



# Upcycled Jeans



Designed by Jan Wright

# Tutorial for Upcycled Jeans

Ripped those jeans?

Unwilling to throw them out as they fit well?

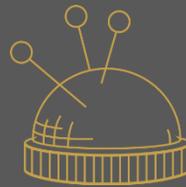
Grab some fabric, fire up the Combination overlock/Cover Stitch and transform them into a boho skirt!

**Materials:** 1 pair old jeans  
Approx 1.5m of 150cm wide fabric for the tiers. This can be anything which gathers well  
5 x matching thread

**Stitches:** 4 thread overlock  
5 thread Safety Seam  
Evolution, Desire 3, Ovation and Gloria are all suitable for this project

**Tools:**

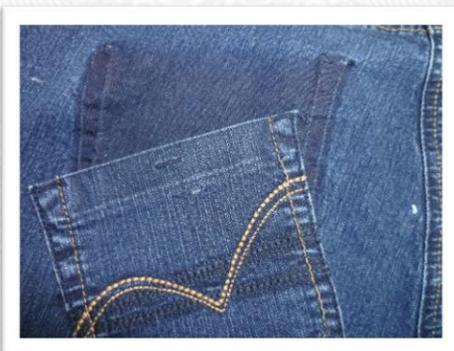
- \* Rotary Cutter & mat
- \* Pins
- \* Tape measure
- \* Gathering Foot
- \* Blind Hem Foot



For more creative ideas go to:  
[www.babylock/campus.co.uk](http://www.babylock/campus.co.uk)



1. Measure from waistband to 1.5cm below the bottom of the zip. Mark. Using this measurement, mark the same distance from the waistband all round the jeans. If the marked line cuts through the back pockets, unpick them. It would be pointless to leave half a pocket! (Be aware! With traditionally produced jeans, and particularly on stretch denim, it is more efficient to unpick the pocket from the INSIDE, to avoid making a hole in the fabric. Don't ask how I know....



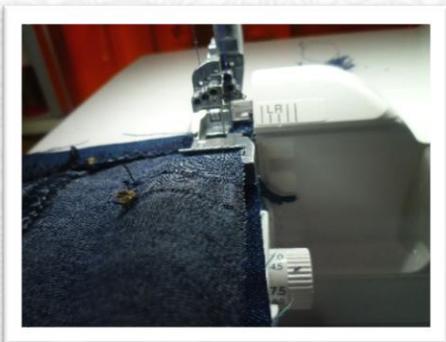
2. The pockets on my jeans, once removed, left a nasty darker patch as they had been well worn. To disguise this, I made faux pockets by cutting them to the new reduced size and stitching them back in place with the sewing machine.



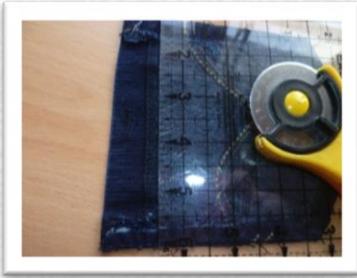
3. Before cutting the jeans down, make certain that the front pockets are securely pinned up to the waistband; out of the way of those scissors!



4. Split the back seam. This will enable you to gather the tiers onto the yoke, without needing total accuracy in your gathering!



5. Measure the total hip size, at the cutoff point, of your Jeans. Cut the first tier of your chosen fabric 30 cms deep x twice the hip size. You will have to join the strips to achieve the desired length.
6. Cut the second tier 30cms deep by twice the measurement of the first tier. (*My jeans measured 102cms, so the first tier was 204 and the second 408.*)
7. Set your overlocker for a 5 thread overlock, using the Needles C2 and O1. Stitch width at 7.5, Stitch Length 4, Stitch Selector on A and Differential Feed on 2. Attach the Gathering Foot
8. With right sides together, place the frill under the foot and the jeans cut edge through the foot. Hand turn the wheel until both layers are under the needles. Stitch on the first tier! It is highly likely that there will be fabric left over at the end of the seam. This is to be expected, as the amount of gather will vary with the differing fabrics.
9. Attach the second tier to the first in the same way.



11. If, like me, you have to cover the pocket patch, measure and cut away the excess from the bottom. Run a wide overlock (without gathering!) along the bottom edge. Fold it in and press. Placing the reduced pocket in the same position as before, stitch it in place with a sewing machine straight stitch, or use a Chain Stitch. This is purely cosmetic, as the pocket will probably be too small to be useful.



13. Lay the skirt flat on your cutting mat and remove any excess tier fabric with the rotary cutter.
14. Stitch the seam from waistband down, using the 5 thread Safety Seam, rejoining the split jeans seam. If desired, topstitch the split seam.



14. Set the machine for a 4 thread overlock, Stitch Width 7.5, Stitch Length 3, Stitch Selector A and Differential Feed N. (*In case you're wondering why I chose a 4 thread rather than 3, it's because this denim frays badly!*)
15. Using the stitching as a guide, fold and press the hem to the inside. Using a sewing machine, stitch the hem.



I do hope you enjoy producing this. It is an easy make, which is becoming a habit for me! Maybe it's the Hippy in me....

.The First and Still The Best.....  
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