

## Upcycle T-Shirts: 10 Projects to Make for Kids eBook

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Hi Sewers,

When you're out shopping for your kids it's hard to hand over your hard earned money for items you can make yourself. Our hope is to inspire you to choose the creative and less expensive choice by making your own clothing for your child. With these simple T-shirt repurposing ideas all you need to do is set aside a little time. You probably already have the materials you need! Instead of throwing away Tshirts you have lying around the house, turn them into adorable little garments for your baby or child.

## Happy Sewing!

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Happy Sewing,

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## Recycle Your Husband's Old T-

## Shirts

By: Stephanie Boarman for Ooh Baby!

My husband has what we can only refer to as, a T-shirt collection. From the reasonable to the ridiculous, he has collected and worn it. The quippy phrases boggle the mind "Squirrel, it's what's for dinner", "Looking for groupies" etc. There are so many that I can barely close the dresser drawer. It takes the Jaws of Life just to put the laundry away. Behold...


One shirt at a time, I am slowly reducing the collection to the oldest and most tattered, not fit for recycling. Anyway, if this works on your man, then hopefully this tutorial below will be helpful.

## Materials:

- Really cool old t-shirt
- Thread
- $1 / 4$ " to $1 / 2^{\text {" }}$ elastic
- safety pin
- 1 cute child to wear pants!


We begin with one of Dad's treasured gems: the hookah caterpillar Grateful Dead shirt


This one has 2 great images on it that I want to capture in Rowan's pants. You can fold your Tshirt to incorporate the images like I did here.


Once you have your fold right, take a pair of your kiddos pants, fold them in half and lay the straight side on the fold. This is your pattern. Next you are going to cut around the pants just like you were tracing the outline on a piece of paper. Remember to include a seam allowance
when you cut. About half an inch would be good.


Here we have cut our pieces for our kids' pants.


Notice I was able to capture both of the super cool images! Also notice that when I laid out the pants I used as the pattern, I made sure that the bottom of the pattern pants lined up with the bottom of the T-shirt. That way I already have a finished hem on the bottom of my pants when they are done, and I save myself the extra hemming step.


Now I place my pattern pieces right sides together and pin in place.


The black lines show you where you will be sewing. Don't sew past this point on either side.


Once you sew them up, re-orient the pants by grabbing the top of the sewed portion and pulling open the pants. This part was not intuitive for me; just keep messing with them until they appear. Once they are re-oriented they will look like the pants above.

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Choose whatever size you prefer, or have on hand. This project is about recycling, so I pieced together some scrap pieces of elastic and used the $3 / 4$ inch size.

Put a safety pin in the end of your elastic and thread it through the small opening you left in the waistband.


Once it is threaded all the way through, make sure there are no twists in your elastic and sew the two ends together using a zig-zag stitch.


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Sew the waistband opening closed.


Tada! A super cool pair of grateful dead pants for Rowan, one less T-shirt to stuff into the drawer for Mommy, and one sexy man in a Dad sort of way.


Here they are on Daddy's little deadhead...

## Winter Wonderland Dress

By: Ruffles and Stuff

The winter wonderland dress is an easy, DIY Christmas craft that gives instructions for a simple sewing project for kids. Turn a T-shirt into a Christmas dress for your little girl with this sewing tutorial.


## Materials:

- T-shirt or onesie
- Extra T-shirt or jersey fabric
- Sewing supplies


## Instructions:

1. Start out with a T-shirt or onesie, and add some length by cutting out a section of another T-shirt (or other jersey fabric) in an "A" shape, slightly wider than the bottom of your shirt at the top, and gradually larger toward the bottom.

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2. Then sew up the sides of your " A " piece, and pin (right sides together) to the bottom of your shirt.

3. Cut out lots of small rectangles in the colors of your choice. I chose a teal, light pink and bright red, and my rectangles were about 2"X1", and pin them to your dress in a scarf pattern.
4. Sew rectangle pieces to your dress. (You'll probably have to shift them about a little as you sew, so this part can be a tiny bit tricky.) Snip the edges of the last pieces to make a scarfeylooking fray!

5. Then cut to long strips for your bottom ruffles. You'll want them about twice the length of the bottom of the dress, and one strip about times and a half wider than the other. For example, my dress bottom was 22 ", so I cut a 3 "X44" strip in pink, and 2"X44" in red.
6. Use your longest strait stitch to sew all the way down one side of each strip, and pull the top thread to ruffle until it is the length of the bottom of your dress. Sew the open edges of each ruffled strip together, so that they are circles.

