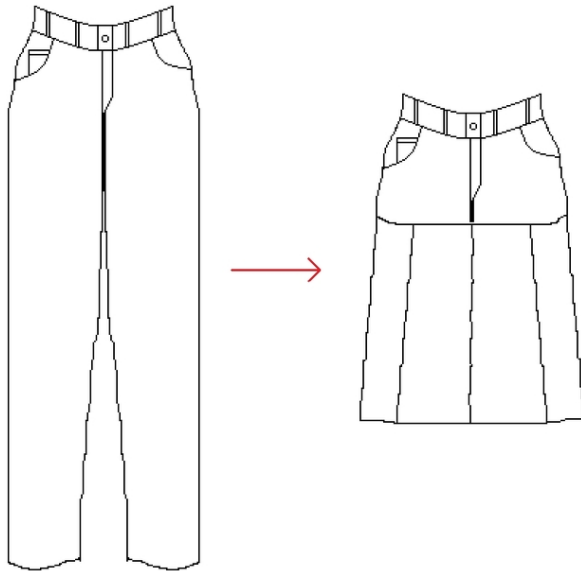


Another "Ex-Jeans" Skirt

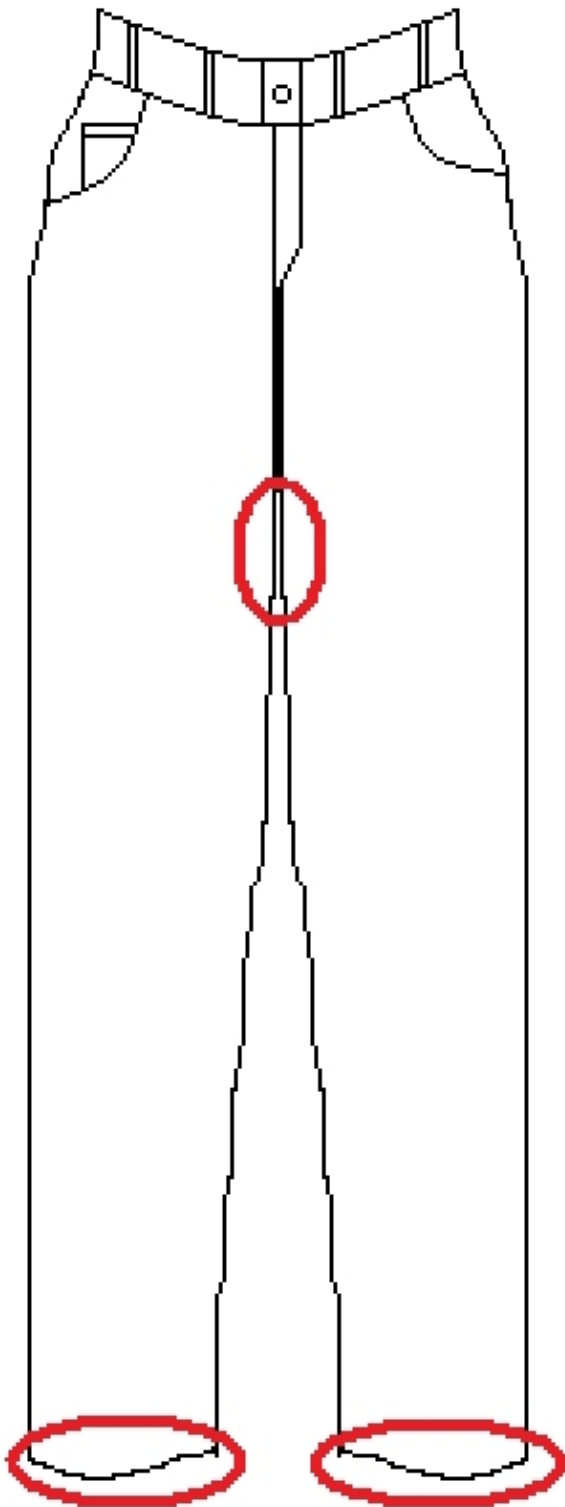
By: Almatinka

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/another-ex-jeans-skirt>



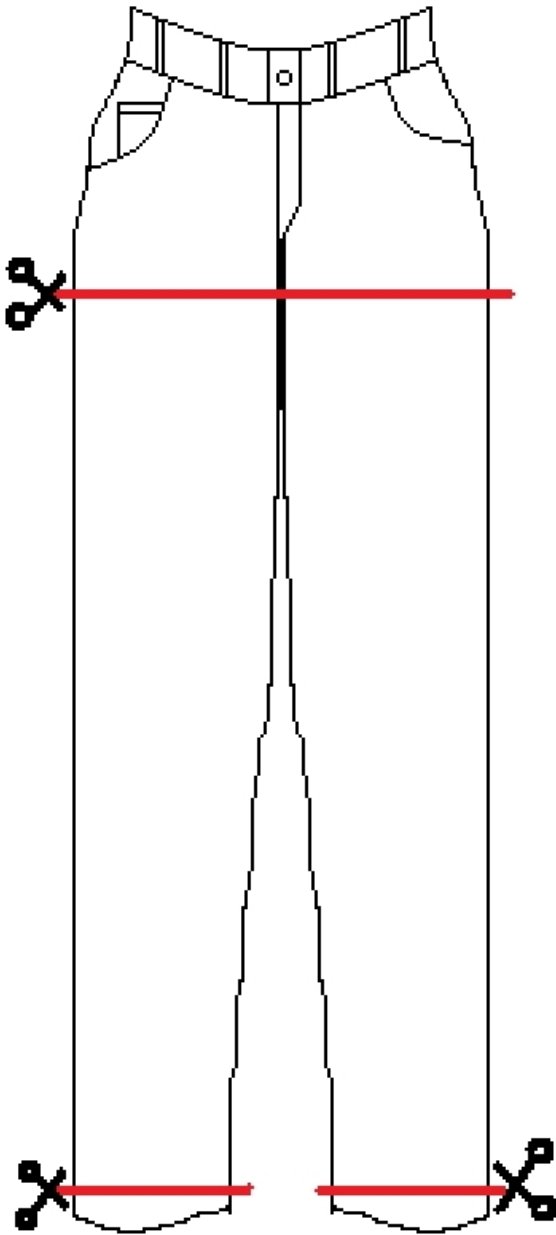
I don't know about others, but I am not a big fan of the technique available all over the Internet for turning a pair of jeans into a skirt by cutting the legs off at mid-thigh level, opening the inside seams and then sewing in triangular pieces of either the jean's material cut out of the leg portion or some other fabric. And yet, for reasons discussed later in this how-to, I had to turn a pair of jeans into a skirt and did it in my own way, which I would like to share with you. Hopefully, it will help someone. My jeans were straight â' I don't know if this will work on narrow ones. I