Give a new life to discarded jeans!

You can make children's pants from used large-size adults' jeans with the pattern for design 24 that appeared in issue 1/2019. First of all, lay all pattern pieces on top of the jeans and check that there will be enough fabric. Then wash the jeans thoroughly before starting. Examine the seams and construction techniques on the recycled jeans for tips on assembling the new pants before cutting the new pants out!

Here's how to do it:

Figure 1a and 1b. Cut the legs of the recycled jeans open close to the stitching along the leg inseams. Spread the jeans out on a table and lay the pattern pieces on them. The side seams of our recycled jeans were intact and had a beautiful worn-out look, so we used them as the side seams on the new pants. However, undo the stitching along the side seams at and above the front-hip pocket openings of the new pants to ensure that there is enough fabric for the side seam allowances on the pants backs. The fabric area between the inward-curving pattern pieces for the pants front and back can be left there to add extra wearing ease around the knees. Cut the garment pieces one at a time.

Make sure not to place seams of the new pants on the most worn areas of the used jeans.

Figure 2. Cut the new back pockets from the back pockets of the recycled jeans, aligning the pattern foldline with the opening edges of the pockets, so that you can make use of the ready-stitched pocket hems.



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Figure 3. Cut the front-hip pocket pieces from the upper parts of the recycled jeans fronts, taking care not to cut into the pockets of the recycled jeans.

Figure 4. Cut the pocket facings from the pocket facings of the recycled jeans.

Figure 5a and 5b. Remove the waistband and belt loops from the recycled jeans and use them if they are intact. Cut the waistband for the new pants with the waistband pattern but add a seam at the center-back if necessary, so that you can make use of the buttonhole and jeans button of the recycled jeans.

If the recycled jeans have a button fly, you can also make use of the fly extension and the buttons on it.

Instead of a button fly, you can apply a metal jeans zipper to the fly. You'll find an illustrated tutorial for a fly-front zipper at our website. See "Fly-front zipper II" in the OTTOBRE LAB section at www.ottobredesign.com.

The leather label indicates the origin of the pants, so save it and sew it on the new pants. Save any excess pieces of fabric in case you need to patch the pants later on.

Construct the pants following the instructions in issue 1/2019. Use topstitching thread for stitching the seams. Before stitching over thick layers of fabric, such as intersections of seams, flatten these areas by tapping them with a hammer.



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