

The Jeans Collection

Video 10 - Creating the front fly button closure - gents

The tools that you will need:

- 1. Sewing threads - standard sewing thread and top stitching thread.*
- 2. Small sharp scissors for cutting thread ends.*
- 3. A jeans foot is required for sewing jeans. An optional walking foot is great for top stitching.*
- 4. Button hole foot for creating the button holes in the fly.*
- 5. Buttons for jeans - To measure the length of button holes in the fly front.*
- 5. Sewing machine needles - 100 or 110 for sewing denim or thick cotton fabrics.*
- 6. Tape measure.*
- 7. Pins.*
- 8. Fabric shears.*

Part 1 - Right over left for a gents closure .

When creating the front closure for a pair of gents jeans the right front panel sits over the top of the left front panel.

Just to recap we are going to need the 3 facing pieces, two being double the width than the other which we create in the next part and your jeans buttons. The buttons are used for measuring how the long the button holes are going to be. The buttons themselves will be attached later on in the collection.



The front button closure part should be the length of the straight part of the front panel only, just before the curve starts .

Part 2 - creating the button hole facing.

Start by folding and pressing one of the double width facings in half and mark out where your button holes are going to be positioned. On the facing there are usually 3 buttons in total (not including the one button on the waistband). Measure your buttons at equal intervals apart and sew in the button holes.



Determine the spacing of the 3 button holes and mark with tailors chalk before they are stitched in place.



Once you have your button holes stitched in place, cut them open and secure the edges with fray check or a fabric glue. This prevents the button holes from fraying and gives them there overall strength.

We now need to create the shape of the top facing pieces which include the single piece and the facing that you have just put the button holes in. Place the narrow facing (which is going to be the top facing piece) as shown in the image below and mark out the curve with tailors chalk.



Next cut the marked facing to create the correct shape as in the left image below. Next position the facing with the button holes onto the newly cut facing and cut the curve in that facing as well, remember to leave a 1 cm overlap on the single facing piece. (the single facing panel needs to be 1 cm wider than the button hole panel) The 1 cm seam allowance should be showing on the straight part of the facing as this is the part which will attach to the main panel.



Part 3 - Attaching the facings.

Next we need to overlock the curved edge only with the top and straight sides being left as raw edges catching the single and doubled button holed facing together as one operation.



Place the newly overlocked facing onto the main right hand front panel with right sides facing each other and stitch along the straight edge from the start of the facing curve to the top. Stitch with about a 1 cm seam allowance, be careful as to not catch the button hole part and close it up because this needs to left open for the use of the buttons when it is fully attached and finished.

Place the facing piece onto the main panel as shown in the image above, secure with pins before stitching.



When the facing is stitched in place, lay the other main front panel over the right front panel with a 1 cm gap showing around the curved part of the seam as in the left image above. Snip through the **left front panel** only creating a notch the same width as a 1 cm seam allowance. The notch needs to be in line where your stitching ended when attaching the facing, you can see this in the right image above.



Press the facing as shown in the left image above and continue pressing around the curved part of the main front panel. Position the left front panel (the panel with the small notch) in alignment so that the curved part will lay under the pressed seam. Pin in position and stitch using your top stitching thread around the curved part only. Stitch from the start of the notch around the end of the seam. Your stitching line needs to be 1 cm in from the edge just catching the raw edge of the newly pressed seam. You can see where the pins are situated in the right hand image above. This first row of stitching will create the beginning of the flat felled seam.

Part 4 - Finishing the flat felled seam.



Create your first two rows of top stitching being careful not to close up the button closure. (image above left). Once you have created the first rows of stitching, press the facing back and stitch a double row of top stitching along the facing part as shown in the right image above. Stitch to the point where you created your first row of stitching, if done correctly they should look like a continuous row of stitching.



Press the seam down around the crotch part of the main panels creating the flat felled seam. Stitch the seam down again using your top stitching thread.



When you have stitched the second row of stitching around the crotch you will have completed the top stitching to this point. When you open the fly you will notice that the notch that you created in part 3 will lay underneath the top facing part about 1.5 cm in, this forces the bottom fly facing to lay further back resulting in a neat front closure.

Part 5 - Creating the under facing.

Fold the under facing in half with right sides facing in on each other. Stitch along one side with a 1 cm seam allowance. Once stitched snip the corner and fold out the right way. Press your facing so that it lays flat as shown in the images below.



Part 6 - Attaching the under facing.

The next step is to overlock the raw edge of the under facing resulting in a finished facing piece and ready to be attached to the front closure.



Now with the under facing ready, place the newly overlocked facing onto the left main panel with right sides together as shown in the left image above and stitch along the overlocked edge (with a 1 cm seam allowance) to attach the facing. Now turn the front panels over so you can see the right sides, stitch the facing in place with a top stitching along the edge of the seam as indicated in the image above to the right .

Part 7 - Securing the facing in place.

Position the right panel over the left as if it is in the closed position, make sure everything is laying flat and that the top stitched seam is laying straight and overlapping enough so that you do not see the button closure peaking out. The next part is to create the stitching around the curved shape of the facing like the commercial jeans in the image below.



To secure our facing to the front panel we need to top stitch a double row of stitching from the top of the facing and finish around the curve at the bottom. If you go over the button holes, that's ok as long as you don't close up the button holes too much as you will not get the button through and so will not function properly.



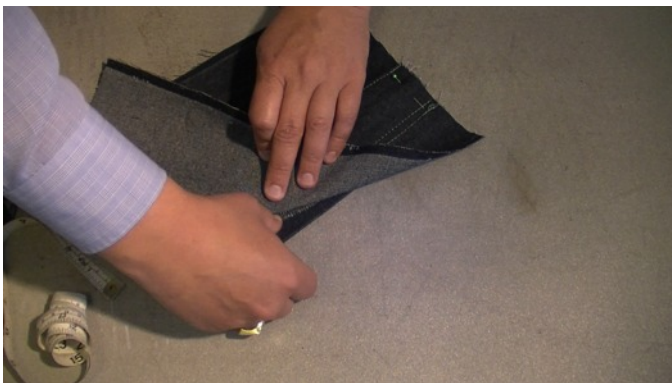
Part 8 - The final top stitching.

The top stitching runs as a double row from the top of the jeans, straight down and curving in to the crotch. The top stitching mimics the curved shape of the facing which you can see on the inside. When you are putting this stitching in place, I find that it is best to secure this top stitching in place from the inside as you can see the shape of the facing which acts as a guide.



Part 9 - The final top stitching.

When you top stitched the facing in place as shown in the image above, you will notice that there is a small gap that still needs to be breached, this is normal. To secure this small gap we need to carry the stitching on as if it is one continuous line. Make sure that the closure is in the closed position and everything is laying flat. Once you are happy with how the panels are looking, top stitch through all of the layers (front panels and facings) to breach the small stitching gap and any seams that need closing up around the crotch area of the front panels. Finally you can secure with a few stitches the edge of the facing seams underneath the main top panel as shown in the left image below, this will secure the bottom of the fly and makes all the stitching complete.



With all the top stitching in place, this now completes the front fly button closure for a pair of gents jeans.