

111-1

Bobbie Bullard shows how to totally redo jean jackets by using fabric inserts.





Please continue to page 3 for project instructions.

Partners

brother
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Jean Jacket

Fun

Bobbi Bullard
Bullard Designs

I love using thrift store finds as a canvas.

With a thrift store find:

You have the freedom of knowing that your initial investment is so small. If it happens that you mess up—you've lost only a small amount of money.

and

You start with a finished garment. You can try the garment on before you start so fit is not an issue.

One of my favorite ways to change a thrift store find into a personalized garment is to insert the panel of your choice in a jeans jacket. By varying the fabric of the insert and changing additional embellishments, your look can range from casual to elegant, from subtle to over-the-top.

By following the steps in this article you, too can create your own Jean Jacket Creation!

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You can create a jacket back like the one shown. To do this you will replace the center back panel of your thrift store jacket with a piece of fabric. The instructions follow.

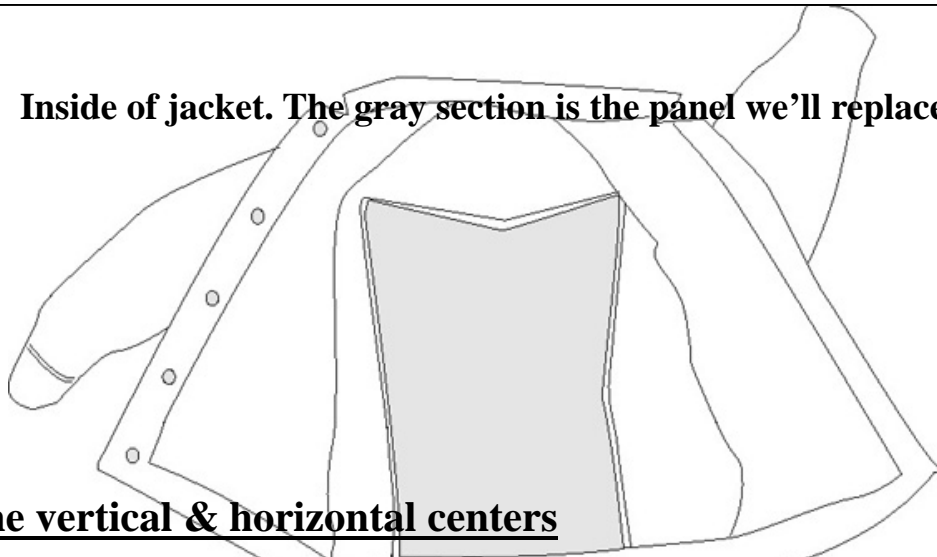
The fabric you choose sets the tone of the finished piece. Choose a saucy cotton print for a casual, fun look. Choose an elegant silk organza to create a dressier look. You can use fabric you've already embellished or let the fabric speak for itself. As an embroiderer, most of my pieces utilize panels I've covered with machine embroidery. The jacket above has fabric embroidered with my Crested Beaut embroidery designs.



Basically we're replacing the section shown in gray with a new fabric.

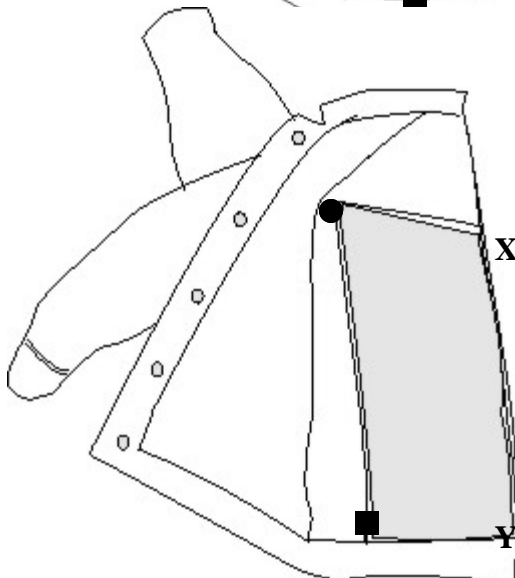
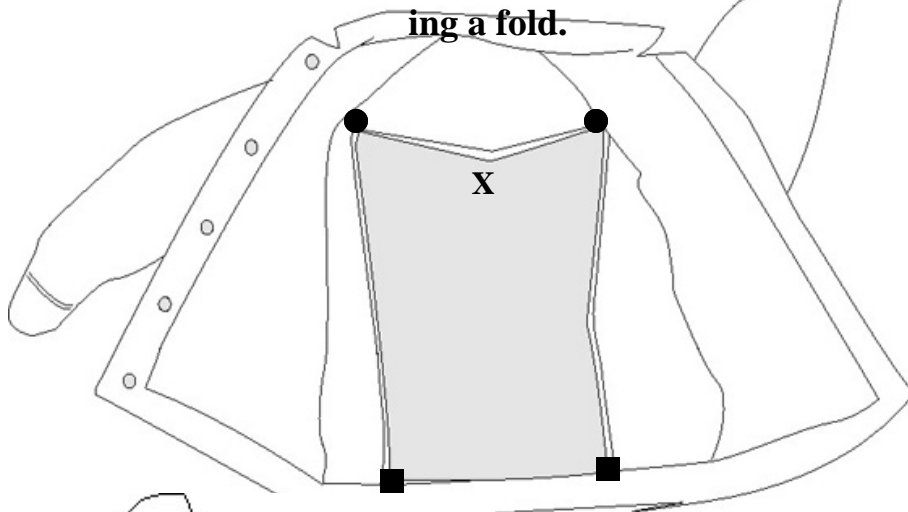
We'll work from the inside of the jacket, placing the **RIGHT** side of the fabric panel down, against the **WRONG** side of the jacket.

