

Wanted: A cute butt

BY KAREN VITT / SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

If there's any woman who *doesn't* need another pair of jeans, it's 25-year-old Chevy Croskey, an aspiring stand-up comedian with a hard-core shopping habit. Croskey says she buys a pair of jeans almost every week, and she's willing to spend for a flattering fit.

"It's rare to find inexpensive jeans that fit good and flatter your backside," Croskey says. "They will smash it or make it look wide, like a trailer. It's no good. Nobody wants their butt looking all smashed."

Croskey, who says she buys so many jeans because she wears them almost every day, is not shy about how she wants her booty to look in her jeans. "I take pride in my backside," she says. "I've worked hard to make it look good. I want it to look like an onion that'll make you cry! Or an apple that you'll want to take a bite of," she says with a laugh.

Denim diva that she is, we still managed to track down one style Croskey hadn't tried. Blake Nieman-Davis, owner of Blake, recommended dark wash Joe's Jeans in The Honey "Booty Fit," which he says come up higher in the back to accommodate the rear and grab the waist better.



Fit tips

Fit the waist: "When you buy a pair of jeans, you have to fit the waist," says Blake Nieman-Davis, owner of Blake. "When you fit the waist, generally it's going to feel tight in the thighs and the rear, but there is no such thing as a jean that doesn't stretch. If you don't fit the waist properly, when it stretches out the whole jean sinks down, and that's why you get the sagging and the gapping."

Don't supersize it: "The problem is, women will feel like the jeans are too tight, so they'll buy a size up, and of course they're more comfortable because they're bigger. But the problem is it stretches, so then you start this pattern of washing and drying them all the time, trying to shrink them back up to what they were when they were great."

Pocket placement: "A couple of secret things that can sometimes help are bigger pockets. Sometimes you can take a bigger pocket or a pocket that's misplaced by sliding it around or sliding it down, and that doesn't focus everybody in so much and kind of creates an illusion."

Dark denim: "Darker denim is always going to be more slimming. It's the same reason people wear black all the time — it's hard to make out the edge."

Try these on

Wet Seal 5-Pocket Stretch Jeans: "Not only do they make your butt look smaller, but they're also flattering to small butts," says Amanda King, store manager of Wet Seal at Lloyd Center. "They won't make you look like you have *no* butt. They accentuate the curves in a good way." **\$19.50** at *Wet Seal*

Hydraulic Flat Pocket Jeans: "These have the newest pocket details and a lower rise that helps give the backside a little lift," says Jennifer Munoz, a spokeswoman for Meier & Frank. "The flat pockets are bigger, and set lower, guaranteed to flatter every woman." **\$29.99** at *Meier & Frank*

Baby Phat Jeans: "Baby Phat jeans have bigger pockets and come in stretch denim, so they fit you in all the right places. They're comfortable, too," says Kim Nowaczyk, manager of Demo at Lloyd Center. **\$59-\$72** at *Demo*

7 for All Mankind Stretch Flare Jeans: "7 Jeans always look great because they have big back pockets that are set lower," Nowaczyk says. **\$132** At *Nordstrom*

ng for the perfect jean?
a pair for every body

PHOTOS BY
TIM LaBARGE
THE OREGONIAN