

THE MADEWELL-INSPIRED DENIM JACKET

Size Medium

Cutting & Construction Blueprint

PROJECT PROFILE: Boxy, oversized silhouette.

REQUIREMENTS: 9–12oz rigid or stretch-blend denim.

PREREQUISITE: Previous completion of at least one topstitched woven project.



Sizing Matrix

Target Silhouette: Boxy, oversized ease (does not absorb sizing gaps).

Sizing Metric: Use High Bust measurement (under arms, above fullest part). Do NOT use full bust.

Materials Checklist

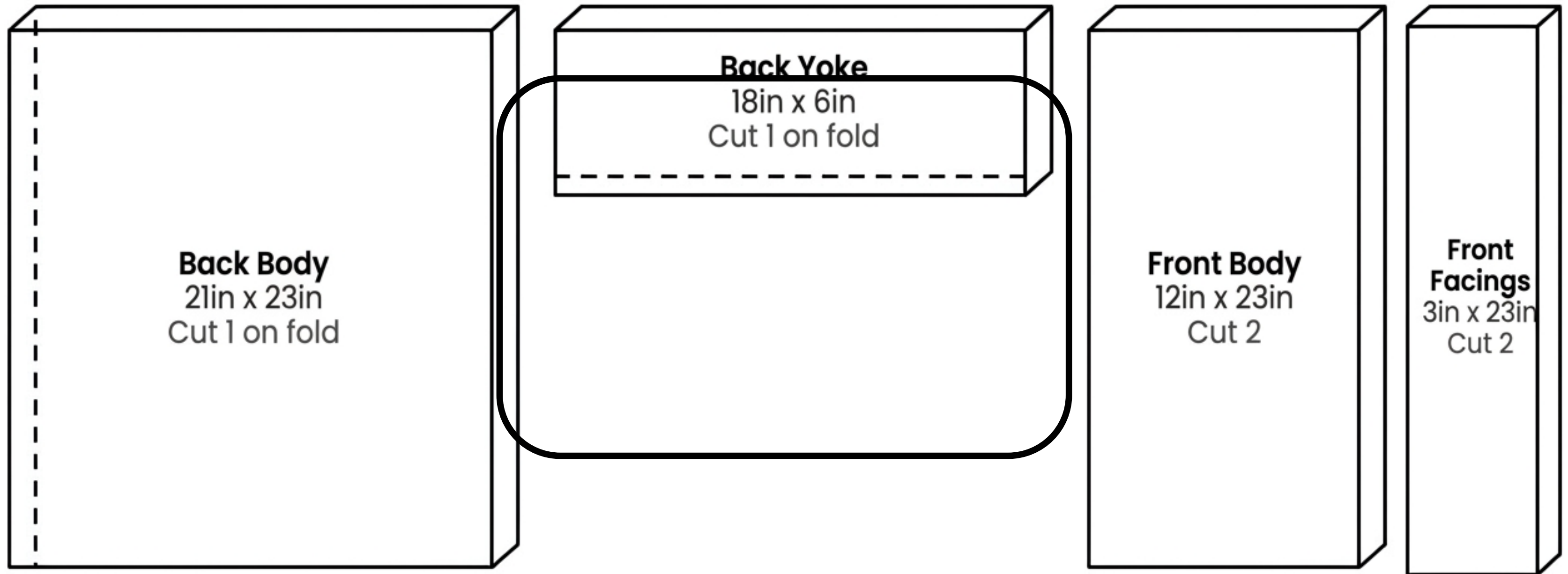
Fabric: 9–12oz denim (lighter weights fail to hold boxy shape).

Notions: Fusible interfacing, seven to nine 1/2 inch buttons.

Machine Hardware: 90/14 to 100/16 topstitch needle, topstitch-weight thread, optional walking foot.

