

“UpCraft Your T-Shirts” - Deconstruct a t-shirt to create an apron

By: Jane Monzures

Are too many t-shirts taking over your dressers and closets? Well it's time to give them a new life and repurpose them into a cook ready apron.

You'll Need:

3 t-shirts with large printed images on the fronts or backs of each shirt

1 yard of jersey knit fabric

2 yards of Twill Tape Apparel Trim

((STEP 1 – CUTTING))

First, deconstruct the t-shirts:

Using a rotary cutter and mat, cut around the armholes, and then use a straightedge to cut across the neckline.

Using regular fabric scissors cut up the center back to the neck.

Lay the shirt out flat and cut across the top back quarters to the bottom of the open armhole (your shirt will have a plateau shape to it now).

Leave the top shirt as is; we'll cut that later using a pattern.

On the bottom two shirts of the apron and on the front side, cut down the sides of the printed image leaving enough space to turn the edges under, and cut across creating an even L shape design.

Once you cut 2 shirts the same you're ready to pin them together.

((STEP 2 – PIN & SEW))

Lay your middle shirt flat and line the 3rd shirt (or the bottom shirt) underneath the printed image on the middle shirt.

Fold the top and the sides in and pin that in place.

Place the bottom two shirts on top of the first shirt be sure to fold the edges under, and pin together.

Now it's time to head to the sewing machine.

Top stitch all the shirts together.

If you want to add pockets leave the top or sides of the 3rd shirt open.

((STEP 3 – PATTERN/PIN TOGETHER/SEW))

Now that you have all 3 shirts sewn together, cut out a piece of backing fabric just something out of cotton or jersey knit; soft and easy to wash.

To create the pattern, use an apron that you like the shape of and draw around it to create the size and shape of a pattern.

A quick DIY tip, use wrapping paper with grid lines.

Cut out your back piece. Using the same pattern, cut your T-shirts into the pattern.

With right sides together add in your drawstrings at the neck and to the sides of the pattern.

Measure where you want the drawstrings to hit at the sides, 13"-14" from the top of the apron works. Be sure the ties are inside of the two pieces of fabric. Pin and sew.



((STEP 4 - SEW))

Stitch all the way around leaving a 3" opening at the bottom; clip your corners.
Through the opening at the bottom, turn your garment right side out.
Pin flat and top stitch all the way around to get a nice edge!

There you have it, UpCrafted t-shirts into a stylish apron and something special to you! And by the way, these make great gifts; instead of using sports t-shirts use shirts from your schools, or states you lived in, or anything meaningful to create a "this is your" life apron.

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