7. Lay the 2 " wide strip on top of the 3 " wide strip, then place them, face down, onto the bottom of your dress and sew on.



## Tutu Shirt for Valentine's Day

By: Julie Caron of www.joyshope.com

Create an adorable Valentine's Day outfit for any little girl (even a baby) with these easy-tofollow sewing instructions. Make and add a festive red tutu to any shirt or onesie.


## Materials:

- $21 / 2$ yards each of two different colors of tulle (There will be enough tulle left over to make two more t's.)
- Child's T-shirt (I love the Cherokee perfect t's from Target.)
- Coordinating thread
- Rotary cutter, ruler and self-healing mat, or scissors and a really steady hand.


## Instructions:

On this Tutu T-shirt I am using red for the top shorter layer and pink underneath.


Cut the top, shorter layer 12 inches wide by 90 inches long. (The 90 inches is why you need 2 1/2 yards.)


Cut the bottom, longer layer 14 inches by 90 inches.


Fold each layer in half, separately. Stack them on top of each other with the raw edges lining up. The folded edges will be staggered on the bottom. Pin the two layers together near the raw edges.


Using a basting stitch (the longest stitch on your machine and the least amount of tension) sew the entire length of the tulle near the raw edges. Do not backstitch on either end and leave lots of thread hanging on each side.

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Pull one of the threads and begin gathering the tulle. It will start to look like a tutu. When it seems about the right width to go around the Tshirt, move on to the next step.


Start pinning the tulle in the middle of the back of the T-shirt. The shorter top layer of tulle should be the one laying on top of the T-shirt.


Continue pinning it as close to the bottom of the shirt, all of the way around.


Overlap it when you return to the middle of the back of the shirt.


Place the shirt under your needle and foot. Return the stitch length and tension to normal. I like to use a medium size zig zag stitch. It makes it easier to catch the layers of tulle, as well as helps the T-shirt stretch. Backstitch at the beginning and end.


This is what mines looks like. Don't worry that it is a little messy. It will be covered by the rest of the skirt.


Here is the underneath of the finished product. You can carefully trim any wayward tulle if it is driving you crazy.


Hooray!!! Look what you made!!! It wasn't so bad was it?


I couldn't leave Janey out right? I made a few changes to make her a little onesie. I cut just one piece of tulle 8 inches by 90 inches. I gathered it a bit more than the bigger girls' shirts. Then I pinned it starting in the back of the onesie.


Continue pinning it all of the way around. Overlapping at the beginning.


Same zig zag stitch, trying my best to keep it straight without the benefit of a T-shirt seam.


## Popsicle Ruffle Top

By: Susan for Living With Punks

Use this simple sewing project for kids to make a popsicle-inspired shirt for your child to wear. Transform a few old T-shirts into a stylish and cute top for a child, or make a bigger one for yourself!


## Materials:

- Plain T-Shirt
- 5 Different color knit fabrics for ruffles (I used thrifted T's and knit yardage)
- Thread that matches color of shirt
- Thread that matches color of top ruffle


## Instructions:

1. Measure your shirt from the front neckline to the bottom hem. Mine was 12 ". I knew I wanted larger ruffles this time and I wanted them to go all the way to the hem. You need approximately $3 / 4$ " of the ruffle hiding behind the one in front of it, so after doing all the adding, I knew I needed my ruffle height to be 3" per color.

2. Arrange the colors however you like.

3. Now, I knew I wanted my ruffle width to be 6 " on the shirt....how did I arrive at that you ask? Well, I just eye-balled how wide I wanted the ruffle to be and measured :) Whatever width you decide on, you need to double it. I wanted mine to be $6^{\prime \prime}$, so I cut my strips at 12 ". So here I have 5 pieces cut at $3 " \times 12$ ".

4. Now take your top piece and run a basting stitch using the same colored thread at the top about 1/8" from the edge. DO NOT BACKSTITCH!

5. Pull the top thread on both sides to create your ruffle

6. Now go and ruffle the other four pieces and then come back.

7. Take the top ruffle and place it right on top of your neckline, overlapping it just a bit. You don't want the neckline to peek through when it is being worn.

