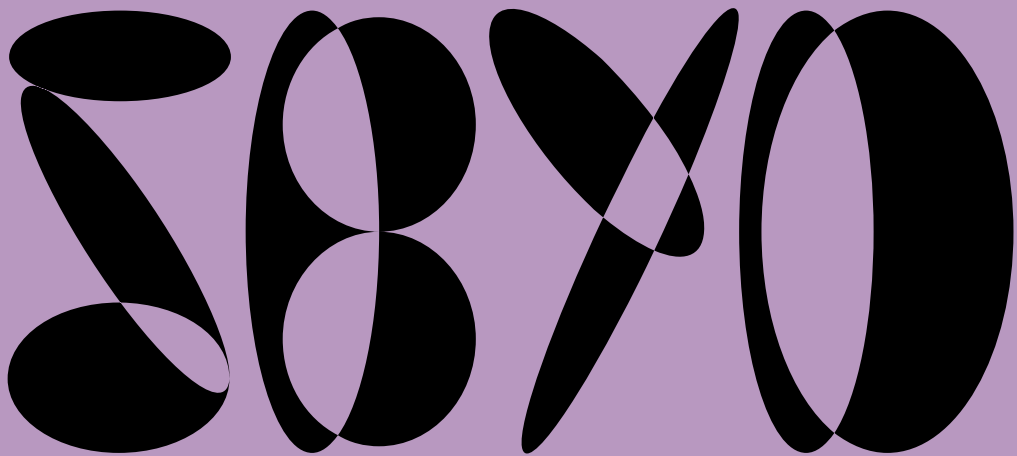
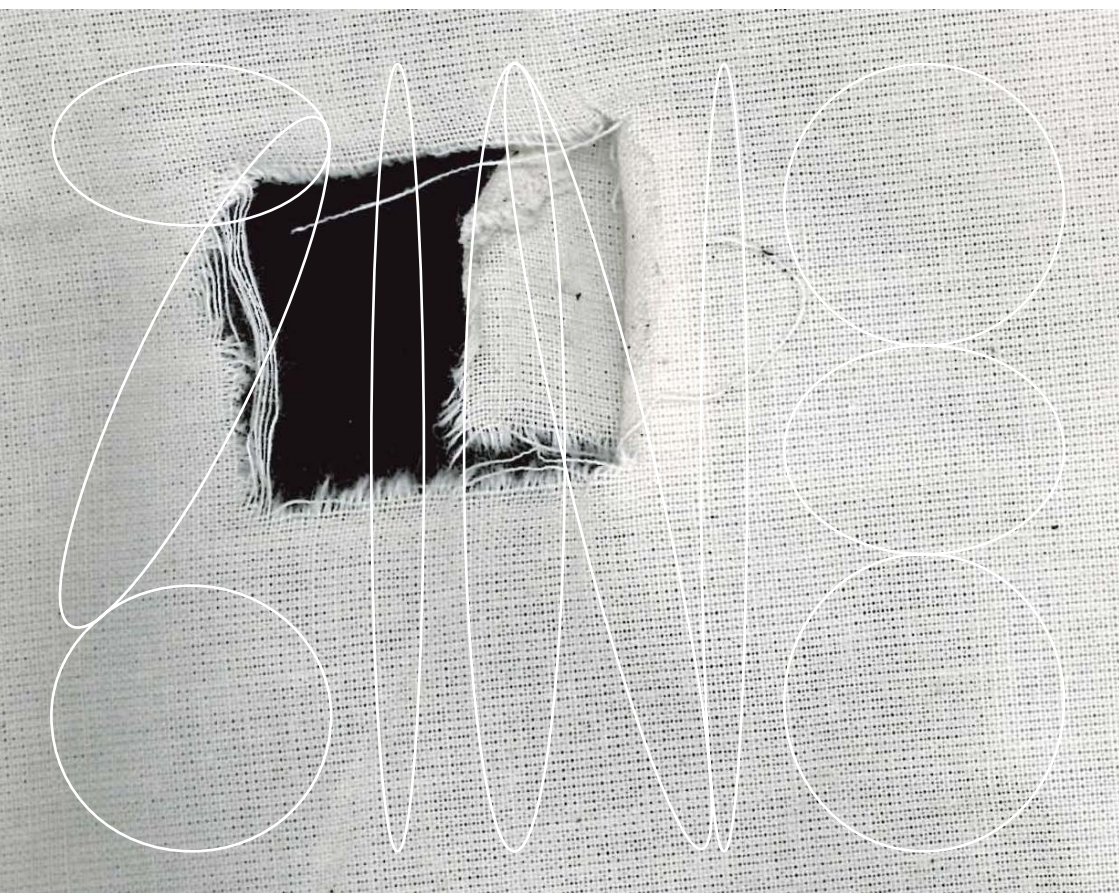
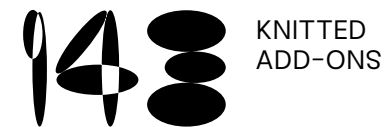
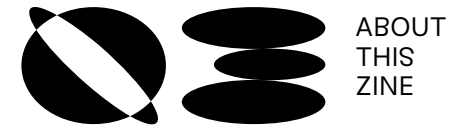
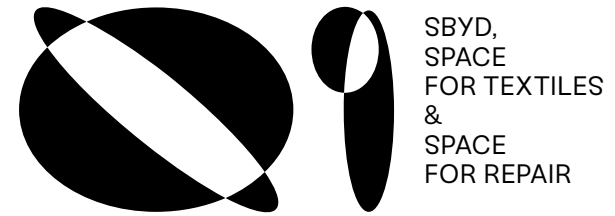


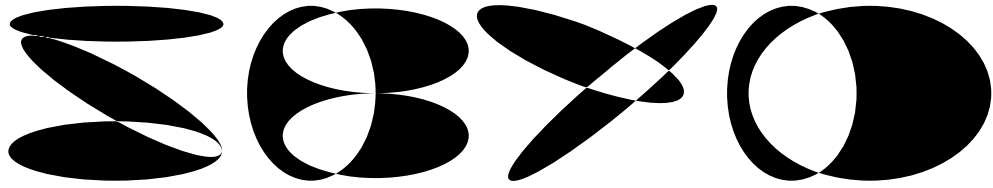


SPACE FOR TEXTILES & SPACE FOR REPAIR _____
99 Acts of Repair [EN]

#06
07/2026

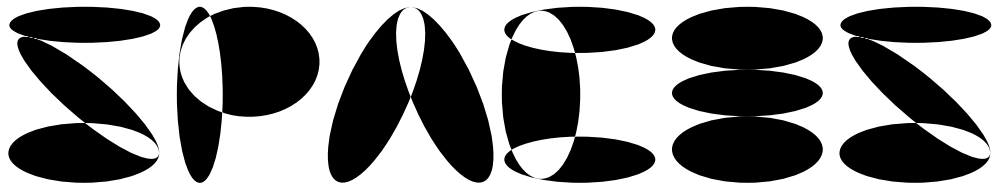




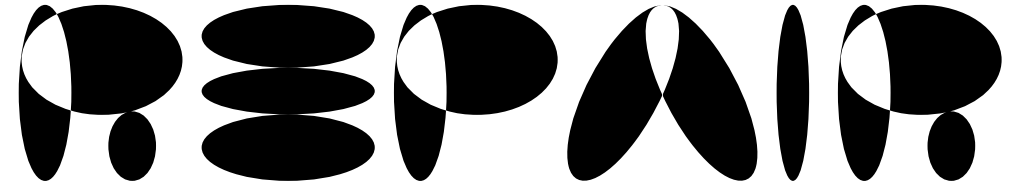


SBYD.SPACE explores new climate-neutral and resource-light ways of living and production. It aims to transfer knowledge from sustainability research into society and the economy through design. The capability of design in making theories and abstract concepts tangible—and transferring them into everyday life—is used to explore, discuss, and test these theories and ideas in practice.

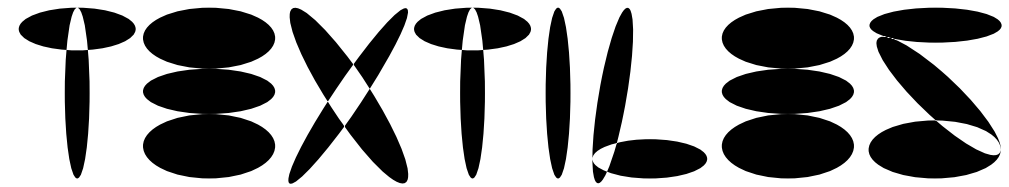
SBYD.SPACE engages with diverse audiences and collaborators through various formats, including workshops, international symposia, exhibitions, an artist/designer-in-residence program, and support for entrepreneurial endeavours. It is located at Folkwang University of the Arts' North Campus at the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, a former coal mine in Germany's Ruhr region—a location that could not be more symbolic for the transformation of industries, ways of life, and entire regions.



SBYD.SPACE creates SPACES of possibility for exploring sustainable alternatives. Each SPACE is composed of a different set of interdisciplinary team members—akin to a working group. In different and continuously evolving SPACES, such as the SPACE FOR REPAIR, the SPACE FOR BIOMATERIALS, and the SPACE FOR TEXTILES, room is created for projects that pursue a circular, resource-light, and regenerative design approach. The SPACES form a thematic and conceptual structure within SBYD, around which activities, such as interdisciplinary workshops, design projects, and exhibitions, are clustered. Each SPACE approaches sustainability from a slightly different perspective, and with its own definition and way of working, creating a multiperspective approach within SBYD that makes different possibilities for sustainable living and production visible and tangible.



The SPACE FOR REPAIR operates at the intersection of craft, technology, longevity, and repair. The decision of whether to repair a broken object is often complex. It involves economic, cognitive, emotional, cultural, infrastructural, and political factors. How can design promote and consolidate a culture of repair?



The SPACE FOR TEXTILES examines factors influencing the lifespan of textile objects. What contributions can design make to foster the use of textiles to be as long-lasting and sustainable as possible? What potential lies in the interplay between craftsmanship, tradition, decentralised, and industrial production for the future?

ABOUT THIS ZINE

There are countless ways to repair textiles: elaborate embroidery, invisible alterations, improvised patching, pragmatically darned holes, or emergency fixes with adhesive tape. Depending on the approach and motivation, the repaired objects can look completely different. These repairs tell stories of personal relationships with textiles, of memories, appreciation, rejection, necessity, creativity, frustration, and everyday decisions about how we deal with the things we already own.

Out of a curiosity for the endless possibilities of repair, SPACE FOR TEXTILES and SPACE FOR REPAIR invited people to submit repaired textile objects. It did not matter whether the item had been repaired by the owner, professionally mended, inherited, or found second-hand. Many people responded to this open call, sharing both their repairs and the stories connected to them. Items were patched, darned, knitted, glued, dyed, and altered. This ZINE was created to make this extensive collection accessible. The many submissions form its core and fill most of its pages.

The zine also includes a text by artist Alrun Aßmus, in which she examines the different repair practices from a broader, reflective perspective. To not only document but also reflect on the wide range of submissions, she identifies patterns, motivations, and relationships between people, textiles, and repair, offering insights that emerge from the collection as a whole.

A short chapter on knitted add-ons complements the publication. These add-ons were developed within SPACE FOR TEXTILES and SPACE FOR REPAIR to explore the potential of digital knitting machines for repairing damaged clothing.

Altogether, this ZINE presents 99 acts that illustrate some of the many ways textiles can be repaired. Perhaps, as a reader, you may feel inspired to realise the 100th.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who shared their repaired textiles with us.

