

Style

Is Denim on Denim Okay?



By **Michael Flocker**

We know what you're thinking, but the truth is that denim on denim is a really good look right now.

It's a simple fact of life that all fashion trends, no matter how hideous, unflattering or wrongheaded, will eventually come back into style at some point. It isn't always terrible, though. In fact, what's truly impressive is when the

greatest of styling taboos manage to find their way out of the shame and darkness, and back into the warm embrace of the fashion-forward.

Think of it. Who would have ever thought that winter white would one day become a thing? There was a time, not so long ago, when 'camouflage chic' was an oxymoron, and the very idea of mixing plaids, stripes and polka dots was not so much a stylistic choice as a clear sign of dementia. But things do change. And that brings us back to the oft-debated subject of denim on denim.

The pairing of jeans with a denim top (once widely and rudely dismissed as the "Canadian Tuxedo") was never in itself the real problem. It was the matching of similar tones on the top and bottom that created the unfortunate appearance of a suit – or even worse, a jumpsuit. The uniformity of it -- dark with dark, or faded with faded -- just looked goofy.

But now, denim on denim is having its moment in the sun, and it's actually a pretty good look – *if you do it correctly*. As your high school painting teacher surely pointed out, all art is about contrast, and so it is with denim. Pairing a dark denim shirt with a light jean works beautifully. A light denim popover with a deep, dark, cuffed jean works equally as well. Mix blues and greys, or blacks and whites. Just don't put two of the same tones together and you'll be fine. In fact, you might just look great!

Well, at least until the fashion world circles the sun a few more times. Then we'll all be lounging around in our Canadian tuxedos laughing uproariously at the fools who once mismatched their denims – *on purpose!*

Some Additional Tips for Denim on Denim:



No denim accessories – shoes, hats, backpacks

Don't try to do the Western thing

The darker the denim the smarter the look

Go high-low with a great shoe or stylish blazer

Don't overdo the distressed thing, and don't go baggy

Fitted denim is always better for a sharper look

Don't even think about trying this with shorts