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 t-rex



CHOSEN FOR REDESIGN DIY

ROUGH kimono





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 burdens water resources especially in cotton producing regions such as India and Uzbekistan.

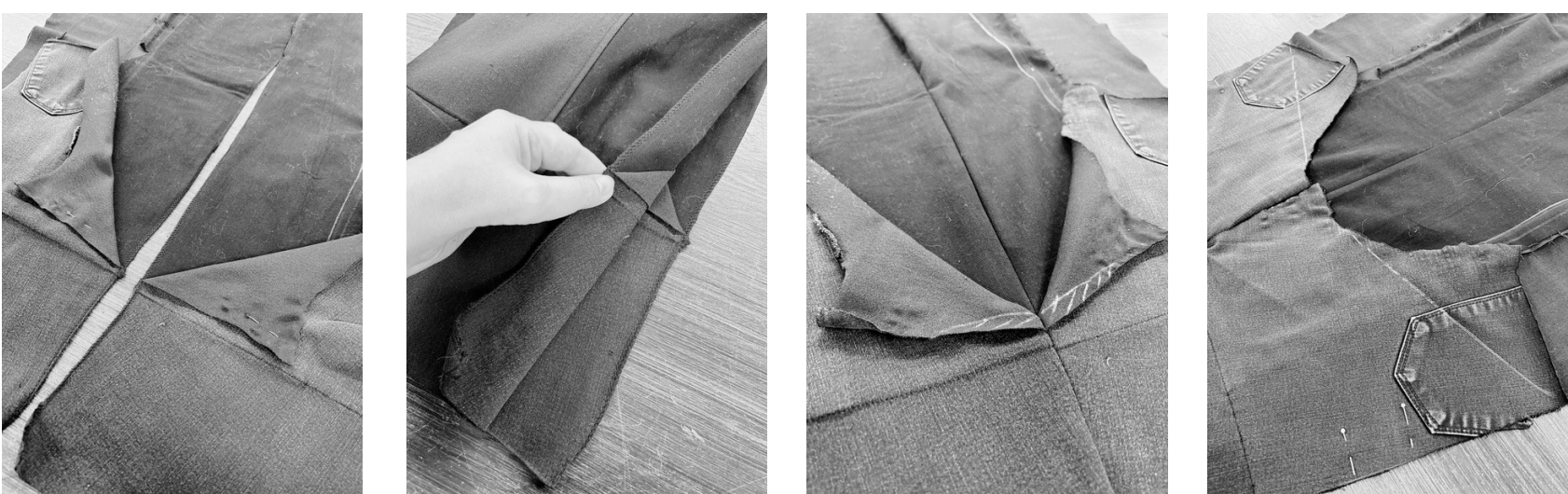
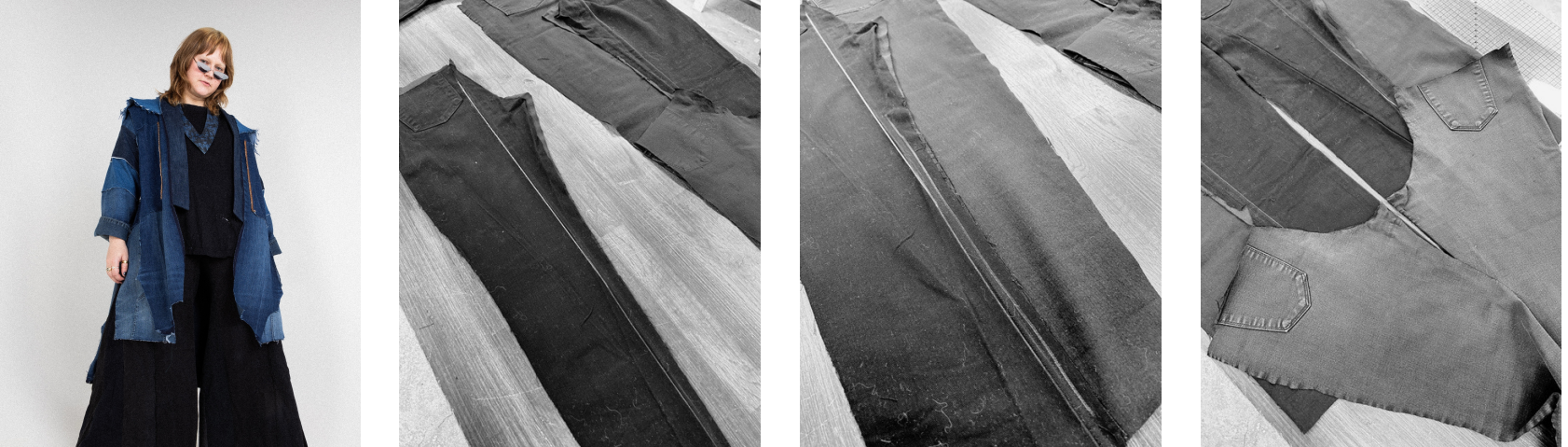
In addition, dyeing and softening of denim material requires a high amount of harmful chemicals, which without