

Denim Pre-Sampling Toolkit

A practical six-page working pack for getting a denim sample brief clear before it goes to pattern, sewing and wash development.

How to use it: work through the pages in order. Mark decisions as Confirmed, Open or Needs revision. An open item is not automatically a problem; the problem is when two people think different versions are current.

1. Pre-Sampling Readiness Scorecard

Area	What should be easy to find	Status
Style and fit	Current sketch/reference, intended silhouette, base size, key POMs	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Pattern status	Approved / reference-only / to be developed	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Fabric	Selected fabric or clear direction for composition, weight, stretch, handfeel	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Wash	Target shade/effects and written comments for what references do not define	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Construction	Seams, stitching, waistband, fly, pockets and build-critical details	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Detail placement	Reference points/dimensions for pockets, labels, artwork and other details	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Trims	Buttons, rivets, zippers, labels, patches and sampling substitutes	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Size and quantity	Sample size, planned size range, expected quantity when known	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise
Revision control	One dated current version with approved/pending/reference-only items marked	☐ Confirmed ☐ Open ☐ Revise

Readiness score

___ / 9

Count a category only when the current decision is clear enough for this sample stage.

Biggest unresolved item

PAGE 2 - DETAILED CHECK

Tech Pack Detail Checklist

Use this page when the brief looks complete at first glance but still contains details that may be interpreted differently.

Item	Check before sampling	Status
Style ID / name	One current style name or number appears on the working file.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Front / back view	Flats or references show the main garment shape.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Side / detail view	Added where angle, asymmetry or construction cannot be read clearly from front/back.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Fit language	Rise, leg shape, wearing position and intended silhouette are written, not implied.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Base size	The sample/base size is stated.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
POM names	Each measurement has an unambiguous name.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
POM method	Where the measurement starts/ends is defined; flat/relaxed/stretched is clear where relevant.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Before / after wash	Measurement condition is identified where wash changes the garment.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Tolerances	Tolerances are stated where appropriate rather than assumed to be identical for every POM.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Fabric direction	Composition, weight/structure, stretch direction and handfeel are clear enough for sourcing/sampling.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Wash shade	Target shade is described and/or referenced.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Wash effects	Fading, whiskers, abrasion, distressing or surface character are separated from general colour direction.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Handfeel	If important to approval, the intended finished handfeel is written.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Waistband / fly	Construction is clear enough to avoid pattern/sewing guesses.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Seams / topstitching	Visible and structural stitch details are identified.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Pocket shape	Shape/dimensions are defined where they matter to the design.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Pocket placement	Placement uses stable garment reference points rather than "about here".	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Label / patch placement	Reference seam/edge and distance are defined.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Buttons / rivets	Type, finish and temporary sampling substitutes are marked.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Zipper / closure	Required closure type and visible finish are clear.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Brand artwork	Current artwork file/reference is identified if needed for the sample.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Sample substitutions	Any temporary fabric/trim/artwork substitute is explicitly marked as temporary.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Size range	Planned range is noted when known; grading is not treated as final before base fit is reviewed.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Quantity direction	Expected quantity per style/wash/colour is recorded when known.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Current version	One file is clearly the current working version.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Revision date	Date is visible on the current version.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Change notes	Sample comments and changed instructions are traceable.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R
Open items	Open decisions are labelled instead of hidden inside conflicting notes.	☐ C ☐ O ☐ R

C = Confirmed, O = Open, R = Needs revision.

Sample Brief Worksheet

Fill this in before handing the style to the sampling team. It is intentionally short; attach the actual drawings, measurement table and references behind it.

Field	Working entry
Style name / number	
Product category	
Intended silhouette / wearing position	
Sample / base size	
Pattern status	☐ Approved ☐ Reference only ☐ To be developed
Fabric direction	
Wash direction	
Construction points that must not be guessed	
Critical pocket / label / artwork placement	
Trims required for this sample	
Temporary sample substitutions allowed	
Planned size range	
Expected quantity / style / wash / colour	
Current tech pack version / date	

Open items before sampling

Open item	Who decides	Deadline / next checkpoint

Working rule: if an item is not needed to build or fairly assess this sample, it may remain open - but mark it. If it changes the pattern, construction, wash direction or what you are trying to approve, resolve it or state the temporary sampling instruction.

