

A Study on Jeans Style Variations

Abstract

The present study was conducted to enlist and understand the style variations in the classic garment 'the jeans pant'. The study was conducted in Panipat and Karnal cities of Haryana. Information was also gathered from jeans selling websites. Critical observations of college students were made to watch and record the latest styles. Information about variations in rise, fit, leg cut, leg length, hem styles, embellishments, fabric combinations and new unique treatments and styles was gathered.

Keywords: Jeans, Fit, Denim, Style, Garment, Hem, Leg length, Leg cut, Crotch

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Introduction

In classic terms jeans are casual pants made of indigo denim, featuring five pockets, six rivets, contrast stitching, five to seven belt loops and a zip or a button fly. Jeans were invented by Jacob W. Davis in partnership with Levi Strauss & Co. in 1871 and patented by Jacob W. Davis and Levi Strauss on May 20, 1873. Jeans were first created in Genoa, Italy when the city was an independent republic and a naval power. The first were made for the Genoese Navy because it required all-purpose trousers for its sailors that could be worn wet or dry, and whose legs could easily be rolled up to wear while swabbing the deck. These jeans would be laundered by dragging them in large mesh nets behind the ship, and the sea water would bleach them white (Anonymous, 2005). The first denim came from Nimes, France, hence de Nimes, the name of the fabric. The French bleu de Gênes, from the Italian blu di Genova, literally the "blue of Genoa" dye of their fabric, is the root of the names for these trousers, "jeans" and "blue jeans", today (Chatterjee, 2006).

In the designing of the jeans trouser many barriers have been broken. There are good numbers of finishes and washes. From Destroyed capri to embellished, skinny to flared, ultra low-rise jeans to extra high rise, Capri length to Churidar jeans designers are coming out with limitless possibilities with denim jeans. The market offers beyond even customers' expectation. People have lot of choices to buy.

Aim of the study

The present study was conducted to record the style variations happened in the garment with changing time.

Objectives:

1. To study the cut, fit, length and hem variations in jeans garment.
2. To study the decoration style variations in jeans pants.

Methodology

The information regarding style variations in jeans trousers was gathered through intensive study of literature in print form and internet. Jeans available in markets of Karnal and Panipat were studied. College boys and girls of both the cities were also observed to record style variation in the garment. Information was also gathered from jeans selling websites. Information about variations in rise, fit leg cut, leg length, hem styles, embellishments, fabric combinations and new unique treatments and styles was collected.

Result and Discussion

This section is divided into ten subsections namely: Basic fits, Basic Leg cuts, Rise, Different style names of jeans fit and cut, Styles in Length of jeans, Styles in hem, Worn out looks, Decorated / ornamented/fancy jeans, Addition of other fabrics and Other Styles.

A. Basic fits

Basic fits of jeans (seat and thigh proportions) are Slim fit, Regular fit and Relaxed fit.

1. **Slim Fit** jeans have the least fabric in the rear panels, and the thigh openings are narrower than the regular fit. They're designed to hug the

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body. These are good for guys with tight butts who want to show their figure off, and uncomfortable and unsightly on most everyone else.

2. **Regular Fit**

Jeans are what most of us wear. The exact measurement varies a bit from brand to brand, but they're made to fit like traditional blue jeans: resting lightly against the buttocks in the back, with a bit of wiggle room in the crotch. Unless you're packing some extra weight in the butt or thighs, this is probably the fit you want.

3. **Relaxed Fit**

Adds fabric in the back and extends the rise a little, as well as expanding the leg openings. We tend to associate them with overweight men, but they're just as useful for men with "footballer butt" — strong glutes and thighs paired with narrower waists and calves. A lot of athletes end up needing relaxed-fit jeans (Muhammad, 2016).

Each brand has their own in-house stylists with their own idea of what a "normal" person's butt and thighs look like. People use their experience and self-awareness to figure out what they need.

B. Basic Leg cuts

Change in trouser leg shape, from top to bottom, are Taper, Straight and Boot-cut. These terms tell about the legs of the trousers, not the seat, drop, or waist. These describe how the width of the trouser legs change over time.

1. **Taper Jeans**

Do just what the name says: they taper from the opening at the thigh to the opening at the cuff. Ankle openings in the 14"-16" range generally get called "skinny" jeans, unless they're paired with unusually small waist/seat sizes.

2. **Straight or Regular Legs**

Are roughly the same size from the thigh to the ankle. They're basically a tube of fabric (well, two tubes of fabric, joined together). It's the most classic look for jeans, largely because it was the easiest to make when people were doing everything by hand.