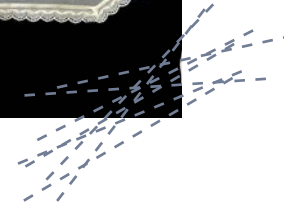
Enjoy browsing and reading!

Anke, Corinne, Judith, Lilli and Rolf

SUMMARY IN FIGURES

IN TOTAL, THIS ZINE FEATURES

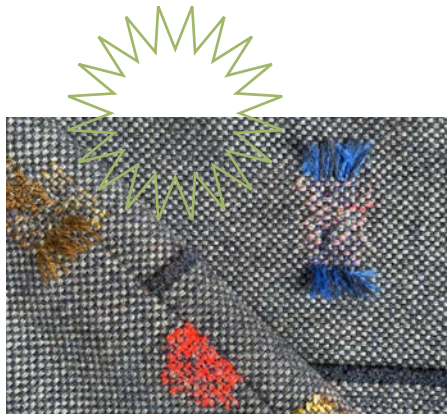
27 JUMPERS,
25 PAIRS OF TROUSERS,
13 JACKETS,
7 BLOUSES/TOPS,
6 SCARVES AND NECKERCHIEFS,
5 DRESSES,
3 SKIRTS,
2 PAIRS OF SHOES,
2 CHAIRS,
1 CAR SEAT,
1 BOAT COVER,
1 PAIR OF GLOVES,
1 HANDBAG,
1 TRAVEL BAG,
1 RUCKSACK,
1 PAIR OF SOCKS,
1 RUG, AND
1 WATCH.



76 PEOPLE CARRIED OUT THE REPAIRS THEMSELVES.
23 REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE ELSE.

59 REPAIRS WERE DONE BY HAND,
31 USING A SEWING MACHINE,
9 USING A DIGITAL KNITTING MACHINE.

THIS RESULTED IN 99 UNIQUE ITEMS.





01.

Alrun Alexandra Aßmus
alrunassmus.de
@walmango
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A wool sweater for my brother.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

Approximately from the 1970s to the 1990s.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The sleeve hem was worn through, and stitches at the very edge had come undone.



WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I secured the stitches to prevent them from unravelling further.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT?

I bought it second-hand online.



02.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A pair of Wrangler jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The seat of the jeans was completely worn through.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I placed a thin cotton fabric behind the worn areas and stitched over them many times.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought the jeans second-hand in Athens in 2020.

ANECDOTE
These are simply my favourite everyday jeans! I wear them often for work, so they've been heavily used. I hope they'll last me a long time.



03.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A silk blouse.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
A button had come off.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I sewed on a different button because I had lost the original one.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Bought second-hand in a boutique in Vienna.

ANECDOTE

One button was missing from the placket, so I couldn't wear the blouse because it kept gaping open. Unfortunately, there was no spare button sewn inside either, so I thought I could just take a button from the chest pocket. I sewed that button onto the placket and then sewed the original spot on the pocket with a button that is too big for the hole but matches the colour well. That's exactly what I did. I even find it exciting that this one "out-of-place" button gives the blouse a certain asymmetry.



04.

Laura Schlütz
www.machart-manufaktur.de
 @machart_manufaktur
 Steinheim, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pre-owned pair of Levi's 501s, once worn in military service.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

I got the jeans in 2013, but they had clearly seen many years of wear before that.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

This pair of light jeans had many stains that didn't come out even after several washes. In addition, the pockets were quite worn out.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

Using various decorative stitches, such as the knot stitch or variations of boro/sashiko, to cover the stains and protect the bags from further wear and tear.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

During my studies, when money was tight, I bought these trousers—along with two others—for just 5 euros at a military and outdoor shop that also sold second-hand clothing.

ANECDOTE

The other jeans I bought at the same time are no longer in my possession, even though I wore them a lot after purchasing them. However, this treasure, which took a lot of time to repair, has simply become a favourite piece, even though it took some time after the unsuccessful stain removal for this repair idea to be implemented. I give workshops on repairing clothes myself. This visual aid, which I often wear during the workshops, always provides a topic of conversation.



05.

Brigitte Dunkel
www.brigittedunkel.de
 @brigitte_dunkel
 Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It's a dress.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

I designed it, developed the pattern, and sewed it around 2000.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

It wasn't 'broken' in the sense that it needed repairing. I just didn't wear it because there were a few details I didn't like: it was sleeveless, and I wanted a change, so I could wear it again, but in a different way.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I altered it myself.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Using a fabric from my stash that matched perfectly in colour and texture, I made a wrap-style top with voluminous sleeves.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

As mentioned, it's a dress I made some time ago from a beautiful devoré pure silk fabric, with elaborate construction, partly sewn by hand.

ANECDOTE

I wore it—not just for this occasion, of course—to an exhibition opening at the Josef Haubrich Kunsthalle in Cologne, which was demolished in 2002. It was a very beautiful summer evening with numerous visitors and a very relaxed atmosphere in the large courtyard—something that has become rare these days. Places and events of this kind are something I sorely miss.



06.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

Maybe 2022.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The crotch area wore thin, and eventually the fabric tore there, not just once.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?

A tailor.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

Various pieces of leftover fabric were applied from the inside and sewn in place several times in an effort to extend the life of the jeans.

ANECDOTE

The different patches and threads of varying colours show how often I visited the tailor with these jeans. Eventually, however, too many areas were damaged, and I gave up having them patched further.



07.

Anonymous
Gelsenkirchen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Nike Air Max 90 children's shoes.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
Not exactly.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The front seams had come undone because the shoes were heavily used, often for scooter and bike rides.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I used a leather sewing needle and double thread (one with glitter) to try to strengthen the seams.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From eBay Kleinanzeigen.

ANECDOTE
My daughter really loved these shoes! Unfortunately, they quickly became too small after the repair, but we gave them to a friend's child who had smaller feet.



08.
Jona Kampelmann
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A rain jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
2017.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The welded seams on the inside of the jacket.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
With tape.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From a sports store.

ANECDOTE
I went on several hikes with this jacket and just couldn't bring myself to throw it out or give it away.



09.

Saskia van der Meer
saskiavandermeer.de
@s_vdm
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A denim skirt.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

A tear at knee height.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Sewing machine.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

A second-hand shop in Karlsruhe, 2020.

ANECDOTE

I had my first and last choir rehearsal and rode there on my city scooter. During the break, a few friends didn't believe me when I said I could jump off the kerb elegantly on my scooter, so I demonstrated. Unfortunately, I overestimated the legroom in my skirt and fell—I decided to try again right away to lessen the embarrassment. And I fell again, collecting a few bruises and tearing my skirt, which I later tried to conceal with flowers.





10.
Anonymous
Amsterdam, Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A red, quilted jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Not exactly, I found it around 2012 in a second-hand store.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The fabric was worn on the sleeves.



WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I simply looked for an easy method that wouldn't disturb the jacket's pattern too much, then stitched a zigzag pattern over the worn areas.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From a second-hand store in Antwerp.

ANECDOTE
Recently, I discovered in my photos how long I've had this jacket! Wow, quite a long time, and I still love it.



11.
Anonymous
London, United Kingdom

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Woollen grey knit—made from cashmere.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
2012.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The yarn was breaking in multiple places, creating holes and unravelling.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
My younger self.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
Chainstitch/crochet/freestyle-fusion.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
The lost and found!

ANECDOTE

Most of us have taken something small as a kid. For me, it was a jumper from the lost and found. I was blown away by its incongruous softness and weight—I'd never felt a knit so substantial. It became a great source of comfort over many winters. Over time, holes began to appear—just as I started to unravel past actions. Was it wrong to have taken this? In becoming a steward of the knit, I reflected on my mistakes, repairing the holes in both the garment and myself.



12.
Anonymous
Herne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A top.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
Nothing, but I didn't like the cut.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I sewed in a zip and made it a bit narrower on the sides.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From a used clothes collection.

ANECDOTE

I took this top from a used clothes collection, but the cut wasn't ideal. While I was sick at home, I narrowed it and sewed in a zip. Now I really like it and wear it often.





13.

Anonymous
Gelsenkirchen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of children's trousers.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

From the 2000s.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The button had come off.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

I sewed the button back on.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

From my aunt: the trousers belonged to my cousin, and my aunt gave them to me for my child.



14.
Anonymous
Leipzig, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Ear pads for headphones.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
2022.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The thin faux leather of the ear pads was tearing at the seams. Maybe the seams are just glued rather than stitched.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I sewed it back together.

ANECDOTE
The ear pads are available as replacement parts for around €20–30. However, they can also be sewn back on.





15.
Elena Schiff
@ela_illustration
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

My repaired textile is a woollen sweater that had many moth holes.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
2012.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

There were several moth holes all over the front and the right sleeve of the sweater.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.



HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I mended each hole individually by weaving over it.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I got the sweater at a clothing swap and thought, if I don't repair it, it'll just be thrown away.



16.
Anonymous
Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
An aubergine-coloured knitted sweater.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The collar hem was not attached to the sweater along a section of about three cm, which caused a large hole.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I used a darning needle and darning yarn to pick up the stitches from the hem and the sweater, secured them, and joined them together.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I found it in a discarded pile from a second-hand shop that would otherwise have ended up in the trash.

ANECDOTE
Through my work, I often handle clothing that second-hand shops sort out, and that would otherwise end up in the trash. The sweater's beautiful colour immediately caught my eye. It is actually too big for me, but it looks great with a tight top underneath, and intentionally oversized. The collar hem was probably not sewn on properly and may have already been sold with the defect. I only noticed the hole at the back of the neck after wearing the sweater for a while. It is from a very inexpensive fast-fashion brand. I can imagine that the previous owner did not return it because it would not have been worth the effort, given the low purchase price. The repair only took five minutes and is only visible on the inside—when I wear it, it looks as good as new.



17.
Anonymous,
Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Not exactly, but since I got them from my girlfriend's grandfather, I think they are at least from the 1990s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
They had holes in several places on the legs.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
During a repair workshop organised by SBYD in Düsseldorf, I patched the holes using pieces of denim.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I received them as a gift from my girlfriend's grandfather. He no longer wanted the jeans.



18.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A tarpaulin covering a historic lifeboat.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
1945–1965.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
It had a hole in the surface.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
Unknown.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
By sewing.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
It's in the museum in Den Helder.



19.

Marius Land
 marius.land
 @mariusland
 Berlin, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
 Athletic undershirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
 About 2015.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
 Age- and wear-related holes.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
 I did it myself with the help of the SBYD patch set.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
 I repaired the tears by hand and sewed patches over the holes.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
 I found this piece on a hiking trip in the Alps.

ANECDOTE

I found this undershirt on a hike and had to wash it many times before all the previous owner's smells disappeared. Since then, I've worn it countless times because it fits incredibly well and keeps me warm. I don't like buying clothes, so I'm always happy when something comes to me, and I use it for as long as possible.





20.
Anonymous
Göppingen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
An old pair of jeans from the label Angels.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Probably from the 1980s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The zip.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I repaired them.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I removed the old zip and replaced it with a new one.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Found.

ANECDOTE

A few years ago, while out cycling, I found these jeans in front of an overflowing used clothing bin. I usually look at the items lying there and have found many treasures. I actually hate repairing zips, but I liked the trousers so much that I decided to do it anyway.



21.

Pia Näscher
www.pialana.de
 @p.i.a.l.a.n.a
 Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A cashmere jumper.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

It's about 3 years old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

It had a typical hole at the elbow.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Holes are usually mended using a specific weaving technique. I knitted a patch in shades of grey, mimicking a woven pattern.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

Bought it in a shop.

ANECDOTE

A faithful everyday companion that simply wore out at the elbow at some point.