proper treatment can end up in the waters and pollute the environment. The manufacturing and washing phase of denims consume a lot of energy and the worldwide transportation of products further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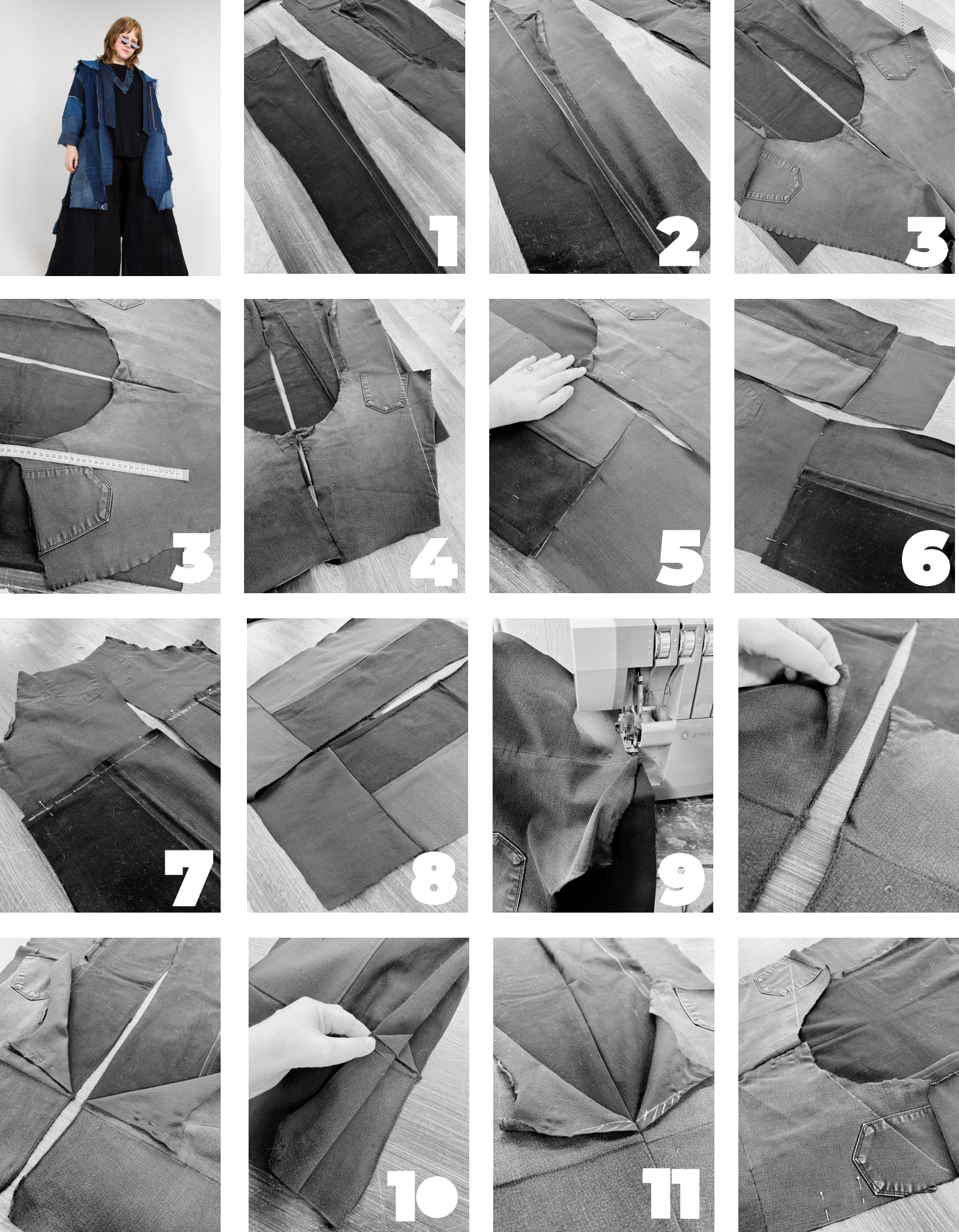


Rough Kimono **Technique: Fusion**

This tutorial will guide you to disassemble and combine different denim materials together to create a new product.