8. Stitch down using the top ruffle thread color. Go ahead and stitch right on top of the ruffling stitch.

9. Your next step will be to put the bottom ruffle on. This is to make sure you get your spacing correct. So, attach the bottom ruffle so that the bottom of the ruffle is even with the bottom hem. Sew right on top of the gathering stitch with the shirt colored thread.

10. Next, place the 4th tier above the bottom tier (green for mine) and pin in place. You want it to overlap the bottom tier and cover all the stitching (approx. 1/2-3/4") Sew right on top of the gathering stitch to secure in place.

11. Continue with the third tier, using the same method.

12. And the second tier.... Mine need to have a slight curve in order to match the curve of the top tier. Just eye it and pin in place and stitch down.


## The Warhol Dress Pattern

By: Dana for Made

Dress your baby with an artistic outfit, inspired by the famous Warhol painting. This free sewing pattern will look adorable on your little one.


## Materials:

- One man's T-shirt
- Small amount of knit fabric for the Warhol Banana or Italy cutout
- Small amount of knit from another Tshirt for neck yoke (only if you choose to make a contrasting yoke, as in the Amore Italiano dress)
- Freezer paper and small amount of fabric paint


## Instructions:

1. Okay, print off your pattern pieces, tape them, cut out the pattern, lay it at the bottom of your shirt (with your shirt folded, so that the "FOLD" Is on the fold
of your shirt), trace, and cut! You need to cut an identical FRONT and BACK for your dress.
2. If you have a serger, serge around each arm hole. If you don't have a serger, you can zigzag your arms or just leave them raw. Since we're sewing with knit, the edges won't fray (but a serged edge looks a bit nicer and polished). If you're making this dress with cotton fabric or other fabric that will fray, you definitely need to serge or zigzag the edge.
3. If you don't have a serger, you'll need to extend the armholes $1 / 4$ inch before you cut out, so you can fold and iron that over before continuing to the next step.

4. Once your armholes are serged, iron them over about $1 / 4$ inch, just enough that the serged edge is folded over.


5. Then sew the edge of each armhole down with a Top Stitch. I like mine close to the edge, about $1 / 8$ inch or $1 / 4$ inch from the edge.

6. And now you're ready to gather the neck.....Mark with a straight pin or draw a little marker dot on your fabric where the neck gathering should start and stop. This is indicated with a black dot on the pattern.
7. Gathering is simple to do. Put your machine on the longest stitch (mine is a 5) and put your tension as tight as it can go. You don't need to do these to gather, but it speeds up the process a bit. Start at the dot indicated, about $1 / 4$ from the edge of the fabric. Do not do a back and forth (start and stop stitch) at the beginning. Sew a line all the way down till you get to the other dot
indicated (DO NOT do a back and forth stitch at the end either and leave the threads long when you cut them). Then $1 / 4$ inch over from that first line, sew another line, exactly the same. Yes, you can do gathering with one line, but two lines gives you more stability and in case one of the threads breaks as you're gathering, you've got another to back you up! MAKE SURE YOU DON’T CROSS THE LINES or the gathering won't work.

8. When you've finished sewing both lines, you're ready to gather the fabric. Take two threads (either the two on the top or the two on the bottom but make sure you stick with the same side as you gather) and start pulling and shifting your fabric.

9. Continue pulling strings, pushing fabric over, and do your best to even out the gathered look so that there aren't huge bunches here and there. You want it to look as evenly spread as possible. When you're done, the neck from one shoulder end to the shoulder end should measure: SMALL DRESS: 6 inches ( 15.5 cm ) LARGE DRESS: 8 inches ( 20.5 cm )

10. Okay, let's sew your appliqué to the front. The freezer paper technique and pattern will be shown later in the pattern. But for now we'll show you how to sew it on and finish up the dress. I made my Banana image on a piece of Knit fabric (scraps from another T-shirt).
11. When sewing knits on to another fabric, it's easy for the knit to become stretched or bunch up in spots. A good way to combat this is by using a nonstretch fabric under it. A wonderful item (available in most craft stores) is Wonder Under. It looks similar to white interfacing. You can buy it by the yard, or in packages. Iron it on to your fabric, and then you can iron that entire piece on to your dress before sewing it in place. This is probably the best route to go. BUT....if you're anxious (or lazy?) like me, you improvise with what you have lying around. And so, I put a
simple piece of yellow cotton fabric under my knit banana image and cut a rectangle of both fabrics at the same time. Then I positioned it on the FRONT of my dress, pinned it down and started sewing around the rectangle.