22.
Yuchen Li
@lyc.re
China

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

An apron made of thin cotton.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Not sure, I found it in the recycle bin.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

Two large vertical slashes had been cut into the apron.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I use wax to create textile art pieces. By waxing and heat-pressing the fabric into shape, it becomes a semi-transparent structure that can almost stand on its own. These pieces can be displayed as art installations, but they can also be worn. Intriguing patterns emerge when the wax cracks slightly, similar to the creases you see in folded baking paper.

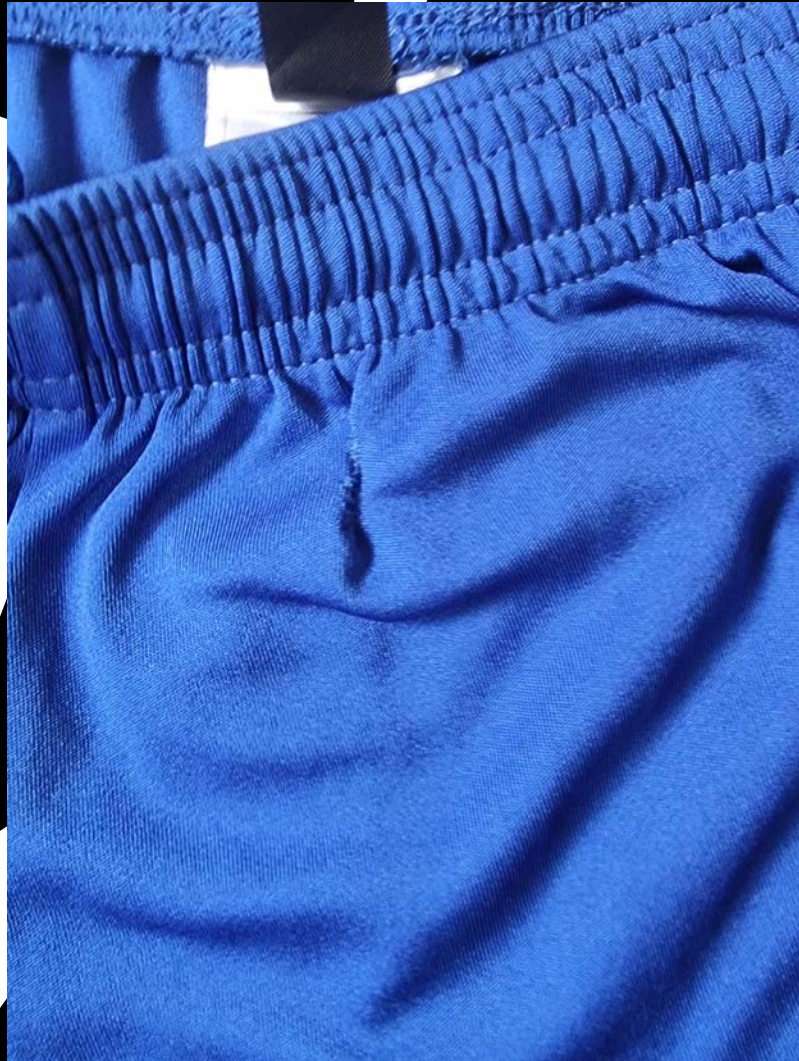


WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

From the textile recycle bin in my building.

ANECDOTE

This piece comes from a collection named 'STAY.' Through mending and preserving discarded garments found in the trash or at recycling points using wax, I transform them into frozen moments from somebody else's past.



23.
Leonie Mangold
@lonigold
Berlin, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Sports trousers, 100% polyester.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Probably 2023.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
A small burn mark. Luckily, it's right on the gathered waistband, so hopefully only I'll notice it :)

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Bought it new.

ANECDOTE

I bought these trousers for my holiday and was very happy to have found them the day before I left. I tried them on briefly at home and wanted to smoke a cigarette while packing, and then, oops, I wasn't paying attention and made a hole in them. I was very sad for a moment, but then I repaired them straight away and packed them. Luckily, they turned out to be the best outfit for my holiday.



24.
Anonymous
Karlsruhe, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A denim jacket with appliqués.



WHAT WAS BROKEN?
There was a huge, disgusting stain on the front.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
The jacket was dyed.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Found it in the bulk trash.

ANECDOTE
I usually find the best clothes in the bulky waste or at the old clothes container. I found this jacket in the bulky waste on Hildapromenade in Karlsruhe. It smelled strongly of damp cellar and had a nasty stain on the front. But I washed it thoroughly first and then dyed it, and now it's one of my favourite pieces.



25.

Anonymous
Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It is a long-sleeved top made of wool and silk for babies.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

There were a lot of holes, maybe from moths.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I wanted to try out a new technique, so I decided not to fill in the holes but to frame them and highlight them instead. To do this, I framed each hole with a different colour. To help me, I used the 3D-printed darning disc by Ekatarina Haak, which a friend recently gave me for my birthday.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I found the garment in a used clothing bin. I thought it was so beautiful and high-quality, apart from the holes, so I took it with me, washed it on the wool cycle, and repaired it.

ANECDOTE

Since my child had already outgrown it, I gave this top to a friend who had just had a baby.





26.

Alrun Alexandra Aßmus

alrunassmus.de

@walmango

Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of trousers that I bought for winter.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

No.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The fabric had worn through.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

With quick zigzag stitches. During the first repair, I placed a piece of grey silk organza underneath because I had it readily at hand. This time, I used a piece from some old linen trousers, and there also happened to be a thread in a more matching colour already threaded in the sewing machine.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT?

Bought second-hand in a shop in Cologne.





27.

Michiel Cornelissen
www.kode21.com
Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

Jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

~2018.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

It had a tear in the sleeve.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

A repair person.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Label was sewn over the tear.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

An outdoor clothing store.

ANECDOTE

Right around the time the jacket got torn, we discovered this clothing label when cleaning out my parents' house. It was likely a label ordered by my mother when I was in my teens, so the 1970s or 1980s, but never used. Perhaps it came free with five jars of peanut butter? Makes me happy that my mum's efforts were finally honoured through a cool repair.



28.

Alrun Alexandra Aßmus

alrunassmus.de

@walmango

Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A camel hair sweater.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

Approximately from the 1980s.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

Various small issues. In many places, threads had come loose or small holes had formed. In the area shown, there were especially many small holes next to each other, and they had been roughly pulled together with poorly matching yarn.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

Me, after undoing the previous repair.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I closed the holes with silk thread in a matching colour and reinforced each area with threads running lengthwise and crosswise. To remove the smell, I aired it outside, washed it several times in snow, and then cleaned and dried it in multiple wool wash cycles until it barely smelled of chemicals anymore.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT?

I bought it second-hand online from the Netherlands.



29.
Pavel Polenz
Karlsruhe, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
No, but they seem to be quite old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The pants were too short for me.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I cut up a pair of jeans I no longer wore and used the fabric to lengthen a pair that was too short. I had never sewn before, and it took a long time.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
A second-hand shop.

ANECDOTE
When I bought the trousers, they were already so worn that both back pockets were torn, and anything I put in them would fall out.





30.
Anonymous
Eindhoven, Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Red knitted gloves.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
Not exactly, around 2016.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
Various areas—fingers, palms.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I darned them using exactly the same yarn that I had at home.

ANECDOTE
The gloves are from the Textile Museum in Tilburg, where they were made on a knitting machine used for making work gloves, and I was allowed to take them home. The colour is just too good!



31.
Daniel Wilkens
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It is a (winter) jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

It dates from the mid to late 2010s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

A snap fastener and the zip had come loose.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

Corinne repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

The snap fastener was attached to an extra piece of fabric, which was then placed over the original area where the snap had been. The zip was sewn back in.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I bought the jacket from the manufacturer's online shop.

ANECDOTE

It's a good jacket—nothing more, nothing less.



A VARIETY OF TEXTILE REPAIRS

by Alrun ABmus

Building on the 99 submitted repair projects collected in this zine, as well as the motivations and descriptions of the repairs provided, I would like to reflect on what defines textile repair. What different types of repair are there? Using the submitted examples, I will attempt to categorise repair practices. What happens to a garment through the act of repair? Together with various authors, including Karen de Perthuis, who explores the significance of repair; Heike Derwanz, who examines repairs in the context of historical textile practices; and Kate Sekules and Amy Twigger Holroyd, who research and analyse practical examples of repair, I shall attempt to trace the distinctive characteristics of repair as a mode of design.

Intact textiles are self-contained both in function and design: commodities with a specific purpose. It is only when they take on the status of damaged garments that the damage draws attention to the materiality and properties of the textile (Brown, 2001, p. 4). The insight into the textile structure revealed by the damage can also provide insights into textile techniques.

An intact scarf (No. 96) fulfils its purpose of keeping its wearer warm every winter. As a moth-eaten textile, however, its materiality and connection to the environment come to the fore. The material of the scarf, wool, is revealed to be a food source for the textile moth. The knitting technique used takes on new significance due to the risk of a run forming, and can be experienced as a technique. The hole makes it clear that, in knitted fabric, every stitch is connected to the others. The repairer chose to mend the holes by weaving a new piece of fabric over them. Weaving as a repair technique contrasts the two techniques of weaving and knitting with one another. By continuously mending the holes through weaving over them, the repairer speculates that the knitted fabric might eventually be completely overlaid with woven fabric.

The damage also allows the eye to penetrate down to the level of the wool fibres. In repair example No. 99, needle felting was used as a repair technique based on an observation of the material's properties. The repairer closed the holes with new fibres, in a similar way to working with wood putty. When working with wood filler, wood dust bound with glue is used to fill joints, cracks, or holes. In needle felting, fibres can be bonded into a stable structure by opening the small scales of the hairs through movement, causing them to interlock. The newly formed textile fills the hole.



A damaged or torn textile is not merely something to be observed; it also opens up creative possibilities.

In her repair practice, Amy Twigger Holroyd has observed that a damaged textile makes it easier to approach its transformation (Holroyd, 2019, p. 126 ff.). In the following section, I will outline various repair strategies.

Repair as a response to damage covers a wide range of practices, from the smallest repairs—such as mending a snag, sewing on a button, or trimming a loose thread—to a complete overhaul. The sociologist Richard Sennett refers to the supposedly simplest form of repair as ‘static repair’, in which function and form are restored. He illustrates static repair using the example of a toaster: the toaster is taken apart and then repaired. Afterwards, it looks as it did before and functions as intended (Sennett, 2008, p. 200). Generally speaking, the classic form of repair, which aims to render the repair invisible, can be included in this category. A hole is mended as invisibly as possible using a patch, and a patch is fitted so that the garment looks as good as new. Examples of static repair in this zine include restoring the functionality of a rain jacket by sealing the seams with insulating tape (No. 08); repairing a broken zip on a pair of jeans (No. 78); and repairing a torn pocket lining (No. 42).

Parts were replaced to restore functionality: the zip on a pair of found jeans (No. 20), the cover of a 1970s office chair (No. 81), and the thin faux-leather covering on the headphone ear pads (No. 14). The shape and function of the textiles were restored by repairing holes: for example, the hole in a travel bag was repaired by sticking imitation leather on the outside and fabric on the inside (No. 40). A worn area on a pair of trousers was reinforced with a piece of fabric and a zigzag stitch (No. 26), and a hole in a leather coat was closed with stitches (No. 57). A burn mark was repaired so that it disappeared into the creases of the trousers (No. 23). This classic method of repair requires great craftsmanship in order to achieve the desired invisibility. However, repairs such as the jumper, in which a tar stain was covered with a patch of a similar colour (No. 77), are also static repairs in intent, even if complete invisibility is not achieved.

