

ALTERED

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR ARTWEAR ENTHUSIASTS

Couture

Easy T-Shirt Transformations

Haute Hosiery

STYLISH SOCKS FROM
OUR CHALLENGE

HOW TO **Make Shoes**
SHIMMER!

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ON THE COVER:

Irinale Bugulmina's altered skirt and coat make for an elegant winter pairing. See more of Irinale's work at irinale.com or etsy.com/shop/irinale.

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COATED SOUL

with

Each of us has ideas about our personal style. It's hard to find your style on the racks because it isn't always available, or it may have a very high price attached to it. My creations are an opportunity for me to wear something that is truly mine.

by Irinale Bugulmina

I love handmade clothing because mass-produced items often feel lifeless and without a soul. I see Altered Couture as a fun and earth-friendly way to be creative and wear my own personal style. Making an entire piece of clothing by hand is time-consuming, and often challenging. Why spend your time making shoulder seams

and other complicated details when there is an abundance of fine quality garments in thrift stores that are just yearning to be upcycled? With upcycling, just a little time and creativity gets you a whole new look. My ideas come from reading magazines and books, browsing around museums and small boutiques, and traveling around the world.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- ⚙ Basic sewing supplies
- ⚙ Buttons
- ⚙ **Elastic trim:** ¼ inch, black (35-40 inches)
- ⚙ **Fabric:** (1 - 1½ yards)
- ⚙ Fabric scraps
- ⚙ **Jacket:** with at least 9 inches below the waist at the bottom
- ⚙ Ribbon (optional)
- ⚙ Serger (optional)
- ⚙ **Skirts:** lightweight, soft fabric (1); base skirt (1)
- ⚙ Trims



Irina Ie Bugulmina grew up and learned to sew in Russia where she had a successful sewing company. She currently lives and works in Massachusetts, building a website that will allow artists and designers to sell their creations for a low commission. She can be reached at irinale.com, etsy.com/shop/irinale. e-mail atikurly@yahoo.com.

TECHNIQUE

COAT Use cold water and gentle wash if you don't want your item to shrink. Put the jacket on the hanger to air dry. Try the jacket on. Put a mark 1-2 inches below your waist. Cut off the bottom of the jacket, straight across, at your mark. Use this piece to make pockets. Fold the lower part of the jacket in half. Cut two 8" x 7" pockets. Use the round part of the bottom that is already seam finished. Cut two strips of fabric to 8½" x 3". Fold each piece in half. Stitch together one short side of the strip. Attach the strip to the top of each pocket. Use a zigzag stitch to attach the elastic 1 inch away from the upper edge of the pocket. When sewing the elastic, gently pull on it while keeping it centered.

Make sure the needle is piercing the elastic on each edge as your stitch. Put pockets aside. Remove the shoulder pads (if applicable). Run a stitch along the shoulder seam on the very top of the sleeve. Cut off any extra fabric. Use ribbon or fabric pieces to make button loops. Attach the loops to the jacket inside or outside with a few stay-stitches. Measure the distance between the raw edge of the jacket and the first corner of the collar. Use this measurement to cut two strips from the piece of fabric. Make sure the piece you cut is wide enough to cover the buttonholes on your jacket. Attach

fabric strips to your jacket, starting from the corner of the collar, covering the buttonholes and the raw edges of the button loops. Use fabric from the bottom of the jacket to make leaves. Stitch the leaves on the top of the collar. Make a collage. Be creative - combine laces, silk, wool, velour, trims, ribbons, and buttons. Cover the edges of the collar completely. Use fabric scraps to make a flower.



In this case, the a flower is covering the small pocket on the top of the jacket. Make layers of different fabric. You can add buttons or anything else at the center of your flower. Put the jacket on. Mark the desired length of the sleeves plus 1½ inches. Cut the sleeves straight across using your marks as guides. Make a 1½-inch hem on the bottom of the sleeves, Use zigzag stitching to attach elastic 1-2 inches from lower edge of the sleeve.

SKIRT It is very easy to alter the skirt and make it one of a kind. You can add fabric flowers, trims, ribbons, elastic, and leaves. Cut off the lower part of the lightweight skirt about 5-10 inches wide. Stitch this piece to the lining of the base skirt, pleating as you go, or you can stitch the skirt directly. Attach fabric cut from the lightweight skirt onto the base skirt in a pleasing manner. ⚙

Remember
MOLLY RINGWALD
in

Pretty in Pink?

Who could forget her prom dress creation made from various prom and bridal gowns? She inspired me with her plucky style for years to come.



Molly

by Pat Berryhill

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- ⚙ Accents, buttons, ribbons, beads, lace
- ⚙ Dress: formal
- ⚙ **Fabric:** complimentary fabric scraps
- ⚙ Needle & thread
- ⚙ Sewing Machine

While I don't look so pretty in pink, there are bridesmaid and prom dresses by the thousands out there in thrift store land just waiting to be reborn as a one-of-a-kind creation. Plus, it's good for the environment. I read that the average wedding can produce up to 14½ tons of CO₂, which is more than the 12 tons a person emits in one whole year. So here's my latest contribution to reducing my carbon footprint: the Molly dress, named in honor of my favorite DIY role model.

TECHNIQUE

To begin my Molly dress I started with a stretch satin, rust colored, embroidered, halter bridesmaid dress for \$10. It was in beautiful shape but I just couldn't deal with the stiff satin skirt. I tried it on for size at home. As I swished through my living room, the skirt made loud rusting sounds that scared my poor cat Butch half to death. Needless to say, the skirt had to go. It just so happened that I had a floor length rust covered chiffon dress. So, putting on my Molly Ringwald thinking cap I got down to work.

I cut off the halter part of the satin bridesmaid dress and put it aside. That was the prettiest part of the dress anyway since it was covered in copper metallic embroidery and beaded flowers. I kept the lining and the zipper of the skirt attached to the top of the dress. Then, I cut off the chiffon dress right under the armpits so that I had plenty of fabric to work with. Next I dressed my dressmaker's dummy in the satin halter top. Then I began pinning the chiffon skirt to the bottom of the dummy and made sure it matched the lining. Matching the new chiffon fabric to the pre-existing zipper was not so easy. Next time I'll just take out the zipper and re-stitch it in. For more accents I added cut-outs from a rust-lace fabric and rosetts of leftover chiffon. ⚙

Pat Berryhill made her first "art doll" at age 5 and has been stitching and creating ever since. During the day she's an account executive at a great little ad agency, Hothead Studios. At night, she creates! You can contact her at pat@hotheadstudios.com or visit her website magpiedreams.net.