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#### Letter from the Editors

Hi Sewists,

Spring is in the air...finally. After months of covering yourself up with layers and layers of winter clothes, the weather is finally warming up. Birds are chirping; bees are buzzing; flowers are blooming. It's time to put away that bulky winter jacket and those thermal underpants. With this delightful eBook, you'll find some amazing sewing patterns that are perfect for spring. From lightweight tops to flirty dresses, Free Sewing Patterns for Spring Fashion: 8 DIY Sewing Projects, will help you make the leap from winter to spring and look flawless doing it.

Get stylish this summer by making your own spring fashion. With these simple DIY sewing projects, you will be able to get out and enjoy the good weather all while looking great doing it. Download this amazing eBook today and get to work on great new clothes for the spring season.

Happy Sewing!

You can find additional beginner sewing projects and more at www.AllFreeSewing.com.

Our eBooks, like all our sewing projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our sewing community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our <u>free e-mail newsletter</u>.

Happy Sewing,

The Editors of All Free Sewing

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# **DIY Spring Separates**

# **Little Summer Top**

# By: Misty for Makin' It ImMACKulate

Here comes the sun! Don't let your family get caught without the proper attire once the warmer weather hits. Make this Little Summer Top. It's great for little girls. You can easily use a T-shirt to make the pattern that will fit perfectly.



### **Directions:**

1. To make the pattern, trace a t-shirt:



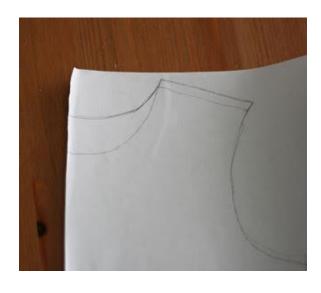
2. I drew down the side, neck and shoulders. Then I folded the sleeve in for the armhole:



3. I straightened out the side, drew the length I wanted, added seam allowance just to the shoulder and side seams, and was left with this:



4. I also drew the lower neckline for the front (about 1" lower at center):

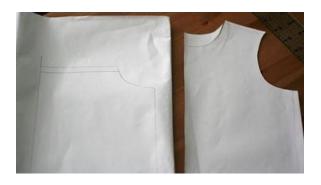




5. I wanted a back yoke, so I traced the pattern until about 3" from the shoulder. I drew a line straight across and then added seam allowance:



6. Then I traced the rest of the pattern piece and added seam allowance to the top:



7. Pattern pieces done:



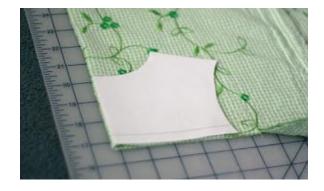
8. Time to cut everything out! I wanted 4 pleats in the back, so I cut the bottom back piece 1" from the fold:



9. Same for the front, 1" from fold for pleats:



10. Next, I cut the back yoke on the fold and also cut some 1 3/4" strips for bias tape (not shown):



11. I also cut a 2" by 19" piece for the ruffle and a 3/4" by 14" piece for the button tabs:



12. Time to mark pleats! For the back, first I marked the center. Then to the right from center, 1/4", 3/4", 1 1/4", and 1 3/4". Then repeated to the left. For the front, I marked center, then 1", 1 1/2", 2", and 2 1/2" on both sides of center. Looks kind of like that:



13. Then I matched the second mark to the third, and the fourth to the fifth on both sides of center. I sewed the pleats down about 4 1/2" in the front and about 1 1/2" in the back:



14. I cut 4 1/2" down the center for the opening:



15. Next, I sewed the back piece to the back yoke, finishing the seam and topstitching it:



16. and also sewed the shoulder seams:



17. Using the bias tape I made from the strips I cut, I finished the armholes:



18. and sewed the side seams:



19. I ironed the piece for the ruffle in half, the long way:



20. and ironed the strip for the button tabs with the long edges meeting in the middle:



and then in half, to make a skinny strip:



21. Topstitched this close to the open edge and cut it into 4- 3" pieces:



22. Next, I ran a gathering stitch for the ruffle, and pinned it around the front opening. I basted it down and then placed my button tabs evenly, 1/2" from the top and then every 1 1/4" after that:



23. After I sewed the ruffle and button tabs on, I sewed the bias tape around the front opening too:



26. Finally, I hemmed the bottom and added some 3/8" buttons! Shirt finished:



24. and then around the neck:



25. I folded the button tabs over and sewed them down:



# **15 Minute DIY Party Shirt**

### By: Faith from Design Fixation

If you are looking for a quick, easy-to-make shirt for your next party, give the 15 Minute DIY Party Shirt a try. This project requires a sewing machine and is super easy for beginners since you only need to sew four seams. Best of all, this shirt can be completed within 15 minutes, less than that if you are a more experienced sewist. This project shows you how to take a long strip of fabric and, using a properly fitting shirt as a guide, transform it into a funky partyread shirt in no time.