Richard Sennett distinguishes between static repair and dynamic repair, in which a textile’s previous form or function—or both—is altered. Methods of dynamic repair include visible mending, co-design, and remaking. Visible mending is the antithesis of invisible mending. It emphasises the damaged area and the repair itself (Derwanz, 2018, p. 213). The jumper (No. 15) was found at a clothing swap. To save it from being thrown away, its many moth holes were painstakingly

mended in a visible manner. Here, the repair becomes a visible act of care for a stranger’s garment. Visible mending is a “small, sustainable, political intervention” (Derwanz, 2020, p. 127), through which one consciously takes a stand for the preservation and appreciation of garments.

In ‘co-design’, the repair takes place as a creative intervention in the existing textile, with sensitive consideration of its texture, damage, and inscribed past; the result is a highly individualised garment (Sekules, 2025, p. 211 ff.). For example, the heavily damaged grey turtleneck jumper (No. 84) is transformed through ‘reknitting’ (Holroyd, 2019, p. 107 ff.), working from the existing textile, into a garment with a new collar, knitted trims along the hems, and moth holes embellished with embroidery.

The extreme form of dynamic repair is the alteration or ‘remaking’ (Holroyd, 2019, p. 107 ff.) of garments. When a garment is no longer worn, repairing it by altering its design can transform it from an unusable item into one that people enjoy wearing again. In repair No. 76, a dress that was no longer worn was altered and given a new shape. One aspect of this may be making the dress fashionable again. Above all, however, the repair brought the dress from the past, along with the associated experiences, into the present. Through the act of repairing, the discrepancy between past and present requirements and needs was both reflected upon and resolved. Remaking challenges conventional manufacturing and consumption logics, which envisage one-off production, by enabling repeated transformations (Holroyd, 2019, p. 108). Throughout its life, a textile can take on many different forms and functions, as it can be adapted to changing needs rather than being discarded when it no longer serves its purpose. Another example is the pair of shoes with worn-out soles (No. 87), which once functioned as footwear and now serves a second purpose as a corset. In the previous section, I outlined various repair strategies. Although the boundaries between static and dynamic repair often remain fluid, I have identified various stages: first, the barely visible repair; then the repair that builds on the properties of the object and acts as a complement; and finally, the repair that, starting from the existing form, creates a different configuration and transforms the textile. In the following paragraph, I demonstrate that, despite their varying degrees of design intensity and visibility, all types of repairs share the common aim of simultaneously destroying, preserving, and expanding.

A repair both destroys and preserves the textile.

It restores functionality but destroys the lustre of the new garment. "A mend saves and destroys; saves textile and use, destroys social façade." (Sekules, 2025, p. 901). In this sense, repair is simultaneously an act of restoration and destruction. A repair means giving up on the textile as a new commodity, as it existed before the damage. Even a textile that has been repaired with the utmost expertise retains traces of the repair. The patch remains visible, even if it has been carefully matched to the fabric.

At the same time, repair also means preserving both the material of the textile for further use and its significance and history (No. 37). To preserve Grandmother's blue jumper and be able to wear it again, the ends of the sleeves were neatened and re-sewn by hand. With every wear, the memory of Grandmother, who lovingly cooked pudding in it, is also preserved.

Repairing also means enhancing and expanding the garment, adding a new layer of meaning.

'Reknitting', for example, creates a hybrid form of hand- and machine-knitted garment that combines both production methods (Holroyd, 2019, p. 130). Visible repairs, as in Visible Mending, can serve as a defiant commentary on fast-fashion practices or transform a garment into a unique, one-of-a-kind piece. Even the supposedly simple, invisible, static repair represents a change and enhancement of the textile. Once the zip has been carefully removed, the construction and material of the trousers inspected, and a new zip reinserted, are the trousers still the same? Through the repair, the trousers gain a sense of value that stands in stark contrast to the situation in which they were found, next to an overflowing second-hand clothing bin (No. 20).

Because clothing has a particularly close relationship with its wearers that goes beyond the mere protective function of textiles, repair is more than a physical process. In order to identify the potential transformative nature of a repair, the perceived significance of the damage to the wearer must always be considered when assessing what might appear to be a static repair. Some of the repairs shown here (No. 04, No. 24, No. 81) address stains associated with dirt, neglect, and stigma (Sorkin, 2000). Repairing can dispel these associations and renew the wearer's relationship with the garment. The denim jacket, which had previously been destined for the bulky waste, has become a favourite item once again thanks to the repair involving dyeing over a large yellow stain.

Repairing damage can involve highly complex emotional processes when carried out with active care (Perthuis, 2016). Just how profound a repair can be is illustrated by example No. 11. Through the repair, the feeling of shame at having thoughtlessly taken a high-quality jumper from the lost property area was processed. Repair here is not only physical, but above all, emotional work: facing up to mistakes, damage, neglect, or shame.

Repairing something means understanding textiles as systems that evolve over time (Sekules, 2025, p. 911). In doing so, the damaged areas can be the catalyst for making changes, engaging with objects, and working sensitively with what is already there.

Through repairs, we can negate, preserve, develop, and transform things.

Whatever the form—whether highly skilled or a tentative first attempt, visible or invisible—caring for our textiles through repair is an expression of our willingness to value them when they are no longer new and as they change. At the same time, a broad understanding of repair enables us to transform both textiles and our relationship with them.

Alrun Aßmus is an artist and a researcher of clothing as a subject in art education at the University of Wuppertal. She studied Fine Art and Art and History Education at the Braunschweig University of Art and is involved in curating the exhibition programme at the Lore Deutz in Cologne.



32.

Josefine Rose Habermehl
www.atelierautomatique.de
 @josefinerose1
 Bochum, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A T-shirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Maybe 2005?

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The print had worn off.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

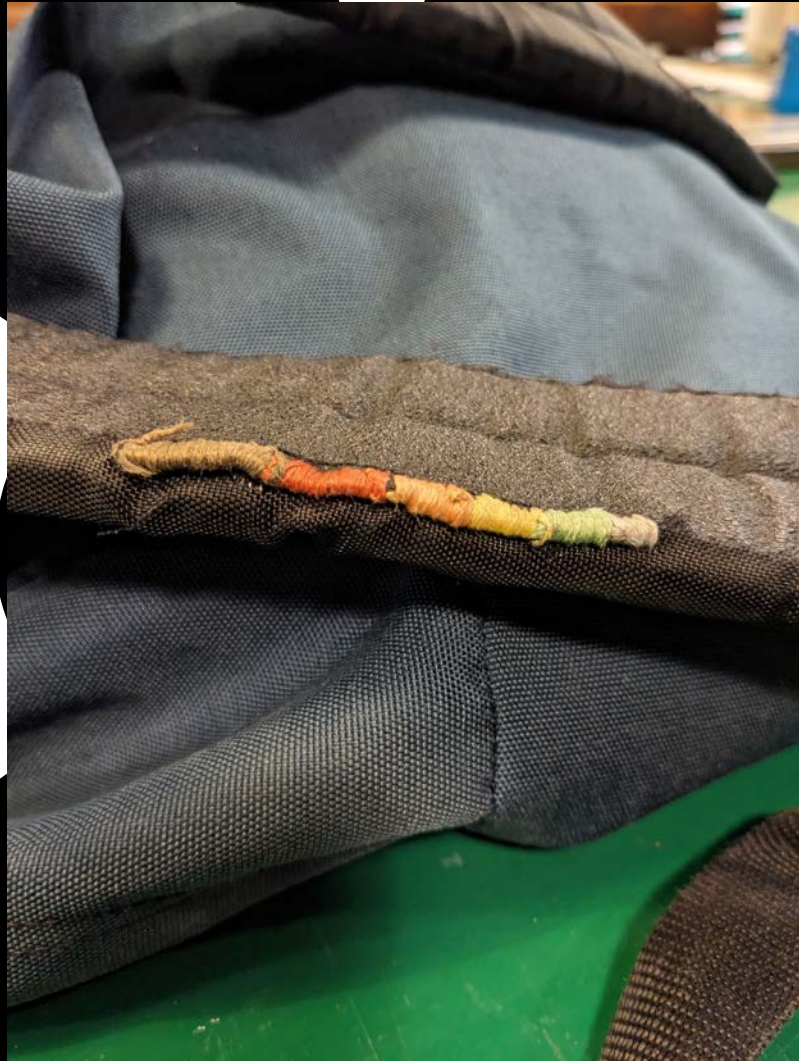
HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I embroidered the faded lines.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

It's my boyfriend's shirt. He really likes the shirt and was sad that the print had worn off.





33.

Tansy Hoskins
www.tansyhoskins.org
 @tansyhoskins
 London, United Kingdom

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It's a nearly 30-year-old Eastpak rucksack.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

1998.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The casing on the strap had frayed.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

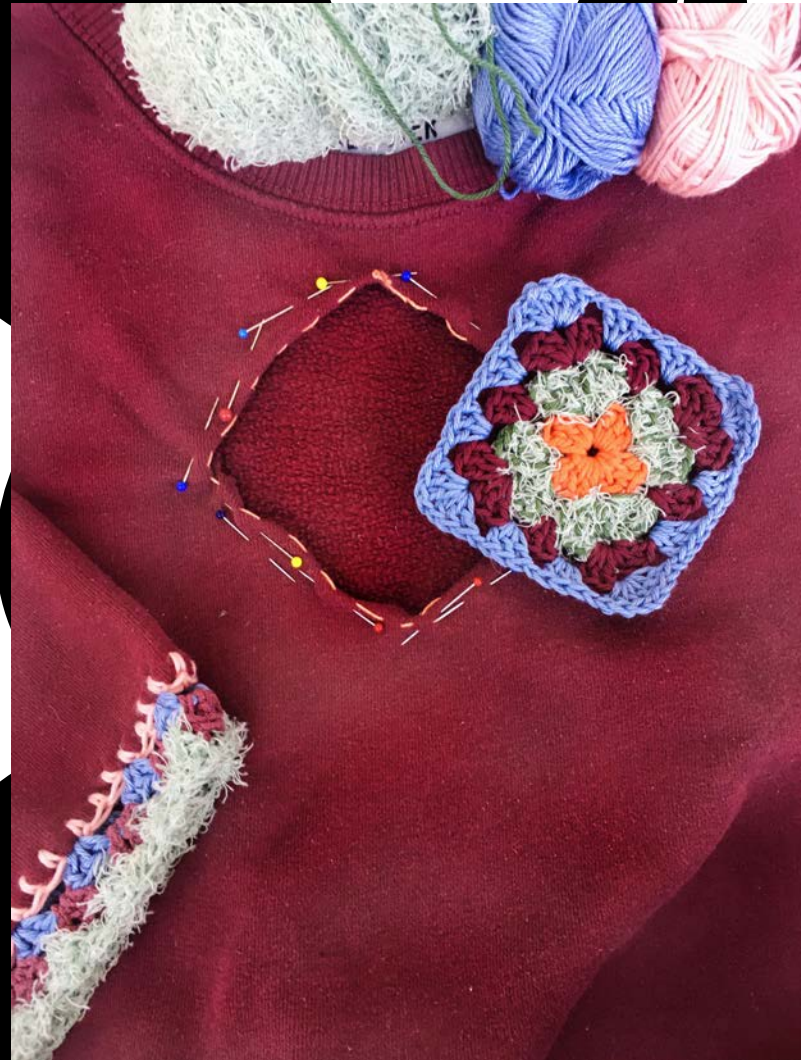
I got some embroidery thread in rainbow colours and sewed up the fraying area. I wanted to make it a visible mend.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

A skate shop in West London in the late 1990s. I haven't used it consistently since then, but I have been using it all the time for the past five years.