3. **Boot-cut or Wide-Leg**

Jeans are, as the name implies, designed to be worn over boots. The assumption is that several inches near the bottom will be resting against a boot, rather than against naked ankle/calf. They're made several inches wider at the bottom than the top. Worn with low shoes or sandals, they look dangerously close to "flares," which is not a style any man should aspire to.

The shape of body and the shoes to wear affects the kind of leg one chooses. Men with a lot of taper to their legs may want a relaxed fit in the seat but a skinny leg, to fit the taper of their legs. Bulkier men with thick ankles and thighs will feel more comfortable in a regular seat and straight legs. And workmen who wear boots, obviously, will want wide-leg jeans to accommodate them.

Most jeans styles will be described by a combination of one "fit" term (slim/regular/relaxed or something similar) and one "leg" term (taper/straight/boot-cut or similar).

C. Rise

The "rise" of jeans is determined by the distance between the crotch and the waist and is usually around eleven inches on regular pants.

1. **High Rise**

Or high waist jeans is perfect ladies jeans that fits natural waistline. These jeans sit high on, or above the wearer's hips, usually 8 cms (3inches) higher than the navel. These look fabulous with tuck-in shirt.

2. **Mid-Rise**

Jeans is one of the most regularly worn jeans. It sits just below the belly button. It can be worn in official events and in parties with super look.

3. **Low-Rise**

Jeans are jeans intended to sit low on, or below, the hips. They are also called low cut jeans, and low riders. Usually they sit at least three inches lower than the belly button. Low-rise jeans have existed since the 1960s, but regained popularity in the 1990s and 2000s. (Wikipedia). Low-rise jeans may also partially reveal the buttocks when the wearer sits down or bends over. In many cases, cleavage becomes visible. When a thong is exposed above a pair of low-rise jeans on the back, it is commonly referred to as a "whale tail," due to its somewhat similar shape. Low-rise jeans were also partially responsible for the trend of lower back tattoos. The average measurement of low-rise jeans is roughly seven inches (18 cm.).

D. Different Style Names Of Jeans Fit And Cut

1. **Hip-Huggers**

This precursor to low-rise jeans, rose to popularity during the late 1960s. Hip-huggers are bell-bottomed, flare, or boot-cut pants that are fitted tightly around the hips and thighs. Hip huggers were popularized by rock icons such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison and Robert Plant. Later, hip-huggers became a staple of popular culture, as it was incorporated into the disco scene of the 1970s.

2. **Drop Crotch Jeans**

Have an extremely long rise when compared to traditional bottom wear such as jeans or trousers. Designed to extend lower than normal. It is an emerging fashion trend to wear drop crotch pants and joggers that have a baggy, casual, almost bohemian look to them. The drop crotch means the length of fabric between the waist seam and the crotch seam is longer than normal. This longer rise means that the crotch seam will be dropped lower and become closer to the knees. They're more than slouchy pants and pants worn very low on the waist. They're drop-crotch pants, a style that no matter how much you pull them up will always be saggy at the hips, seat, and rear. Teenagers are currently wearing jeans that look as if they are falling down - the waist is halfway down their bottom and there is too much material hanging loose between their legs (Yee, 2012).

3. Cigarette Jeans

Also known as Drain Pipes, Carrot Leg, Peg Legs, and Pencil Legs. If a person is a bit hesitant of skinnies but likes to wear a pair of jeans that fit snugly then this is the right choice. In this pattern, the legs are straight and narrow and do not go wide at the ankles. The straight leg cut balances out the hip and these jeans is a good option for curvy girls. Straight or regular legs are roughly the same size from the thigh to the ankle. They're basically a tube of fabric. It's the most classic look for jeans, largely because it was the easiest to make when people were doing everything by hand.

4. Skinny Leg Jeans

These jeans look pretty on slim and lean shapes. It is tight jeans which sit snugly around legs and hips. It can be worn by anyone if styled in conjunction with the shape of clothes. Skinny jeans emphasizes curves and at times may make you feel conscious. They taper from the opening at the thigh to the opening at the cuff. Ankle openings in the 14"-16" range generally get called "skinny" jeans, unless they're paired with unusually small waist/seat sizes. In some styles, zippers are needed at the bottom of the leg to facilitate pulling them over your feet.

5. Phat Pants or Phatties

Are a style of jeans that are fitted at the waist but get wider down the legs all the way to the ground where they enclose the feet due to their width.

