

# DIY Ruffle Top



Needed: 2 fitted t-shirts

1. Cut the side of one shirt and open it up. Use the picture as a guide and cut 6 pieces of 2 1/2" X 12" and 2 pieces of 1 1/4" strips.



2. Using basting stitches, sew the 2 1/2" strips 1/4" from the edge. Pull one thread to make the ruffles. I made the top of the ruffles 7" wide.



3. Sew the 1 1/4" strips together and make longer strips. Using big stitches, sew the middle, pull one string to make ruffles.



4. First, pin the long strips around the neck line. Don't forget to leave the front part for the other ruffles.



5. Then, attach the front ruffles. Make sure that the center of the shirt and center of the ruffle lines up.



6. To add the second row of ruffles, measure 1 1/2" from the edge of the first row of ruffles and line the top of the next row to it. Sew. Repeat the process to complete the shirt.



7. To make the fabric string: cut one 1/2" string and stretch it. To make the corsage, cut 1" strips, sew the center with big stitches and make ruffle first.



8. Take the ruffle you made at step 7, and fold it in half.



9. To start sewing the corsage, roll up the end, and start sewing the folded part, and keep spinning and sewing...



10. There, you have a flower...Now, sew them onto your desired place and the only thing left for you to do is enjoy.



# DIY Squiggly Ruffle



## Materials Needed:

- 2 Wonder Tees (Down East)
- (One shirt should be a size larger)



1. Cut the sides of one of the t-shirts. You will have two pieces now. Lay them flat on cutting table and cut the fabric diagonally. (The strips are 2 1/2" wide)



2. Optional: Draw 1 1/2" line in the middle of the t-shirt, from the neck down.



3. Optional: Stitch the line and pull the thread to gather the fabric to make a sweetheart shaped neckline. Stitch again to hold.



4. Take the strips you made from step 1, and cut the ends with a nice curve so they will have a nice smooth edge.



5. Then, cut the strips wavy on one side of the strip.



6. To make ruffles, sew the strips with a basting stitch. (1/4" from the edge)



7. Pull the string to gather fabric. Now you have pretty ruffles!



8. To sew the ruffles onto the t-shirt, start from the left side. Please use the pictures as a guide.

a. Sew the short ruffles by the neckline.



b. Sew the medium ruffles below 8a. Make sure a will hide b's top part.



c. Sew the long ruffles. (Part of the ruffles overlap each other, and that's OK)



d. Sew the long ruffles as in 8c, but to finish it off place the ruffles downward.



9. Now, work on the right side.

a. Sew the short ruffles by the neckline. Overlap the left side ruffles a little.



b. Sew the short ruffles below 9a. The end will lay between 8b and 8c on the left side.



c. Sew the long ruffles below 9b. From the middle section, the ruffles need to go downward.



d. Sew the long ruffles below 9c. Follow the natural curve that 9c made. AND e. Sew the medium ruffles next to 9d.



## DIY Flower Neck

You will need:

2 t-shirts

Matching Thread



1. Cut circles out of one t-shirt. The largest circle is 2 3/4". Then cut two smaller circles to put on top of it. Make 15 sets to cover the whole front neck line. This will take most of 1 shirt.



2. Fold the layered circle into quarters and machine sew through all the layers across the tip.



3. Then open it. The flower will have a crinkled look.



4. Put the first flower in the center front of the shirt. Machine tack the center of the flower to the neckline. Repeat with other flowers, alternating sides. Flowers will only be on the front side of the shirt neckline, so when worn with a cardigan there isn't bunching in the back. Machine tack some of the large petals of each flower together so it will hold open the flower to look better after washing.

# DIY Lacey Ruffle

## Supplies:

- Two of the same shirts
- Matching thread
- About 4 yards of lace (mine is a little less than 1/2" wide)
- 2-3 small buttons



1. Lay the shirt flat on the cutting board and cut one t-shirt. Cut off the bottom. Now cut the middle part into five parts that are 2" wide.



