

## All For One

Who hasn't seen the cute tops with the built-in necklaces? It happens to be a huge trend! So my crafty side, and a suggestion from my gals in marketing department at Goodwill, got me thinking that I could make some signature tops myself, using items that I purchased from the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center.

I also set a budget that each top could not cost more than a total of \$10. With that in mind, I kept my eye out for interesting tops and jewelry that I could use to transform the knit tops into unique art pieces that exuded glam. Check out what I made and how I did it!

**Top 1** was a pink-layered knit sleeveless top that cost \$2.99. I found a necklace for \$1.99, and two pins that were \$1.99 each! I simply took the pins and secured the necklace about two inches away from the shoulder on the back of the top to help anchor it. No sewing of any kind. You can see that this could be adapted in so many ways. The bright and exuberant colors make it easy to wear with jeans and flip-flops. Perfect for a summer or Labor Day party, and a conversation starter for sure. Embellishment in general has been prevalent in fashion, but make sure that everything else you wear is complementary and allows the top to be the star. **TIP:** I probably would not wear earrings with this one.





**Top 2** is a nod to the tribal, ethnic and generally global look. I found this sleeveless animal print stove pipe turtleneck top for \$2.99, a clay necklace and wooden bead necklace on a cord for \$1.99 each. The cord made me think about how to attach this to the top in a different way. So I looked in my bag of tricks and thought of eyelets! They are easy to attach using a hole punch and the little attachment thing, and a small hammer! No sewing here either! I attached four eyelets on each side of the stovepipe about two inches from the seam. Next, I easily threaded the cord through the eyelets on each side of the turtleneck and pushed down and knotted the cord. This created pleating and some rough texture. Over the entire collar I draped the long primitive clay necklace. **TIP:** This would be cool with a pencil skirt and some brown peep toe booties. Complete the look with some gold or silver hoop earrings. Meow!





**Top 3** is a more romantic feel ethnic look, using an Indian inspired tank that I got for \$2.99. With that as my start, I found a brown glass bead necklace, which had traces of copper in it for \$1.99. In my sewing box I had two leather buttons in brown and a cameo metal button. I thought that they might add some texture and whimsy to this look. Voila! Transformed by simple safety pins into a work of fashion art! **TIP:** Pair this with rolled boyfriend jeans and a leather jacket for a sort of "Desperately Seeking Susan", Madonna look! Footwear could be metallic ballet flats, or wooden soled clogs which have made a style comeback this season. Love it!





This would be a fun weekend project and a creativity booster too. Think outside the box and have a good (will) time. Remember that ideas aren't rules, and that good (will) fashion has nothing to do with what you spend, but how you think!