6. Flare Jeans

These denim jeans for girls has a wide, flared opening from knees and down. Wide leg jeans differ from bell-bottoms in that the entire length of the leg is large in circumference and flare is more in bell-bottoms with bottom leg openings of up to twenty-six inches. Today, jeans are wide leg if they have a circumference of at least 20 inches.

7. Bell-bottoms

They were initially reintroduced as boot-cut tapering to the knee and flaring out to accommodate a boot. Over time the width of the hem grew wider and the term "flare-leg" was favored in marketing over the term "bell-bottom". The bell-bottoms of the 60s and 70s can be generally be distinguished from the flare or boot-cut pants of the 90s by the tightness of the knee. The pants were typically flared from the knee down, with bottom leg openings of up to twenty-six inches.

8. Saggy

Browsers below the waist, hanging around the buttock area. The style is typically worn by males. Sagging began in prisons, where ill-fitting uniforms and rules forbidding belts resulted in falling-down pants.

9. Brazilian jeans

Ultra low rise jeans is known as Brazilian jeans. These jeans sit 3-5 inches below the belly button. The average measurement of ultra low-rise jeans is as little as three to four inches (7.6-

10 cm). This is not the jeans to wear at workplace and formal events.

10. Very high jeans

It has extra high waist, jeans ends just below bust.

11. Pyjama jeans

These are as loose as pyjama and a tie string at waist.

12. Cargo Denim Pants

These are loose-fitting casual cotton trousers with large patch pockets halfway down each leg. Cargo pants or cargo trousers, also sometimes called combat trousers (or combats) after their original military purpose, are loosely cut pants originally designed for tough, outdoor activities, and whose design is distinguished by one or more cargo pockets. They are convenient for carrying items during day trips on foot.

13. Mom Jeans

Is a type of women's jeans worn in the '80s considered to be unfashionable and unflattering to the wearer's figure. This style usually consists of a high waist (rising above the belly button), making the buttocks appear disproportionately longer, larger, and flatter than they otherwise might. It also tends to have excess space in the zipper/crotch and leg areas. The jeans are usually in a solid, light-blue color, with no form of stone washing or fading. Other attributes of the style often seen are pleats, tapered legs, and elastic waistbands. The style is often accompanied by a blouse or shirt that is tucked into the jeans. This style of jeans was popular with women in the United States until the early 2000s, when lower rise jeans started to become fashionable. Mom jeans became popular with young fashionable women once again in the early 2010s.

14. Dad Jeans

A corresponding term, dad jeans, has been coined in popular media to refer to an unflattering, high-waist and shapeless style of jeans often worn by middle-aged U.S. men.

15. Boy Friend Jeans

Boy Friend Jeans is any style for women's clothing which are more unisex in appearance while they are still designed for the female form. Boyfriend jeans are supposed to look and feel like the jeans a woman might borrow (or steal) from her boyfriend. They have a fairly relaxed fit, usually straight legs but tight around your hips (Booth, 2014).

16. Jeggings

Are leggings that are made to look like skin-tight denim jeans. Jeggings is a registered brand name owned by Turkish textile company ISKO. Since jeggings are typically made of a cotton/spandex blend, (cotton being the primary fiber in most denim, a kind of serge), they are often worn on their own as opposed to under a skirt or dress. Some jeggings have front fastening facilities while others just have an elastic waistband and no pockets. Jeggings are a true cross between denim and legging material.

"Denim jeggings" are essentially a denim fabric with the elasticity of a legging, due to a higher proportion of Spandex in the fiber content. These are more similar to skinny jeans. Some designers call "denim jeggings" as pull-on jeans. Many opt to wear jeggings in order to give the legging feel as well as the jean appearance.

17. **Stretch Jeans**

Are a style of jeans made of stretch denim fabric. Stretch jeans typically include about one to three percent elastane. Jeans made of stretch denim material may look like regular jeans, but provide more flexibility and "give" with the wearer's body movements. Stretch jeans are also generally more form-fitting. Difference between Stretch Jeans and Jeggings is that Stretch jeans are made of a denim fabric that includes a small amount of elastane, and come in many styles from skinny to boot cut and more. On the flip side, jeggings are essentially soft, stretchy leggings that are styled to look like a tight pair of skinny jeans.

E. Styles in Length of jeans

1. **Capri Jeans**

This type of denim jeans for girls look more modern and stylish too – especially if one wants to flaunt off legs. In this pattern of jeans, the hemline is just below the knee or often above or on the calf. But one should be careful as hemlines which fall right on the widest part of your legs can create an illusion of short body height.

2. **Cropped Jeans**

It covers three-fourth of legs and can make legs look longer and leaner. The jeans end just above ankles. It looks stunning with a pair of high heels. This leg cut is never flared at hem unless worn at home.