Inside of jacket. The gray section is the panel we'll replace.

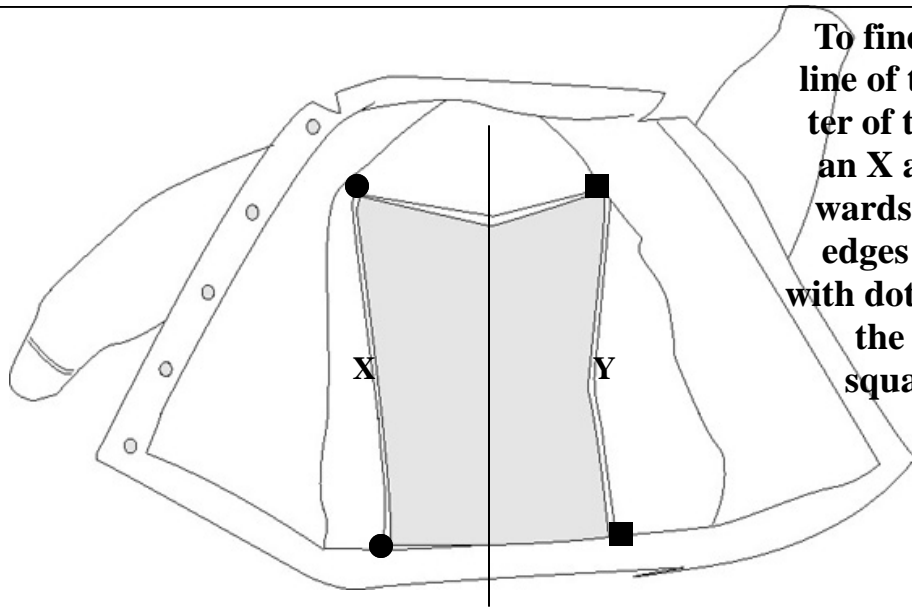


Find the vertical & horizontal centers

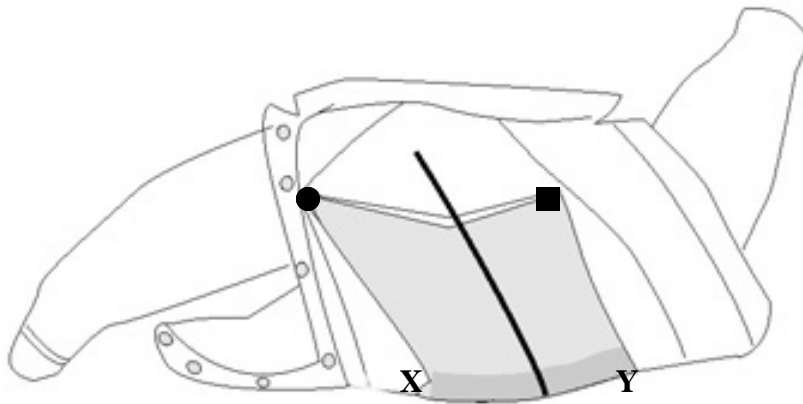
To find the vertical center line of the jacket grab the center of the top of the panel (marked with an X) and pull it towards you, matching the side top edges of the panel (marked with dots) and the bottom side edges of the panel (marked with squares) creating a fold.



