

Easy Alterations – Denim Edition

Instructor: Melinda McClelland •email: melinda.s.mcclelland@gmail.com

Do you have a pair of jeans you adore but they are too long? Or maybe they gap in the back? Worse, you tore them, or wore a hole in them, because you wear them non-stop! In this class Melinda will walk you through some basic techniques to make your jeans fit better and make simple repairs to keep them in your wardrobe. You will learn to shorten jeans without losing the unique “denim hem” look, snug up the waist a bit and learn several methods to repair unwanted holes.

You should have some knowledge of how to use your sewing machine; a basic understanding of threading the machine as well as winding and inserting the bobbin. It is best if the machine has a zig-zag stitch.



Please be respectful of others by arriving at class on time with all your supplies. If you have any questions, please contact me prior to class. melinda.s.mcclelland@gmail.com or 503•807•6154

Note regarding materials: Many students do not realize that once the instructors are paid, the shop hosting the class makes very little (if any) revenue on the class itself. I encourage you to purchase any needed supplies from this shop, as they rely on these sales to continue to offer you the classes you desire. The larger chain stores do not offer the same variety of classes, so we need to keep our smaller, local shops alive!

Materials/Tools:

- **Working sewing machine:** make sure you have the **power cord**, and a few **bobbins**. Bring the **accessory tool kit** (screwdriver, brush, etc.) in case you need a different foot, or need to tighten anything. **Owner's Manual** if you have it. Please be sure you know how to **thread your machine and wind/insert the bobbin**. If your accessory bin removes to allow access to a smaller sewing arm, be sure you know how to do that, too. **A zig zag stitch** is nice to have.
- **Zig-zag foot:** (optional) but good to have for repairing unwanted holes and finishing cut seams on hem.
- **Zipper foot:** (optional) can be helpful for hemming.
- **Fabric measuring tape and/or ruler:** one or both will be needed when measuring to make both hems the same and to decide how much elastic is needed.
- **Denim weight machine needles:** size 14-18 will be fine. Can be purchased at Montavilla
- **Threads:** match denim color for hems.

- **1" wide elastic:** (for cinching waist) Choose a width no wider than waist band on jeans. A ½ yard length should be plenty. Available for purchase at Montavilla.
- **Basic sewing supplies:** pins, safety pin, tape measure or ruler, something to mark denim (tailor's chalk, fabric marker, air, water, heat erase pen, etc.), scissors, seam ripper.
- **Jeans** that need to be hemmed, cinched at the waist a little, and/or holes repaired.

If repairing holes:

- **Medium weight iron on interfacing:** pick one that is soft if you have the option. Available at Montavilla.
- **Fabric:** to use as a patch. A scrap a few inches larger than the hole will work. If you want an invisible patch, a piece of similar denim is best. However, the patch doesn't have to match jeans, it's your choice.
- **Thread:** Polyester is strong, cotton will work, too. Choose color to match fabric patch or denim. You might want options to choose from in a few different colors. Just one thread in the best you can match color will work, too. You could also do contrast color for hole repair if you want. There are no rules!
- **Needle and thread:** to hand-sew over the hole (if desired). This can be done on a machine, but sometimes you might choose to mend by hand depending on the location of the hole. **A sharp needle** and a **thimble** will make this work easier.