



# The Invisible Denim Mending Checklist

*Your Pocket Guide to Flawless Fabric Restoration*

## Phase 1: Material & Anatomy Verification

- **Thread Weight Check:** Is your polyester thread exactly Tex 30 or Tex 40? (Avoid thick Tex 60 topstitch thread).
- **Color Match Check:** Did you compare the thread color against the tear zone in natural daylight?
- **Needle Inspection:** Is a fresh size 90/14 denim needle installed in your machine (or a fine sharp needle for handwork)?
- **Anatomy Alignment:** Have you identified the vertical warp yarns and diagonal twill line to map your stitching direction?

## Phase 2: Structural Preparation

- **Laundering:** Are the jeans freshly washed and dried to avoid post-repair shrinking distortion?
- **Stabilization Overlay:** Is your lightweight tear-away or water-soluble stabilizer placed on the inside, extending at least 0.5 inches beyond the damage zone?
- **Tension Lockdown:** If using a sewing machine, is the denim strictly secured within an embroidery hoop before dropping the feed dogs?

## Phase 3: Stitching & Control

- **Edge Alignment:** Are the torn denim edges completely flat and perfectly aligned without any overlapping?
- **Stitch Path:** Are your machine passes running perfectly parallel to the original diagonal twill lines?
- **Pucker Check:** Did you stop after the first few lines to verify the fabric stays flat and isn't gathering into a knot?

## Phase 4: Wet-Thermal Finishing (BTO)



- [ ] **3D Positioning:** Is the mended curved area (knee or thigh) placed over a tailor's ham instead of a flat board?
- [ ] **Pressing Block:** Are you pressing down firmly with a hot iron and a pressing cloth, rather than sliding the iron back and forth?

*Stop sewing when the area is stable and visually blended. More thread doesn't mean more strength; stability comes first!*