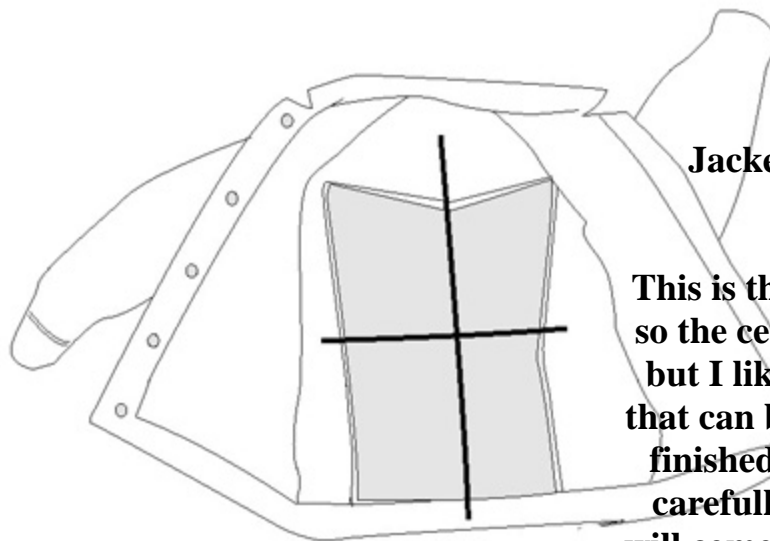
Mark the fold (from X to Y) creating a center line.



To find the horizontal center line of the jacket grab the center of the panel (marked with an X and a Y) and pull it towards you, matching the left edges of the panel (marked with dots) and the right edges of the panel (marked with squares) Creating a fold.



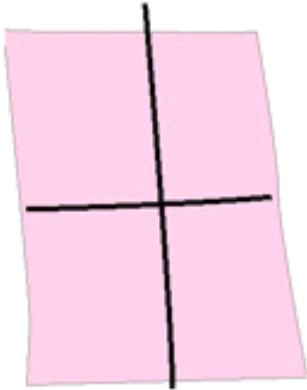
Mark the fold (from X to Y) creating a center line.



Jacket with center line marked.

This is the inside of the jacket so the center line won't show, but I like to choose markers that can be removed when I'm finished. Test your markers carefully to make sure they will come out of your garment.

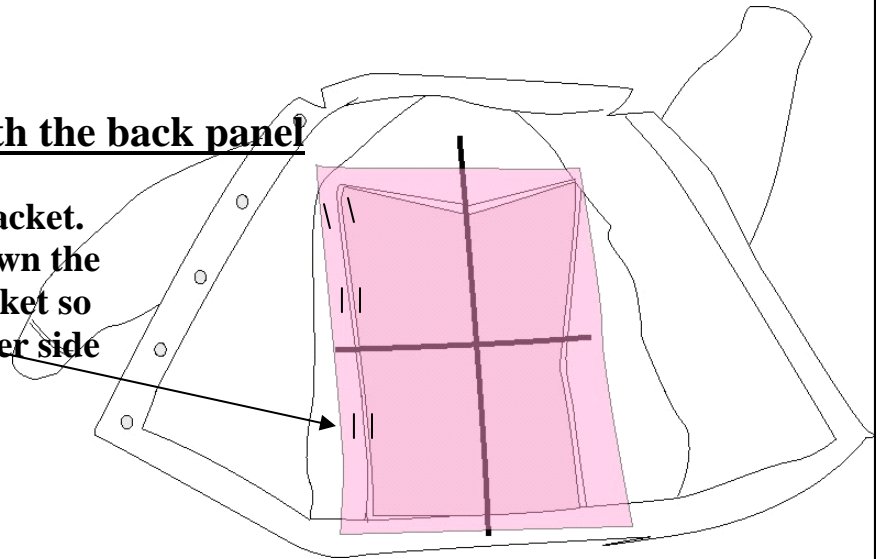
If your fabric insert has a noticeable center, mark it as well.