12. Sew the image on to your dress about $1 / 4$ inches from the edge of the yellow fabric. As you're going, don't tug at the fabric. Go slowly, and stop every so often to lift your presser foot and make sure the fabrics are lying flat and not bunching up.

13. For a stylized look, sew another line $1 / 4$ inch over from the first one. And then sew around the outside of the banana image, so there aren't any bubbles in the rectangle. You may prefer to sew around the banana first and then sew around the rectangle (if things feel like they're shifting). Do it once and decide which works best for you for the next time.

14. When you're done, make sure you iron over the top of your painted image to Heat Set the image. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT step when using fabric paints. Read the instructions on your paint bottle for additional info. If you don't do this step, the paint will fade the first time you wash it. I usually place a dishcloth over my image before ironing but this time I did it right on top of the paint and it worked fine.

15. Now, let's sew the sides of your dress together. With rights sides of the FRONT and BACK together, pin down the sides and sew them together. Serge off the edges, do a zigzag stitch, or just leave it raw. If you have a small sidetag, insert it into the side seam now.

16. Now for the final step! Let's make and sew the Yoke of the dress. You can make this out of the same T-shirt fabric of your dress, you can use fabric from another T-shirt (as I did with the Amore Italiano dress), or use any fabric you'd like! Start by cutting two strips of fabric in these dimensions (if you're not using a T-Shirt, you can probably cut this one long strip, just double the dimensions below).
SMALL DRESS: $23 \times 2.25$ inches ( $58 \times 6$ cm)

LARGE DRESS: $26 \times 2.5$ inches ( $66 \times 6.5$ cm)
17. These can definitely be adjusted to whatever size you'd like. The finished yoke on these ends up being about 1 inch wide on the front and 1 inch wide on the back, with an additional $1 / 4$ inch ironed under on each side. The length is longer than your finished tie will be but I like to sew it on first, tie the bow, and then decide how long I want the strings to be.
18. So, cut your strips, sew the strips together at one end so you have one long, continuous strip.

19. Fold your strip in half and iron all the way down. Then open it up and iron each side under, approx $1 / 4$ inch. This is very similar to making bias tape. Normally I would iron under more than $1 / 4$ inch because it's just easier to do (and in these photos I actually did). But you want to keep the fabric layering to a minimum. You don't want the yoke to be too bulky or it will be hard to tie the bow at the end. So just do iron under a small $1 / 4$ inch. When you're done you should have a nice long, ironed strip like this:


20. With the yoke prepared, let's sew it to your dress. Make sure your gathering is in the position you'd like, that's it's evenly spaced. Decide how far apart you'd like the shoulder area to be. If you have an existing shirt you're using as a guide, use that for measurement. If not, these are the measurements I used. This is the distance of the shoulder yoke that goes between the front dress piece and back dress piece (the shoulder that does NOT tie in a bow). For both size Dresses: approx 2.53 inches ( $6.5-7.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ )
21. Then, starting slightly over from the middle of your yoke strip, you're going to sandwich the neck right inside of the yoke. You want to start about 1 1/2 inches over from where you sewed the two long strips together, so that the seam is in the middle of the shoulder. Do the front of the dress first and pin the yoke down, all the way around the neck.

22. Leave your $21 / 2$ to 3 inches of space for the shoulder and then continue sandwiching the back neck area and pinning the yoke down.
23. Before sewing your yoke in place, tie the other shoulder in a bow and see where you'd like it positioned. I did not tie mine directly on top of the shoulder, but over on to the front slightly so that it will lay flatter on a child's body. When you have the bow where you'd like it, trim the ends of each string so they are as long or short as you'd like them. To finish off the ends of each string you can fold the ends inside of the yoke (for a nice finish) or just sew them down (which is what I did). Since this is knit, it's not obvious if your edges are left raw.
24. Then, sewing about $1 / 4$ inch from the edge of the yoke, start at the very end of the yoke (the string end) and sew all the way around to the other end, sewing it right on to your dress.

## Tiered Top from T- Shirts

By: Obsessively Stitching

Use this free girl shirt sewing pattern to make a tiered top from T-shirts. This refashion idea can be done with any old T-shirts you have lying around, a great way to make your own clothes.