Description of the DIY product:

- Style: Rich and rough denim kimono
- Skill level: it's good if you can sew very well, but even with basic skills you can manage, as long as you take your time.
- Material input: Parts from 6 different pairs of jeans
- Tools needed: Sewing machine, overlocking machine, ironing board, steam iron, thread of suitable color, scissors, chalk, seam ripper, pincushion with needles and a mannequin if you have one.
- Preparations: Disassemble/cut five pairs of jeans into four parts + one pair into two parts – these become “fillets”.



BACK PIECE

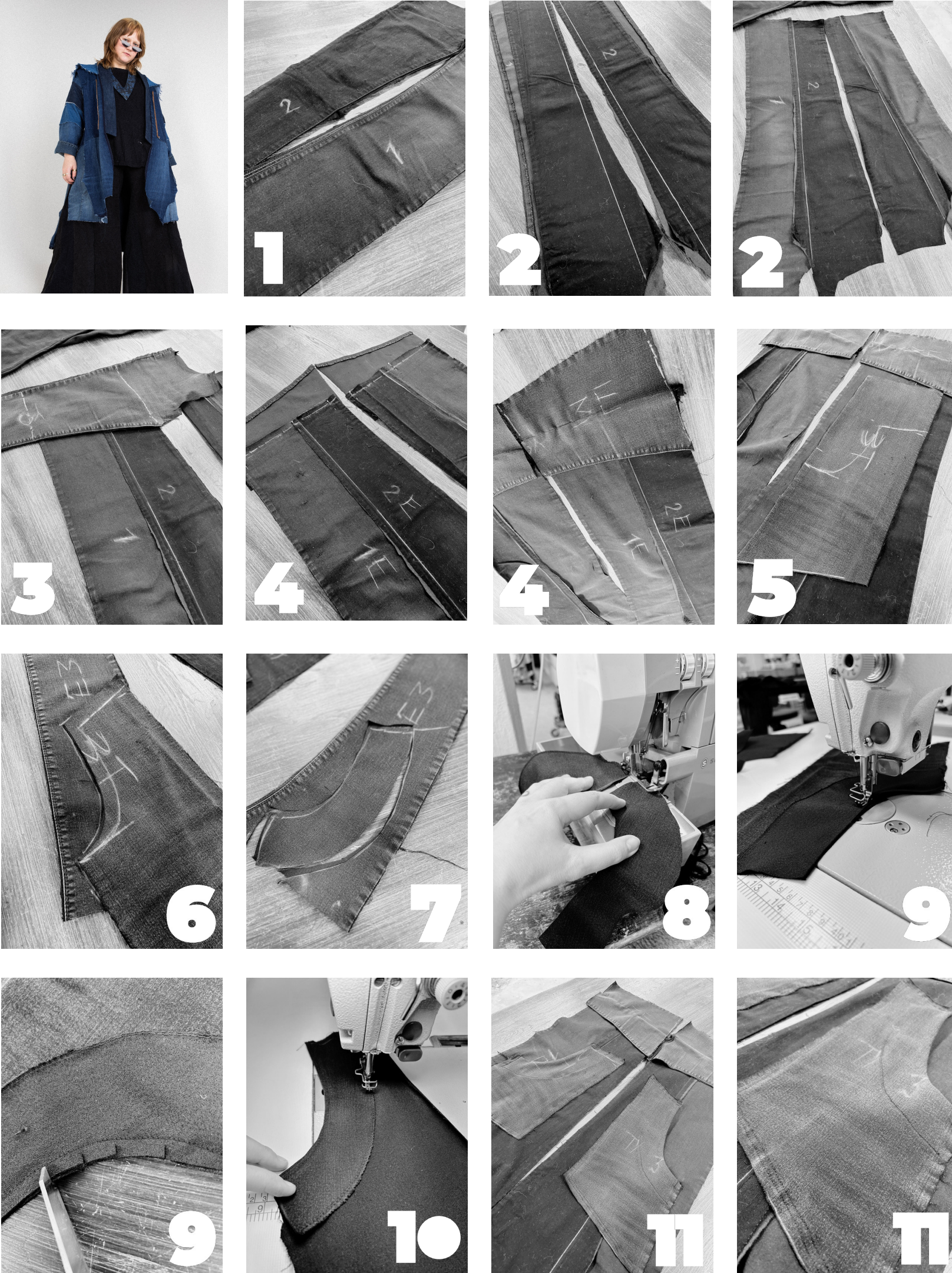
We create two identical pieces that are joined from the centre back seam. Remember that the size of the original jeans affects the size of the finished kimono. The bigger the kimono you want, the bigger the jeans you need. First we create the lower parts of the back pieces: Choose a pair of darker and a pair of lighter denim back parts (so-called “fillets”). Put the front pieces aside – at this stage we only use the back pieces.