ANECDOTE

It's a great rucksack. It carries all my books, papers, lunch, and laptop around. And the straps are thick and comfortable.



34.
Pia Näscher
www.pialana.de
@p.i.a.l.a.n.a
Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A sweatshirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
It's about 3 years old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
A distracting logo on the front.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I cut the logo out of the sweatshirt and stitched in a crocheted granny square.
To make the whole sweater more colourful, I also crocheted the sleeve cuffs and hem.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Bought it in a shop.





35.

Laura Schlütz

www.machart-manufaktur.de

machart_manufaktur

Steinheim, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A finely knitted merino cardigan.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

2014.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The sleeves were worn through at the elbows.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

It was made wearable again using visible mending with Boro stitching.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I bought it new in Münster.

ANECDOTE

This cardigan was my first conscious experience with visible mending as a radically visible form of repair and cultural technique. Until then, I had always found it difficult to completely let go of this image of perfection and invisibility in my mind. I attended a workshop on a balmy summer evening and tried out the technique together with other wonderful people, quickly learning to love the philosophy behind it. The more often a textile is repaired, the more valuable it becomes. The layers of patches applied, paired with the seemingly random fixing stitches, make the textile so exciting and tell stories—of experiences, favourite pieces, types of use... If you look closely, you can see a duck peeking out of the former hole in the elbow.



36.

Lena Jean Jäger
Bochum, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A woollen Swedish flatwoven rug (röllakan).

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

No, but I guess from the 1950s–1970s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The rug's edges were frayed.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

My mother-in-law showed me the overcast stitch, a hemming technique used to prevent the rug from fraying. In another second-hand shop, I found a cone of matching wool yarn to repair the rug.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

From a small second-hand shop in Årjäng, a little town in Sweden.



37.

Rona Stupka
Mannheim, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A knitted jumper.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Around 2015.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The sleeves unraveled at the hem.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

My mum.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

The hem was finished by hand, and then the sleeve was repaired using wool yarn.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

The sweater belonged to my grandma.

ANECDOTE

I remember how my grandma used to wear this sweater in the kitchen during winter, while she was making pudding for us grandchildren. Afterward, she'd set the pudding to cool in a large glass bowl out in the yard. She usually wore a gold chain with a red pendant along with the sweater. I still love wearing it today.





38.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of jeans.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

Eventually everything, but first the fabric at the crotch and inner thigh wore thin from frequent use and wore through.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?

A tailor.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

A patch or leftover piece of another pair of jeans was sewn on the inside.

ANECDOTE

Unfortunately, over time, more and more areas wore out, so it eventually became a patchwork of repairs, but the jeans still lasted many years.



39.

Heleen Klopper / Woolfiller

@woolfiller

www.madetomend.com

Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It is a bag called the Sampler Bag, sewn from Made to Mend tweed.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

2018.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

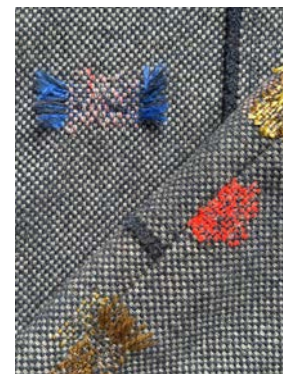
The wool was worn out in several spots.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did—Heleen.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

It was darned, in the traditional way.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

It's the bag of my London-based friend Madelijne. She bought it from me 7 years ago. It was time for a big fix. This repair is my gift to her.

ANECDOTE

This Sampler Bag will stay with you forever. The wool fabric is reinforced with a grid of recycled PE. As the wool wears over time, the woven structure remains intact, making repairs easier. Most fabrics come in a range of colours. This Made to Mend fabric comes in 3 structures, each corresponding to a different level of repairability. Fine (1\1) is the strongest, coarse (3\3) is the easiest to repair, and medium (2\2) offers the best of both.



40.
Urs Meyer
www.ichbinurs.de
Reinach, Switzerland

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A wheeled travel bag.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
About 2005.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
It had a hole.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
By gluing imitation leather to the outside and fabric to the inside.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From a warehouse.

ANECDOTE
The bag has been with me almost everywhere, and it's great that it lives on like this.



41.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A knitted jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
I suspect it had a hole or a pulled thread.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I don't know, probably the previous owner of the jacket.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
Hardly noticeable: the hole was darned.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought this beautiful jacket second-hand.

ANECDOTE

You can immediately tell that someone knitted it themselves. Although the neckline isn't perfect, it's very beautiful. The pattern is quite intricate, and it must have taken a long time to knit this jacket. I bought it for €2, and I almost felt a bit sorry for it. Only after some time did I notice this little bump on the back, where the previous owner must have patched a hole.



42.
Anonymous
Dortmund, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A softshell jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Around 2010.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The jacket pocket had a hole.



WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I sewed the hole closed by hand.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From my mother's wardrobe.

ANECDOTE
Things kept falling out of my jacket pocket—sometimes my ID, sometimes keys, often coins. Luckily, I always found them quickly. To make sure I wouldn't lose something important permanently, I repaired the hole.



43.
Anonymous
Trier, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A wool sweater.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

No, I think it's from the 1980s.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The sweater had some small holes, possibly from moths.



WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I darned the holes.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT?

I bought it second-hand a long time ago, definitely more than 10 years ago.



44.
Anonymous
Wuppertal, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A dress.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
2012.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The slit in the dress had ripped a few times from cycling.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I sewed a piece of fabric underneath for reinforcement and stitched a very thick seam on top. It now looks like a healed scar—most people probably don't even notice it.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From Antwerp, from the former store of Walter van Beirendonck.

ANECDOTE
The store, Walter van Beirendonck, the memory, the designer of the dress, and the amazing material: really thick and sturdy cotton.





45.

Pia Näscher

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Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A cashmere turtleneck jumper.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

During summer, whilst the sweater was not worn, the moths had plenty of time to indulge their fondness for cashmere.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

First, I embroidered colourful yarn around the holes. Then, I cut off the cuffs and reknitted them using leftover wool. Finally, I cut open the turtleneck at the front, transforming it into a pullover.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

Thrift store find.

ANECDOTE

This jumper had so many damaged areas that I tried various things.





46.
Anonymous
Berlin, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Cotton, elastane, polyester.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Around 2015.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
Tears along the seam in high-stress areas.



WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
Using a sewing machine.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Zalando.

ANECDOTE
I've been buying this style of jeans from G-Star since around 2012. When they get too worn out, I use them as work pants until they're completely destroyed.



47.
Corinne Riepert
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Not exactly, but I think around 2000.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
Basically, they weren't broken; they were just too short.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I sewed fabric strips, which I had previously folded into pleats, onto the hem and one of the pockets. The checkered fabric came from an old men's shirt.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought the jeans on a 2€ day at the second-hand chain Think Twice.

ANECDOTE
Although I had firmly decided not to buy clothes that didn't fit me perfectly, these jeans just fit really well. I actually got the idea to lengthen them right in the store. I wear them very often and really enjoy them.





48.
Anonymous
Trier, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A silk scarf.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The seam at the hem was coming undone.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I hand-hemmed the edge.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From a flea market, I don't remember exactly.

ANECDOTE
This scarf is very dear to me. I wear it in winter as a scarf and in summer as a headscarf or stole to avoid sunburn.



49.
Anonymous
Berlin, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A sweatshirt.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
No, not exactly.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
With a zigzag stitch and a sewing machine.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought it new.



50.
Anonymous
Göppingen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A black linen dress.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The seam at the slit was torn.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I resewed the seam.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I got it second-hand.

ANECDOTE

While repairing it, I noticed that someone had already repaired the dress before me. As you can see in the picture, a small piece of fabric had already been inserted—probably because the fabric had torn badly at some point, and the person covered the ripped area with this small rectangular patch.



51.

Michiel Cornelissen

www.kode21.com

Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A vest.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

2020 perhaps?

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

Moth holes.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Using a wool filler kit.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

Joe Merino.

ANECDOTE

My first attempt at repairing with wool filler. There were actually only two or three holes in the vest, but when I put the circles over them, they looked like big eyes staring at me because of their placement (or some people might say they looked like nipples...). So, I decided to make it more like a solar system by adding a few more circles :)





52.
Anonymous
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A thin red wool turtleneck sweater from Arket.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
2021.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The sweater had holes in many places. I don't think they're moth holes, just spots where the yarn has broken—a sign of poor quality.



WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
Using a darning mushroom. I first drew each small hole together slightly and then outlined it with a loop stitch.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Bought new at Arket.

ANECDOTE
I briefly considered giving it away because I was so annoyed by the poor quality. Just before the holidays, however, I decided to repair it and spent the entire train ride from Köln to Stuttgart (fortunately delayed, otherwise I wouldn't have finished) fixing it. I didn't count the holes, but there were an incredible number.



53.

Laura Schlütz
www.machart-manufaktur.de
 @machart_manufaktur
 Steinheim, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

This is an artistic-performative work that combines two techniques: zero-waste fashion design (designing without fabric waste) and upcycling. What makes it special is that it was created live during a photoshoot as part of a performance. Each step of the process was documented photographically in the studio, directly on the model, until the piece was complete. The garment is made from a 140 cm wide and 150 cm long piece of virgin wool fabric. The vibrant blue skirt section, which—alongside the neckline detail—introduces asymmetrical elements, had a previous life as a corporate polo shirt that was replaced when the company updated its logo.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

This work was made in 2020. The used woollen fabric is second-hand. The polo shirt might be from 2018/2019.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

Moths had feasted on the virgin wool in many places, leaving small holes throughout the fabric.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

The holes were repaired by hand using embroidery yarn in the spirit of visible mending.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I designed and made it myself in 2020.

ANECDOTE

After a brief period of mourning over the holes, I decided to deliberately highlight them and cover their edges with embroidery thread in the colour of the polo shirt. In addition to the zero-waste and upcycling philosophy, this introduced a third dimension of slow fashion that not only complemented the design visually but also retrospectively completed the design and concept, despite initially being a response to a perceived flaw.



54.

Lilli Seiler
@lilliseiler_
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A denim jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Probably from the 1970s or 1980s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

A button on the sleeve was missing.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repaired it myself.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

At the original spot, a replacement button from a pair of trousers was sewn on by hand using green thread from my small sewing kit, in a square pattern.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

It's an old denim jacket that belonged to my mother, which she often wore in her youth. A few years ago, when she was clearing out her wardrobe, and I happened to be there, the jacket immediately caught my eye. I asked her if she still wore it. She said no, she hadn't worn it in years, but she didn't want to give it away because it holds many memories for her. Since then, I've been wearing the jacket and creating my own memories with it.

ANECDOTE

I like wearing this jacket with the sleeves rolled up, but the button had been missing for ages, and the sleeve kept slipping down. At some point, I finally sewed it on. It didn't even take two minutes, and now I'm happy every time the sleeve stays in place.