3. **Denim Goucho pants**

These have trendy loose, wide cut, plus the light, natural feel of linen/cotton *denim* material. A center crease means they go well with dressy or casual outfits. Gaucho pants are wide-legged trousers for women with a cuff that ends around mid calf. Taking their name from pants once worn by South American cowboys, they were in style for a brief period in the early to mid-1970s.

4. **Overalls**

Overalls are a type of safety clothing made of tough cotton, denim or linen and usually used as protective clothing while working. It is a loose fitting pair of pants with supporting cross-straps, or a full or half sleeve shirt that is worn over regular shirts, vests and trousers to protect them from heat, cold, splashes, sparks, flames and flying debris etc. in the workplace. Overalls are also called dungarees.

5. **Churidar Jeans**

These are extra long tight jeans 'having a series of gathered rows' (i.e. at the bottom of the trouser legs, traditionally worn too long and tucked up).

F. Styles in hem

1. **Cuffed Jeans/ Rolled-up**

This denim jeans for girls have the same length as Shorts, Cropped or Capri but still referred as jeans which are folded at the leg opening. But these folds can make look thick ankles bigger. To get the maximum leg slimming effect pair this jeans with heels.

2. **Side Slit**

Jeans may also have a vent in the hem. The vent is a slit that is located on the side seam of the pants at the hem.

3. **Zipper Bottom**

These are the jeans having zippers at the hem or ankles of jeans for decoration purpose and sometimes for ease of wearing of tight leg jeans.

4. **Frayed hem**

Also known as "raw hem denim" sometimes, frayed edge jeans are exactly what they sound like: the bottom of the jeans look undone and frayed, like someone tried to cut them instead of get them hemmed properly, or like they're old and are starting to get worn out. This messy look is part of the charm, and one can choose to go full-on frayed to the point where it's practically **fringe**, or one can choose something more subtle. Frayed edge jeans come in many different styles, from flares to skinny jeans to cropped denim.

G. Worn out looks

These are also called vintage look jeans.

1. **Distressed jeans**

Are essentially given a vintage worn out look in the manufacturing processes. Jeans are faded on purpose. Other methods to distress denim include extreme stone washing, enzyme washing, acid washing, sandblasting, emerging, and micro-sanding.

2. **Destroyed jeans**

Blue jeans that have ragged edges, holes in them and worn-out sections, either due to long wear or as a result of design and manufacture. Nowadays, frayed hems and seams are also popular.

3. **Scratched jeans**

These have scratch patterns all over. These jeans give bold look to the wearer. They are different from ripped jeans.

4. **Ripped / torn jeans**

These have cut off patterns. Ripped jeans have fabric rips. What started off with rips often on the knees, is now anywhere and everywhere. This is a popular trend from the late 80s (fans of hard rock/heavy metal might know!). Ripped jeans got very popular by the 90s when grunge artists such as Kurt Cobain started wearing these. Though commercially selling jeans are deliberately ripped, they are made to look as if they went through natural wear and tear.

5. Ripped bums

It is ripping just below bums to show a bit of it.

6. Beggar Jeans

It is too much ripped / sewn, leaving no place intact.

7. Shotgun Jeans

Jeans that have been shot with a gun, or in some cases simply washed to the extreme, resulting in small holes in a very worn and tattered fabric. Bullet hole denim is a variation that produces less of an overall effect, with the holes being less concentrated on the fabric.

H. Decorated / Ornamented/Fancy Jeans**1. Printed Jeans**

Printed jeans are latest trend. Printed jeans have beautiful prints like polka dots, flowers, stars, digital prints etc. Floral Garden may be created with floral print all over. Stencil print designs may be used at thighs or along the sides. Tie and dye may create marbling and other effects.

2. Painted Jeans

Hand-paint creates a unique, fashion forward experience. They have metallic, modern, rustic paintings and others. Spray – Dark blue spray paint design on light coloured jeans. Splattered look- With paint splashed randomly on the surface. 'Rialto Jean Project' a denim brand specializes in hand-painted, one-of-a-kind vintage product. The jeans are handcrafted in the art studio at South Street Seaport in NYC. Actors, musicians and supermodels are among its steadily growing customer base.

3. Patched Jeans

Patch work is done on jeans but it doesn't mean to hide torn out parts. It is done to give new look. Patching of rag type cloth gives even cool look. Patchwork of geometrical shapes, stars, candy and others look pretty and funky. Patches of different shades of blue are sewn on the front of legs.