1. Position the pieces so that they slightly widen downwards (the crotch area remains at the hem).
2. Place the pieces so that the dark denim pieces are left in the middle and the lighter ones remain on the side.
 - Sew the pieces together, starting with the uneven edges, with the wrong sides facing each other so that all the unevenness remains as an edge (stitch length approx. 3.5).
 - Iron the flaps sideways and stitch through them so they stay flat. You can also cut the flaps straight!
 - Make a second identical piece.

Then we add the top of the back piece:

3. Take the back fillets of the dark jeans. Create two identical pieces from these: Place the jeans over the finished bottom piece (overlap at least 10 cm) so that they continue to add height to the piece by at least 15 cm. NOTE! Write "3T" in chalk on the remaining part for the next step.
4. Straighten the side edge. NOTE! The piece can narrow as it goes upwards.
5. Turn the surfaces upside down and chalk the line where the insert is located.
6. Turn the lower part from left to right and fasten with pins.
7. Sew the lower parts with a straight stitch, turn back into the correct position and iron. This way, the back part stays tidy.
8. Repeat the same for the other side step by step.
9. Finish the centre back lines, leave the flap between the shoulder blades out of the overlocking.
10. Align the finished back pieces with right sides together and sew a centre back seam to join the two sides. Remember the alignment!
11. You can cut the flaps to your taste, both in the middle and at the bottom.

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FRONT PIECES AND POCKETS

We create the bottom parts of the front pieces:

1. Again, choose two pieces of jeans, this time from the front pieces: one pair darker and one pair lighter.

So, for one front piece you need two fillets. Use chalk to mark the numbers on the pieces.

2. Sew the pieces together. First, sew the wrong sides of the uneven edges facing each other so that all the unevenness remains in the seam allowance (same as for the back piece). Iron the flaps sideways and stitch through them so they stay flat.

Make a second identical piece.

Add the top of the front pieces:

3. We take one of the front fillets and outline the top piece on it. Mark the remaining part with "3E".

4. Attach the top piece to the bottom pieces just as you did for the back piece.

Constructing the pockets:

5.-7. Take the surplus pieces labelled 3T. Cut the pockets out from that. Cut the facings for the openings of the pockets from the surplus 3E.