2. Take four out of those five loops, cut both sides off to make 2" X 14" strips. The last loop needs to be longer than the others, so cut just one side off. This one will be the ruffle to go on the front neck line.



3. Add lace to the bottom of the strips using a zig-zag stitch.



4. Seal the edges with fray check.



5. Make ruffles- Stitch one side with a basting stitch and then gather.



6. OPTIONAL: I wanted to bring the neckline higher for this design, so I used some of the scrap material from the hem to fill in the v-neckline. Sew with zig-zag.



7. Pin the longest ruffle to the neckline. Do not go all the way around the neck, so when worn with a cardigan, the back won't be so bumpy.



8. Keep adding the ruffles. Make sure that those ruffles will overlap each other a little bit.



9. Lay the t-shirt flat on table and mark the middle part of the sleeves. Fold the sleeve and stitch two places to secure the pleats. Add button.



10. Make some flowers with the leftover fabric pieces.



# DIY Large Vertical Ruffle

Materials:

2 t-shirts



1. Cut one of the t-shirts along the seam line. To have longer strips, use the back of the shirt for the ruffles.



2. Cut 3 - 2 1/2" strips and 3 - 1 3/4" strips. The shirt in the picture was xs, if you are working with a larger shirt, you can cut the strips wider or make more rows.



3. Lay 1 3/4" strips on top of the 2 1/2" strips. Make sure that the top strips are in the middle.



4. Cut several inches off of two of the strip sets, these will be your side ruffles. (I cut 6" off, you may want to do more or less.) You will have 2 - 18" long strip sets and 1 - 24" long strip.





5. Using a basting stitch, sew in the middle of the strips. Gather the fabric to make ruffles.



6. Fold the t-shirt in half and make a crease in the middle. Pin the longest ruffle set in the middle of the shirt. Sew the ruffle by using a regular stitch.



7. Do the same with the two other ruffle strips. Lay them right next to the middle ruffle. Once you wash the shirt, there will be more space in between the ruffles.



# DIY Vertical Flowers

You need:

Two t-shirts of the same color  
Matching thread



1. Cut the t-shirt apart along the seam line.



2. Using the back fabric, cut out 3 1/2" strips. Then, cut them into 20 - 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" squares.

3. From the front and sleeve fabric, cut out 3 - 3" wide strips, and 4 - 1" wide strips. Use the picture as a guide. (There is a leftover piece in the middle)



4. From the 3" wide strips cut out 20 - 3" x 3" squares. You should have 40 squares now.



5. Make the flower template.



6. Cut out the flowers.



7. Mark four lines lightly on the other t-shirt. They are 1 1/2" apart. (On the picture they are 2" apart.) Stretch the 1" strips so they will become like rope (rolled). Lay them on the t-shirt where you marked.



8. Take the flowers you cut out earlier. Combine two of the same size flowers together (lay them so that the bottom petal is showing between the top petal). Pin them onto the strips and the shirt. Start with 3 1/2" flowers around the neck, then, 3" flowers towards the bottom.



9. Sew in a straight line on top of the flowers.



10. Cut the end of the strips to make the fringe.



11. For this particular shirt, I liked the sleeves a little shorter, so I folded the sleeve twice and sewed them...and, it is done!



# DIY Vertical Ruffles



You will need:

- Two t-shirts of the same color
- Matching thread
- Two buttons

1. Take one t-shirt lay it flat, than cut 5 - 2" wide loops.



2. Take two of the loops from step 1, cut the sides off, and cut them horizontally to make 1" wide strips. You should have 8 - 1" wide strips. You will need 7 for the front ruffles.

3. Sew in the middle of the 1" wide strips with a basting stitch on your sewing machine. Pull one thread to make ruffles. Place a ruffle in the middle of the shirt and sew it onto the shirt.



4. Make more ruffles. Make the second ruffle less ruffly than the first one (see the picture). Place it right next to the first ruffle and sew.



