"Accessorize Your Closet" – Designing with zippers for fashion over function

By: Jane Monzures

Zippers have been on trend for many seasons now and you can really add some great embellishments to your old clothes just by adding a few zippers.
You'll need:
Open and locking zippers
Sewing machine
Needle and thread

(IDEA 1 – exposed zipper front – T-Shirt)

To update an old t-shirt, first play around with the placement of the zipper. Try the bottom, off the collar or up the side of the shirt.
To add a lapel zipper. Use a 4" locked zipper, pin it just off your collar and down the side of your shirt towards your under arm.
Pin and Sew it in place.
Cut the fabric underneath the zipper teeth.

(IDEA 2 – exposed zipper back - Sweatshirt)

Adding a zipper to an old sweatshirt can give it a new life, but first, you can give it a distress look simply by bleaching it.
Next, pin a locked zipper up the back of your sweatshirt, make sure the opening of the zipper is at the bottom back of the shirt.
Pin and Sew it in place.
Cut the fabric below the zipper teeth.

(IDEA 3 – Deconstructed zipper for embellishment – Shirt embellish)

Deconstruct a zipper and use it as décor rather than a closure.
To do this, use a separating zipper; unzip it all the way so you have two pieces,
Cut the tops and bottoms off removing the pull.
To stop the edges from fraying use a lighter to melt the edges but be very careful with this – it's just a quick heat and off the flame.

Put the shirt on a mannequin, and pin your zipper teeth on in an interesting pattern.
Using the zipper foot, sew on the zippers.

(IDEA 4 – Deconstructed zippers to make jewelry - Flowers)

Zippers can actually make beautiful floral embellishments.
To do this, unzip a separating zipper all the way so you have two pieces; Cut the tops and bottoms off removing the pull, to stop the edges from fraying burn the edges with a small flame.
Cut the zipper halves into 2-3" strips, you can sew or glue them into loops. Continue to add more and more loops and hands stitch (or glue) together to create a flower.

Add a pin to the back to make a brooch or add them to a chain to make a statement necklace.

It's easy to embellish your closet when you use zippers for function over fashion.

Get in touch with Jane:
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Jane Monzures is a crafter with contagious enthusiasm, with a rip-it-apart and remake it sense of humor, and a bigger is better attitude all on the rocks with a twist and olives!

Jane coined the term "UpCrafting" as her passion to refashion, refurbish, recreate and reuse sweeps the nation. She was repurposing before repurposing was cool. Jane helps you find your creativity, showing you how to improve your life thru UpCrafting, she enjoys sharing savvy DIY trends, back-to-the-basics crafting tips, money-saving Home Ec hacks, and aims to inspire everyone to make something.

"*Crafting, sewing, creating and designing are lifelong passions. I see UpCrafting opportunities everywhere: the thrift store, closets, attics, and storage rooms...anywhere old stuff lurks I'll grab it and give it a new life. My mission is to inspire people who don't typically craft, to make something because there is no better satisfaction than when you do-it- yourself.*"

Jane is a national television and radio personality. She is a lifestyle host on WGN-TV *Living Healthy Chicago* and on WGN- Radio, and is the host of *Creative Living* on Yurview TV. She has been featured as a DIY UpCrafting expert on NBC's TODAY show, Create & Craft TV USA, FOX's Good Day Live, ABC's Windy City Live, WCIU's You & Me This Morning, FOX 17 Morning Mix Grand Rapids, Peachtree TV Atlanta, and ENJOY Magazine.

This is no "Plain Jane"; she is the crafty, modern domestic diva who is clever and inventive in all aspects of her life. See more great UpCrafting ideas from Jane at www.DIYbyJane.com and connect with her on FACEBOOK, TWITTER and INSTAGRAM @JaneMonzures and Subscribe to her YouTube Channel DIYbyJaneMonzures