

Take in jeans at the side seam

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I've been constantly frustrated when taking in jeans at the waist. When taking in through the center back waistband, the back curve never seems right and there's all that conspicuous topstitching right in the middle of the rear. Taking darts into the pockets can add more issues, mainly moving pockets over, or living with pockets that pouch. The side seams have those rivets, and besides, the excess fabric isn't really at the sides, but pretty much in the back pieces. I decided to deal with the sides anyway.

Step 1 — Prep the sides



The waist of these needed to come in 3" or 1 1/2" each side. We will only be taking in the back of the side seams. This way the fullness will be removed from the back and we'll avoid the rivets. First, undo the waistband from the pants at the side seams. Rip the topstitching out at the sides by the rivets, open up the side seam and lay it flat. Using the original seamline on the front part, slide the back side seam out half the amount of the total alteration. In this case, it's 1 1/2", because we need to take in a total of 3". Carefully pin on the original seamline, tapering to nothing.

Step 2 — Stitch the sides



Stitch the seam with the front on top, along the original seamline. Then trim out and finish the seam.

Step 3 — Topstitch the side



From the outside, press flat, then topstitch the sideseam flat up to the waist.

Step 4 — Take in the waistband



Seperate the waistband at the top. Take it in the required amount. In this case, we need to remove 1 1/2" per side, so we are taking a 3/4" deep seam. This will result in a waistband seam which falls slightly forward of the pants side seam, but in this case, a belt will be worn, and I didn't want the two bulky seams to abutt. If you must match the seams, you will want to remove 1 1/2 from the back, and none from the front at each side. Next, press, pin and sew the waistband together and also back on to the jeans.

Step 5 — Topstitch



Press everything, then topstitch the waistband, and replace any beltloops if you removed them. Press again, and wear your jeans.

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