5. Repeat the process. From left; 1, 3, 5, 7 - less ruffly. 2, 4, 6, normal ruffle.



6. For the sleeves, find the middle and fold the sleeve like the picture to make a pleat. Sew it to secure the pleat. Add a button to hide the stitches.



7. For the bottom of the shirt, take 2 - 2" wide loops, cut one side to make them in to strips. Piece them together to make one big loop. Use the basting stitch to sew both side of the edges ¼" from the edge. Gather (top & bottom) to make ruffles. They won't be too ruffley, just little bit.

For the thin ruffle above the thick ruffle, take 1 - 2" wide loop, cut in half horizontally to make a 1" wide loop. Then cut one side open to make strips. Piece these two strips together to make a loop. Sew in the middle with a basting stitch, and gather.



8. To add the thick ruffle to the shirt, twist it every now and then and pin. Sew in the middle. Now sew along the big stitches that made ruffles with a zig-zag stitch to give some stability and character.

Sew the thin ruffle loop in the same manner as the thick ruffle loop- only sew the middle of the strip.



9. Ta da... It's finished!

# DIY Over-Sized T-Shirt



This project took maybe about an hour total and cost me an old t-shirt = FREE.



Flipped my shirt inside out



Cut off the bottom so the edges would roll up



Trim the sides for a more fitted look.



Then I cut fringe on each side and the bottom part of the arm



I double knotted each piece (it probably would have taken less time to sew it)



This was my end result



# T-shirt Totes

These t-shirt totes are strong and washable! Use for groceries, library books, tennis balls, gym clothes or pool supplies---use for anything you need to carry!

Supplies:

Heavy weight cotton T-shirt

Thread



## Step 1:

-Choose an old t-shirt and smooth it flat on a table. Use scissors to cut and remove the sleeves---*make sure you leave the seam in place*---this keeps your tote strong!



## Step 2

-Position a plate about halfway over the neck opening of the shirt. Trace the plate with your pencil or pen. This will be your cutting line to create the opening for your tote bag. Cut along the traced line with the scissors.



## Step 3

-Turn the T-shirt inside out and pin the bottom of the T-shirt-- *along the hem*--- closed.



## Step 4

-Use the sewing machine to sew the bottom of T-shirt hem closed. *Reinforce your tote bag by sewing over this seam a second time!*



## Step 5

-Your bag is now sewn closed! *As a variation* you may consider adding a "gusset" at the bottom corners- as several commenters have- that's where you sew across the corner at a right angle so that the bottom of the bag has more depth and is not just flat---it "boxes" the corners of the tote bag.

-*Another variation to consider....* add pockets to the tote by using the cut away sleeve scraps and fashioning them into pockets.

-Turn the shirt right- side- out. YOU just made your own recycled tote bag!



Credit: sewmargaretsew

# Cardigan Conversion

With most cardigans you have buttons that line the length of it so you could technically wear it as a blouse if needed. With these cardigans, because they are starting out as too tight and too short sweaters, there are only two to three buttons that clasp the cardigan *partially* closed.

Materials:

\*Two strips of matching or complimentary fabric- about 2 inches wide and at least 2 inches longer than the length of your sweater down the middle. A cute fat quarter will work for many sweater lengths and gives you plenty of fabric.

\*If you want your cardigan to clasp close you will also need some buttons, or toggles and some elastic.

\*Matching thread looks best.



1. MAKE SURE you pre-wash your fabric. This is an absolutely must. If you skip this step, the fabric will shrink, and pucker and pull on the sweater in unattractive ways when you wash it.

2. Measure and cut your fabric strips. Two inches wide and at least two inches longer than the length of your sweater down the middle.

3. Cut your sweater down the middle. I made some faint marks with a ruler and pencil to make sure I cut it nice and straight. \*Be careful not to stretch your sweater as you measure and cut.