55.
Anonymous
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A knitted children's vest.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
2021.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The jacket has a few holes in the burgundy-coloured sections.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

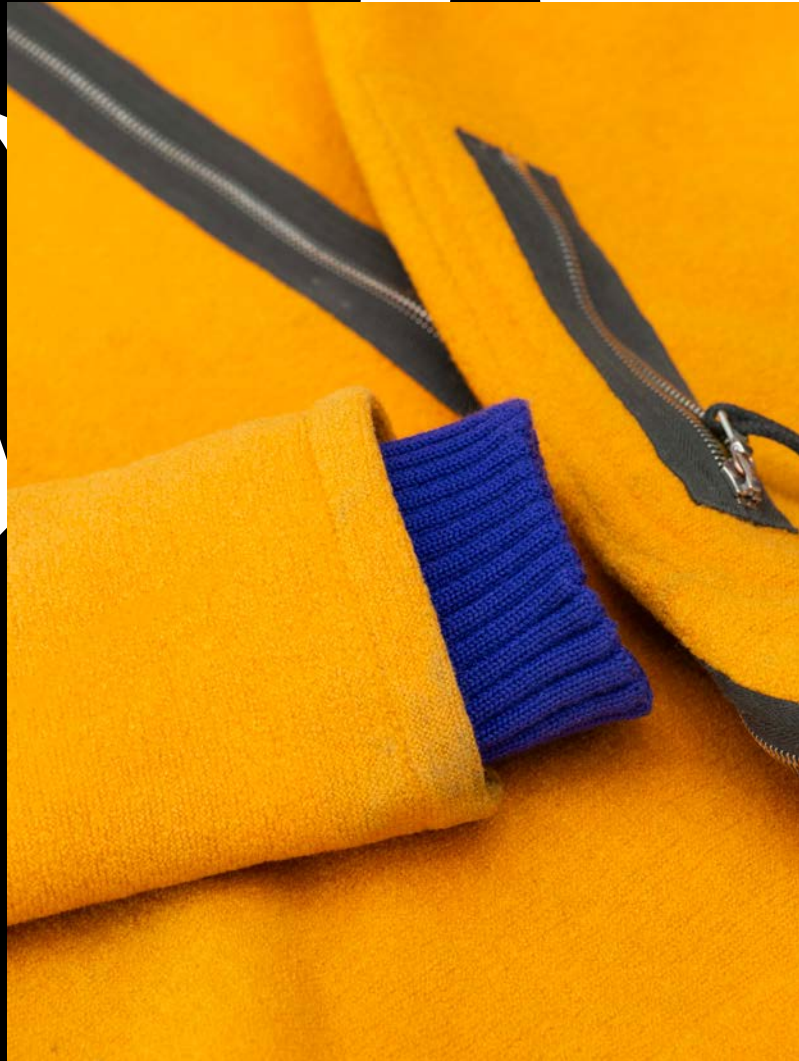
HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I watched a few wool repair tutorials, but found it difficult to apply the techniques, since the jacket isn't stockinette stitch.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
My mother knitted this jacket for my daughter.

ANECDOTE

My mother knitted this jacket for my daughter. At first, it was much too big, and she only wore it a few times with the sleeves rolled up. When I took it out of the closet again this year, I noticed several holes. It seems like the burgundy-coloured yarn might have had a quality issue—or maybe that colour was especially appealing to moths. Although, to be honest, I haven't seen any clothes moths around here in a long time. What I love most about the jacket is the buttons: initially, my mother considered buying some, but in the end, she gathered them all from her old button collection.



56.
Anonymous
Wuppertal, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A yellow wool jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Around 2017.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The sleeve cuffs were worn out, and there were signs of wear here and there, e.g., on the elbows and under the arms.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did, using extra cuffs that I selected to match the colour.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
Thin spots and small holes were repaired with felted wool, and the cuffs were hand-sewn.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
A store.

ANECDOTE
It's 100% wool, felted quality, and keeps very warm—simply indispensable, which is why I gladly repaired it.





57.

Saskia van der Meer
www.saskiavandermeer.de
 @s_vdm
 Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A leather coat.



WHAT WAS BROKEN?

A tear on the lower left side.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

A friend of a friend.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

With needle and yarn.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

A second-hand shop in Bremen, 2017.

ANECDOTE

The jacket got caught on something. That same evening, a friend of a friend pointed out the tear in my jacket. He introduced himself as a fashion design student and said he could fix it quickly. A few minutes and a few drinks later, he had repaired it using a very large needle, and I could admire the result.



58.

Jan Jacob Borstlap
www.bernotat.eu
 Wuppertal, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It's a leather watch strap.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

It's about 10 years old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The original was a glued-together strap made of very thin leather, like most watch straps. These tend to wear out quickly, as the layers start to separate over time with regular use.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I replaced the broken strap with a strap made from a piece of leather. The unusual design of the watch by Achille Castiglioni made this possible. The new strap is a piece of a longer belt. I simply cut it to size. Because I am the only one who wears it, it is made to measure, so I only had to make one hole. I also didn't need a loop to hold a long piece of leftover strap in place, because there isn't one. You only need that if a strap is supposed to fit different people and therefore has lots of holes.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I bought the watch at Castiglioni's studio in Milan. The new strap is part of a carrying strap from a violin case that I've had for a long time.

ANECDOTE

It's not a particularly remarkable anecdote, but I'm very happy with the solution, which is much more minimalist and attractive than a strap with lots of holes and made of glued-together leather. I also like the memory of the violin, which I haven't played in ages. Finally, I also liked the discovery that the strap attachment designed by Achille Castiglioni is already sustainable because of its simplicity and the possibility of inserting any strap that is thin enough.



59.

Elke Hennen
www.elke-hennen.de
 @elkehennen
 Karlsruhe, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A thick cotton wrap-skirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Unfortunately, I don't remember; it's probably around 10 years old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

Because I wasn't paying attention, a lot of silicone ended up on my skirt. I tried to remove it with a sharp cutter, but that only made things worse. So, I made a patch to cover the damage entirely. Since two belt loops were broken as well, I replaced them too.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

Myself, Elke Hennen.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Stitching, sewing, printing.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

Bought it in a shop.

ANECDOTE

I was wearing the skirt while working with silicone and wasn't paying attention—I accidentally brushed it against the silicone. A large amount ended up on the fabric. I let it dry and tried to remove it using various stain removers and a utility knife, but everything I tried only made it worse. So, I designed a patch to cover the damaged area—and now I actually like the skirt better than before.



60.
Pia Näscher
www.pialana.de
@p.i.a.l.a.n.a
Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A denim skirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
It's a few years old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
It had holes and brittle areas.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
Mended with colourful yarn and reinforced with leftover African fabric.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Thrift store find.



61.

Anonymous
Stuttgart, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Thin wool leggings for children.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
I bought them new in 2024.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
Holes in the knees and small holes in other places.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I simply stitched around the holes instead of darning them. For the large hole in the knee, I sewed on a leftover piece from another repair.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I ordered them online.

ANECDOTE

Honestly, I was quite annoyed that these brand-new leggings were damaged almost immediately. Holes in the knees are a classic with kids, but these small holes (I'm sure they aren't from moths) are just a sign of poor quality. I usually buy everything second-hand, but this time I ordered new wool items for the winter, and I immediately regretted it.



62.
Anonymous
Stuttgart, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A pair of wool trousers in a tartan pattern.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
Not exactly.

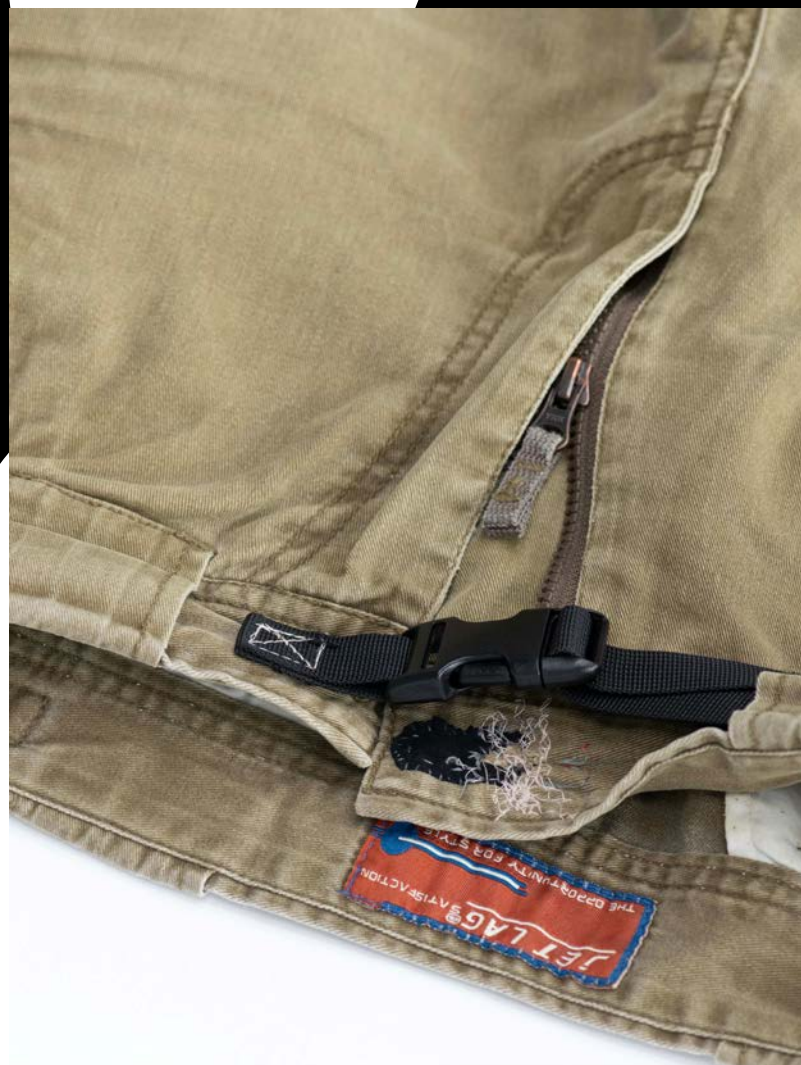
WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
They were too short.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I cut a strip from the bottom of a wool shirt that was completely moth-eaten, sewed it onto the hem of the trousers, and added a kind of gathering at the back centre so that the fabric would fall nicely.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought these trousers more than 10 years ago at the Pfennigbasar in Karlsruhe.

ANECDOTE
I wear these trousers in winter when it's really cold, but I still don't want to dress too pragmatically. At some point, however, I noticed that I was wearing them less and less because over the years they somehow seemed to get shorter—or maybe I just started wearing platform shoes more often. So, I decided to lengthen them.



63.
Anonymous
Dresden, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Jetlag cargo pants.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
They are older, but this Jetlag model (007) is probably from around 2008/2010. It may not be original from that time, but a reproduction. Back then, the model had jeans in the front and corduroy in the back. I bought them in 2017.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The button kept tearing out.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
My girlfriend.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
The button was sewn on two or three times, and the spot where the metal button tore out was reknitted. Ultimately, she added two straps and a buckle, making the closure more flexible. So, the button was replaced with a completely new solution—really an upgrade.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From Humana in Berlin.

ANECDOTE
Because I found the trousers second-hand and they fit very well, even with small flaws, they're perfect: I can wear them often in everyday life without worrying or treating them in a special way due to a high price. If I had bought them new, I would be much more careful and wear them far less to prevent damage.



64.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A work shirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
1970s–1980s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
It had a hole at the elbow.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
By sewing on an official Craft-Lab™ patch.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
A flea market.





65.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A knitted polyester garment.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
2022.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
It had a hole.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
It was mended by hand with strong yarn.