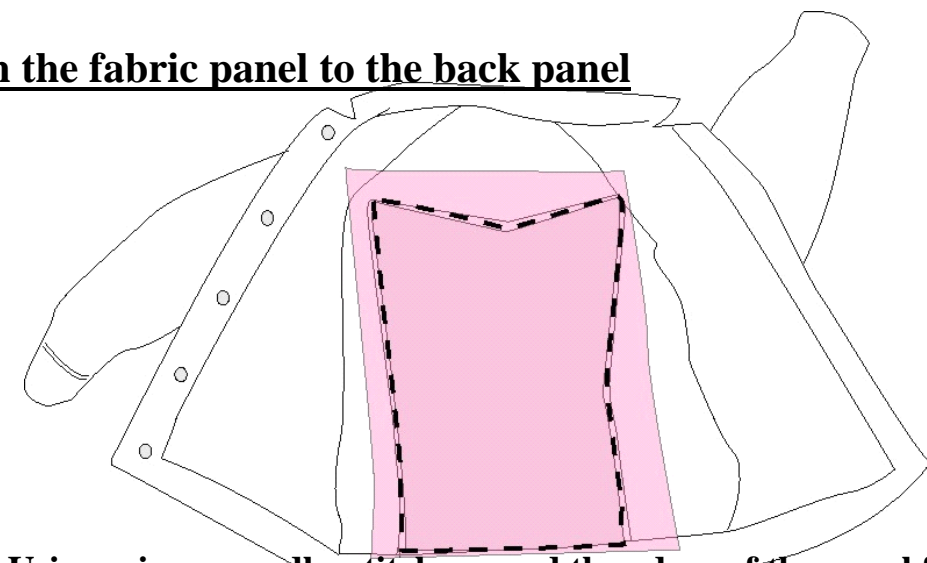
Place the fabric insert RIGHT SIDE DOWN against the WRONG SIDE of the jacket, lining up the center lines. We've shown the fabric as sheer to help you see where it goes, but yours can be solid or sheer.

Align the fabric panel with the back panel

Pin the fabric to the jacket. Your sewing will be down the heavy seams of the jacket so place your pins on either side of the line.



Attach the fabric panel to the back panel



Using a jeans needle, stitch around the edges of the panel following the jacket's seaming. If your fabric is solid, you'll have to feel the edges of the seams through the fabric as you sew.

Attach the fabric panel to the back panel



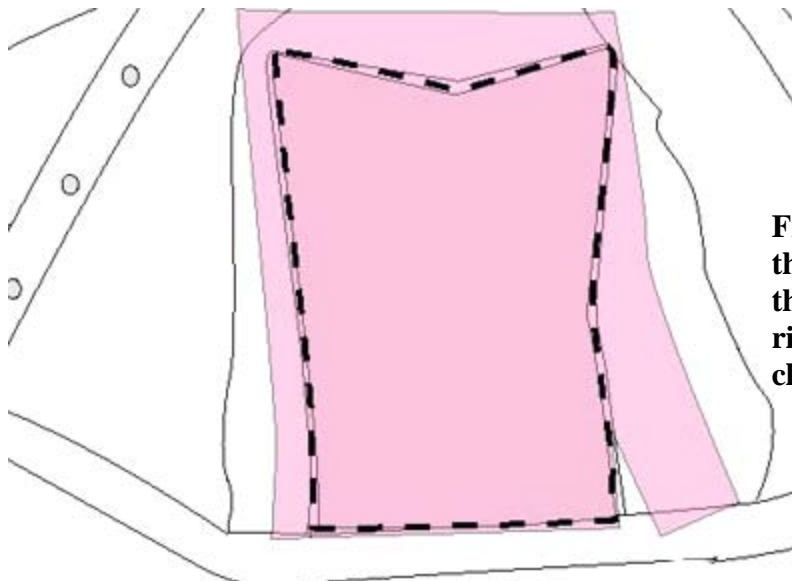
You will stitch a total of 3 times around the outside of the panel (in the area shown in red). The multiple stitching lines keep the fraying of the cut edges to a minimum.

You stitched once from the inside of the jacket. Stitch again on the RIGHT side of the fabric, using a straight stitch.

Using a decorative stitch, stitch over the straight stitch lines.

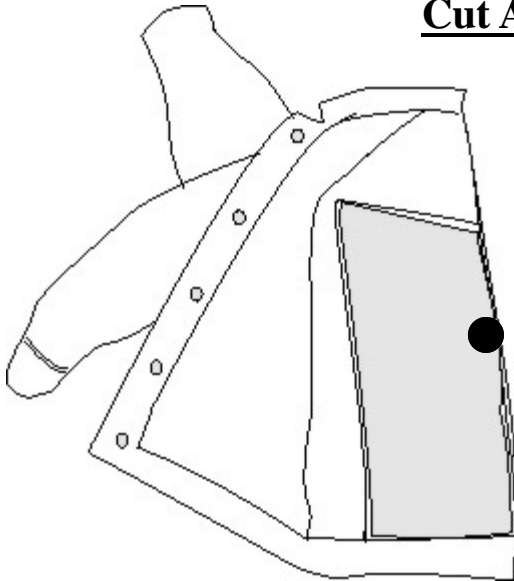
Cut Away the Extra Fabric

By leaving the jacket fabric in place while attaching the panel insert, the shape of the jacket is kept intact with no distortion.