4. Iron one long side of your fabric strips under about 1/4 of an inch.



5. Pin and sew the fabric strips to the cut portion of your sweater. You want right sides together. The side with the fabric ironed over is the *wrong* side. Don't skip the pinning. Sweaters often stretch and pull. Pinning will help you keep everything even and where it should be.

Also, increase your stitch length a bit since you are working with sweater knit. It will pull on the fabric less, create more even stitches with no skipping...just a good idea.



6. Flip the fabric strip over and fold under each side of the sweater/cardigan. Fold the top and bottom portions under as well. Pin {don't skip this} and sew. You can sew near the inside seam, or not. I didn't for this one, but did for others.





7. Last step! :) You can just leave it as is, or add buttons. Remember to increase your stitch length.



Here are a couple more examples...



For this cream cardigan I put in toggles. I just picked up some toggles in the buttons/notions aisle at Jo-Ann and snagged some tan ponytail holders from Walmart. For my sweater I only needed two ponytail elastics, half of one elastic for each loop.



At step 5, just sandwich the elastic in between the fabric strip and sweater and sew it in. Make sure to go back and forth over it a few times to strengthen the seam where the toggles are. It can be fussy to get the elastic sewn in initially, but with a little patience it turns out quite nicely.



Top stitch over the inside seam when done to strengthen the seam and toggles even more.



## Upcycled Hats

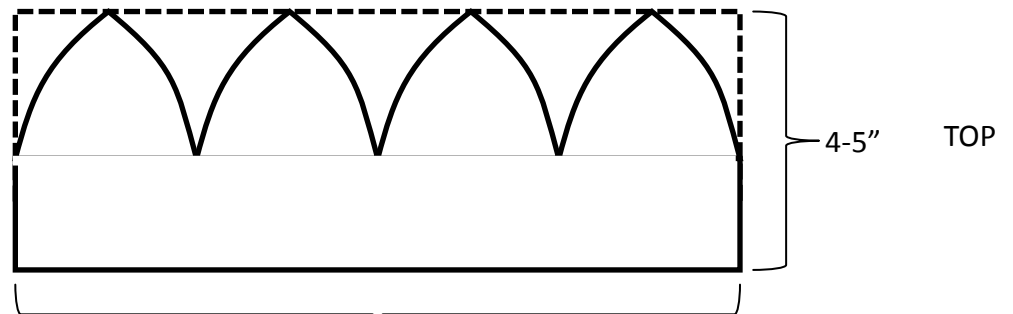
For this project use a bunch (3) of old t-shirts and turn them into hats.

Utilize different parts of the shirts to make the hats more interesting.....button strips and already existing graphics from the shirts. Depending on the t-shirts you use, this could *totally* be done in a girly way as well. The hats were easy and fun to make.

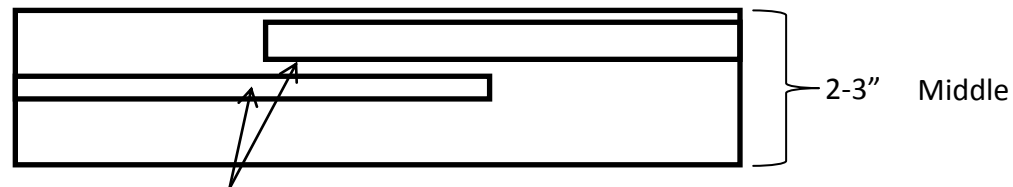


You can make these hats pretty warm, by using more than one layer on each pattern part or you can make them more autumn-like and thinner with just one layer of fabric on each part. As all of the fabrics are knits, we will use a **zigzag stitch every time** we sew anywhere. Use  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

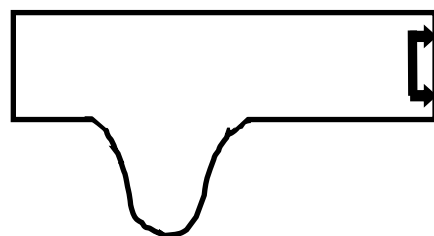
Here is a basic drawing of the three parts of the hat.



