

A black and white collage of punk fashion items. At the top, a t-shirt features a graphic of a person's face and the word 'SPIDER' in large, bold, block letters. Below it, another t-shirt has the text 'IMITATING ME OR IS IMITATING LIFE?' printed on it. The items are layered and partially obscured, creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall aesthetic is gritty and DIY.

RAGGED

A guide on diy punk fashion

IMITATING ME
OR IS
IMITATING LIFE?

A BRIEF BACKGROUND

If you've been around Punk culture for a while, I'm sure you've seen people wearing battle jackets (or vests) or patch pants. (Patch, Crust, Painted, Bondage, there's lots of variety in the punk pants department).

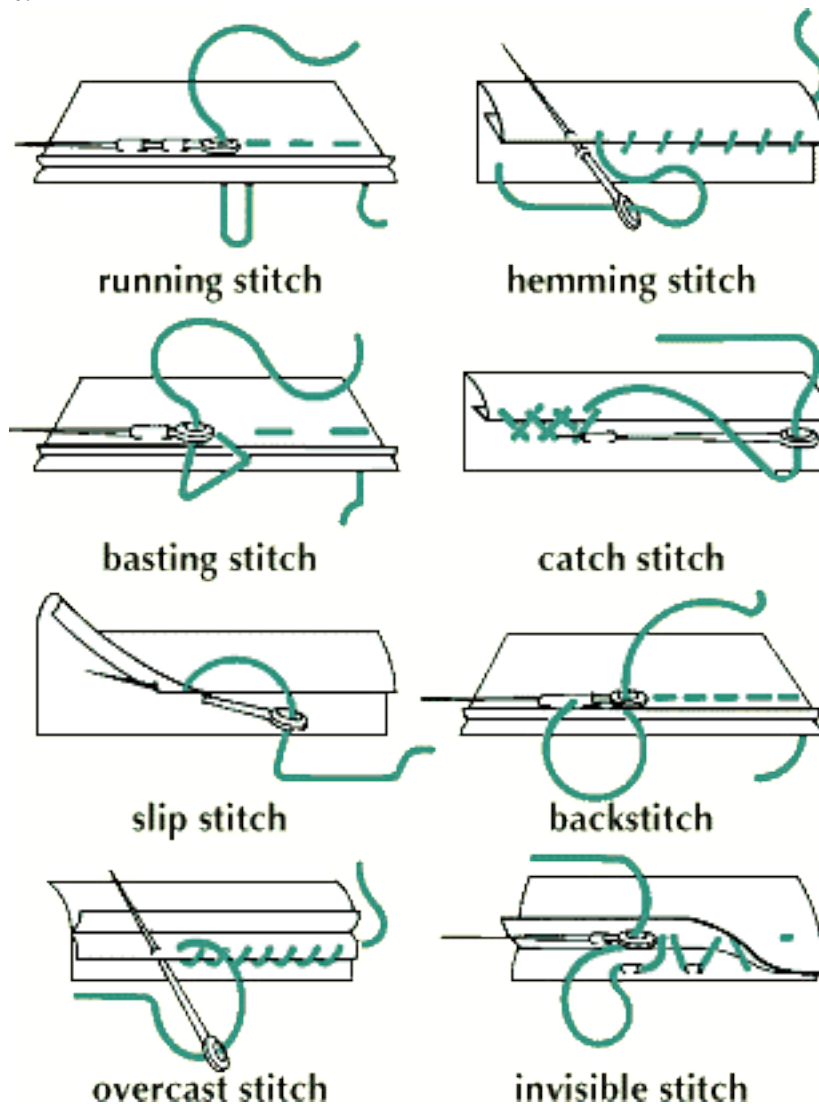
The origins of this sort of sewn-together DIY fashion was rooted in the early start of Punk culture in the 60's and 70's largely as a whitewash on the clothes worn by street gangs. Jackets that would eventually become in-seperable from the Punk culture were donned and created by Puerto Ricans, though similar jackets were also found coming from people who had served in the military.

Crust pants, got their name from the crust punks who were often living on the streets, cobbling their clothes together from whatever material they could find, often using dental floss (something still reccomended today) on account of its low price and strength.