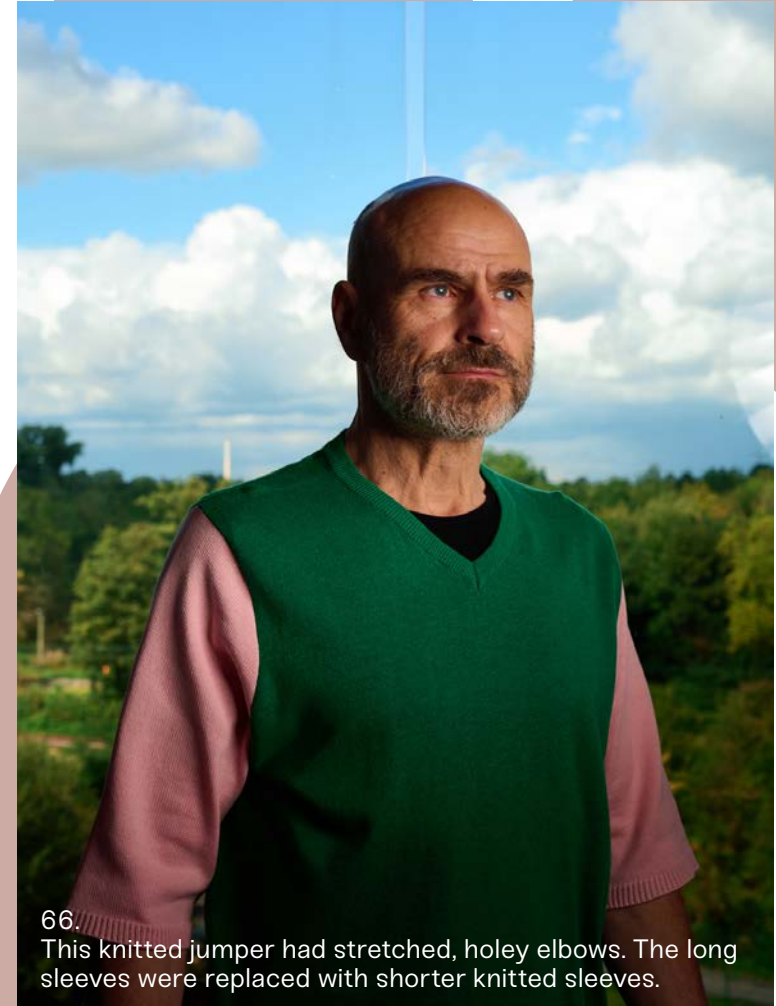
WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought it new a few years ago.



KNITTED ADD-ONS

SPACE FOR TEXTILES and SPACE FOR REPAIR explore how textile waste can be reduced through design. One concept developed in this context is Knitted Add-Ons: a collection of replacement parts produced using a digital knitting machine. These add-ons can be used to replace damaged areas of garments, such as stained collars or worn cuffs, adjust lengths such as sleeves or trouser legs, or add new functions, for example increased protection from wind and cold through a roll neck.

Knitted Add-Ons make it possible to experiment with different combinations and ways of wearing existing garments. This resulted in a photo series showing how clothing can be altered and perceived in new ways. Based on this, different future scenarios for engaging with clothing can be imagined. How might repairs, alterations and personalised extensions become part of everyday life if textile replacement parts were easily accessible? What potential for new forms of value creation could emerge? What kinds of infrastructure would need to be established? And who would need access to, and knowledge of, digital knitting technology?



66.
This knitted jumper had stretched, holey elbows. The long sleeves were replaced with shorter knitted sleeves.



67.
The two-coloured ribbed roll neck transforms the simple wool jumper into an even warmer garment.



68.
The worn collar of the knitted jumper was covered with a Peter Pan collar. The trousers, which had become too short, were lengthened with a pleated knitted extension.



69.
This stole-like shawl collar can be combined with a variety of garments.



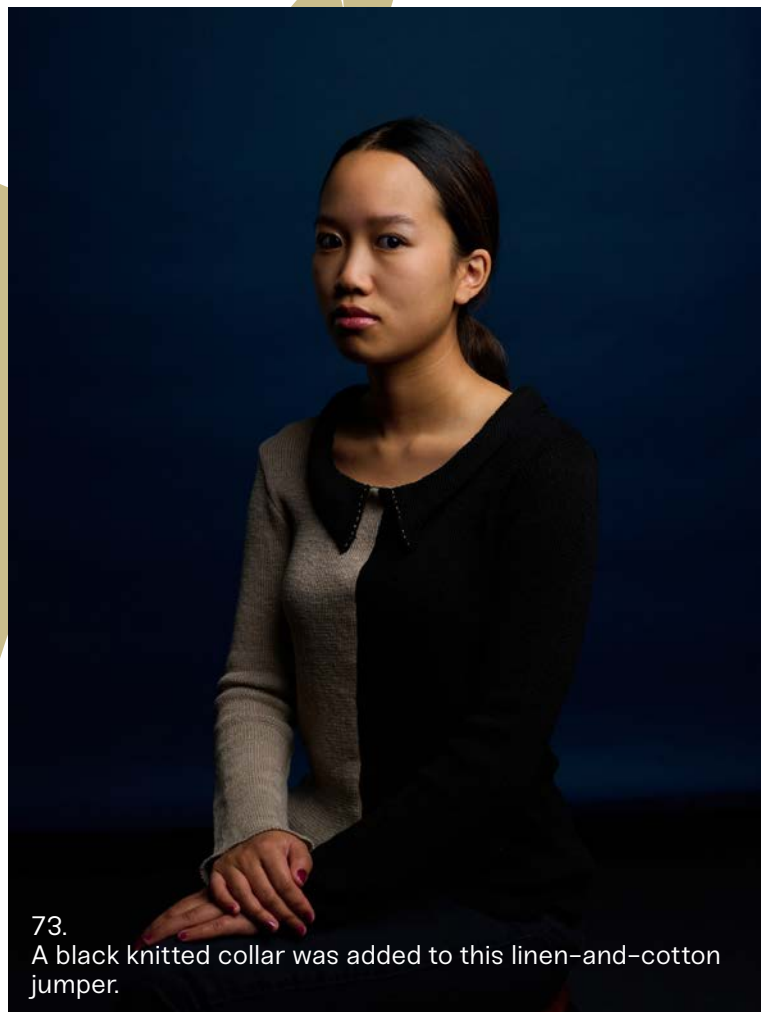
70.
The cuffs and collar of this bomber jacket were heavily worn and have been replaced.



71.
This collar is made from leftover pieces produced during machine knitting. Combined with different tops, it creates numerous outfit variations.



72.
This blue shawl collar can be combined flexibly with a wide range of tops.



73.
A black knitted collar was added to this linen-and-cotton jumper.



74.
The damaged collar of this sweatshirt was replaced with a knitted and dyed roll neck.



75.

Daniel Wilkens
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

The seat cover of a car seat.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
1987.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The fabric of the seat was extensively worn and torn.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Using a matching replacement fabric (plus thin foam), I recreated the seat using the old one as a template, a sewing machine, and spray adhesive. The vinyl edge was reused.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

It's from a used car.

ANECDOTE

I've taken many great trips with this vehicle. During that time, I spent many hours sitting in that seat behind the wheel.



76.

Pia Näscher
www.pialana.de
 @p.i.a.l.a.n.a
 Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A really well-made linen dress, originally with a long row of buttons on the front.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

I've worn it for many years.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The button placket no longer looked nice, the linen fabric was curling along the edge, and the dress had become a bit too tight for me.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Using scissors, a needle, and thread, I removed the button placket and cut the dress vertically along the back. Then, I knitted narrow, long strips from linen yarn and hand-sewed them in. Finally, I knitted a ribbed cuff onto the neckline.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

Bought it in a shop.

ANECDOTE

I like to wear simple dresses, and I felt very comfortable in this one. But after it had been hanging unworn in my wardrobe for about a year, I came across this beautiful linen yarn in subtle shades of green and had an idea. I crocheted a bag to go with it.





77.

Stephan Idé
@stephan_ide
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A Fruit of the Loom sweater that I have had for many years.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

2022.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

I had bitumen stains on the sleeve.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I cut out the bitumen stains, as they could not be washed out, and covered the holes with dyed textiles from my atelier.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I bought it.

ANECDOTE

It's the same sweater I had before; when the old one was worn out, I bought a new one. Three days later, I went to the atelier and unfortunately brushed against a wet sculpture. The sweater had its repair momentum from the very beginning.





78.

Vanny Vantom
www.vanny.de
@chao54ngel
Zurich, Switzerland

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of brown cotton Y2K pants.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The zip.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?

An older man in a shop next to Whitechapel Market in London.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

He sewed the zip together at the point where it had broken. It looked neat—the zip is shorter now, but I can still wear the trousers.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I had just bought them shortly before in a second-hand shop on Brick Lane, near the repair shop.

ANECDOTE

Since the zip was broken, I got a discount on the trousers—I really wanted them because they fit perfectly (and I desperately needed more pants). And how often do you find a pair that fits just right? So, I tried to get the zip fixed at a tailor near the second-hand shop. But he sent me to an old man at Whitechapel Market. It's an Arab neighbourhood with lots of different shops and street stalls. I didn't have to wait long, and the old man neatly shortened the zip, so the damaged part disappeared. He did it for free, and I was so happy.



79.

Annika Sautter
www.annika-sautter.com
 @fabu.3d
 Stuttgart, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It's a jumper which was recrafted from two worn jumpers and the lower part of a worn T-shirt.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

No, because all of the materials were second-hand finds.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The jumpers had a lot of pilling, which I removed. By redesigning them, I gave them a whole new life.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

I made the jumper myself.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

The pilling was removed, the garments were cut into pieces and sewn back together. The seam allowances were finished with an overlock stitch and topstitches to make the seams last as long as possible.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I made it myself and am selling these pieces at a pop-up store in Stuttgart to raise awareness and give the possibility to buy new things which are made from old things, reducing waste and keeping garments circular.

ANECDOTE

One of the jumpers I got from a collection point for refugees, because they said they have way too many clothes. And the other one I bought at a second-hand store, where they were super happy that I was buying some clothes, because so many pieces are being donated. The T-shirt was an old shirt of mine that I wasn't wearing anymore.



80.

Anonymous
Wuppertal, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of Levi's men's jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

No, I got it second-hand.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The previous owner didn't like the colour anymore; washing made it lighter. It didn't fit me perfectly either.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

My friend Lisa.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

Lisa is a skilled tailor and enjoys repairing clothes. She adjusted the jeans to my size and even modified the men's cut to fit my body.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

From a friend.

ANECDOTE

I hadn't had jeans for a long time and couldn't decide which to get. I wanted 100% denim, and now I'm very happy with this high-quality, unique pair that I get to wear thanks to my friend.



81.

Anonymous
Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It's the upholstery of an old 1970s office chair.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Probably the original one from the 1970s.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

Originally, the upholstery was orange, but it had become really dirty and disgusting. In some places, it was completely stained.



WHO REPAIRED IT?

A friend and I.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

We sewed a new cover and just put it over the old one. I also replaced the castors.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

From my former roommate.

ANECDOTE

I almost miss the squeaking of the old, worn-out wheels. I got so used to it that even two months after the repair, I still lift the chair out of habit to 'move' it—only to be surprised when it suddenly rolls away on its own.



82.
Anonymous
Karlsruhe, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A Barbour jacket.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
There was a small burn spot in the lining.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I repaired it.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
The hole was mended with a patch.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
From a friend.

ANECDOTE

I had wanted a Barbour jacket for a long time, but even second-hand ones are very expensive. A friend of mine found this jacket really cheap at a flea market, but unfortunately, it was too small for him. That's why I got it. The small burn hole in the lining was already there, and I had had the mouse patch in my drawer for a long time. The repair was super quick. I then re-waxed the jacket to make it rainproof.



83.
Anonymous
Leipzig, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Second-hand trousers.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
Fall 2007, Calvin Klein, 75% wool, 25% silk.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The fabric was worn through in the crotch.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
By sewing a piece of fabric onto the inside.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought it for €0.50 at Cash und Raus in Düsseldorf.



84.
Anonymous
Leipzig, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A grey cashmere sweater.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
Several holes.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I patched the holes.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
I bought it in a second-hand store.



85.