## Materials:

- 3 T shirts in various colors
- Matching thread
- Needle
- Sewing Machine


## Instructions:



STEP ONE: Pick and arrange three colors how you like them. Keep in mind that your tiers will be narrower as you go up -- choose shirt sizes accordingly.


STEP TWO: Cut out all your pieces. For the bottom tier, utilize the hem of that T-shirt! I cut my bottom tier 6 1/2" wide.


Also cut two 1 3/4" strips from the same T-shirt as your bottom tier. These will be your binding strips/straps for the bodice of the top.

I cut my second tier (lighter blue) 5" wide (not pictured).


Since you are cutting pieces from T-shirts, your strips will be tubes. Cut one side of each tube so each becomes one long strip.


Cut the bodice from your final T-shirt. I created a pattern by tracing an existing tank top -- front and back are the same. I cut four pieces because my white T-shirt was rather sheer -double layer for both front and back.
(Check out how I utilized the sleeves!)


STEP THREE: Gather the top edge of the bottom tier. This is easier than you think!! I increased my stitch length to 5 , which is the longest it can be, and then increased my upper tension to about 5 1/2. Sew, but do not backstitch -- just in case you want to rearrange your gathers. Magic! Automatic gathers!


STEP FOUR: Change your sewing machine's tension back to its original setting. Using a narrow and long zigzag stitch (this will allow your seams to still have some stretch), attach your bottom tier to your middle tier, right sides together, just beyond your gathering stitch line.

I placed my middle tier right side up and layered the bottom tier right side down on top. (In the photo they look the same color, but the lower layer is the lighter blue!) Having the gathered tier on top makes it a little easier to control your gathers and keep them even.


Looking good already!
(I do this the lazy way, and simply trim tier two to match the bottom tier AFTER they are sewn together. Works great!!)


STEP FIVE: Press your binding/strap strips wrong sides together, lengthwise down the strip. Then fold each edge to the center and press again.

STEP SIX: Bind the top edge of your bodice front and bodice back.
Lay your bodice right side up, and align one raw edge of your binding right side down on top.
Sew with a 3/8" seam allowance. Fold binding around and topstitch in place. (See Steps Eight and nine if this makes no sense to you!)

STEP SEVEN: Layer your bodice front and back right sides together and sew ONE side seam. Gather your second tier and attach it to the bodice, using the same method as Steps Three and Four. Then sew the other side seam for the entire top.


STEP SEVEN: Mark the center of one strip and pin it to the side seam of the arm opening. Pin around arm opening, then sew in place using a 3/8" seam allowance.


STEP EIGHT: Fold binding/strap strips together using your pressed lines (from Step Five) as a guide. Pin.


Sew about 1/8" from folded edges starting at one end of strap and working your way to the other end. Repeat Steps Seven and Eight for opposite arm hole.


Tie the top on your little one! It's done!

Depending on the size of the T-shirts you are using, this will work to make tops or skirts for older girls too!

## VARIATIONS:

Wear as a dress OR as a top
Easier: Make a skirt using the same method
No pattern: Instead of creating a bodice, use elastic thread and shirr the top -- then add straps
with sleeves: Use my peasant top tutorial to create a bodice

## Knot Me Tie Me Skirt

## By: Simply Modern Mom

Make an adorable knot me tie me skirt for your little girl with this free sewing project. It has a gathered skirt and a tie in the front.


## Materials:

- Jersey knit shirt
- Matching thread
- Needle
- $1 / 2$ inch width elastic


## Instructions:

1. Cut the shirt. Use the bottom of the shirt for the bottom of the skirt to save you hemming time. The best way to figure out the size is to grab a skirt of your child's and measure the waist and length. I provided my measurements for a 12 -month size and you can use that to figure out your measurements if that helps.
Waist circumference: 19 inches
Length: 9 inches

2. Cut your various pieces. The skirt bottom piece should be cut from the bottom of the shirt and kept as is. Don't cut the sides. Keep this all one piece. The top piece includes the elastic casing. All measurements include 1/4 inch seam allowance. These were my measurements:
Skirt bottom piece: $34 \times 51 / 2$ inches Skirt top pieces: $9 \times 4$ inches (cut 2 pieces)
Tie pieces: $4 \times 111 / 2$ inch and $4 \times 71 / 2$ inch (cut one of each size)
Elastic: 16 inches
Note: In the picture I didn't cut the top pieces to 9 inch length yet.