17" fits about 1yr, 20" fits 5-7 yr old



Add embellishments, piece together other knits



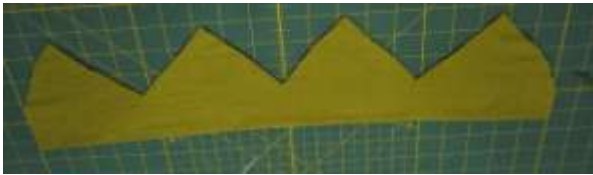
Bottom

1. First, start with a rectangle that will become the top of the hat. The width of the rectangle should be the circumference of your child's head. About 17 inches fits about a one year old. 20 inches fits a 5-7 year old. 21" fits an adult. Just wrap that measuring tape around his noggin before you start. The height of the rectangle depends on the size hat you're making. 4-5" is about good. Don't worry about seam allowance. Remember this is a knit, so it will stretch a little.

Now that you have your rectangle cut, make marks with a pencil along the top to divide it into fourths. From those marks cut down about 3 inches as shown.



Now mark the middle of those flaps with a pencil and cut curved lines as shown in the drawing below. You'll make the top look like the top of four footballs. You can see what I mean by looking at the picture below, but the lines should actually be a bit more curved. Now sew the flaps together to create a dome. Be sure the seams all go on the inside. Do not sew your ends together... just the domes.



2. Now on to part two. This next rectangle should be the same width as your first rectangle. Height-wise, you have 2-3 inches to play with here. If you want the hat to fit tightly, probably just 2 inches. If you don't mind it being a bit floppy on top, then you could do 3 inches. Use whatever fabric combos you like. Use as many or as little stripes as you want. You can sew the strips together so that the hem is on the outside of the hat or so that it's hidden. Whatever floats your boat.

3. For part three use the pattern attached. After cutting this out, sew it to part 2 and then sew that to part 1. Finally, sew the ends together creating a loop. Now you've finished the basic structure of the hat.



