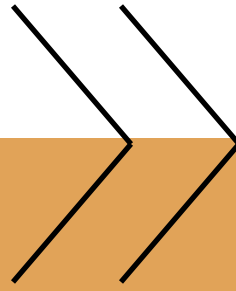# T-shirt Redo
TUTORIAL

Add a coordinating pocket on the front for a fun pop of color on a plain shirt.

Replace the back of a basic t-shirt to create a one of a kind piece that you'll love to wear!

Modern Textiles

T-shirt Redo
TUTORIAL

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A fun print in the back of a t-shirt is a super simple way to update a plain basic!

Supplies:

T-shirt - For best results choose a t-shirt that fits you or is too big.
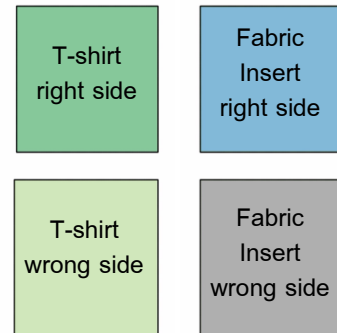
3/4 yard of fabric for adult size T-shirt,

Fat quarter for a kid's shirt (up to a size 8)

Matching thread

Iron, sewing machine, scissors, seam gauge.

Prewash fabric and t-shirt (if new.)

Illustration Guide

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T-shirt right side	Fabric Insert right side
T-shirt wrong side	Fabric Insert wrong side

Step 1: Cut out the back of the t-shirt.

- Turn t-shirt inside out. Lay the shirt out flat with the back facing up. Using a long ruler, measure across the back of the shirt 1/2" below the sleeve seam. Measure down from matching points at each shoulder to make sure the line is straight. Draw a chalk line across the back using the ruler.
- Cut up each side, leaving the manufacturer's seam intact and stopping at the chalk line.
- Cut across the back following the chalk line.

Measure across and down, mark with chalk.

Back panel removed.

Step 2: Creating an inverted box pleat.

- An inverted box pleat is created when two equal folds of fabric are folded toward each other, in this case to meet in the center back of the shirt.
- Start by finding the center of a short end of the fabric. (This will be the top of the shirt back - double check that any pattern in the fabric is running the right direction.) Press a 1" long crease at the center point. Measure out 1" and 2" on either side of the center point and mark with a pin.
- Fold the fabric up so that the 1" mark and the 2" mark meet. Fold this over to the center crease. Repeat on the opposite side. Press, pin and baste your pleat in place. Feel free to adjust the size of your pleat depending on your preferences.
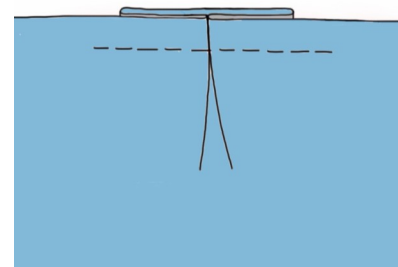
T-shirt Redo, Continued...
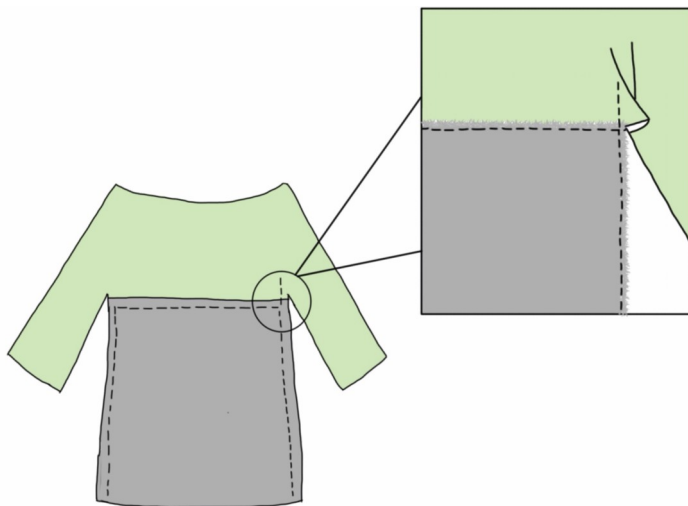
Step 3: Sewing the top seam.

