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

ABOUT CLASSICS ANEW

Hong Kong designer, Janko Lam won 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 Chou and Eileen Tung, and Janko has been widely featured in various media, including Apple Daily, SCMP Post Magazine, Jing Daily and JET Magazine.


MATERIALS

- Scissors
- Pins
- Pencil
- Sewing threads
- Up-cycled denim qipao
- made from end-of-rolls
- Fabric samples
- Pattern paper

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 off-cuts, 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.

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.

2. Then, I use my paper pattern pieces to cut out the shapes from the denim samples and make sure the shapes work together. I then move the pieces around until I am happy with the design.

3. I first start to sketch out my decorative designs on paper, thinking about the colours of the samples I have to hand.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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A DESIGNER’S GUIDE TO
UP-CYCLING
WITH CLASSICS ANEW

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