

The Jeans Collection

Video 1 - Equipment

The tools that you will need to produce a pair of jeans are:

- 1. A sewing machine.*
- 2. An Overlocker machine.*
- 3. A commercial pattern for a standard pair of jeans.*
- 4. Denim fabric (100% cotton) and white cotton for the pockets.*
- 5. Threads for sewing the jeans and top stitching.*
- 6. Paper, fabric and thread scissors.*
- 7. Tape measure, pins and tailors chalk.*
- 8. Zipper for a zipper front closure.*
- 9. Rivets for the decoration of the pockets and side seams.*
- 10. Jeans buttons.*
- 11. Denim foot and a walking foot (optional for top stitching).*
- 12. Sewing machine needles (100 for denim) and pins.*

Our tools in detail:

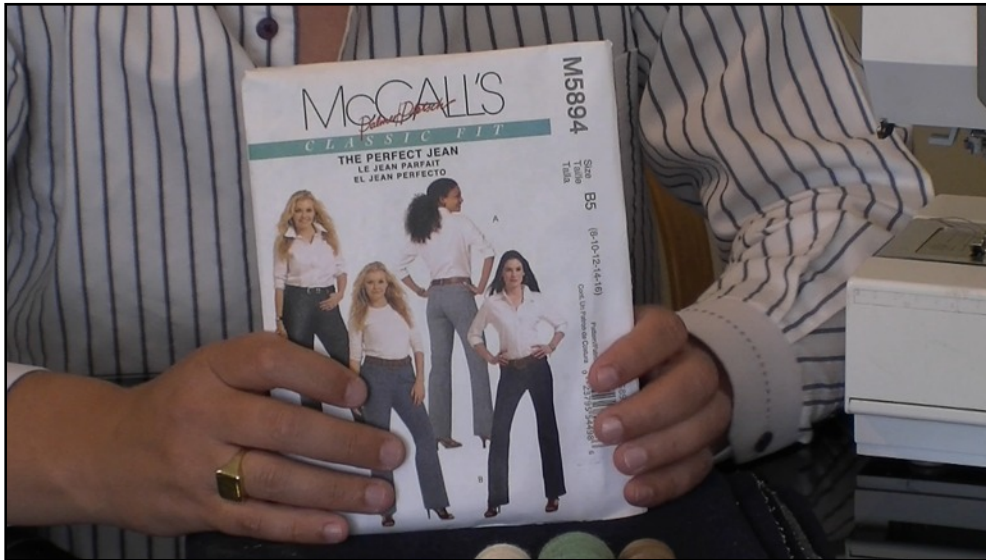


Part 1 - The machines

To create your denim jeans you will need a sewing machine and an Overlocker. Most of the work is carried out on the sewing machine for generally producing your jeans such as stitching the panels, creating the pockets and attaching the front closures. Most of the seams are finished off with a Flat Felled Seam which is produced with the sewing machine as the seams are folded in on themselves to hide the raw edges. The Overlocker is needed to finish off the side seams, create the belt loops and generally finishing off the denim edges which would stay as a frayed edge if it was not for the Overlocker.

Part 2 - The commercial pattern

To create your jeans you will need a pattern. Any commercial jeans pattern will do as the size and the style can be manipulated to suit you later on. Before you go and purchase your pattern you will need to measure yourself or who ever you are making the jeans for in order to get the correct size pattern for your project. I cover this in the next video - How to measure so that you are prepared with the correct measurements and information before you purchase your pattern. Many patterns can be found at your local haberdashery store.



Part 3 - Your denim fabric

All jeans are made from 100% cotton known as Denim. You will find that the Denim cloth comes in a variety of colours in different weights and at a width of 60 inches wide. A standard size person will need no more than 2 metres to produce a complete pair of jeans. Most fabrics come pre washed so there is no risk of shrinking this is ideal as you can get started on your project straight away.



Part 4 - Buttons or a zipper?

With jeans there are two choices of front closure that you can produce of which we cover all the options in later videos within the jeans collection. These two options are of course the zipper closure and the button closure. Zippers usually range between 4 and 6 inches in length where as a button closure would use a combination of 3 buttons. Both closures act in the same way as to close the front fly, which ever you choose comes down to the style of your jeans.



Part 5 - Threads

Choose a good quality cotton thread for the main construction of your jeans and make sure that this is in the same colour as the denim fabric that you have chosen. You will also need an extra 3 reels of cotton for the Overlocking that is needed, again in the same colour as the main sewing thread. For the top stitching, generally choose a slightly thicker thread, also in a cotton and in the colour of your choice. The colour of your top stitching is down to personal preference and the style of your jeans, these colours can vary such as yellow, light brown, off white, grey, pink or green.

Part 6 - Scissors

You will need a good pair of fabric shears to cut out all the panels for your jeans, a pair of paper scissors for the patten construction and manipulation and generally two pairs of embroidery scissors to cut your threads every time you complete a sewing stage within your jeans production. It is very useful to have two pairs of small embroidery scissors as one pair can be kept at the sewing machine and the other by your iron.



Part 7 - Decorative rivets and jeans buttons

All jeans in the industry are finished off with rivets of which are situated around the edges of the pockets. These rivets can be purchased from any local haberdashery store or can be found over the Internet. The rivets are positioned in place with an awl and a hammer, very much like the jeans buttons. Once in place they will be secured as a permanent feature of your jeans.



Part 8 - Sewing machine needles

When sewing with a thicker fabric such as denim you will need a stronger needle to be able to with stand the thickness of the fabric and the layers it needs to sew through especially when you are creating your top stitching. Generally machine needles for denim are 100 to 110 and can be purchased from any haberdashery store or sewing machine dealer.

Part 9 - Sewing machine feet

For the general creation of the jeans, you will need a Jeans foot, this foot has a small hole at the sole to reduce the movement and the breakage of the needle as it sews through the denim cloth. For the top - stitching, a walking foot is recommended as this foot keeps the tensions of the thread taught as you are sewing resulting in a very nice top stitch.



The Jeans foot for your general sewing



The Walking foot for all your top stitching

Part 10 - Sewing accessories

And finally you will need smaller accessories such as pins, tailors chalk and a tape measure. Pins are always needed to secure your pattern pieces to the cloth just before you cut your panels out and also to secure certain parts such as pockets to the various panels before they are sewn in place. Tailors chalk is used to mark the panels as you are doing pattern construction to make sure that each panel is accurately cut out. The tape measure is used to measure the persons body for the right fit before the pattern construction and manipulation takes place and also take measure the distances of button holes, the widths of panels and the placement of pockets.



A good selection of pins is essential for every sewing project and will be used throughout



A good tape measure is key to getting the right fit and an accurate placement of the panels