- Turn the shirt right side out. Find the center of the shirt back and pin the fabric to the shirt right sides together starting at the center pleat and work your way out on each side. Be careful not to stretch the t-shirt too much in the process.
- Sew the top seam using a large stitch to prevent stretching. Be careful not to pull your fabric through, just gently guide it. Backstitch at the beginning and end of the seam. Press the finished seam open.
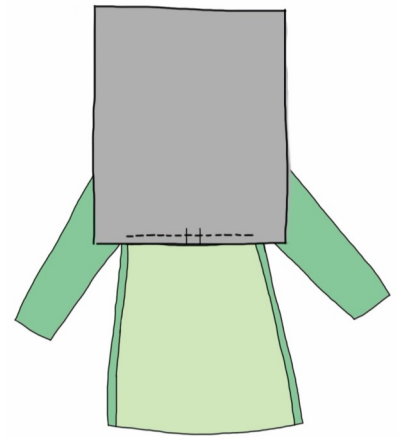
> *You may note that we have not cut the fabric to size at all at this point. It's really best to wait until the top seam has been sewn. The knit fabric of the t-shirt is going to stretch a bit when you sew it. Since each shirt and fabric will be different it's best to keep it all in tact and trim it away in the end.*

Step 4: Sewing up the side seams.

- Lay your shirt out flat again and compare the width of your t-shirt with the fabric. Leaving ample seam allowance trim away the excess fabric. If your fabric is really close to being the right amount I would suggest leaving it and sewing up the side seams first and then trimming any excess.

- Pin side seams, starting at the top of the shirt. Because stretching that may have occurred when sewing the top seam the corner we've created at the top of the shirt may be a little wonky. If you have to create a little tuck, or extend your new seam up the shirt a bit at this point, don't worry about it. This will all be hidden under your arm. Just make sure everything is sewn securely. Sew the side seams using a large stitch to prevent stretching.

Step 5: Finishing the bottom.

- At this point you will want to try the shirt on. If it's too big, go back and sew your side seams again with a larger seam allowance. If the shirt is too small you may want to rip out the side seam and add a gusset (a triangular piece of fabric added in to a seam.) The point of the triangle will be under your arm and will flare out as it goes down. Sew this to the new back and then re-sew the side seam of the t-shirt.

T-shirt Redo, Continued...

- Shirt Tail Hem - Create a shirt tail effect by curving your hem higher at the sides and lower in the center back. Try the shirt on in front of a full length mirror and decide what finished length looks most flattering on you. Mark that spot with a pin. Remove the shirt. Start at the side seam and measure down 5/8". Mark a curve with pins or chalk from the side seam down to the point you previously marked, adding 5/8" to the desired finished length. Fold the shirt in half to cut to make sure both sides are even.

5/8"

Cut fabric 5/8" lower than t-shirt hem.
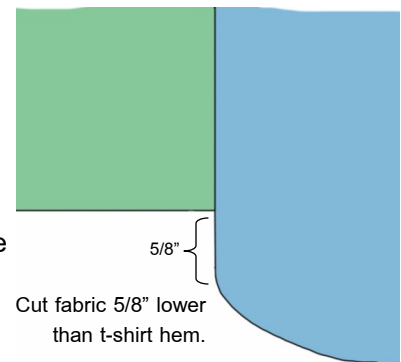
- Press the raw edge up 5/8". Because of the curve you may have to create a few little tucks to make a smooth hem. Unfold and press the raw edge to the crease. Fold up to the original crease, pin and top stitch the hem in place.

Step 6: Front Pocket

- Cut 2 pockets using the pocket pattern below.
- With right sides together, sew around the pocket with a 1/2" seam allowance, leaving a 2" gap at the top of the pocket. Clip the corners and notch the curve. Turn right side out and press, tucking in the raw edges of the opening. Top stitch the top of the pocket to close the opening. Try your shirt on and decide on placement. Pin in place. Top stitch the three sides of the pocket to the shirt using a large stitch and being especially careful not to stretch the shirt as you sew.

Trim up your threads and you're done! Thanks for downloading our tutorial! We would love to see your t-shirts redos. Follow us on Facebook and post them to our page. Please feel free to e-mail us at salutations@moderntextiles.net if you run into any troubles.

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Pocket

Cut 2