

Redesign

Sew fabulous clothes from flea market finds and old clothes

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THANKS!

Skirt from a sweater

This is a really fun project! – Not just because you're transforming an item of clothing into something completely different, but because you're also using every single bit of the original sweater to make this skirt. The main section of the sweater becomes the skirt, the top section becomes the waistband and the sleeves become the ruffled hem.



Level: 4 (of 5)

Suitable material:

a sweater in stretch fabric that is a bit too long and large for you.

Equipment:

sewing machine, sewing thread, pins, safety pins, a piece of wide elastic as long as the circumference of your waist. The elastic I used was 3.5cm wide.

Alternative:

If you don't want a ruffled hem on the skirt, skip steps 4–9.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



1. Lay the sweater flat and cut off the sleeves along the seams. Also cut off the top of the sweater so that you're left with a square (picture 1).

2. Put on the square you have cut out as if it was an inside-out skirt, and use pins to mark out where you'll need to take the sweater in to fit your waist (picture 2). Make sure both sides match (picture 3).

3. Sew a straight seam along the line marked by the pins (picture 4), then cut off the superfluous fabric on the outside of the seam. Finish the raw edges using zigzag or overlock stitch (picture 5). Turn the skirt right side out and iron the seams.

4. Cut open the seams on the sleeves and place the fabric flat. Next measure out as large a rectangle as you can get from the sleeve and then divide it in two lengthways (picture 6). Do the same with the other sleeve.

5. Cut out the four resulting rectangles and finish the edges with zigzag/overlock stitch.



6. Place the sections together right side against right side, and sew them together along the short sides so that you end up with a large ring of fabric. Press the seams apart with an iron and fold down 1cm of the lower hem, then sew a straight seam. On the upper hem, sew two parallel lines of basting stitch (picture 7). See instructions on how to ruffle fabric on page xx.

7. Gather the material so that it fits the skirt, then lay the ruffled hem against the skirt, right side against right side, and sew midway between the two lines of basting. Pull out the basting lines when you are finished.



We will now use the remainder of the fabric to make a waistband. If you don't have enough material, use a different fabric with some stretch – from a t-shirt or an old stretch sheet, for example. If you have a lot of small scraps of the sweater left over, sew them together. That's the solution I used for my skirt.

Cut out a rectangle with these dimensions:

Length: circumference of the top of the skirt (which is the size of your waist) + a 2cm seam allowance.

Width: 10 cm (if you are using elastic wider than 3.5 cm, you will need more width).

Finish the raw edges in zigzag / overlock stitch, lay the parts right side against right side and sew them together along the short sides to form a ring of fabric (picture 8). The waistband should now be the same size as the top of the skirt (picture 9)



8. Lay the waistband against the top of the skirt, right side against right side, and sew it into place.

9. Fold the waistband in towards the wrong side of the fabric and secure it with pins. Sew a seam in the fold / seam from the right side of the fabric where you just sewed the waistband to the skirt. That way, the new seam won't be visible from the right side (picture 10). Leave a 3cm gap to insert the elastic.

10. Insert the elastic using a safety pin and sew it together using zigzag stitch. Sew the remaining 3 cm closed by hand.