



Finally
found! Jeans
to live in
and look
great in.

the best jeans

THE SIX READERS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON: THEY ARE DESPERATE TO FIND JEANS TO FIT THEIR NEW BODIES—AND THEIR NEW LIVES. HERE WE DELIVER THE BEST PICKS FOR EACH, PLUS TONS OF TIPS AND TAKEAWAYS JUST FOR YOU.

BY CELIA SHATZMAN ✦ STYLING BY SALLY CANNON

“I need postbaby jeans!”



New mom Nicola Parish (pictured here with her toddler, Teagan) wanted jeans that would flatter her postbaby bod. After giving birth, Nicola felt that she still had a bit of a postpregnancy belly bulge. The goal? To find jeans that deliver tummy coverage and emphasize Nicola's long legs to give her a leaner look overall.

1 Nice Waist

Opt for a contoured waistband—higher in the back and lower in the front—to prevent gapping. This style keeps Nicola's jeans in place when she's chasing her baby, plus it gives a trimmer fit around the belly, allowing her to wear a shirt untucked without looking bulky.

2 Good Stretch

Opt for jeans with two-way stretch—meaning that they're stretchy both vertically and horizontally—for a sleeker, more comfortable fit.

3 Fancy Feet

To make your legs look longer, buy jeans that are about 2 inches longer than your usual length, and let the hem drape over high heels or boots.



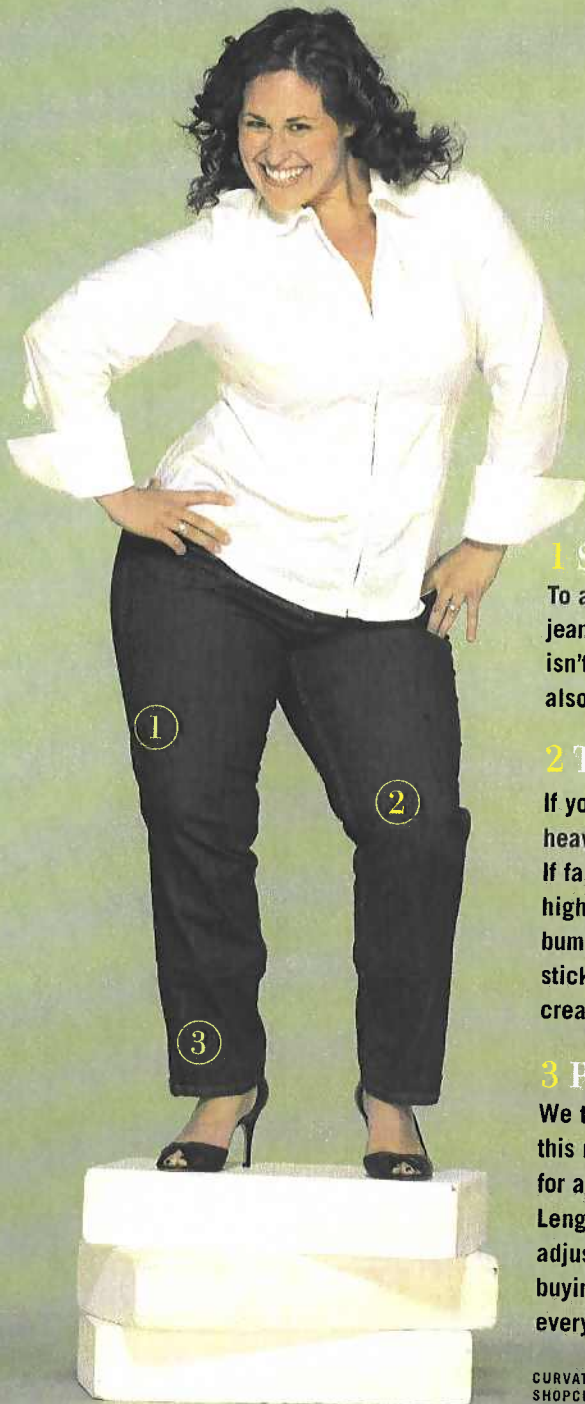
Lean Jean

As another option, we gave Nicola jeans designed specifically to flatten her new mom's belly. We shot them inside out to show the innovative tummy-control panels, which extend from the zipper to each hip to gently smooth the stomach. The double-sided seams also slim the thighs.

PAPER DENIM AND CLOTH BOOT-CUT BRIDGETTE JEAN, \$98, AT MACY'S STORES NATIONWIDE

RIDERS BY THE MAKERS OF LEE ULTRA FIT JEAN, \$25, LEE.COM.

“I’m short—what’s for me?”



At 5'3", Lesley Majzlin has a hard time finding jeans for her curvy but petite frame. We focused on helping Lesley track down a pair that would flatter her shapely silhouette without overwhelming her small frame.

1 Super-Slimmer

To appear taller, look for jeans with a straight leg that isn't too narrow; this cut also slims your bottom half.