apologize in advance for any mistakes in spelling or grammar I might have made, since I am ethnically Russian and English is my second language.

Step 1 — Problem at hand



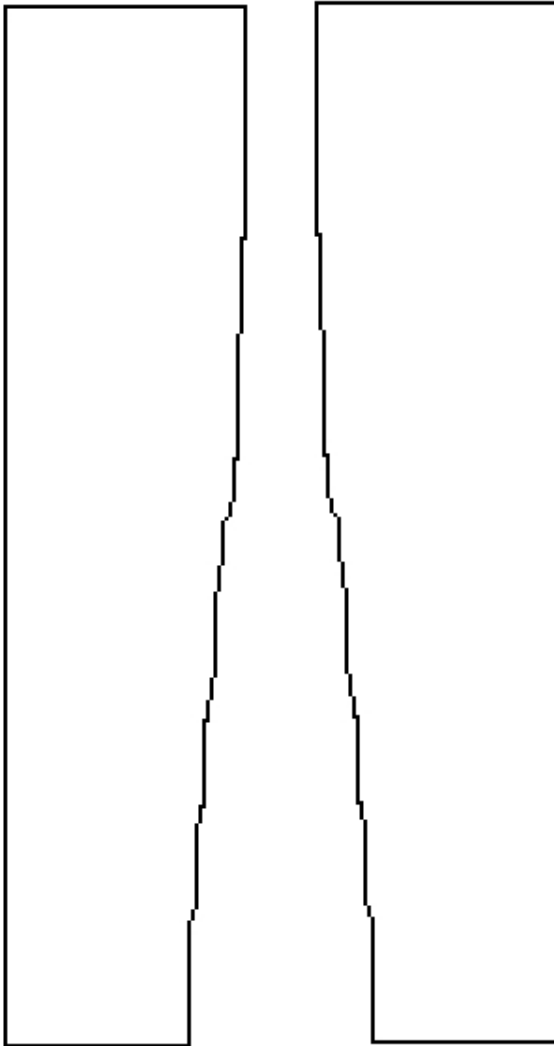
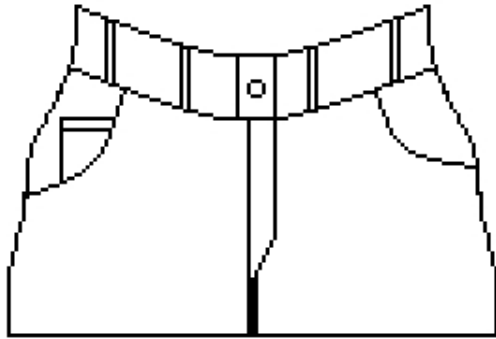
So, you have a pair of jeans. For me, the most frequent place where trouble occurs on jeans is between my thighs slightly below the place where the two legs get connected (see the upper oval on the picture above) â' the inside leg seams there get threadbare (I am not a skinny type :-)) and I cannot very well turn such jeans into shorts without making them waaaay to short. Plus (a rare thing for me, since I am rather tall), this particular pair was quite long on me and so the bottom hems of the jeans' legs got quite bad as well (the two lower ovals on the picture above).