3. Take the 2 tie pieces (they are different sizes) fold in half lengthwise and iron it wrong side out. Then sew one short side and the open long side. Cut the
corners at an angle so it will iron flat when you flip right side out.

4. Flip the ties right sides out then iron flat.

5. Pin the ties to the top pieces. Allow room for the elastic casing. I pinned the top of the ties at $13 / 4$ inches down from the top of the piece. Place the
second top piece on top of it and sew the two edges. Since I don't have a serger, I zig-zagged over the seam to keep it all in place.


6. With the bottom of the skirt right side out, do a basting stitch at 1/4 inch from the top. Then gather the skirt to fit the bottom of the skirt top piece.

7. With the skirt top piece right side out, match the bottom edge of the skirt top piece to the gathered edge of the skirt bottom piece. The skirt top piece is on the inside of the skirt bottom piece. Pin it in place. Then sew it in place with a straight line with a $3 / 5$ inch seam. Then zig zag stitch over the seam.

8. Iron the $3 / 4$ inch seam for the elastic casing into the inside of the skirt. Sew it all the way around, but leave a slight opening to put the elastic in the casing.

9. Pull elastic through the casing. Then sew the ends of the elastic together. Pull the elastic back into the casing then sew the hole close.


10. Tie a knot by doing a square knot or in my case I think I did right over left then right over left again. You'll have to play with it to get it just right. Then sew the knot to the skirt through the inside of the skirt so it doesn't get weighed down and droop. And you're done.


## Ballet Ruffle Skirt

By: Simply Modern Mom

Turn a woman's T-shirt into a ballet ruffle skirt for a little girl using this easy sewing project. You can also alter the pattern to make an adult sized skirt!


## Materials:

- Knitted adult size shirt (mine was a woman's large) or use fabric if you are making this for yourself
- Sheer fabric or tulle (mine was from a set of sheer drapes I found at the thrift store)
- Matching thread
- 1-inch wide elastic


## Instructions:

1. Grab a skirt or dress that is the right size for your child. Or you can take measurements from waist to knee and waist circumference.

2. The simple way is to add 3 inches to the length and just fold the top to make a casing for elastic for the waist. Or you can do the difficult way like me and cut just below the waistline. Then cut a separate piece for the waistband that is 4 inches wide. I would suggest going with the first suggestion.

3. Cut your sheer/tulle fabric. You'll need 4 pieces or more if you like the ruffles to be closer together. And the width of the ruffles depends on how wide you want it to be then double it because you'll be folding it in half. Mine were 6 inches wide so they folded to be $23 / 4$ inches because of the seams. The length of the ruffles should be at least twice the circumference of your skirt. Better if it's $21 / 2$ times or 3 times longer for more of a gather.
4. Fold in half. Iron flat (look for ironing instructions on your sheer fabric to make sure it can withstand the heat). Sew the lengthwise open edge. Then use a safety pin to flip the ruffle layer right side out. Iron flat again. Do this to all 4 ruffles.

5. Do a basting stitch down the middle lengthwise of the ruffle that is now right side out. Then gather the ruffles to the size of the skirt circumference. Do this to only the first 3 ruffles. The fourth ruffle is different.

6. Once the ruffles are gathered to the size of the skirt circumference, you can sew the two open edges together. Then do a zig zag stitch over the seam to keep it all in place.

7. Mark the edges of your skirt to where the layers of ruffles will go. I spaced it
out evenly with room at the top for the waistband and at the bottom for the 4th ruffle that goes inside of the skirt at the bottom. If you are going with the casing way as suggested, you should add that extra 3 inches spacing at the top for the casing.

8. Pin the ruffles in place according to your markings. You might want to do this along with step 6 . Pin the ruffles in place then sew the edges together. Then sew the first 3 ruffles in place.


9. The fourth ruffle should be right side out. Do a basting stitch at the top of the ruffle. Then gather and pin to the inside of the bottom of the skirt. And sew in place.