#### **Materials:**

- A yard of stretch fabric
- A shirt that fits you well to use as a guide
- A pair of scissors
- Matching thread
- A sewing machine (or you could just use a needle and thread)

#### **Directions:**

1. Fold your fabric in half so that you're cutting through 2 layers, and cut along the shape of your existing shirt... but add 3 inches on either side.



2. With right sides in, sew 2 seams along the top left and right sides to form the shoulders of the shirt (see the image above). Next, cut your neckline. You can make it deeper if you'd like a lower neckline, or cut it like I have above for more of a boat neck style.





3. Then turn the garment right side out and sew seams along the sides, 2 inches from the edges of the fabric. Stop 6 inches from the shoulder seams... these gaps are your arm holes. And that's it! Trim the excess threads and try on your new shirt!





#### **Romantic Box Pleated Skirt**

#### By: Sheila from Sew Petite Gal

After you take the time to make the Romantic Box Pleated Skirt, you'll feel utterly enchanted. While its polished look suggests a difficult process, nothing could be easier to understand than this pleated skirt pattern. Practice your pleating, hemming, and zipper installation by following these step-by-step instructions. Tips and tricks from the designer guide you the entire way. It's time for a little self-indulgence. Come warm weather you'll be a fashionable heart-breaker in this DIY skirt.



#### **Materials:**

- ~1 yard of 54-60" wide fabric you'll want something that will hold a little structure like a cotton
- 9" invisible zipper
- Optional interfacing

#### **Directions:**

1. My skirt consists of 2 rectangles: 1 for the waistband and 1 for the skirt itself.

Waistband:

length = waist measurement + 2" width = 3.5"

Your width should be double your desired end result + 0.5". I want mine to be ~1.5"wide and added 0.25" for the first skirt attachment and another 0.25" for the second skirt attachment (this will make more sense later)

#### Skirt:

length = Desired skirt length + 3"
width = I usually default to whatever my
fabric width is (54-60") which is roughly 2x my
waist measurement. The wider your fabric, the
more flare your skirt will have. If your desired

flare exceeds your fabric width, simply use 2

skirt panels.

Example: If your desired length = 20" and desired width = 70", cut 2 panels at 23x35" each



2. Mark the first and last 2" of both the waistband and skirt. I use regular chalk and kind of mark wherever because I sew over it, but it's more practical to mark the underside.

These 2" are reserved for zipper insertion and will not have any pleating (avoids excessive thickness at the zipper).



3. Fold your rectangles in half width-wise and mark the center of each. Similarly, also mark the quarters of each (remember not to take your 1st and last 2" of the skirt panel into account). The halfway mark is your center front and each quarter marks your side.



4. With the right sides of the fabric together, match the quarter markings of each rectangle and pin together.



5. Fold in half width wise again now that your quarters are pinned. My center pleat will be deepest. To do this, I pinned at 3".



6. Spread out the sides of your pinned fabric by aligning your pin to your center marking.



7. Pin each side of the center pleat down:





8. Now fold by aligning your center with one of your quarter markings - this is one of your front pleats immediately next to your center pleat. You should see that your waistband is shorter than your skirt panel.



- 9. Pinch the excess skirt panel fabric, pin, and spread out the pleat side like you did for the center pleat.
- 10. Repeat Step 9 for the other front pleat on the opposite side of the center pleat.
- 11. For the 2 pleats on the back of the skirt, fold by aligning your quarter marking to the 2" marking on either side and repeat step 9 for each.





12. Join your waistband to the skirt panel by sewing straight across removing pins as you come upon them.









- 13. Time to insert that zipper! Click here or here for great tutorials.
- 14. Fold the top of the waistband down and sew right on or right below the initial juncture between the waistband and skirt panel.
- 15. Hem. I used a blind hem.









# **Barely Sewn Bejeweled Sweater Refashion**

#### By: Sheila from Sew Petite Gal

It's amazing that the Barely Sewn Bejeweled Sweater Refashion requires so little sewing. From this easy craft tutorial you can transform a drab top into a focal piece for your wardrobe. By applying various gems, jewels, and baubles to an old top you can create an entirely new look for a fraction of the in-store price. Take a minute to explore these instructions and you'll want to perform refashions across your entire wardrobe. This season add a little bling to your look by following this sweater refashion.



