

SCENE

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COLUMNS E3

TELEVISION E4

COMICS E6-E7

Tummy Tuck: They might be a woman's dream jean

DEAR SHOPPING: How come one designer or manufacturer's jeans fit differently than another? No two pairs are the same. Recently, I tried on four pairs of Gloria Vanderbilt stretch jeans in two different stores, but none of them fit in the waist. I have a pair of Vanderbilt jeans that are at least 15 years old, and they still fit, so it's not my shape. It's always been hard to find two pairs that fit the same, but eight pairs? That's ridiculous.

Does anyone make a cotton, stretch denim, tapered jean for women that fits in the waist, hips and legs but not below the waist?

— Rita, Sacramento

DEAR RITA: I usually don't devote this much space to a single question, but it seems many women are having a tougher time finding jeans that fit and look nice. I don't know if it's because there are so many labels and styles — not to mention price ranges — to pick from or because it's just frustrating going shopping for jeans, period. I've gotten e-mails and letters from women who find jeans that fit in one or two areas of their body but not in another.

For example, jeans can fit nicely in the hips, thighs and derrière but not in the waist, or vice versa. Another issue is that styles are constantly being discontinued or updated, which often happens with big-name brands such as Levi Strauss.

So, is there a comfortable jean for women who want a reasonable rise (read: not a 2-inch zipper) and a good fit?

Well, I tracked down a designer named Lisa Rudes-Sandel. She was born in Puerto Rico, and her family worked in the garment business. She became well-versed in design, production, marketing and sales. And, through her travels, she was constantly running into women who couldn't find a pair of jeans for, as she puts it, "regular" women that fit well and were stylish.

She created her own line called Tummy Tuck Jeans. And I admit I've tried a pair myself. Here's what I like about them: They're not low-slung hip-huggers, and they actually flatten the tummy area. And they fit nicely through the hips and derrière. The stretchy fabric is a bonus.



LOOKING GOOD

By Leigh Grogan

Tummy Tuck Jeans come in various washes and colors, and some feature fancy touches such as tuxedo stripes. Sizes range from plus to misses to petite, even petite-plus sizes.

A cute touch from Rudes-Sandel is the disclaimer attached inside each pair: "NYDJ" (Not Your Daughter's Jeans).

The Tummy Tuck brand is carried at Nordstrom, select Macy's stores and specialty boutiques. They range in price from \$88 to \$128. If that sounds pricey, you'll have to ask yourself how much you're willing to pay for one pair of jeans that actually fit. There's also a Web site: www.tummytuckjeans.com.



Designer Lisa Rudes-Sandel's Tummy Tuck Jeans launched in spring 2005 and have become one of the fastest-growing brands in the United States.

Tummy Tuck Jeans (NYDJ)