The look in blue jeans today is distressed—the more faded, torn and worn, the better. And the consumer is willing to pay for the grunge look. Unblemished Calvin Klein jeans retail for $48 - $54 at the Nordstrom website while low-rise stonewashed jeans sell for $76 and stonewashed boot-cut jeans sell for $114.

In the past, the aged and weathered look has been achieved by chemical processes (bleaching), mechanical (rubbing or abrading) or a combination of both processes. The look of “stonewashed” jeans is achieved by tumbling the denim fabric with pumice stones soaked in a bleaching agent. Stonewashing is time-consuming and expensive. Some manufacturers estimate that chemical treatments add $11.00 to the cost of a pair of jeans, while stonewashing adds an additional $3.00.

Sandblasting offers the same effect at a lower price. MECSHOT Blasting Equipments Pvt. Ltd., a manufacturer of abrasive blasting and shot peening machines and dust collectors in India, has successfully engineered and supplied a process using sand blasting machine to abrade garments to simulate natural wear patterns. Their machines provide a solution to achieve a faded effect on jeans with the utmost ease and fastest speed.

MECHSHOT offers two options: an abrasive blasting cabinet where the operator stands in front of the cabinet and manually operates the blast gun through rubber vestibules inside the cabinet. The jeans are placed inside the cabinet and the grit recovery and dust collection are automatic.

The second option is a blast room system wherein the operator can safely go inside the room and sandblast the jeans.