Step 2 — Separation



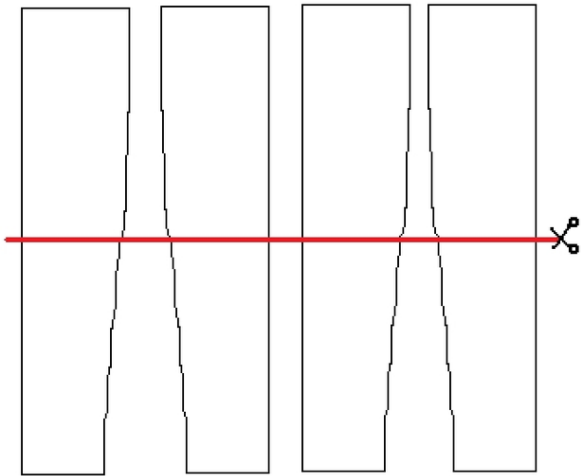
Hence, if you have the same problem, cut off the bottoms of the legs (only as far up as the damage extends — you don't want to trim any —good— fabric — you'll need it). Also, cut the top of the jeans at the line slightly below the zipper (I looked at the inside of the jeans measured the seam allowance down from the point where the fabric for zipper construction ended). Be careful not to cut the pockets! Then rip the seam between the two legs.

Step 3 — What we've got here...



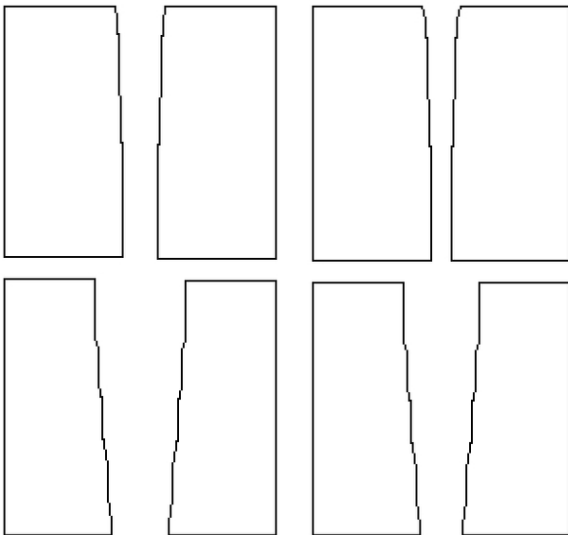
This is what you should end up with â’ the top of the jeans and two leg tubes. Now put away the top of the jeans for now and rip the seams on both sides of each leg tube.

Step 4 — Cutting the panels



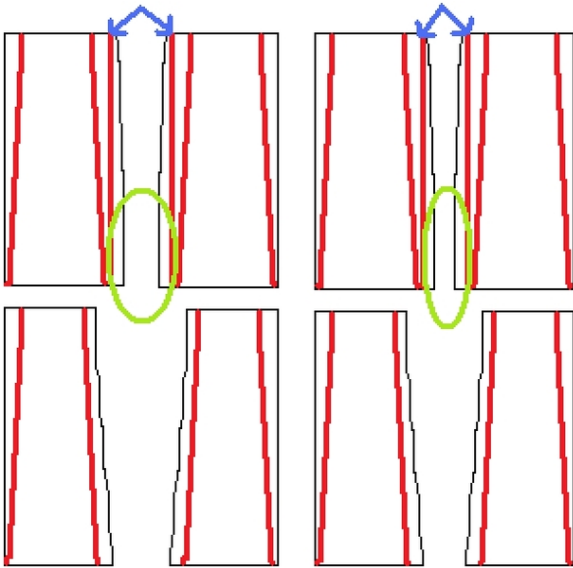
You should have four long pieces of fabric with uneven sides, but that will be fixed. Cut each piece in half crosswise.

Step 5 — Flip them for real!