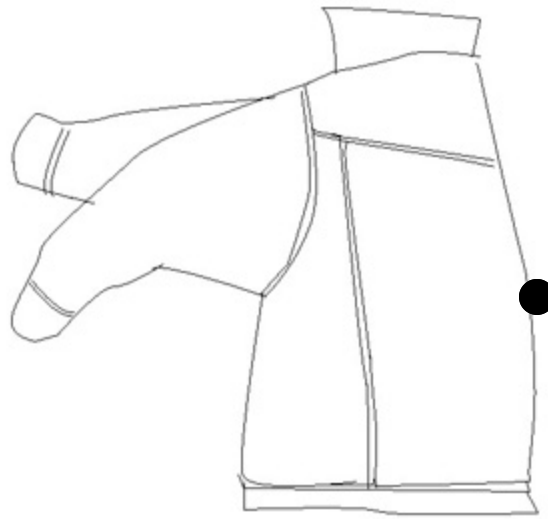


From the inside of the jacket, remove the excess panel fabric by cutting very close to the stitching.

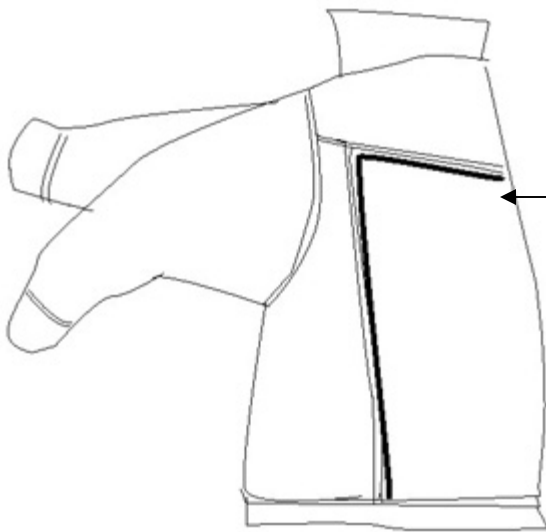
Cut Away the Jacket Panel



On the inside of the jacket, with one hand, grab only the fabric insert at the dot in the picture. (Make sure you are not grabbing the jean jacket fabric)



Still holding the insert fabric, turn the jacket right side out and position your hand at the point that corresponds with the dot in the drawing. Grab the jean jacket fabric and pull the insert and the jean jacket fabric apart.



Cutting the jeans jacket fabric only, make a single cut. Continue cutting around the edges close to the stitching line.

After the whole panel is cut, trim the jacket fabric close to the stitching lines.

Add Your Own Touches



Now you have your panel inserted.

**Finish the jacket any way you choose:
Add panels to the front or embroider on the jacket material.
You can bead, crystallize, or couch threads.
You can do anything.
Your imagination is your only limit!**



Award winning Bobbi Bullard is known for her wearable art that's really wearable!

Bobbi Bullard has been a prominent name in the machine embroidery world since 1996. She's known for her clear headed approach to design, her humor and her ability to make complex concepts simple.

Bobbi is known for her unique and beautifully crafted embroidery designs as well as her style in using them in wearable art & quilting projects.

Bobbi has developed unique methods for individualizing garments with a variety of embellishment techniques ranging from spray dyeing to rubber stamping, stenciling and using a variety of bling techniques. Her work ranges from wearable art to art quilts.

She has been entertaining and amazing sewing enthusiasts for years, teaching around the country, inspiring people wherever she goes.

Bobbi's work has been seen in Quiltmaker, Belle Armoire, Total Embellishment Newsletter, Designs in Machine Embroidery, ASG's Notions, Threads, Haute Handbag and more. She's been a featured artist on Brother's new television show. Her work has taken ribbons in the Wearable Art category at PIQF, the Sulky challenge and has been seen in a variety of other nationally ranked quilt shows.

Visit her website at www.bullarddesigns.com for a preview of her work.