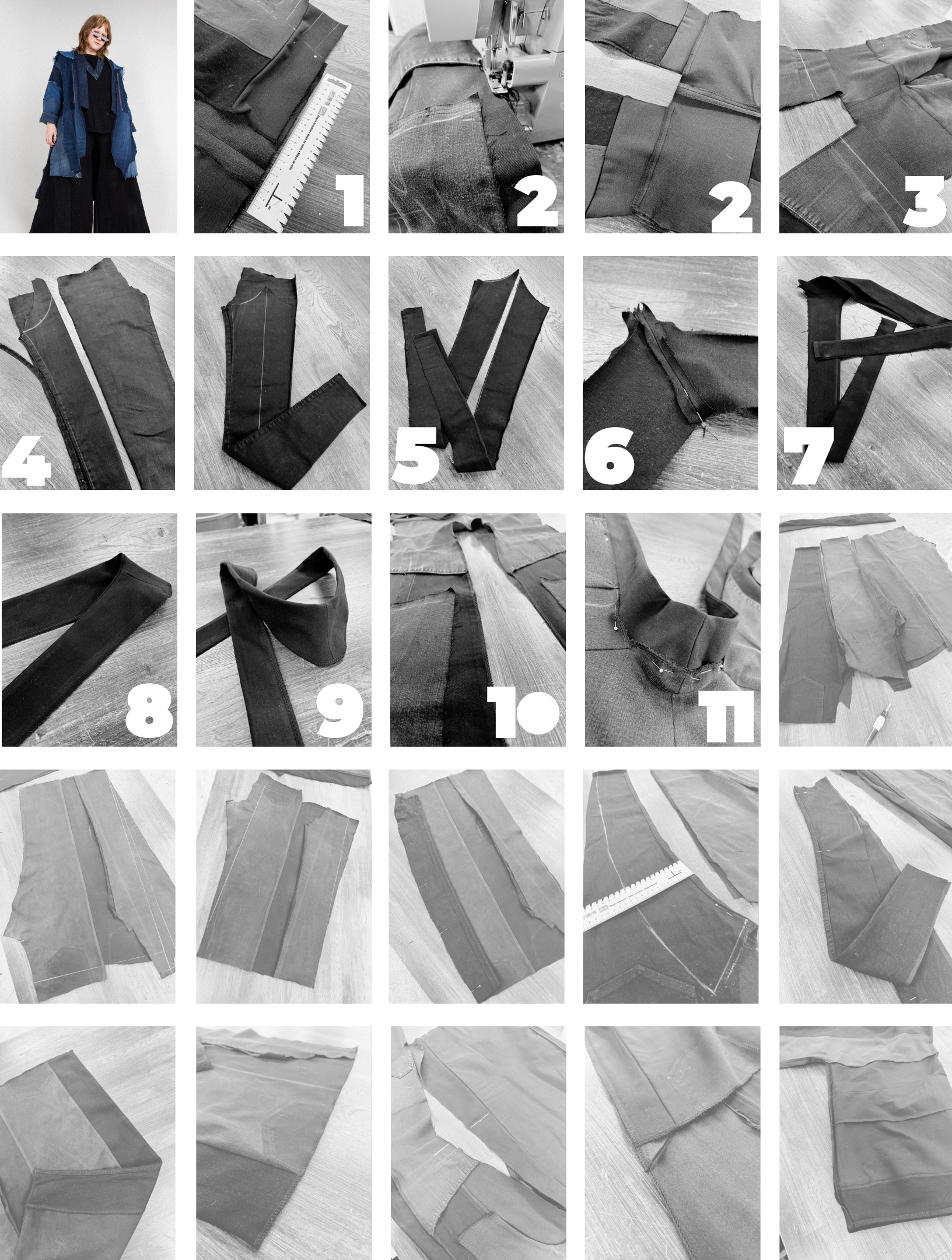
8. Finish the wider lower edges of the bottom allowances.

9. Sew the bottom allowances in place with a straight stitch and cut small notches in the seam allowances.

10. Turn the lower allowances to the wrong side, iron gently and stitch through.

11. Stitch the finished pockets in place with two rows of stitches. Remember to reinforce the pocket opening edges with reverse stitches!

WORK ORDER
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WORK ORDER
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BODY ASSEMBLY AND COLLAR

Place the back piece on the table, right side up. Place the front pieces on top of the back piece.

1. Mark an area in the middle of the back piece: size approx 10 cm for small size and 14 cm for large size. Place the front pieces right sides down on top of the back piece so that this marked area remains empty. (If there is surplus on the sides of the front pieces, cut it off after joining the shoulder.)

2. Sew and finish through the entire length.

3. Turn and mark the shoulder line about 4-5 cm on the front piece.

Next, we construct the neckline: Take two identical front pieces from the dark surplus jeans.

4. Cut two identical pieces from the fold. Cut the pieces in half to make four.

5. Sew neck curves A together _ right sides facing each other, always connecting two opposite pieces. Leave 1 cm seam allowances.

