

Repairing Jeans

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/repairing-jeans>



I had a request for a tutorial of the patching methods I used in "Utilitarian Sewing". My teenage son and my husband are very rough on their jeans. I do a lot of necessary patching.

Step 1 — Assessing the Damage



Look at the holes/worn places. Figure out if you need to repair or replace. I repair mostly small tears and worn-through areas. The jeans pictured in "Utilitarian Sewing" are the ones my son wears for straw baling. I refuse to buy new jeans for that, so I just keep adding more patches to the old ones.

Step 2 — Cutting Patch



Use a piece of denim that is plenty big for the hole. You can always trim off the excess later. I like to have a patch at least two inches bigger all around than the hole. I check the surrounding area for wear, sometimes using an extra-large patch to avoid patching in the same area in the future.

Step 3 — Sew Outline



Place the patch on the inside of the jeans. I sometimes use pins, depending on where the hole is. Usually, I just hold it in place as I wrangle it under the needle. Sew an outline around the hole using a medium-length stitch, leaving at least one inch of good denim between the edges of the hole and your stitching. This will help strengthen the area. I sew from the outside so I can avoid stitching pockets closed or rendering belt loops unusable. I like to see where I'm going. :)

Step 4 — Trim and Zig



After you have sewed the outline, trim away all those frays within the hole, neatening the edges. Set your machine to a fairly wide zig-zag, with a medium stitch-length. Zig over the edges of the hole, securing them to the patch.

Step 5 — Trim



On the inside, trim the excess patch fabric. I like to leave about 1/4 inch of patch around the stitching.

Step 6 — Ta-Da!



Outside view...

Step 7 — More Ta-Da!



Inside view...(actually, this is a different patch. oops!)

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