Revision Control Sheet

A clean revision trail is more useful than a folder full of files with names such as "final", "final2" and "latest". Keep one current version and record what changed.

Version	Date	What changed	Status
			☐ Working ☐ Approved
			☐ Working ☐ Approved
			☐ Working ☐ Approved
			☐ Working ☐ Approved
			☐ Working ☐ Approved
			☐ Working ☐ Approved

Current working version

Superseded versions

Approval basis

☐ Physical sample

☐ Measurement / fit comments

☐ Wash comments

☐ Trim / placement comments

☐ Other: _____

Change decision log

Decision	Approved / open	Reference used

Avoid: sending a new PDF while old comments remain active in email/chat with no indication of which instruction wins.

Sample Review & Approval Sheet

Review the sample as one connected garment. A fit change can affect pocket position; a wash change can affect measurements and handfeel; a trim or construction change may require a new check.

Review area	What to compare	Decision	Comments
Fit / silhouette	Wearing position, rise, hip/thigh volume, leg line, balance	☐ Approve ☐ Revise ☐ Re-sample	
Measurements	Key POMs against current spec and measurement condition	☐ Approve ☐ Revise ☐ Re-sample	
Wash	Shade, fading, whiskers, abrasion/distressing, surface character, handfeel	☐ Approve ☐ Revise ☐ Re-sample	
Construction	Seams, stitching, waistband, fly, pocket build and visible details	☐ Approve ☐ Revise ☐ Re-sample	
Placement	Pockets, labels, patches, artwork and location-sensitive details	☐ Approve ☐ Revise ☐ Re-sample	
Trims	Buttons, rivets, zipper, labels, patch and any sample substitutes	☐ Approve ☐ Revise ☐ Re-sample	

Corrections that must enter the next current version

Priority	Correction	Owner
☐ Must fix ☐ Review		
☐ Must fix ☐ Review		
☐ Must fix ☐ Review		
☐ Must fix ☐ Review		

Overall decision

☐ Approved for next stage

☐ Revise without full re-sample

☐ Re-sample required

Next version / date

Next checkpoint

Before You Send It to Sampling

This final page is the handoff check. It does not require every commercial decision to be final; it requires the sampling instruction to be internally consistent.

Ten questions to answer

☐	Is there one current tech pack / brief, with an obvious version and date?
☐	Can another person understand the intended fit without relying only on a mood/reference photo?
☐	Are the key POMs and their measurement methods clear enough to reproduce?
☐	Is the fabric selected, or is the sourcing direction specific enough for this sample?
☐	Is the wash target defined beyond a generic colour name where wash is part of this sample?
☐	Are construction details that affect pattern/sewing shown or written?
☐	Are pocket, label, patch and artwork placements dimensioned from stable reference points where needed?
☐	Are real trims vs temporary sampling substitutes clearly distinguished?
☐	Are unresolved decisions visibly marked Open rather than hidden in conflicting notes?
☐	Does everyone know what this sample is meant to approve: fit, wash, construction, trims, placement - or a defined combination?

Items that may remain open for this sample

- Decisions not required to build or fairly assess this sample stage.
- Temporary trims/artwork when the substitute is explicitly marked.
- Later commercial/packaging details that do not alter the garment being assessed.

Whether an item can stay open depends on the actual style and what the sample is meant to prove.

Items that should not stay vague

- The target fit / base size for a fit sample.
- Instructions that change the pattern or main construction.
- Wash direction when wash is being evaluated.
- Location-critical details you expect to judge.
- Which file/version is current.

Final handoff: send one current brief, the linked reference files, and a short list of what is still Open. After the sample returns, move the actual corrections into the next controlled version rather than letting approvals live only in email or chat.

Use with judgement. This toolkit is a working aid for denim development. It does not replace project-specific pattern, grading, testing, compliance or technical decisions.