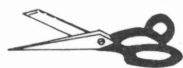


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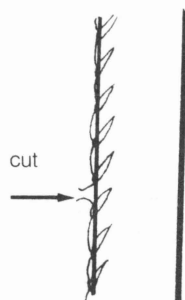
# EASY RECYCLING — FOR FASHION

Becky Culp\*

You can turn an old garment into one that is fashionable and fun to wear. Recycling is easy and will save money for you and your family.

Plan recycling changes to make old clothes more attractive and wearable. Changes should look as if they belong with the garment.

Try some of these fashionable recycling ideas!



Take out old hem.



Measure for new hem.

## HEMLINES

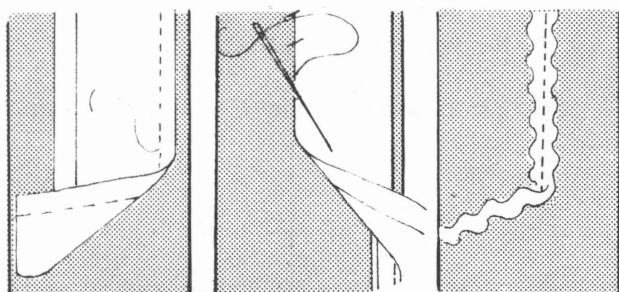
Look at hemlines. Are your hemlines a fashionable and becoming length? Should they be longer or shorter?

To shorten:

1. Take out old hemming stitches.
2. Press hem down from the wrong side.
3. Decide on the new hem length.
4. Trim extra fabric from the hem allowance.
5. Fold and press the hem in place.
6. Stitch the hem.

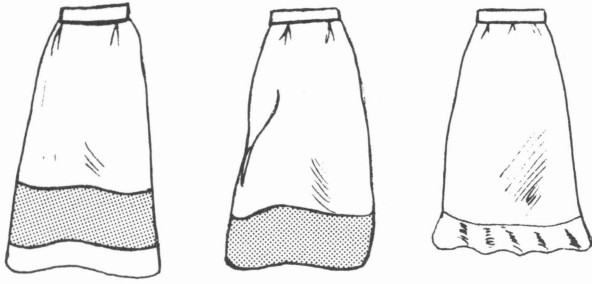
To lengthen by facing a hem:

1. Cut a facing to fit the garment edge.
2. Stitch the facing to the garment, right sides together.
3. Press the facing up to the wrong side of the garment.
4. Stitch.
5. If old hemline shows, cover it with trim.



Stitch facing to garment. Stitch new hem. Cover old hemline.

\*Extension clothing specialist, The Texas A&M University System.



Other lengthening ideas:

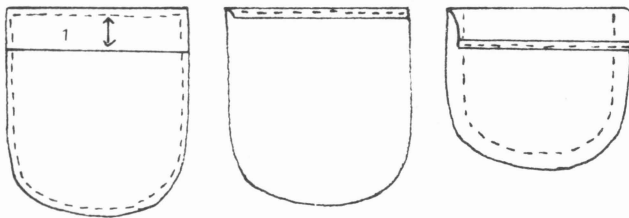
- Add a fabric band above the hemline.
- Add a fabric band at the hemline.
- Add a ruffle.



## POCKETS

Pockets may be many shapes and sizes. Which size and shape do you like and which looks best on your garment?

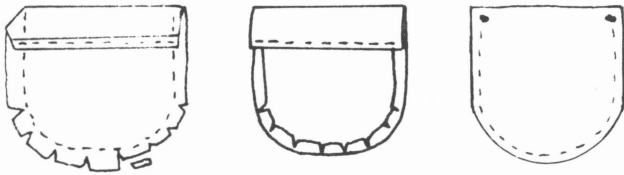
Pockets add trim and a place to carry things. Use fabric scraps or fabric from an old garment to make your pockets.



1

2

3



4

5

6

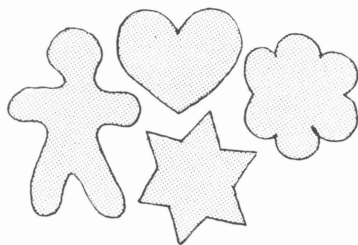
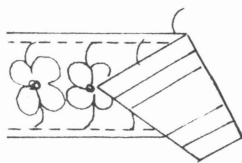
To Add a Pocket:

1. Cut out a pocket of the shape and size you like. Allow for a seam allowance and a 1" top facing.
2. Finish the facing edge of the pocket.
3. Fold facing down with right sides together. Stitch around the pocket on seamline.
4. Trim the seam. Turn the facing so that the right side is out.
5. Press seam allowances and facing to the wrong side of the pocket.
6. Stitch pocket in place on the garment.
7. Press.



## TRIM

Trim can give a garment a new look. Trim can also cover stains and worn areas. Decide where the trim looks best. Choose a color and size that looks good with the rest of the garment.

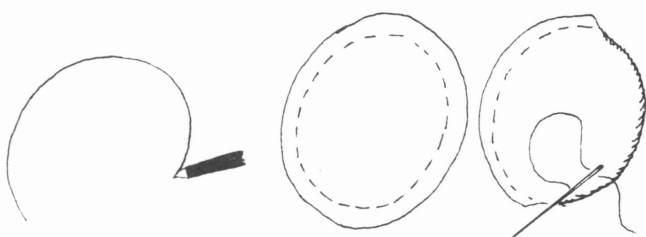


To sew on braid trim:

- Stitch in place by hand, or
- Stitch narrow braid in place down the middle by machine, or
- Stitch wide braid on each side by machine.

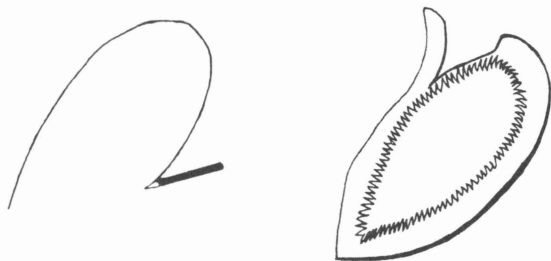
## APPLIQUE

Sew designs of any shape to your garment for trim or to cover stains and worn areas.



For hand or straight-stitch sewing machine:

1. Draw a design on the wrong side of the applique fabric.
2. Machine stitch along outline of applique; trim edges to seam allowance.
3. Pin applique in place; turn under seam allowance; and stitch in place.



For machine zigzag:

1. Draw a design on the right side of the fabric.
2. Trim to 1" of design outline.
3. Zigzag in place with narrow stitches. Trim excess edges of applique.

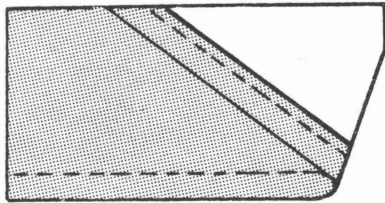
wrong side



## REMOVING SLEEVES AND COLLARS

You can have new-looking clothes to wear by removing sleeves and/or collars. Add accessories that you have.

Look at the inside of your garment. Cut those threads that hold the collar and/or sleeve. Do not cut the garment. Do not pull on the raw edges of the garment.



An easy finish is to turn the edges under and stitch. This works well for knits.



## REPAIR

Keep your clothes in good repair. Check to see that:

- Buttons are sewn in place.
- No seams are unstitched.
- Loose threads are cut.
- Tears and holes are mended.



Wear your new clothes with pride.

Recycled, neat and clean clothes always make you look nice and feel good. Try recycling other clothes you have to be more fashionable!

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