



## TAKE AND MAKE: Visible Mending

Watch on YouTube by entering this URL or scanning the QR Code: <https://youtu.be/XJC55n91waQ>



**Why visible mending?** Mending your clothes can be a great way to make your wardrobe more sustainable and help you save money on replacements. Visible mending takes this a step further by helping you customize your clothing – not only will you reduce waste, but you will begin to put a personal touch on your wardrobe with new life and style. The colors, design, and personality are all up to you!

**What's in the kit?** Here's what we've included to get you started with visible mending:

- Sewing kit – for closing up small tears, holes, or sewing patches
- Embroidery thread – to add colorful accents or stitching to your project
- Recycled denim and fabric patches to get you started
- Tailor's chalk for tracing straight lines and stitching patterns

**Picking your battles.** Consider some of the following before you embark on a mending project:

- *Is it salvageable?* Are the clothes worn thin all over or are they otherwise fine to wear? Some items are too worn to save – consider recycling them into cleaning cloths or breaking them down into patches for other projects.
- *Is it important?* Does your item have nostalgia attached to it? Have you been unable to find other garments that fit the same? Mending can extend the life of your clothes and help preserve your memories.
- *Is it practical?* You may or may not want to mend the pants you know a child will grow out of in 6 months. Mending is fun but it takes time – make sure you are using yours wisely!
- As you incorporate mending into your wardrobe, you will start to get a feel for what kinds of items and fabrics mend up better. You might start thinking longer term about the clothes you buy. Is it something that will be suited to mending later? Will you want to wear this for as long as it will last with a little mending TLC?

**What effect do you want to achieve?** Once you have evaluated your items, you will start thinking about design choices. How the item is worn out, where holes or stains are located, and how it fits you will all inform how you want your final project to look. Do you want a vibrant, colorful patch? Whimsical embroidery? A more muted, neutral patched jean with detailed stitching? Consider some of the options listed below.



(CC BY-NC 2.0 image via @paperstringcloth on Flickr)

**Darning** – Creates a patch using weaving techniques. Great for knitted items like socks and sweaters, but also works on many garments. (<http://bit.ly/darningvideo>)



(CC BY 2.0 image via @woolgenie on Flickr)

**Patching & Sashiko Stitching** – Patching combined with contrasting decorative stitching. Consider for jeans, jackets, and areas that need reinforcement. (<http://bit.ly/sashikovideo>)



(CC BY-NC 2.0 image via @crf\_kitty on Flickr)

**Embroidery** – Great for adding decoration to patches or covering stains or small holes – lots of creative possibilities! (<http://bit.ly/embroideryvideo>)



(CC BY 2.0 image via @lisa\_yarost on Flickr)

**Machine Mending** – For speeding up the process, strong reinforcement, and decorative stitches. No sewing machine? Make an appointment at the makerspace! (<http://bit.ly/machinemending>)

#### Other things to consider:

- Make sure to attach your patches, darning, and other mends to areas of fabric that are not worn out or loose. This will ensure that your mending is secure and will last.
- What other techniques can you incorporate into your mending projects? Cross-stitch patches? Wool eedle felting? Patchwork patches? There are lots of possibilities – be sure to work to your skills and personal style!
- There are lots of tools out there to help with mending projects such as embroidery hoops or darning mushrooms, eggs, and machines. While they can be helpful, they are not required. Other household items can be great substitutes – get creative!

Now pick out one of your items of clothing using the criteria above, choose the mending style you think will work best, and start sewing! If you share your finished mends on social media, be sure to tag us with #PPLDTakeandMake

#### Library Resources & Links

##### Mending LibGuide:

- <https://research.ppld.org/CreateAtHome/Clothing>, includes videos and other resources on the techniques outlined above as well as general basics for mending and repurposing clothing.

##### Library Books & Ebooks:

- *Joyful mending: visible repairs for the perfectly imperfect things we love!* by Noriko Misumi
- *Make + mend: sashiko-inspired embroidery projects to customize and repair textiles and decorate your home* by Jessica Marquez and Erin Scott
- *Mend!: a refashioning manual and manifesto* by Kate Sekules
- *Mend it better* by Kristin Roach
- *Mending life: a handbook for repairing clothes and hearts* by Nina and Sonya Montenegro
- *Mending matters: stitch, patch, and repair favorite denim & more* by Katrina Rodabaugh and Karen Pearson
- *Wear, repair, repurpose: a maker's guide to mending and upcycling clothes* by Lily Fulop

Makerspace Equipment: The makerspaces at Library 21c, East, and Sand Creek have sewing machines, embroidery machines, and sergers. You can also get creative with our other equipment – no darning mushroom? Make one on our 3d printers! Learn more at <https://ppld.org/create/makerspaces>