Since then, the scene and its fashion has evolved as a means to express one's individuality, creativity, personality, political views and of course, favorite bands, films, books, etc.

THE 1ST THING YOU NEED TO LEARN- HANDSTITCHING.

Kinda hard to convey this through print but here's a diagram I grabbed online.



This diagram showcases some basic stitches, and you can find videos of these on youtube of course. I tend to use a variation of the hemming stitch, just be aware this will make whatever you're sewing together (like patches on pants) tighter more quickly.

BATTLE JACKETS

Every punk tends to at least sport the battle jacket (or vest), what goes on it is ultimately up to you. Paint it, sew on patches, stick some safety pins and buttons on there, there is no wrong way to do this. And if they tell you otherwise, they're not really punk. The battle jacket is an extension of yourself, if there's anything that you want people to absolutely know about you, put it on the jacket!



My main vest that I wear everyday



My vest from when I thought I was pansexual



a sick vest by u/DrH1983



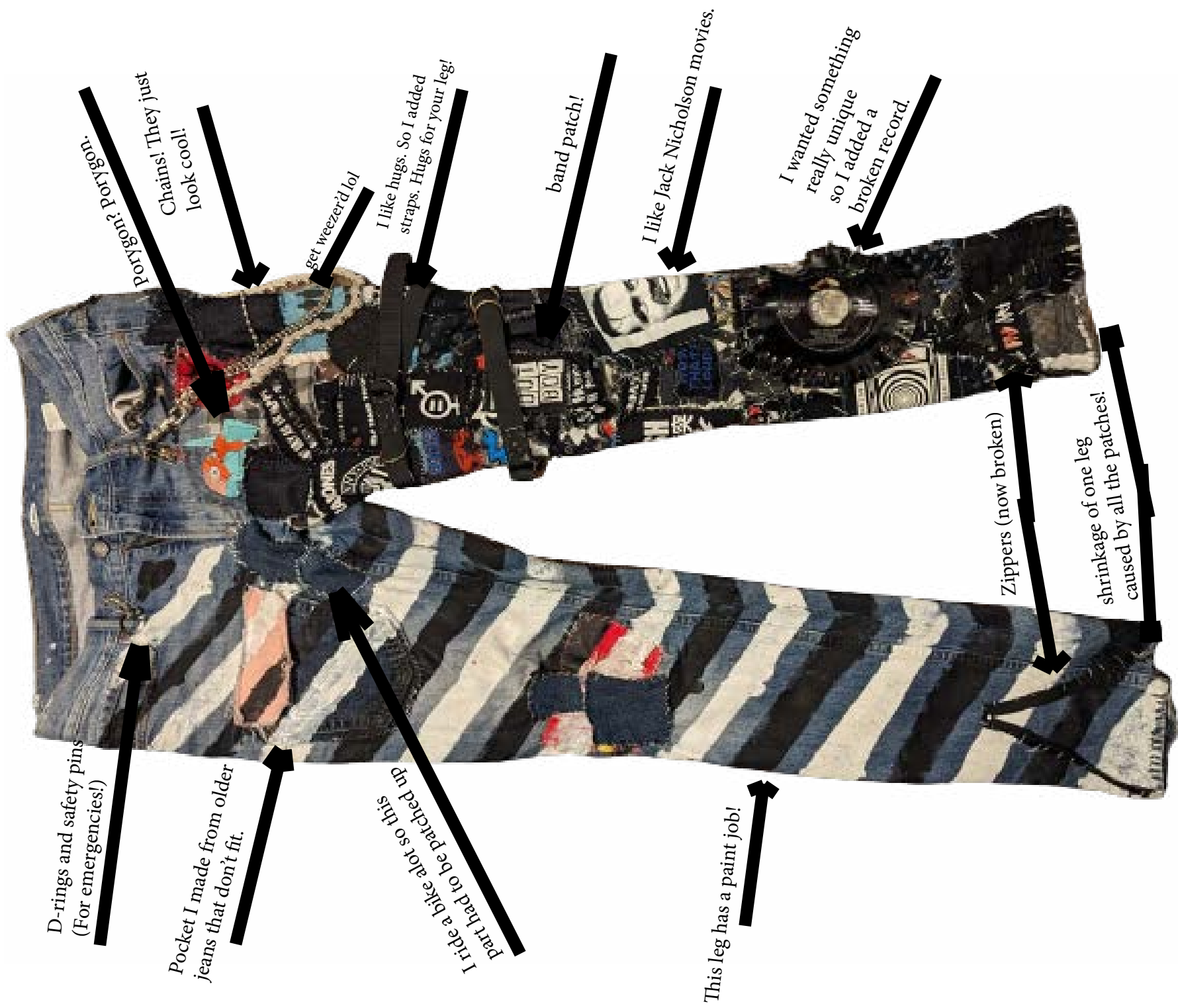
a good example for those who like sleeves, by u/officialjakefinlive