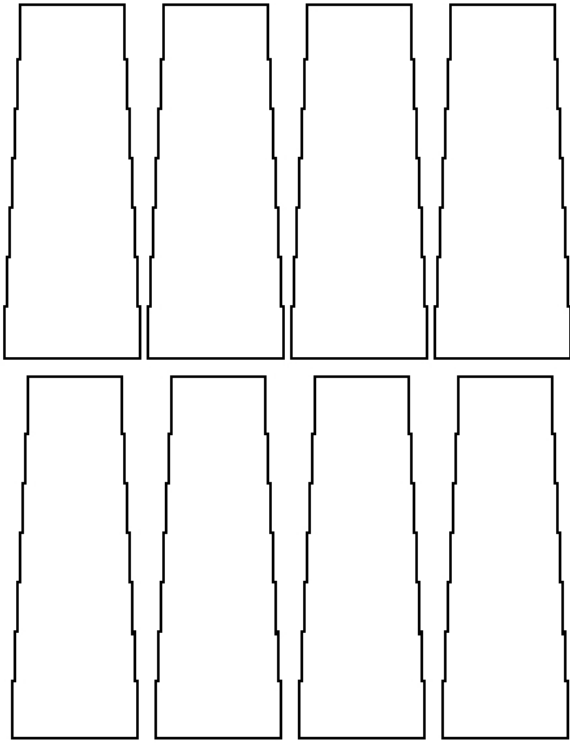
Flip all eight pieces you now have, so that the narrowest side of each one is at the top.

Step 6 — Shaping the panels



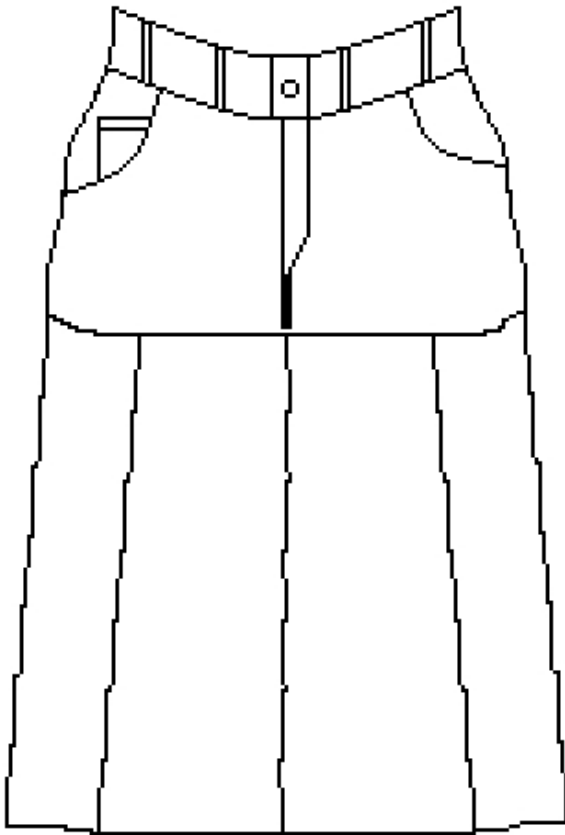
Now those places where you had threadbare inner thigh seams and fabric around them (if you had the same problem I had) are on the bottom of your pieces (the greenish ovals on the picture). So cut off some fabric (including the damaged areas) on a straight line (they are shown with blue arrows on the picture above), making the pieces into rectangular shape (or close to one). Then find the grain line and make slanted cuts on each side to make an even trapezoid out of each piece (in other words if you were to run a line lengthwise through the middle of each piece, that line should cut the distance between two slanted lines on the top directly in half and also cut the distance between two slanted lines on the bottom directly in half and that's pretty much how I measured, drawing all the lines in pencil on the wrong side of the fabric, including that middle one along the grain that is actually not necessary, except for making the measurements). Make sure that you have enough to fit around the bottom of the jeans' top portion plus the seam allowance.

Step 7 — Ta-da!!! Here be panels!



These are the actual panels of the skirt now. Sew them together with flat felled seam, mixing the narrower and the wider pieces as you want (two wides, two narrows, etc.; or one short then one long, etc.)

Step 8 — Your skirt, ma'am!



Attach the sewn together panels to the top of the jeans. I again used the flat felled seam here, but my machine couldn't go through the thicker places where the vertical seams met the ones between the panels of the lower portion and the center front, center back and side seams of the top so I left those places not sewn together and will stitch them manually (I haven't had a chance to do that yet). Hem the skirt and, if you want, add any embellishments you like I haven't done either yet, but I am planning to hem and run an embroidered border along the hem and maybe some embroidery up the front two panels. As soon as I am done, I'll post the project's pictures. Unfortunately, I did not take any pictures while constructing the skirt, so I am sorry for this instruction only having sketches. Also, if you want and have two pairs of jeans similar in fabric texture and colour, or even different in colour and texture (if you are brave and like combining colours), you can add more panels to the lower portion. I know such instructions have been on-line for adding a separately purchased flounce (made out of either regular or denim fabric) to the top of existing jeans, but I didn't want to buy anything and didn't have anything left over, so decided to use the legs from the same jeans. Thanks for reading!

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