6. Iron the seam allowances open.

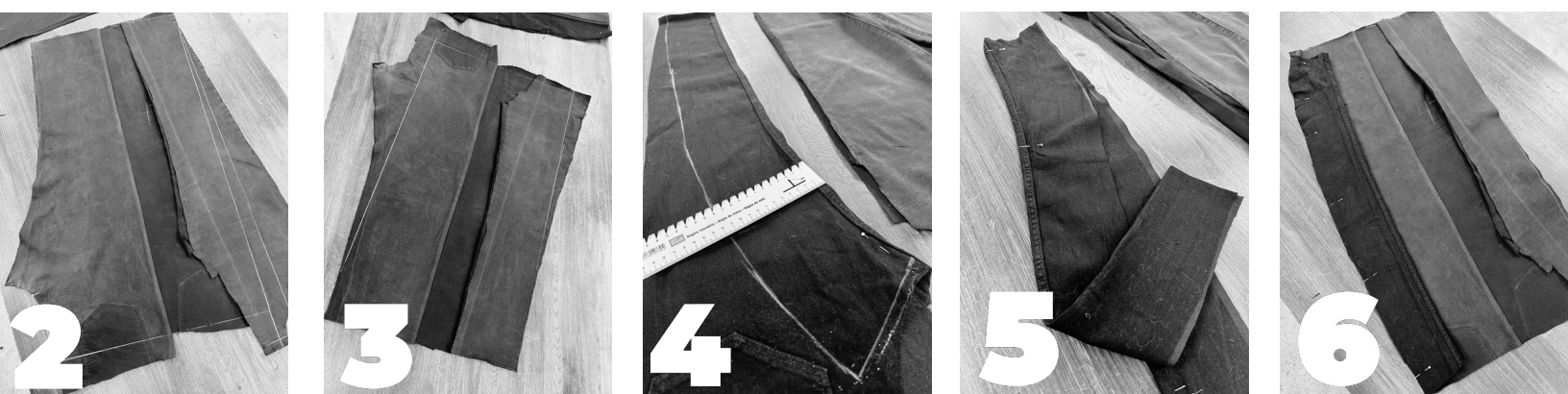
7. Place the right sides facing each other and sew the pieces together from their shorter edge.

8. Iron the seam allowances in either direction and iron.

9. Finish the outer edge of the collar.

10. Cut the neckline into a curve. Finish throughout the entire line, i.e. also the back of the neckline. Iron the shoulder seam allowances forward.

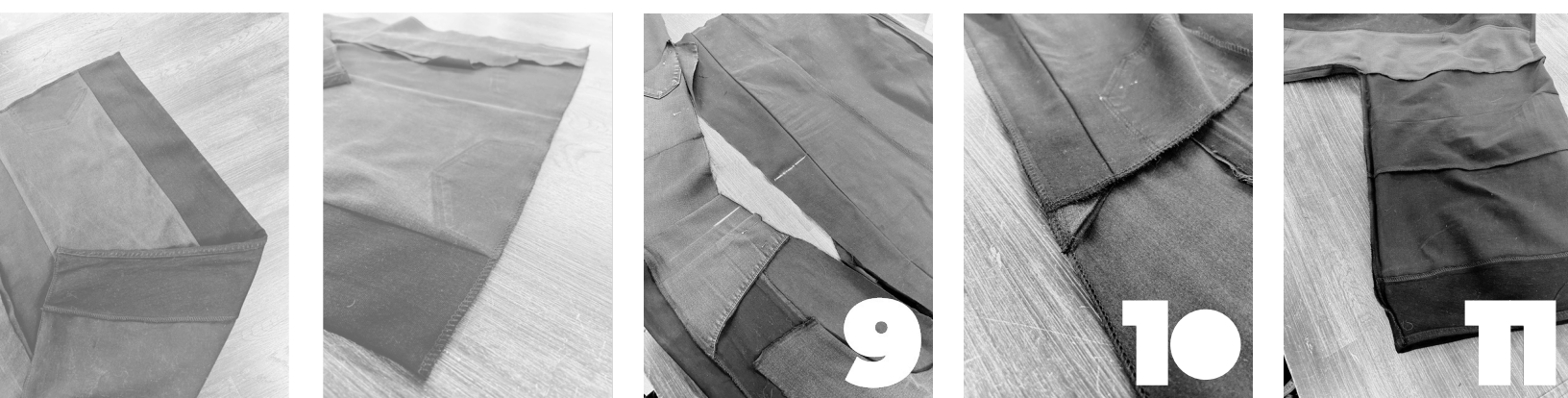
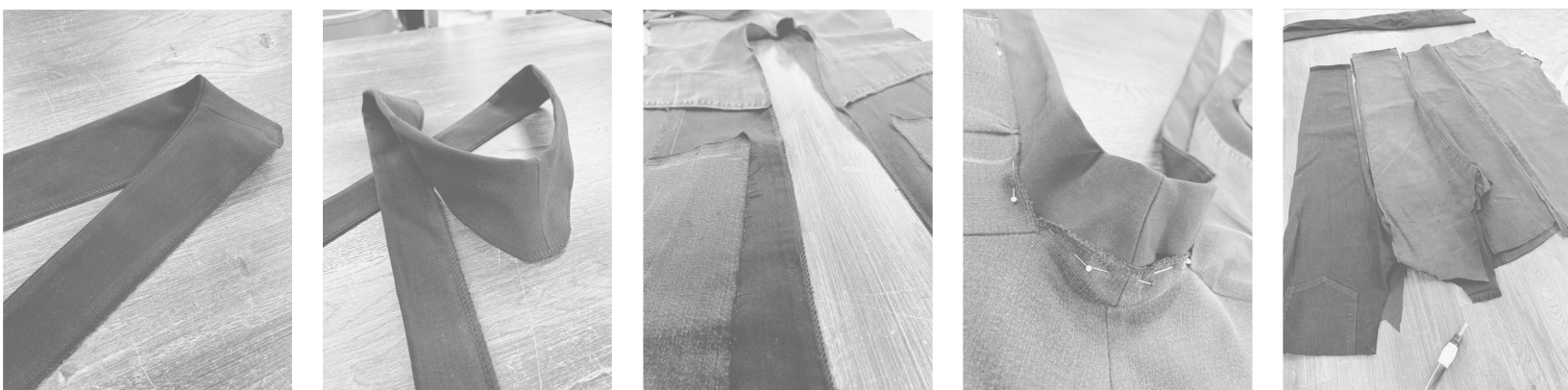
11. Pin the collar in place - work from the centre back down along the edges of the front pieces. Stitch the collar through in place along the front lines and around the neckline with either one or two stitches.



