

# *The Jeans Collection*

## *Video 17 - Preparing the waistband & the belt loops*

### *The tools that you will need:*

- 1. The jeans pattern - to create the waistband.*
- 2. The Overlocking machine - To overlock the belt loops.*
- 3. Sewing threads - Standard sewing thread and overlocking threads.*
- 4. Small sharp scissors for cutting thread ends.*
- 5. A **jeans foot** is required for sewing jeans. Optional, a **walking foot** is an excellent foot for top stitching.*
- 6. Sewing machine needles - 100 or 110 for sewing denim or thick cotton fabrics.*
- 7. Tape measure.*
- 8. Pins.*
- 9. Your denim fabric and fabric shears.*

### *Part 1 - Creating the waistband.*

*The waistband is always cut out as one complete length, if you already have a commercially bought pair of jeans you can see this and also where the belt loops are situated. For our jeans let create 5 belt loops which we will cover later on in the exercise.*

*The first thing we you need to do is establish the length that your waistband is going to be.*



*As you can see from the image, this is how the waistband should look when it is completed.*

## ***Part 2 - Measuring the waistband.***

*In order for the waistband to fit the top of your jeans we are going to do a bit of measuring.*

*So for this part you need a tape measure and the waistband pattern piece. When you measure the top of your jeans, open the fly and start at one end. Remember to add on 2 cm seam allowance for each end as you need this when you attach the waistband. Measure around the whole top of your jeans in one continuous line.*



*You will need a tape measure and your pattern.*



*Measure around the entire top of your jeans.*

## ***Part 3 - Cutting out the waistband.***

*When you have measured the length that the waistband needs to be in order to fit the top of your jeans, the next step is to cut it out. Place the waistband pattern piece onto the fabric and mark on the length that you measured, this might be a longer length or a shorter length. Remember your 2 cm seam allowances on either side of the waistband. The width of the waistband will already be on your pattern so it is best to leave that and make your waistband exactly the same, the most important part here is to get the correct length as to fit your jeans. Pin your pattern piece onto the fabric to secure.*



*Pin the pattern to the fabric ready to cut the waistband out.*



*Now that you have pinned and secured the pattern piece onto your denim fabric, cut out the waistband.*

#### ***Part 4 - Lets make the belt loops.***

*Before we cut out the belt loops we need to measure the length and the width that they need to be. Belt loops need to be long enough as to allow a belt to pass through them. If you have a pair of jeans, then you can measure the length and width of the loop from there otherwise you can work them out for your self here. We measured the correct length for a belt loop as 11 cm in length and 3 cm as a width. Cut out your loops as one piece of fabric as we will create them first and then cut them out individually. As we are going to create 5 loops, make the fabric a length of 55 cm by 3 cm, we advise to add a little extra length when cutting.*



*Measure the belt loops at a length of 11 cm by 3 cm. Always add a little extra to the length of your fabric belt loop strip as this guarantees cutting all five loops the same length. This will come more apparent later on when you have created them.*

*Cut the belt loops out as one continuous strip of fabric as we will cut them out individually later.*



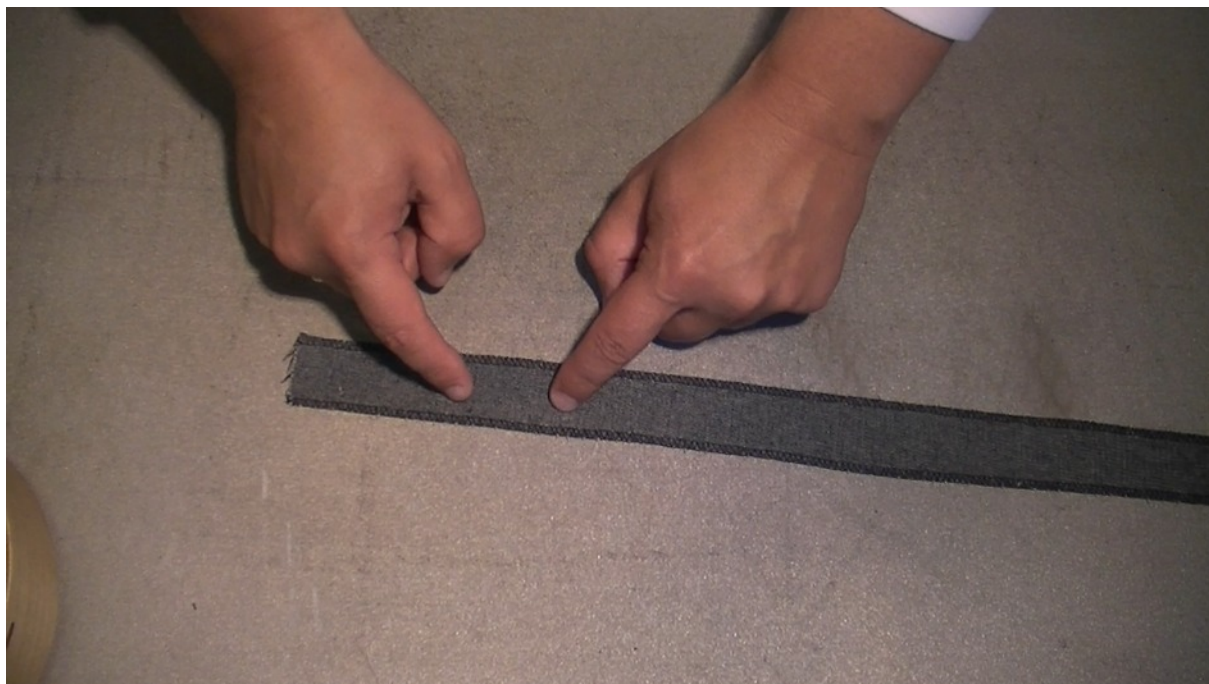
## ***Part 5 - Overlocking the loops.***

***With a cover-stitch function on your Overlocker.***

*If you have a **cover stitch** function on your Overlocker, then this eradicates the need for overlocking the sides of the loop strip first, just fold the strip as mentioned in the paragraph below the image, into place first and cover stitch with the machine. Make sure you use the same colour thread as your top stitching.*

***The standard way with a standard Overlocker.***

*When you have cut out the belt loop strip, overlock the entire length on both sides as shown in the image below.*



*With the loop strip overlocked, press in the sides of the strip so that they meet in the middle making the strip from 3 cm to 1.5 cm in width. This creates the loop strip ready for the top stitching to go in.*



## ***Part 6 - Finishing the belt loops.***

*With the loop strip pressed, stitch a double row of stitching in the top stitching colour you have used for your jeans. This should catch the left and right sides of the folded parts that you did in part 5.*

*The top stitching acts as two functions, it stitches down the folded parts of the loop strip and also continues the decorative look of the belt loop which ties in with the rest of your jeans stitching.*



*Finally, when you have stitched the loop it is time to cut them out as belt loops. Make each loop 11 cm in length. Measure and cut the first belt loop which makes that a guide to cut out the rest. Cut each belt loop out identically in length resulting in your finished belt loops.*

*This concludes the creation of the waistband and the belt loops.*

