

## Reduce, Reuse, RE-FASHION!

Want to look like a million for only a few bucks? Of course we all know that Goodwill Stores are a great source for many items, whether household, or apparel, but they are also great places to find clothing that may be made over with some fashion savvy. I decided that in these tough economic times, showing readers how to simply restyle clothing available at Goodwill Stores and Donation Centers, would not only be fun, but creative too. There will be little or no sewing, but the results can look like you just stepped out of the pages of a fashion magazine!

For my first project I found a button down shirtwaist dress made of wool for only \$4.99! I thought it would make a great winter skirt. The berry color is fashion forward and it had great details like pockets with velvet trim, covered buttons and a belt.



### Step 1

Examine the garment for stains, holes and stability. In other words, '*how it was put together*'. Lay it flat on a pattern cutting board (Any flat tabletop will do). Make your first cut with pinking shears about 6 inches above the waistline of the dress. Turn it inside out and trim



the line so that it is even all the way around.



### Step 2

Next, fold the extra fabric over toward the inside of the dress and line it up with the waistline. Pin in place. This will create a 'facing' for the new skirt and give it stability. *Note: you can use fabric bond (either iron-on tape or liquid) that is ironed in place.* Just make sure to use a pressing cloth or old towel to protect your iron. Simply tack the 'facing' in place all the way around the inside of the skirt by sewing it lightly to the corresponding seams (Notice where the white pins are). Turn right side out. Our dress was a knee length so I just left it that way, but you could shorten a longer dress as well.



### Step 3

Iron or steam your new garment and make sure that it looks even. That's it!



### **AMAZING LOOK #1**

To put together a polished work look, I shopped the store and found a great Jones New York striped blouse for \$3.99 that really went well with the color of the skirt, and as you can see a stylish outfit was born! I added some Lucite jewelry that I had at my studio. Your look will be your own creation so let the creativity flow!



### **AMAZING LOOK #2**

For a more casual look, back to the racks I went! That is where I discovered a new Ralph Lauren Polo t-shirt for \$3.99. I let the color of the skirt play off the black of the shirt, and then I brought in some color at the neckline with a designer scarf for \$1.99.

As you can see, everything available at the Goodwill Stores can be made into real fashion, with a good eye and a little work on your part. Have fun, explore your inner fashionista and get to your local store so you can start your own "designer" looks for less!