4. Embroidered Jeans

Embroidery is done on women jeans to make them beautiful. Different effects can be created by doing Embroidery on one leg, or on side seams, on one pocket, or on thighs etc. Dragon-Big white embroidered dragon on thigh.

5. Crystal Jeans

Sarkovski crystals give a very rich look.

6. Beaded jeans

Beads may be sewn all over or at certain sections.

7. Chain Trimmed Jeans

Lots of fine chains are attached to the mouth of the front pocket.

8. Belt Legs

Vertical series of small belts and buckles sewn on sides of both legs.

9. Bow Trim Jeans

Creating a long cut along the leg side and adding vertical series of denim bows in the slot.

10. Fringed Jeans

Fringe is added throughout the side seam.

11. Riveted Jeans

Multiple columns of rivets may be at the bottom or lower legs. A number of rivets may be added in rows on the knee patch.

12. Shoe Laced Jeans

A vertical slot opening is created on back of thighs to insert shoe lacing style trimming in black colour.

13. Prominent Stitching Lines

Dominating stitching lines in thick white or orange colour thread attract attention.

14. Patch Pockets Jeans

These have many patch pockets e.g. two patch pockets on thighs, two on knees and two on lower legs.

I. Addition of Other Fabrics

1. Leather / Rexene combined – Denim is combined with sections of Rexene or leather here and there.

2. Panelled

Panels of other woven fabrics added to the flare of legs.

3. Lace Leg Jeans

Half of one leg is lace.

4. Hand knit combined

Coarse hand knitting combined with denim at sides of legs and bottom.

5. Lace Slot Seam

Adding a strip of white lace at the centre front of both legs from top to bottom. The lace section may be horizontal and circular on thighs area.

6. Crochet Jeans

Crochet pieces are added to sides or in front or at lower part of jeans to make the look unique. They are now in fashion and gaining popularity among ladies as party wear. Crochet appliqué may be done with white crochet flowers sewn on lower legs. Crochet frill is added to hemline to give fancy look.

7. Animal print fabric

Black and white cheetah print fabric is combined with denim as reverse patches.

J. Other Styles**1. Taped Jeans**

Broad transparent tape is stuck around legs at many places.

2. Armour jeans

Jeans with attached metal plates at thigh, knees and mid lower leg.

3. Biker jean

It has stretch denim and quilted sections at knees, showcasing edgy biker stitch detailing around the knee. Moto stitching at knees includes very close multiple pin tucks panels above and below knees.

4. Rocker Jeans

Too much seams and fraying at every place.

5. Glow In The Dark Jeans

The 'Glow in the Dark' selvedge denim jeans is invention by Naked & Famous Denim. Just charge them up in the natural sunlight or artificial bulb light and then shut the lights and

watch them glow. The jeans will also glow intensely under UV light. In a club with a black light, the pants will appear neon green! Even the selvedge edges glow. A phosphorescent coating is baked into the fabric and will absorb light and slowly release that light with green glow. Another aspect is that beating the wear patterns will cause the coating to fade in certain parts of the jean and will create a unique piece of glowing art (Anonymous, 2011).

6. **Winter Jeans**

Dark, soft, and cozy denim with a multicolored blanket lining. It's one single denim made from 2 warps and 2 wefts woven simultaneously with binding points which is why it's called double-denim or double-faced denim. The yarns are indigo/black/indigo/tweed and give the jeans that super rich color. Cuff the jeans for an extra pop of color. It's a great fall/winter jean. Dark, soft and cozy denim with what looks like a multicolored blanket lining. It's one single denim made from 2 warps and 2 wefts woven simultaneously with binding points which is why it's called double-denim or double-faced denim (Anonymous, 2011).

7. **Coated jeans**

These are new as jeans were only known for dark or faded look. Such jeans have a coating that feels like as if the cotton of the denim is waxed. If black in color, the jeans shines up like leather pants. The coating is generally done using pigment, acrylic or polyurethane coating.

It was found that there were three basic fits, three basic Leg cuts and three basic kinds of Rise.

Seventeen different style names of jeans fit and cut were identified. There were five Styles in length of jeans and four styles in hem. Vintage looks are given by six destructive methods. As many as fourteen methods of ornamentation have been used to create different effects. Seven types of other fabrics were found to be combined with denim. Apart from all above seven other styles of jeans were also recorded.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the given study that denim jeans styles are continuously growing. As denim jeans are very strong and durable, don't crease easily, are used for long time wearing, resist tears and snags, these remain all time favourite. It is apparent that these have a great scope of variation and good compatibility with changing fashion.

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