

Summer Looks for Less!

As the weather heats up, so does the need to be cool, comfortable and stylish!! A good friend of mine recently lent me a book about re-making t-shirts, so I thought I'd give it a try at home and share the results with my readers! T-shirts are the perfect item to find at your local Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center. I used one from the "men's bin" that was \$1.49, and another couple off the racks that were \$2.99 and \$3.99. The supply and designs are limitless, and your imagination is what makes these "re-do's" fun and unique.



You will need a pair of sharp scissors, or a rotary cutter and mat like I used, to do the basic cutting. Pins, a large needle that can handle yarn, and a sewing machine are the only other items necessary to make your own "designer" t-shirts. I cut my t-shirts first, and then washed them after so they would take on more of a rolled edge where they'd been cut.



First was an "on trend" day-glow print "Mr. Popular" t-shirt for \$3.99.



1. I used the rotary cutter to easily remove the sleeves, bottom hem, and side seams close to where they were originally sewn.



2. I then re-sewed the side seam with a straight stitch on the outside of the t-shirt.



3. After that, I took a large needle and threaded some yellow yarn through it. I created a stitch up the side seams inserting the needle where I had just sewn (creating piping where the excess fabric was located).



Not only did it pick up the colors of the bright shirt, but also it added a designer detail. I bought a similar shirt at a boutique in NYC and paid around \$29.00! I saved \$25.00 and made my own custom rock and roll look!



Next, for the gal that lent me her very cool book, I made this halter- top from a t-shirt that said "I Benchwarm". The shirt was \$2.99 and I liked the graphic combination of the navy blue, Kelly green, and white detail.



1. To make this one, I cut off the sleeves as I did with the first one.
2. Then I cut off the bottom hem close to the stitching (This will form the drawstring tie for the shirt).
3. Then I laid the shirt flat with the front side design up.
4. Next, I cut a straight line across from arm opening to arm opening on the other side just under the collar.



5. I folded the t-shirt from side to side and cut a gentle arc across the back.

6. Then, simply fold over the front top of the shirt to the back to form the casing for the drawstring.

7. Sew a straight stitch across.

8. Thread the drawstring through the casing and you're done!



The way the drawstring gathers the front making the pattern look more abstract, and interesting. Not a bad summer top for 10 minutes or so of your time!



Lastly, I took the "Fender t-shirt and cut off the double sleeves and the hem. That was all it needed to make a cutting edge rock star sleeveless tank top! It couldn't have been easier to transform these fun tees into unique summer clothes.

Stop by your Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center to get the goods to make your own custom shirts. How many designs can you come up with? Only your imagination knows. Be sure to stop back next week and see what's in store as we continue our "Summer Looks for Less" series here at amazinggoodwill.com!