#### **Materials:**

- Existing sweatshirt (raglan sleeves work well if you're going for a similar look)
- Jewels / Gems / Baubles
- Fabric glue
- Optional: fusible interfacing for added stability
- Optional: needle and matching thread

#### **Directions:**

- 1. If your sweatshirt material is thin, consider using the optional interfacing. Simply cut interfacing in the size and shape of your general design. Turn your sweatshirt inside out and iron the interfacing (nubby fusible side towards the sweatshirt) in your design area.
- 2. Lay out gems in your desired configuration. Use the seaming to help orient the gems symmetrically.
- 3. One by one, add a small dab of glue to each gem and glue in place. If you misalign one, simply pull it off and re-glue.
- 4. Allow glue to dry overnight.
- 5. Optionally, reinforce with hand stitching after glue has dried.





# **Spring DIY Dresses**

### 15 Minute Convertible Dress

### By Faith from Design Fixation

Is there anything better than a comfy everyday dress you can wear in tons of different ways? Oh, maybe that it only takes 15 minutes to make. Believe it or not, this adorable free dress pattern and tutorial will show you how to start and complete a convertible dress in under a half hour. Other free dress patterns are not nearly as stylish or quick! Give this fashionable project a try and style it to fit your personality.



#### **Directions**

- 1. Cut two rectangles. Measure or hold fabric up to your body to establish the garment length; it should be about the distance from your armpit to your knees. For the width, measure from the edge of one hip to the other. Add six inches and this is your width. Cut out two rectangles of this size.
- 2. Stitch the hem (optional). I didn't sew a hem on mine because I prefer a raw edge on jersey. If you'd prefer a hem, fold the raw edge of the shorter side of the fabric over and press. Stitch

- along the fold with a tight, even stitch. Do the same for both sides.
- 3. Create a casing for the ribbon. Iron the top of each piece of fabric, pressing the edge over about one inch. Stitch along the folded edge with a tight, even stitch. This creates space for the ribbon to be threaded through. Do this with both rectangles.
- 4. Put the front and back together. Lay the rectangles flat, with the right (outside) sides facing towards each other. Pin the sides together from the bottom hem up to about six inches short of the top. Stitch the two pieces of fabric together on each side.
- 5. Thread the ribbon through the casing. Now, take your ribbon or tie and clip a safety pin onto one end. This will help you thread the tie through the casings. Thread through the casing on the front of the dress, and continue right on to the back side so that you end up with the two ribbons emerging at the gap on one side of the dress.

And you're done!



#### **Colorblock T-Shirt Dress**

### By: Sheila from Sew Petite Gal

Add some pop of color to your wardrobe with this Colorblock T-Shirt Dress. Refashion old t-shirts in to this stylish yet simple dress pattern. This DIY t-shirt dress only takes 45 minutes to make!



#### **Materials:**

- An old t-shirt of yours that fits well (this will be your top block)
- One of hubby's old t-shirts (this will be your bottom block)
- Knit fabric or another knit garment (this will be your middle block)
- Scissors or rotary cutter + mat

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose the colors you'd like in your dress and find the corresponding old tees / knits. I used an old aqua t-shirt of mine, some pink coral knit fabric (I didn't have any similar colored tees I

could sacrifice), and one of hubby's old black t-shirts.



2. Try on your old tee and mark it (I used blue chalk which is conveniently covered by my SPG watermark in the middle - oops) a little under your bust. Cut at this line and the top block is now done!



- 3. Now you're going to move to the bottom block using your hubby's tee. You'll want to make sure to use one that is either solid colored or has a design only at the top portion of the tee. I cut the bottom 13" of his tee off. Bottom block complete!
- 4. Try your top and bottom blocks on and measure how long you'd like your middle block to be. I used 18 inches to accommodate my baby bump and wound up with an 18 x 60" rectangle.



5. Lay all your blocks in order. You'll want to taper your middle block to transition smoothly between your top and bottom blocks. Your top block should be relatively small and your bottom block wider to give your dress an A-line shape. Now sew!



6. Try on your dress and slim the sides if needed.



## **Effortless Caftan Dress**

### By: Elizabeth from Simple Simon & Co.

All it takes is 3 seams to sew this Effortless Caftan Dress! Perfect for spring, this breezy dress transitions well from day to night. This simple dress pattern can also be made in any length.



#### **Materials:**

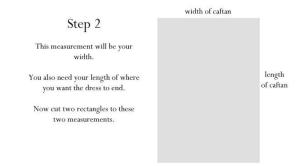
- 2 yards of knit
- Elastic Thread
- Width measurement and a length measurement

#### **Directions**

1. With your arms straight out, measure from just above your elbow to just above your elbow on the other side. Record measurement. (Mine is 22 inches.) This is the width of your caftan



2. You determine where you want the dress to end. This is the length of your dress. Cut two rectangles to these two measurements.