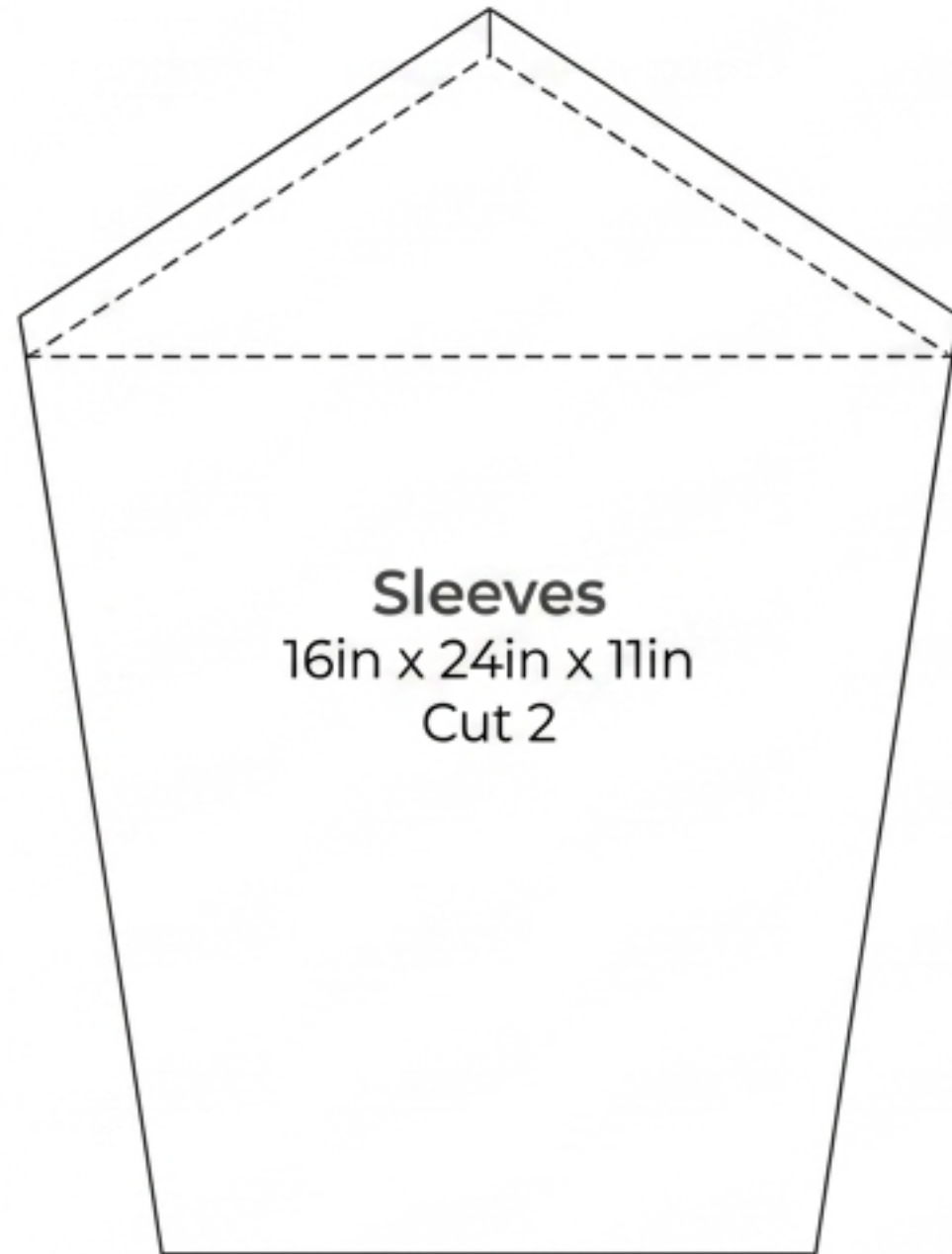


The Cutting Room | Phase 1: Body Architecture (Size Medium)