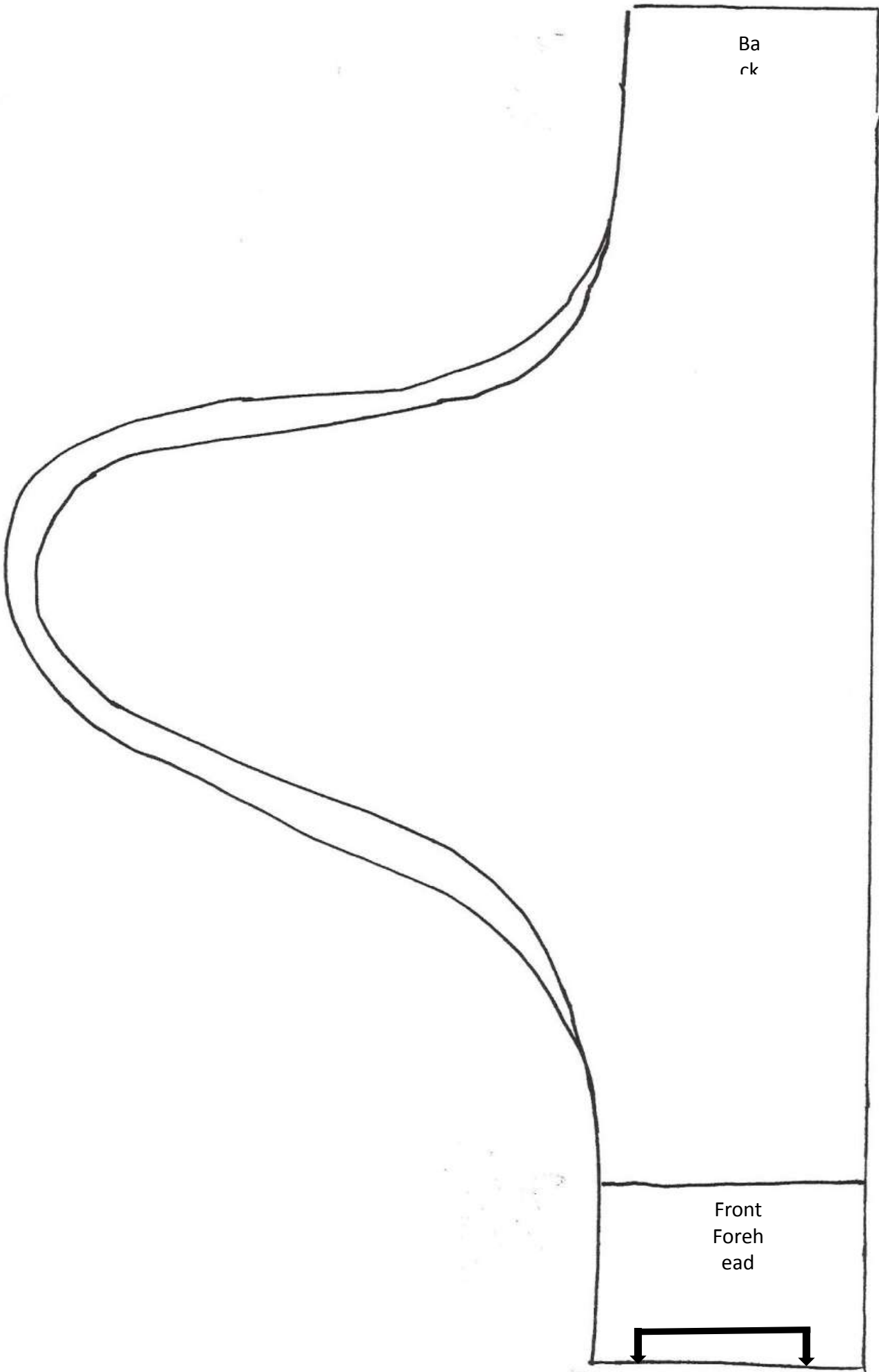
4. Everything else is about the fun embellishing. Cut long strips of knit fabric about an inch wide and sew them on as edging. Do *not* make this fancy bias tape. Merely fold the fabric over the edge and sew it with a contrasting color of thread. If it's not looking perfect - don't sweat it. You can always trim the edging up once you've sewn it on to make it look nice and even. Just make sure you're sewing through the edging on top and underneath as you get going.



Lastly, get out your embroidery floss and have some fun. This part is super easy and makes a world of difference. Do some messy stitches over one of the seams or stitch a star on. Here is another idea... cut out two chevron shapes and used a fusible adhesive (like heat 'n bond or wonder under) to attach them to the hat. Outline them with floss. Stitch a little bit by the button strip as well, to keep it together.



Credit: [iammommahearmeroar.net](http://iammommahearmeroar.net)



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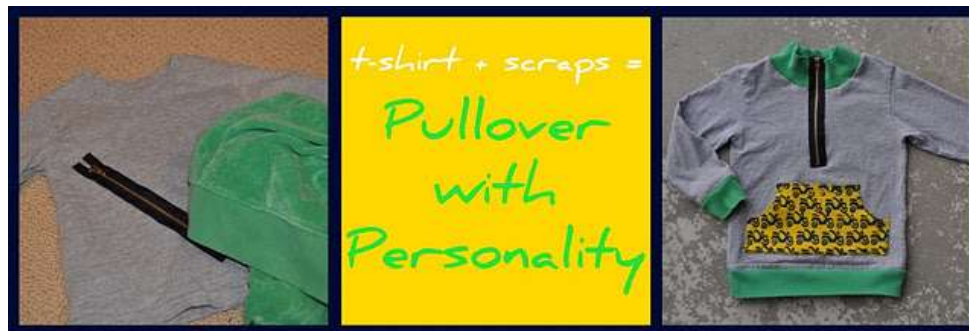


# T-Shirt to Jacket

The basic idea is to take a t-shirt and turn it into a jacket or pullover.