3. Use another shirt to measure the neckline (so it will be big enough to put over your head). Record this measurement.





4. With right sides together, sew the top pieces of your caftan together.



With right sides together, sew the top pieces of your caftan together.

5. Fold your sewn caftan in half width-wise. Take half your neck measurement and mark. (Mine is 4 inches.)



6. Cut out a neck opening similar to this one shown.



7. On the tee shirt, measure down how far you want an arm hole. I used 7 inches.



8. Sew the sides under the armholes marked.



Sew the sides under the armholes marked.

9. Try it on, and figure out where you want the shirring. Mark and shir.







# **Fun and Flirty Wrap Dress**

### By: Deby from So Sew Easy

You'll look like a million bucks in this Fun and Flirty Wrap Dress! In this easy-to-follow wrap dress tutorial, you learn how to make a gorgeous dress that's safe from the kind of wardrobe malfunctions to which wrap dresses are so often prone. Easily customizable, stretchy, and super comfortable, this wrap dress can be worn in any season. Dress warm in winter by pairing it with tall boots and a long sweater, or keep cool in summer with a nice pair of flats. You'll get plenty of wear out of this flattering DIY dress!



**Seam allowances** – 5/8th of an inch throughout unless mentioned. Use stitches appropriate for stretch such as a narrow zigzag or a stretch stitch if your machine has one.

#### **Directions:**

- 1. Print out the free pattern from So Sew Easy.
- 2. Start with the right hand front bodice piece and using a disappearing fabric marker, draw lines from the inward and outward points of the zig-zags at the side seam, following the length

shown on the pattern, making all lines finish evenly.



2. Pleat those lines together, matching the lines carefully and evenly and pin in place. You should make 4 pleats.



3. Sew along the lines marked.



4. Press pleats downwards. Don't worry if they are a bit uneven (like mine), it will look just fine.



5. On the left front bodice piece, mark the pleat on the wrong side, pin and then sew.



6. Press the pleat.



7. With right sides together, match shoulder seams, pin and sew. You may choose to stablise with a stay tape such as Stitch Witchery at the shoulder seam (optional). Press shoulder seams open.



8. Iron on stay tape to the whole front crossover edge on both bodice pieces and along the back neckline.



9. Turn over a 5/8 inch hem along the whole edge and top stitch.





10. Cross over front bodice pieces with the right hand piece on top, showing the 4 pleats. Match up the center front and notches, then pin and baste into place close to the edge, along both of the side seams and the waist seam.



Optional – add a stay tape to the bottom edge of the sleeves.



11. Pin the sleeves to the bodice, matching the sleeve center with the shoulder seam and ease the sleeves to fit the opening. Sew. Trim seam and finish edges (optional.)



12. Pin side seams and sleeve seam. Try on to check fit. Adjust as necessary.





13. Sew side seams and close underside of sleeves all in one seam.

Optional – trim seams and finish edges.



14. With right sides facing, pin skirt side seams. Try on for fit, adjust as necessary and sew side seams.



15. With right sides facing, match bodice with skirt at waist seam. Match center front and center back of bodice with center of skirt pieces and match side seams. Pin in place, then try for fit and adjust if necessary.



16. Sew waist seam with 5/8th inch seam allowance. You may either leave as is and trim and finish the seams, or add an optional elastic waist.

To add elastic waist, make a casing by closing edges of waist seam without trimming, using an overcasting foot and stitch, or by sewing close to the edge. Leave an inch open and thread through a narrow 3/8th inch elastic.



17. Adjust to fit waist comfortably then stitch elastic ends together with a zig-zag stitch and close casing.

Try on and check skirt length. Optional – iron your knit stay tape all along the bottom hemline of the skirt for a crisp wrinkle-free finish.



Turn up skirt hemline and finish. I prefer a twin needle finish, but you can finish with a narrow zig-zag if you like.



18. Turn up hem on sleeves and finish with twin needle or using your preferred method.



19. Cut 6 inch wide length of fabric for tie belt. Test to check what length works best for you. With right sides together, sew close to the edge with a narrow zig-zag stitch along the whole length and to close one end, either square or to a point. Turn tube the right sides out, turn under a small hem on the open end and finish either by hand or with a machine top stitch.



You may also like the belt made from a contrasting fabric or use an existing belt. The dress can also be worn without a belt if you prefer.

And you are finished!







# A Special Thanks to Our Contributors:

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