that by choosing different models of jeans, you get different fused jeans. Two pairs of skinny jeans were selected for the model, but if you choose bootcut jeans, for example, you will get really wide jeans. One way to create more expression is to use a slightly thicker thread and a longer stitch.

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