Color is allowed! Look at this sweet vest by u/discordiadystopia

Looking for inspiration online? I recommend the subreddits [r/jacketsforbattle](#) and [r/punkfashion](#). I encourage you to stay far, far away from [r/battlejackets](#) as the mods are known for fascist behavior.

ANATOMY OF THE PUNK PANTS (FEATURING MY OWN)



D-rings and safety pins
(For emergencies!)

Pocket I made from older
jeans that don't fit.

I ride a bike alot so this
part had to be patched up

This leg has a paint job!

Pony? Pony!

Chains! They just
look cool!

Get weezer'd lol

I like hugs. So I added
straps. Hugs for your leg!

band patch!

I like Jack Nicholson movies.

I wanted something
really unique
so I added a
broken record.

Zippers (now broken)

shrinkage of one leg
caused by all the patches!

PUNK PANTS



Some cool patchies by
u/GGallinsPPforLife



Pants by
u/The-neverine



Awesome pirate punk
pants by
u/FishingDavid1990
YARRGH!



Custom Bondage or "Tripp" pants
by u/slutty_seamstress



Crust pants made by u/HelmetTheDictator



Crust pants
by u/Fermented__Rat__Boi

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

- Patch pants: Pants with patches on them. May or may not be exclusively punk bands, can be whatever you want honestly. If it has patches and they're pants, they're patch pants!
- Crust Pants: Same idea as Patch Pants, however all the band patches are exclusively crust punk bands (Crust Punks can get really steamed if you're calling Patch Pants Crust Pants when they don't have Crust Bands on them.)
- Bondage Pants (Or Tripp NYC, Strappy, Zipper Pants): These pants tend to have all sorts of zippers and straps hanging off of it, sometimes even laces and chains. Official Tripp NYC (the brand) pants get really expensive, so you're usually much better off making your own, and it's not even that hard as long as you know how to sew.

You can apply these principles to all sorts of bottoms really! They don't have to be pants! You can have Bondage Skirts, Patch Kilts, Crust Shorts, whatever!

Also it's important to note that you should start with a roomy garment. The more you add, the tighter the fit will be. (My pants are a whole process to get in and out of now.)

CARING FOR YOUR CLOTHES

- Whether its your pants or your jackets, NEVER PUT THEM IN A WASHING MACHINE. Paint will run, patches will tear apart. It's a bad time.
- Die-hards will tell you never to clean anything, but that's gross. It's not punk to be stinky. I do two things. 1) Spray down my clothes daily with a 1/2 water, 1/2 (cheap) Vodka mixture to get rid of any daily smell. (It'll Evaporate with the alcohol.) 2) Monthly, I submerge my clothes in the bath with detergent and hand clean. This gets rid of any dirt, etc, and makes them smell nice and clean. This will still fray but at least you're not losing your patches. After this I will hang them up overnight to dry. (Sometimes you can get away with throwing them in the dryer)
- If you have paint on your clothes, try coating it with fabric mod-podge. This will make it water resistant, allowing you to gently hand wash them and keep it from peeling in the rain
- Holes? Patch. Stain that won't come out? Patch.
- Wear your clothes as often as possible. A major part of the scene is the ragged look of the clothes, becoming less the underlying fabric as it shreds away, and the patches themselves holding the garment together.

LENNON MCCREA ZINE #24
(SHE/HER)

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ZINESBYLENNON.NEOCITIES.ORG