2 Tough Stuff

If you're curvy, opt for a heavier-weight denim. If fabric is too thin, it'll highlight lumps and bumps. Petites should also stick to dark washes to create a long, lean look.

3 Perfect Fit

We tailored the leg on this regular-length jean for a perfect fit. Remember: Length can always be adjusted; the key is buying jeans that fit well everywhere else.



Petite Feat

When you're vertically challenged, short or cropped jeans can make you look shorter. But don't forgo those styles altogether; just pair them with a short to medium heel to elongate the legs.

CURVATION ZIP LEG CURVY JEAN, \$95,
SHOPCURVATION.COM

“I’m a plus size, but I want to be in style”



Amy Ackerman is halfway to her ideal weight, but she’s still wearing a plus size. She loves her new look and is motivated to shop for her new shape. Her complaint? Jeans in the plus-size department look dowdy. Here we answer her demand for a modern plus-size style that flatters her body.

1 Hot Pockets

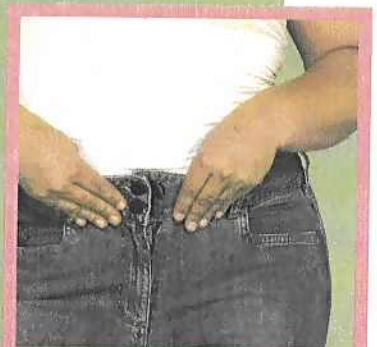
The key to making your bum look its best is choosing pockets that are sized in proportion to your rear. If you have a fuller seat, go for bigger pockets; little pockets will make you look bigger. Flat butt? Look for an angled pocket to create a rounder shape.

2 Flat Front

Plus-size jeans can look outdated if they have passé features like an elastic waist or pleats. For a more flattering, modern look, opt for a flat-front waist.

3 Boot Camp

Despite the slim-leg trend, boot cuts still look modern. They’re a great choice for balancing out plus-size figures or fuller hips.



It Fits!

Can’t quite button those smaller jeans even though they fit everywhere else? Add an extra inch to the waistband on pants and skirts by slipping on a black plastic button and loop.

WAISTBAND BUTTONS, \$8, VERMONTCOUNTRYSTORE.COM.

LANE BRYANT RIGHT FIT BOOT-CUT MODERATELY CURVY JEANS, \$39.50, LANE BRYANT STORES NATIONWIDE

“I want jeans that are right for my age”

1 Work Ready

Making denim office appropriate is all about what you pair it with. Try a button-down shirt or a blazer with dressy accessories—like pearls—to upgrade the look.

2 Clean Cut

A tab waist looks more office appropriate than traditional five-pocket jeans and creates a more tailored look.

3 Modern Mom

For a modern-looking jean, opt for contrast stitching (white on dark denim works well). The look is stylish but still age appropriate.

RANDY (LEFT): RIDERS BY THE MAKERS OF LEE COPPER COLLECTION, LEE.COM; CHERYL: TUMMY TUCK NOT YOUR DAUGHTER'S JEANS, \$108, TUMMYTUCKJEANS.COM

Randy Schaefer (left), a lawyer, needs her jeans to look age appropriate and professional; she's frustrated with super-low styles that don't look polished. Her mom, Cheryl Krugman (right), wants jeans that don't age her—no more mom jeans—and are travel friendly for her on-the-go lifestyle.



Double Duty

Same jeans, different day! Look for jeans with an adjustable hem. This pair has links that hook into tiny holes in the cuffs so you can wear them long with heels or shorten to ankle length and wear them with flats.

RADCLIFFE DENIM JEANS, \$180, RADCLIFFEDENIM.COM.

“I’m at goal. Now I want jeans that flatter!”



Sharla Zimmerman is at her goal weight and ready to show off her slim new figure. She prefers a straight-leg jean and a style that flatters her rear view. Sharla hadn't shopped since reaching her goal, so she was at a loss as to where to start.

1 Elegantly Waisted

Try wearing a shirt untucked but cinched with a belt to make your waist look narrower and to give you a slimmer shape. It's also a great way to disguise belly bulge.

2 Crease Craze

A simple way to elongate legs is to crease jeans down the center—the crease creates a slimming vertical line. Make creases with an iron, or ask your dry cleaner to do it.

3 Leg Up

Straight-leg jeans with extra length lightly bunched up at the bottom give legs a longer, thinner look. If you're not at goal yet, look for cigarette-style jeans, which are more forgiving than other styles because they're not tight through the knee and thigh.



Custom Fit

Check out an online personal-shopping site for help finding the perfect jeans. Enter your measurements, answer style-preference questions, and be provided with a list of the styles that will fit you best. Then shop online or in stores.

➤ Try zafu.com, which has info on regular and plus-size styles.

LIZ CLAIBORNE SLIM STRETCH ON-GOING WEEKEND ESSENTIALS JEANS, \$59, LIZCLAIBORNE.COM