Here's another version. You can mix and match the ideas to create one that suits your little guy's needs.



Showing you the options kind of makes this like a book that has different ending options. Just pick and choose what you like.

I used a plain t-shirt, an exposed zipper, knit ribbing, and I gathered some scraps that coordinated.

1. First sew on some strips across the chest of the shirt. (I didn't fold under the strips.) If sewing with knits makes you nervous you can use heat 'n bond to help you out. (Warning: If you're going to use it and you're sewing on strips that have a graphic like mine be sure not to put an iron right on it. It could melt it. So, just lay a thin fabric over the top of it when you iron it on.)



Make the piece extra long and then trim is afterwards. Then if things shift a bit during sewing you won't be short on fabric.



2. After the strips are sewn we can add the ribbing. You don't need much- about 1/4 of a yard. Cut strips about 5 inches wide, so they will be about 2.5 inches when folded and sewn on. The width of the ribbing depends on your zipper length. You'll want to lay out your zipper and see how much ribbing you need to make the zipper fit the length of the jacket.

3. Sew a loop of fabric about an inch more narrow than the width of the t-shirt. See how it's not as wide as the shirt? See also how the zipper is laid out to figure out the length of the ribbing? (Remember you'll lose a 1/4 of an inch on the length of both when you sew them together.) You want the ribbing to be more snug just like it is on a sweatshirt.



4. When sewing on the ribbing just place the ribbing where it goes (like in the picture above) and fold it up onto the shirt so

that it's around the entire shirt. Since the ribbing is a smaller circle you'll stretch it gently as you sew. You'll do the exact same thing for the sleeves. They are a little trickier, since they are so small, but it's not too hard. If you have a serger you can serge the edges. If you don't it's okay. I don't either. The knit isn't going to fray so don't sweat it. Now you'll have this.



5. Now let's make the hood. Use an existing hood from some other hoodie to trace. Lay it on the edge of t-shirt (as shown) to use the existing hems.



6. Lay the right sides together and sew the hood, leaving the bottom open where it will be sewn to the shirt. Now we'll sew it onto the shirt. Cut out the neckline. Cut right where the collar and the shirt join. (I cut a little extra off there.) When sewing on the hood find the middle of the back of the shirt and place the middle of the hood there. That way it will be centered.



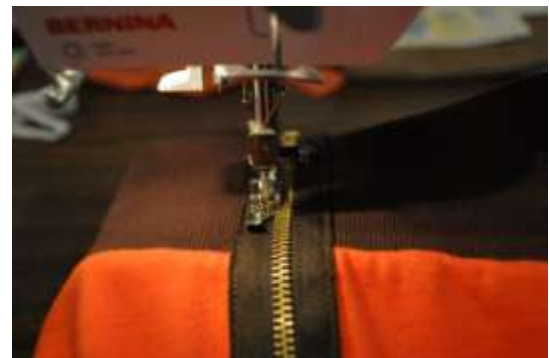
7. Now you'll notice the seams are quite visible and when wearing a hood, you see them a bit. Cover them by taking some knit strips, folding then over the seams, and sewing it all the way around.



It will also help in case there's a gap between the hood and the zipper. (I'm sorry I didn't take a great picture of this, but I'm talking about the green knit fabric you see around the neckline.) It cleans up the look of the jacket.



8. Lastly, we'll sew on the zipper. Exposed zippers are so popular right now. Sewing this baby on is pretty easy. Pin it in place and sew 4 lines down it. First sew the outer edge of the zipper and then the other outer edge. Then if you have a zipper foot on your machine you can use it to sew a line close to the zipper on both sides. If you don't have a zipper foot just do your best to get in close. Fold over the top of the zipper when you get to the top. (Tip: If your zipper is not long enough just fold up the ribbing again and sew it above your last seam, shortening the overall length of the jacket.)



Once the zipper is sewn on you can unzip it, cut down the shirt, and trim the edges of the shirt underneath so they don't get stuck in the zipper.