10. (Version 1) If you are going with the casing at the top of the skirt, fold the casing down on the inside. Iron and sew in place in straight line but leave 1/4inch at the end to do a zig zag stitch over at the end. But leave a 2 -inch open to put the elastic through. Once you put the elastic through the casing (use a clothes pin to help you pull it through the casing), sew the ends of the elastic together. I usually secure it with a zig zag stitch too. Pull the elastic all the way through the casing. Then sew the casing close. Finally, zig zag stitch the excess $1 / 4$-inch seam. But pull on the elastic as you do it so it can expand. And you're done. You can skip the rest of the instructions.
11. (Version 2) If you are doing a separate waistband like I did, then do a basting stitch at the top of the skirt. Gather it to about the size of the waist circumference.

12. Take your waistband piece, sew the length, flip right side out, iron.

13. Pull the elastic through and sew the elastic close with one of the ends.

14. Sew the casing for the elastic to hold the elastic in place. There should be
about $1 / 4$ inch left. That's the seam to sew it to the skirt. Then sew the elastic to the other end of the waistband. Then sew both ends together with the seam on the inside.

15. Pin the waistband to the skirt. The band should be on the outside facing downward. Sew in place, but pull on the elastic as you are sewing so it can expand. And done.


## Button Ruffle Scarf

By: Susan for Living With Punks

Make a button ruffle scarf for yourself or a child and finally learn how to use the button hole feature on your machine! Just use some scrap fabric and an old T-shirt to make this free, easy sewing pattern.


## Materials:

- $\quad 1 / 4$ yard knit fabric for the main piece (or use a recycled shirt)
- $\quad 1 / 4$ yard knit fabric for the ruffle
- 2 buttons
- Hand sewing needle


## Instructions:



1. Cut your main piece of fabric as shown above. Make sure you are cutting through both layers of fabric to get two pieces.

2. Cut your ruffle fabric at $1.5^{\prime \prime}$ from fold to selvage. You will have to cut 3-4 pieces to give you approx. 180" of fabric. Sew the strips RST together to make one long piece.

3. Set your tension to the highest setting on your sewing machine.

4. Stitching a $1 / 4$ " seam, start stitching and watch the ruffles create themselves. This really saves a lot of time. It literally took me under a minute to make all these ruffles.


5. Take your ruffled piece and put it RST on top of one of the scarf pieces. You want both RAW EDGES together. Pin generously to prevent shifting. On the corners, just make sure the ruffles are situated to not get sewn up where they shouldn't be.


6. Make sure to turn your sewing machine back to its normal tension setting (knits seem to need to be on a lower than normal setting anyway). Sew with a 1/2" seam allowance.

7. Take the other scarf piece and lay it on top of the piece you just sewed the ruffle to, right sides together. Pin generously. Mark about a 4" spot to turn the scarf once finished. Turn the scarf to the already stitched side to use as a guide and sew in the same stitches. Stitch around the entire scarf except for the 4" marked off to turn.

8. Remove pins and clip all 4 corners. Turn right side out.

9. Find the 4 inches you left open to turn and turn under the excess so it lines up with the rest of the piece. Using your hand sewing needle, begin to close up
buttonhole begins.
 the opening. Just go thru both pieces of fabric, very close to the hem and sew up.

10. On the square side of the scarf, measure for the buttons. Measure in 1.5 inches both from the side and the
 top. Do this on both sides and mark your points. This will be where your

11. Use the mark you made as your ENDPOINT. In other words, the mark will be the edge of the buttonhole. The rest of the buttonhole will go towards the longer part of the scarf. Repeat on the other mark. Open up the buttonholes CAREFULLY using a seam ripper.

12. Measure down the LONGER edge of the scarf. Put the first button at about 17" and the second at about 19.5". BEFORE you do this, measure your child's neck and see if that is going to work. You can always adjust where they are going to fit your needs. Just mark the position with a pencil.


13. Put the first button about 2 inches in from the long side. The second button (the one closest to the angled edge) should be about 2.5 inches from the side.


## T Shirt Headband

## By: Claire for blah to TADA!

Recycle an old t-shirt and turn it into a cute headband for yourself or a child. This sewing tutorial shows you how to turn something old into something new and adorable!


## Materials:

- T-shirt fabric scraps
- Headband
- Sewing tools



## Instructions:

1. I cut a strip of fabric, sewed it together (left the ends open) and eased it onto the headband. It should fit like a glove. I closed the ends with hand stitching.

2. I cut more fabric scraps into petals.

3. Pile on the petals!

4. Bunch them up and sew them together to form a flower.

5. Attach the flower to the headband with a glue gun or needle \& thread and Tada; High fashion without the high price.

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