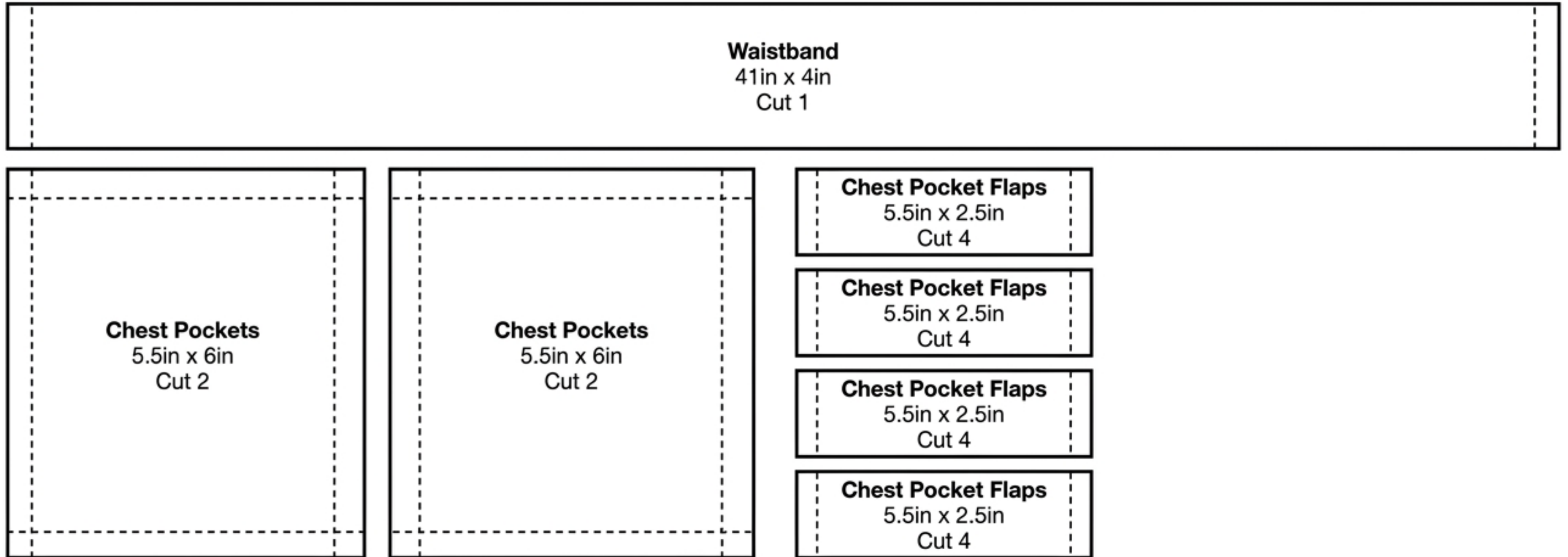
Lay pieces on a single layer where possible to prevent shifting. Heavy denim throws off grain on bulky patter pieces.

The Cutting Room | Phase 2: Articulation (Size Medium)



Prep & Interface: Apply fusible interfacing to collar components with a slightly oversized seam allowance before sewing a single seam.

The Cutting Room | Phase 3: Hardware & Pockets (Size Medium)



**Transfer every notch and dot before moving pieces off the cutting table.
Denim's texture makes chalk marks difficult to see later.**

Pre-Flight Machine Setup

1. Re-Thread: Thread the machine from scratch. (Do not rely on your last project's setup).

2. Needle Drop: Install a fresh 90/14 – 100/16 topstitch needle. (Dull needles deflect, causing skipped stitches).

3. Thread Distribution: Topstitch-weight thread in the needle. Regular-weight thread in the bobbin. (Heavy thread in the bobbin will knot).

4. The Scrap Test: Test stitch on doubled denim matching your collar's thickness. If thread knots, tighten upper tension and re-test.



Assembly Architecture (Steps 1-4)



Step 1: Prep & Interface

Interfacing applied to collar, cuffs, and placket facing.

Step 2: Yoke & Shoulders

Sew back yoke to back panel; join shoulder seams.

Crucial Rule: Press every seam open before crossing it with another seam.

Step 3: Side Seams

Choose your finish: Lapped (efficient weekend build) vs. Flat-felled (long-term durability).

Step 4: Set the Collar

Attach interfaced collar.

Crucial Rule: Understitch the facing before turning to prevent outward rolling.

Assembly Architecture (Steps 5–7)



Step 5: Sleeves

Set sleeves flat before closing the side and underarm seams in one continuous pass.

Step 6: Cuffs & Hem

Interface and attach cuffs. Hem jacket body with a double topstitched edge.

Step 7: Topstitch & Hardware

Complete all visible topstitching last. Mark/sew buttonholes; attach buttons.

Before committing to final permanent stitching, button the jacket to check the front placket over your high bust. Size up if horizontal pull lines

The Denim Diagnostic Matrix



Symptom	Cause	Machine Fix
Skipped stitches.	Needle deflection on thick layers.	Re-thread and install a fresh, appropriately sized topstitch/denim needle. Do not force fabric through.
Thread knots or bobbin-side puckering.	Topstitch-weight thread jamming in the bobbin case.	Ensure regular thread is in the bobbin. Tighten upper thread tension slightly.
Placket gapping / Horizontal pulling.	Using full bust measurement instead of high bust for sizing.	Conduct a pinned button-band fit check before executing final topstitching.