



In the last issue of *Through the Needle ONLINE* Jennifer Gigas transformed two thrift store sweaters into a cute and stylish tunic. Here are three more upcycled garments featured during her “Stylish Fashion for Cents” appearance on *The Balancing Act*. (This article originally appeared in *Through the Needle ONLINE* Issue 11.)

Cardigan Cut-Up



by JENNIFER GIGAS

Cardigan Cut-Up was featured in a recent episode of “The Balancing Act” on Lifetime TV.



Cropped Button Down



Supplies

- One cardigan sweater
- Wide ribbon
- Ribbon rose or other embellishment
- Assorted buttons
- Construction weight thread
- Ballpoint needle (size 80)
- Painter's tape
- Edgestitching foot (BERNINA Edgestitch Foot #10)
- Button sew-on foot (BERNINA Button Sew-On Foot #18)

Step 1

- Try on the sweater and mark your desired cropped length with painter's tape. Cut along the marked line.
Tip: Avoid cutting directly across the fullest part of the bust.

Step 2

- Pin the wide ribbon in place along the lower edge of the sweater, wrong side of the ribbon to the outside of the sweater, aligning the lower edges. Wrap about 1" of ribbon around the front opening on each side of the sweater.
- Edgestitch along the upper and lower edges of the ribbon to secure it to the sweater and finish the cut edge.

Step 3

- Remove the buttons and replace them with a variety of coordinating buttons.
Tip: If the new buttons are larger than the original ones, stitch new, longer buttonholes over the old ones.
- Stitch a few buttons to the back of the sweater for visual interest. (optional)

Step 4

- Attach a ribbon rose or other embellishment to the sweater.
Tip: Search thrift stores for embellishments to rescue from other garments.

Cardigan Dress

Supplies

- One cardigan sweater
- One V-neck ribbed pullover sweater
- Wide ribbon or belt
- Assorted buttons
- Construction weight thread
- Ballpoint needle (size 80)
- Painter's tape
- Edgestitching foot (BERNINA Edgestitch Foot #10)

Step 1

- Try on the cardigan sweater and use painter's tape to mark a line just below your natural waist. Cut along the marked line.
- Cut across the pullover sweater just below the underarm line, keeping as much of the "tube" intact as possible.
- Remove the V-neck ribbing by cutting next to the stitching line; set aside.



Step 2

- With right sides together, stitch the lower edge of the pullover sweater (the ribbing) to the cut edge of the cardigan sweater. Press the seam allowances toward the cardigan, then topstitch them in place.

Step 3

- Pin the V-neck ribbing to the "dress" hemline, wrong side of the ribbing to the right side of the dress, aligning the center of the V-neck with the center front of the dress. (Or at the center back.)
- Stitch the edge of the ribbing in place with a narrow zigzag. Stitch again ¼" away. Trim away the "skirt" fabric from behind the opening.

Step 4

- Add a wide ribbon sash or a belt at the waistline.



Cardigan Shrug

Supplies

- One cardigan sweater
- One lightweight pullover at least one size larger than the cardigan
- Assorted buttons
- Narrow ribbon
- Construction weight thread
- Ballpoint needle (size 80)
- Painter's tape
- Edgestitching foot (BERNINA Edgestitch Foot #10)
- Button sew-on foot (BERNINA Button Sew-On Foot #18)

Step 1

- Cut across the pullover approximately 2" below the underarm seam. Set aside the lower half of the sweater.

Step 2

- Pull the "shrug" over the buttoned cardigan and pin the lower edge in place.
- Baste the lower edge of the shrug to the cardigan. Pin narrow ribbon over the seam. Edgestitch along the upper and lower edges of the ribbon to secure it to the sweater and cover the raw edge.

Step 3

- Replace the buttons with a variety of coordinating buttons.
- Arrange decorative buttons on the sweater as desired and stitch them in place.