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CONSTRUCTING THE SLEEVES

1. Select 3 pairs of jeans pieces and one pair of intact legs.
2. Arrange the pieces so that the colour alternates between dark and light. Put the intact legs aside.
3. Sew the pieces together, starting with the uneven edges, with the wrong sides facing each other so that all the unevenness remains as an edge, as has been done before. Iron the seam allowances towards the sleeve cuffs. Add a third piece below this one with straight edges (former side). Place the right sides facing each other, then fasten them first with a straight stitch, then finish and iron.
- Draw straight lines on the resulting piece and cut neatly. Make a second identical piece.
4. Then take the pieces which were set aside. Cut their side line open and fold the inseam neatly to the fold, so that you take advantage of the inseam stitches. Outline a flat strip (e.g. 10 cm high) on this slightly curved line from the fold and cut it, and also an identical pair.
- 6.-8. Attach these pieces together first with straight stitch at the bottom edge of the sleeve pieces, then finish and iron. Finish the sides of the sleeves.



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ATTACHING THE SLEEVES AND JOINING THE SIDE SEAMS

9. Fold the sleeves so that the side seams are facing each other. Mark the centres of the upper sleeve edges. Align the marks on the shoulder with the shoulder marks made earlier.

10. Pin the sleeves and sew them with a straight stitch in their place. After that, finish both sides (side of the front of the jacket, sleeve area and side line of the back). Repeat the same for the other side.

11. Fold the jacket right sides together at the shoulder line so that the sides of the sleeves meet. Sew the side lines with a lock stitch - remember to do thorough back and forth stitches at the beginning and end. If you wish, you can leave a slit down the side. Fold down the seam allowance of the sleeve cuff and stitch it through evenly.

The hem of the jacket will remain raw if you don't want to finish it.

The kimono is now ready!



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PERSONALISATION

How can you vary the appearance of your product?

You can change the structure of the joining seams of the pieces! For example, you can stitch the wrong sides together with two stitches and either leave all the leftover edges as they are or cut them narrower. You can also stitch the edges down, for example towards the side seams, to make it look less fluttery. Of course, you can also sew all joining seams traditionally with a joining seam, which makes the appearance even neater.

If you think the sleeve is too long, you can also make a bodice with just the body or a short sleeve model, in which case you need one less pair of jeans!

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