Judith Schlupkothen
@judith_schlupkothen
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of sneakers—more specifically, Adidas sneakers.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

I'm not sure, but I estimate I bought them about 3 to 5 years ago.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

At the toe, there is a section of thicker leather followed by a thinner fabric panel. This fabric wore through at my big toes, creating small holes that gradually got bigger.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?

My colleague Rolf Brändle.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

He cut matching pieces from a leftover piece of leather. He first glued them in place and then hand-stitched the edges, effectively extending the sturdier tip.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I bought the shoes in a shoe store.

ANECDOTE

I really liked wearing these shoes. Then holes started to appear. I kept wearing them because I loved them so much, but I kept worrying if I could really continue wearing them. It made me sad and a bit frustrated because otherwise they were still in great condition. When Rolf came up with this amazing idea and just carried it out, I was really happy! Thanks again for that!



86.

Pia Näscher
www.pialana.de
 @p.i.a.l.a.n.a
 Düsseldorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

Well-worn jeans.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

Maybe they're 10 years old.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

In the more heavily worn areas, the fabric had become very thin, and holes had started to form.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

I repaired them.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

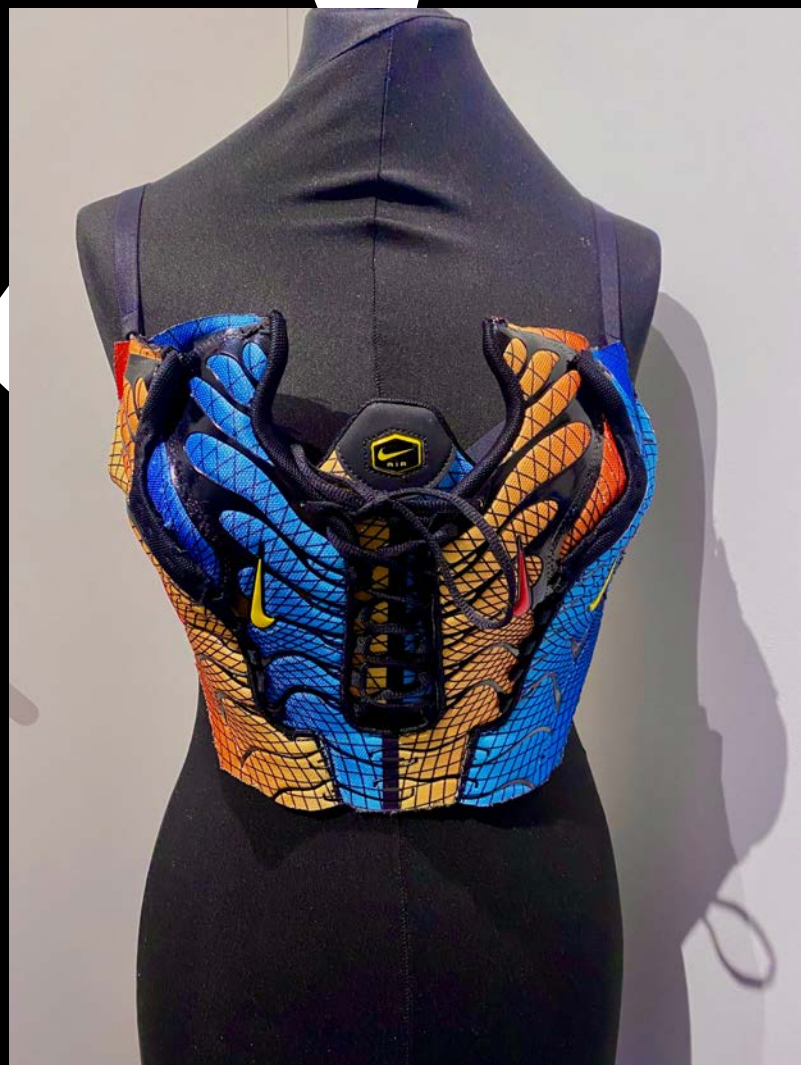
Inspired by the Japanese mending technique Sashiko, I reinforced worn areas by placing small fabric patches underneath and embroidering over them. I mended the holes individually.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I got them from my friend.

ANECDOTE

This is my friend's favourite piece. She inherited the jeans from her husband but was very sad about the wear and tear they showed after years of use. For me, it was a great opportunity to try out different repair techniques. Plus, it turned into a nice birthday surprise for my friend—she loves wearing the jeans even more now.



87.

Carla Meireles De Lemos
www.dontlookdesign.co.uk
 @dontlookdesign
 United Kingdom

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

It's a pair of old, broken sneakers that were being thrown out.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

These particular sneakers were released in 1998.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

I repurposed a broken sneaker that was being thrown out.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I repurposed a broken sneaker that was being thrown out.



HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

The sneakers were being thrown out, but I couldn't bear to let them go to waste—I loved the colours and the fabric was all in good shape. I dismantled every part of it, repurposing the fabric and even the laces to create a stunning corset.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

My husband was throwing out his old shoes.

ANECDOTE

I love repurposing—these sneakers had an amazing life on my husband's feet, getting him from A to B, going on adventures together. Now they sit on my chest, close to my heart, living a whole new life with me.



88.
Felix Müller
Mannheim, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A pair of jeans.



WHAT WAS BROKEN?
It was worn through at the crotch and in several other places.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
My mum.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
By sewing on jeans patches with a sewing machine.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
The jeans belonged to my dad.

ANECDOTE

When my father stopped wearing the jeans for everyday use, they became his gardening pants. When they got too full of holes even for that, I took them over. Luckily, ripped knees were trendy at the time, and they still go perfectly with many of my outfits.



89.

Anonymous
Stuttgart, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A pair of children's flared jersey trousers from Esprit with a really great pattern.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

No.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The centre back seam had come undone, and there were some holes on the knees in the front.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?

I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?

On the back, I sewed a large moon cut from an old T-shirt fabric onto the seat of the pants. I embroidered a few small stars on the moon. The holes at the knees were simply sewn shut with yellow thread.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I don't remember exactly, either found somewhere or given by a friend who has an older child.

ANECDOTE

My child loves these pants! The little animals and moons on them are great, and the cut and fabric are super comfortable. I'm already sad thinking about when they'll soon no longer fit.





90.
Anonymous
Fulda, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
A white blouse.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
2024.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The blouse is made of thin cotton; the fabric around the collar was coming apart.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
I sewed a reinforcement from an old piece of cotton fabric onto the inside using a sewing machine—maybe a bit quickly, but it works, and I'm quite happy with it.

ANECDOTE
I was a bit annoyed that the blouse wore out so quickly, though the material itself is good. Maybe I'll make a blouse like this myself one day; it's a simple, nice cut.



91.

Anonymous
Schorndorf, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A woollen winter jacket.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

2007 or 2008.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

There was a tear in the lining, and the zipper was broken.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

My niece.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

She removed the zipper and sewed the lining.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I bought the jacket at Peek & Cloppenburg.

ANECDOTE

By sheer luck, I happened to see my niece—the one who ended up fixing the jacket—on the very day the zipper broke. We live far from each other and usually only meet a few times a year, so it was perfect timing. She could help me right then and there—no tailor needed.





92.
Anonymous
Essen, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Work pants.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?
No.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
Some seams had come undone from frequent use.

WHO REPAIRED IT?
I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
The partially unravelled seams were restitched using a sewing machine.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
These are my partner's work pants, which he received as a gift from his room-mate a few years ago.





93.
Anonymous
Berlin, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Woollen sweater.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
Moth holes.



WHO REPAIRED IT?
The previous owner and I.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?
By mending the holes.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
Jacke wie Hose, a second-hand shop run by the German Red Cross in Witten.

ANECDOTE

My mother brought me this sweater because it couldn't be sold in the second-hand shop due to moth holes and was going to be discarded. She really liked the colour and thought it was a shame. Some of the holes had already been mended, and I've fixed others myself. But new holes keep appearing, so I've decided to just wear the sweater with the holes.



94.

Alrun Alexandra Aßmus

www.alrunassmus.de

@walmango

Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A short wool sweater with batwing sleeves, possibly hand-knitted.



DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

According to the seller in the second-hand shop, it is from the 1950s.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

At the elbow, a section of fabric had become threadbare and had even torn.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I used Swiss darning to recreate the knitted loops in the worn area and, with the help of support threads, was also able to reconstruct the loops of the damaged section. I learned this technique with this sweater.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT?

From a second-hand shop in Cologne.



95.
Anonymous
Berlin, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Cut-off jeans.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?
The zip pull was missing from the slider. As an experiment, I made cuts in the pants myself, which caused the fabric to tear more and more.



WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I replaced the zip pull with a paper clip and mended the tears by hand.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
A second-hand market in Georgia.

ANECDOTE
After cutting off the trousers, I made vertical cuts at the front, which unfortunately continued to tear. So, I had to sew them up, but I really like the amateurish visible stitching at the front.



96.

Lara Landbrecht
www.laralandbrecht.com
 @laralandbrecht
 Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A scarf made of 100% merino wool.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

2019.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

It had several moth holes.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

The holes were woven over with coloured yarn, gradually creating a pattern of small repairs.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

The scarf was a present from my mum. The label says it is from Colorful Standard.

ANECDOTE

I really like my scarf—it does its job and keeps me warm every winter. Unfortunately, moths seem to like my wool scarf just as much as I do, leaving holes of various sizes in the knit. So far, I've already mended three of them, and little by little, more and more woven patterns are appearing throughout the scarf. Who knows how long it'll take before this knitted scarf turns into a fully woven one.





97.

Alrun Alexandra Aßmus

www.alrunassmus.de

@walmango

Cologne, Germany

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A camel-hair jacket belonging to my partner.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?

Approximately between 2000 and 2010.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?

The hem at the sleeve was worn and threadbare.



WHO REPAIRED IT?

I did.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

I unravelled part of the sleeve hem and then reknitted that section.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT?

I bought it second-hand online from Italy, where it was described as being in good condition. Unfortunately, that wasn't true. It also turned out not to be entirely camel hair, and I had to choose between a two-euro refund, repairing it, or sending it back at my own expense.



98.
Anonymous
Amsterdam, Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?
Red socks.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH YEAR THE TEXTILE IS FROM?
Maybe 2022.

WHAT WAS DAMAGED?
The heels, toes, and soles.

WHO REPAIRED THEM?
I did.

HOW WERE THEY REPAIRED?
I hand-darned them from time to time whenever a hole appeared.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?
The supermarket.

ANECDOTE
I like these wool socks; they are really wintery and warm.



99.

Heleen Klopper / Woolfiller

@woolfiller

www.woolfiller.com

Netherlands

WHAT KIND OF TEXTILE IS IT?

A woollen knit/a sweater.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR THIS TEXTILE IS FROM?

I think from around 2012.

WHAT WAS BROKEN?

The sweater was full of holes thanks to the moths.

WHO REPAIRED IT?

Heleen Klopper.

HOW WAS IT REPAIRED?

Using wool filler: carded wool and a felting needle.



WHERE DID YOU GET THE TEXTILE OBJECT FROM?

I got it from a friend with a good eye for quality—and moths in the wardrobe. I had my child at a later age. Because of that, over the years, I received a lot of children's clothes from friends. If there's one thing that gets passed on and reused well, it's children's clothing.

ANECDOTE

The way of repairing is inspired by woodwork. It was 2009. I wanted to mend holes in woollen fabric in the same way that a carpenter fills a hole in wood. Suddenly, I could see the similarity between felt and wood filler. The needle felt like a kind of 'putty'. The fibre of wool has minuscule scales. Because of movement—punching with a felting needle—these scales open up and bind together. Where the hole was, a new piece of fabric appears.

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