

The use of recycled fabric in footwear in my creative project was chosen for several important reasons. Shoes are an integral part of everyday attire, so repurposing unwanted materials allows creating new, attractive, and wearable clothing elements. Fashion is constantly changing, and every season, new clothes and shoes appear on store shelves. These items often wear out quickly and are either discarded or, at best, end up in second-hand stores. Although sports shoes can be repaired, many people prefer the more convenient option of buying new ones. For my master's thesis creative project, I decided to combine sports footwear with unused garment materials. While I had long been interested in clothing recycling and had considerable knowledge on the subject, footwear recycling proved to be a much more complex topic-one about which I had little prior information. Therefore, I traveled abroad, consulted with Lithuanian shoemakers, and studied literature and online sources. For the collection, I set the task of using unnecessary, unworn denim garments in footwear, combined with used car tires. Tires often fail to be recycled and end up in landfills, where they can pollute the environment for up to 150 years. Recent studies show that tires are among the largest environmental pollutants. By experimenting with garment structural details and observing how they interact with tire material, I discovered interesting shapes and elements that unexpectedly created appealing and innovative footwear designs. Each model gained its own mood and a unique sports footwear form. The footwear design is inseparable from the idea of recycling. This collection is made entirely from recycled materials, without any new fabric additions. I gave the shoes original and promising expressions by deconstructing and reusing unworn garments. To maximize the use of recycled material, I creatively combined various elements from different clothes, thus forming interesting and distinctive footwear designs. In the experimental laboratory, special attention was given to materials-all of which were recycled. This footwear promotes environmental conservation, reduces pollution, and decreases textile waste, demonstrating how much new can be created from unwanted materials. The greatest focus was on the sole material, as I wanted it to be not only recycled but also comfortable to wear. I chose to use discarded car tires together with natural rubber. Natural rubber is a sustainable, eco-friendly material known for its excellent cushioning properties, flexibility, and durability. Unlike synthetic alternatives, natural rubber is biodegradable, less polluting, and more environmentally friendly. Its use provides elasticity and comfort to the sole, making the shoes not only visually unique but also comfortable, functional, and contributing to sustainability promotion. The combination of denim and tires reflects a vintage charm intertwined with modern fashion. Using structural garment parts allows uniquely joining denim fragments with rubber and tires, creating distinctive and original footwear. The recycling of textile waste in this collection is not only a creative but also a very promising process. From used textile products, it is possible to create not only new products but even

new fabric. By carefully cutting, arranging, and sewing garment fragments, one can achieve an impressive, high-quality, and aesthetically valuable creation.



SKETCHES