NEW LIFE FOR OLD SWEATERS - CARDIGAN VERSION

Directions: Read entire page of instructions before cutting.

1. Cut the pieces of the adult sweater apart: front(s), back, sleeves, and ribbing. Cut ribbing off the bottom, single layer at a time. Lay sweater pieces flat on table, buttoning the front of the sweater together, if needed.

2. Use a pattern (could be sweater, shirt, blouse, or vest pattern) in the child's size as a guide for cutting. Plan for 1/4-inch seam allowances.

3. Lay front pieces of pattern on sweater fronts with neck edges together (fig 1). (It usually isn't necessary to change the size of the neck of the sweater.) When cutting bottom of new sweater, try to cut between buttonholes so it won't be necessary to make new buttonholes. Cut along pattern lines, leaving 1/4-inch seam allowance.

4. Lay back piece of pattern on sweater back. Follow the guidelines in the previous step.

5. Lay sleeve pattern on adult sleeve of sweater, placing bottom of sleeve pattern at the bottom of the sweater sleeve. DO NOT cut sweater sleeve with a curved top as in regular sleeve pattern because it will cause unwanted bulk and puckers. Cut the sleeve top in a diagonal line as indicated by fig. 2 above. Don't change the contour of underarm seams. Cut the excess sleeve fabric from underside seam rather than the topside seam. (The underside is generally the most worn.)

6. Place the ribbing along the bottom of the small sweater to see if it is too long or too wide and adjust as needed. Cut off the ends so it is the same size of the sweater, and cut narrower if needed.

7. For the seams, use a straight stitch first, then Serge or overcast with a zigzag stitch. Sew all seams 1/4 inch wide.

8. Sew shoulder seams first.


10. Sew underarm (sleeves) and side seams.

11. Sew ribbing around the bottom of the sweater.

12. Press with steam and presscloth.

Note: For a vest, use a lined pattern and plan to line it. It will stabilize the knit and finish off edges, too. Try using the sweater for just the front and lining fabric for the back.