

THE REDRESS DESIGN AWARD:  
**A DESIGNER'S GUIDE TO  
 UP-CYCLING**

WITH CLASSICS ANEW

Millions of tonnes of textiles are wasted every year during textile and garment production before the clothes even reach the consumer.

Up-cycling is the recycling of a material into a product of higher quality. For example, up-cycling textile swatches, production off-cuts and end-of-roll textiles to create garments.

In this guide, we feature an up-cycled design by Classics Anew's Janko Lam. She shows us how she uses denim samples and turns these into design features for her up-cycled denim qipao collections.



**MATERIALS**

Up-cycled denim qipao  
 made from end-of-rolls

Fabric samples

Pattern paper

Scissors

Pins

Pencil

Sewing threads



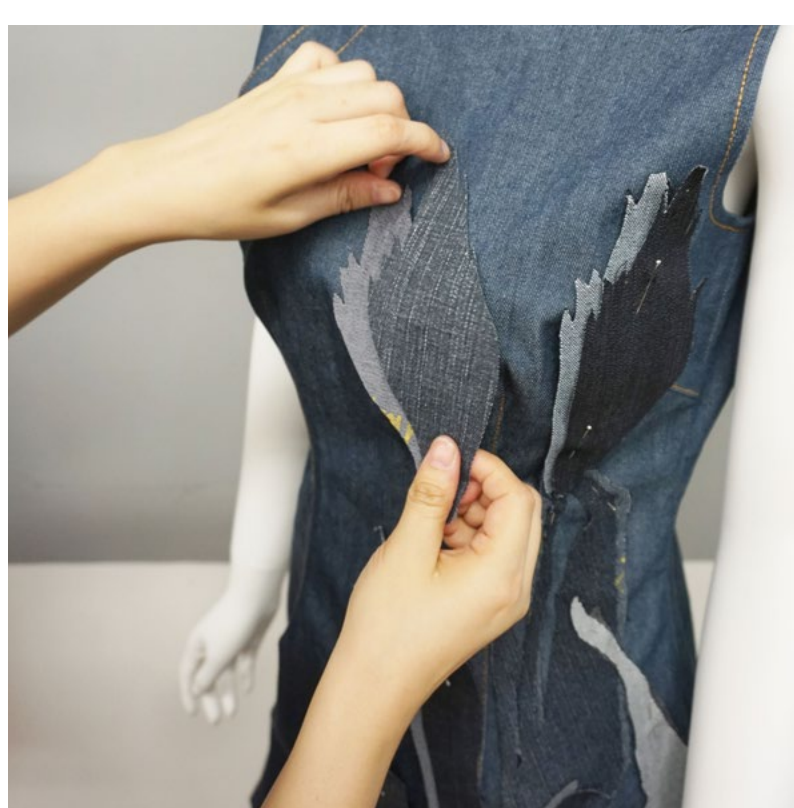
1. For my brand, I work using larger pieces of fabric, such as end-of-rolls, to create the core form for my qipaos. Then I use smaller pieces, such as denim samples, for design details. In this way, each piece is different. I first start to sketch out my decorative designs on paper, thinking about the colours of the samples I have to hand.



2. Then, I use my paper pattern pieces to cut out the shapes from the swatches. I always make sure to maximise the space of the fabric and save the leftover scraps for use on other qipaos. No scraps are too small!



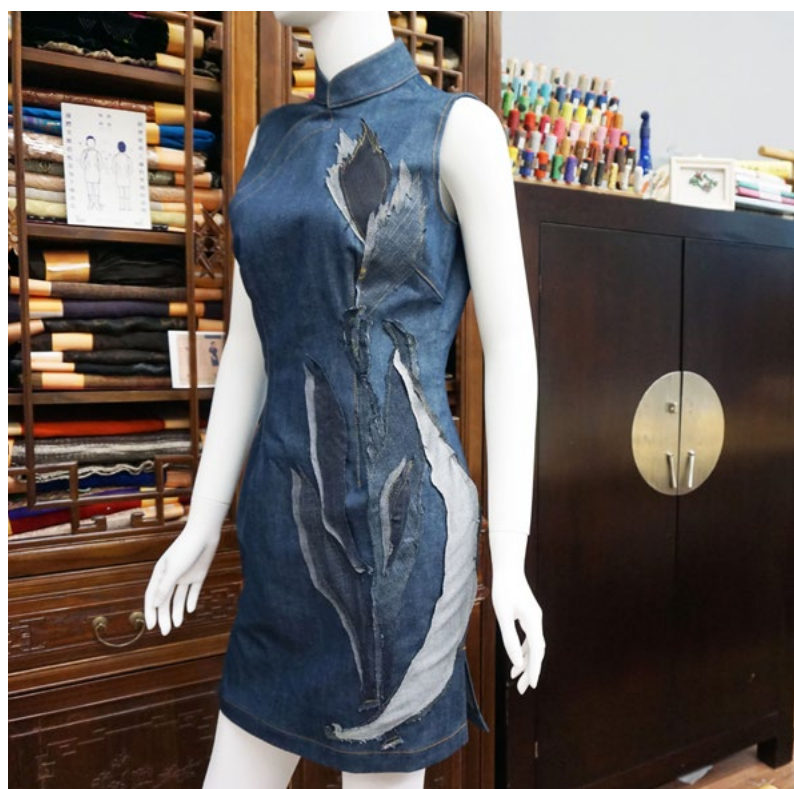
3. Once I have all my pieces I then pin my design, in this case flowers, onto the up-cycled denim qipao and move the pieces around until I am happy with the result. I love working this way because it is very flexible. There are so many options to be creative and add to the uniqueness of the piece.



4. Next, I always put the garment on a mannequin to check the design – it almost always looks different when it is on a body. Then I adjust the placement of the floral design.



5. Finally, I use a topstitch to applique the floral designs onto the qipao because I want to create a rugged-edge and raw look for the design.



6. Complete! With up-cycling, there are so many opportunities to challenge yourself. So explore and find your own style! Even if there are faults in the fabric, you can choose to embrace them and be a problem solver to turn these faults into beautiful designs.

Share your thoughts and experiences with us about your up-cycled designs!

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**LEARN MORE**

Learn more about up-cycling design from experts, including Orsola de Castro, Filippo Ricci, Nin Castle, Kelvin Wan, Clementine Sandner and TRAUD, in our 'Up-cycling Design Technique' guide here: [www.redressdesignaward.com/learn](http://www.redressdesignaward.com/learn).

**ABOUT CLASSICS ANEW**

Hong Kong designer, Janko Lam won The Redress Design Award (formerly the EcoChic Design Award) 2011. Following her victory, she further developed her visions and in 2014, she launched her sustainable fashion brand, Classics Anew. Her womenswear brand is made by up-cycling leftover denim waste sourced from Mainland China and is based on modern design twists reflecting Chinese heritage.

Janko continues to accumulate praise for her work since designing the inaugural Recycled Collection by Esprit in 2012. She now retails in her shop, Three Artisans at PMQ, in Hong Kong. Hong Kong celebrities are often seen wearing her works, including Lawrence Chau and Eileen Tung, and Janko has been widely featured in various media, including Apple Daily, SCMP Post Magazine, Jing Daily and JET Magazine.

Visit [www.facebook.com/ClassicsAnew](http://www.facebook.com/ClassicsAnew) for more.

