

6 Free Sewing Projects to Make for Going

BACK TO SCHOOL



ALLFREESEWING 

6 Free Sewing Projects to Make for Going Back to School

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Letter from the Editors

Hi Sewists,

Every summer vacation has to end and with the absence of lazy days and ice cream socials, comes the beginning of a new school year. Going back to school means buying the kids new supplies and clothing. Instead of dishing out your cash, we've put together a collection of projects you can make yourself! Send the kids back to school this year with homemade supplies and a creative wardrobe.

Happy Sewing!

You can find more kids sewing patterns, sewing tips, and decorating ideas at www.AllFreeSewing.com.

Our eBooks, like all our sewing projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our sewing community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Sewing,

The Editors of AllFreeSewing

www.AllFreeSewing.com

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Lunch Sack

By: Christie for [A Lemon Squeezy Home](#)

Pack your kids a lunch they'll love kids in a lunch sack they'll love even more. Now you can put TLC in their lunch box too. Use this free, easy sewing pattern to make going back-to-school a little easier.



[Pattern](#)

Supplies:

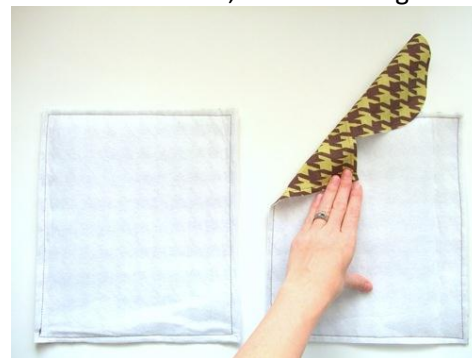
- PUL or vinyl fabric (only if you want the inside wipe-able, otherwise use whatever you'd like to for the lining). Cut **two** pieces: one 10" x 11.5", and another 10" x 11.5" **with the downloaded flap taped onto the center of one of the 10" sides** (see picture above for reference)
- Outer fabric (I used home decor fabric so it was thick fabric--you can definitely use some type of laminated fabric or PUL, or vinyl, etc. but it's pricey so that's why I didn't). Cut **two** pieces: one 10" x 11.5", and another 10" x 11.5" **with the downloaded flap taped onto the center of one of the 10" sides** (see picture above for reference)
- Heavy duty stabilizer, found at any craft stores (it isn't fusible, but you could

certainly get the fusible kind. This stabilizer is some nice, thick stuff, and it isn't very expensive): cut **two** pieces 10" x 11.5"—there are no flaps on the stabilizer. ****If you would like the flap to be thicker like the rest of the bag, cut one 10" x 11.5" with the downloaded flap taped onto the center of one of the 10" sides.****

- 2" piece Velcro
- Bias tape (optional, but it does give it a more finished look)
- 5" webbing, if you want to add a handle (**this tutorial here does not show how to add the handle**) You can check out my newest lunch sack tutorial for the info on how to add a handle [here](#))

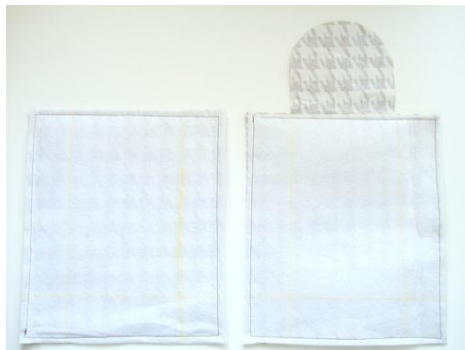


1) Sew the stabilizer pieces onto the wrong side of the outer fabric, with a basting stitch.

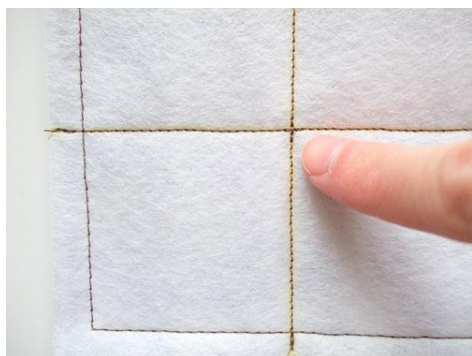


2) Mark 2.25" in from both sides, and the bottom.

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3) Sew along the lines you just marked. Backstitch where the lines cross each other.



4) Now would be a good time to sew the Velcro onto the middle front of the outer fabric without the flap. Sew it down about 3" from the top, or wherever you think it should go. My next few pictures don't have the Velcro sewn on yet—that's because I should have done it here but I didn't ;).



5) Pin the outer fabric pieces right sides together, and sew along the sides and the bottom with a 1/4" seam—leave the top open. Please note that it may look like I sewed the top shut, but that is only the basting stitch from sewing the stabilizer on.



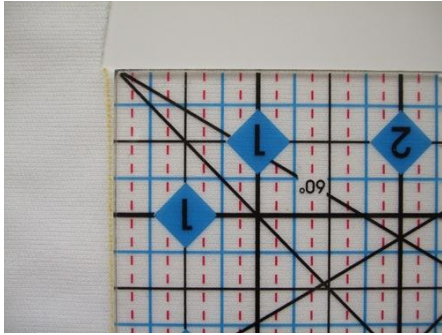
6) Take one of the bottom corners, and squeeze so you create a triangle following the sewn lines, as pictured. Sew along the line that is already marked, and cut off the excess. Repeat with the other bottom corner.



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7) Repeat all the above steps with your inner fabric, minus the basting of the stabilizer. Also, sew the other piece of Velcro onto the inner right side of the flap, where it will match up with the other piece of Velcro.



8) Once you are done sewing the inner fabric, you can either insert the outer bag into the inner portion, right sides together, and sew around the top, leaving a gap to turn and then topstitch around the whole thing. That would be easy, but I like the way the bias tape looked, so that's what I did.

So, if using bias tape, insert the inner portion into the outer portion, wrong sides together—so the outer bag is right side out at this point.

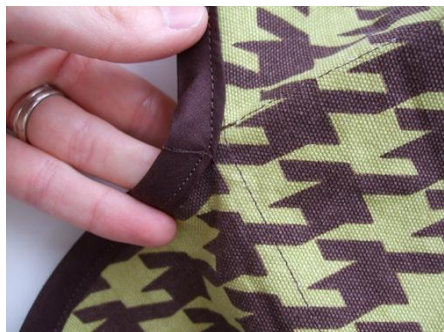


9) Sandwich the bias tape so that the narrower side is on the right side of the fabric. Sew the bias tape on the narrow edge, so that the other side of the bias tape is also sewn.

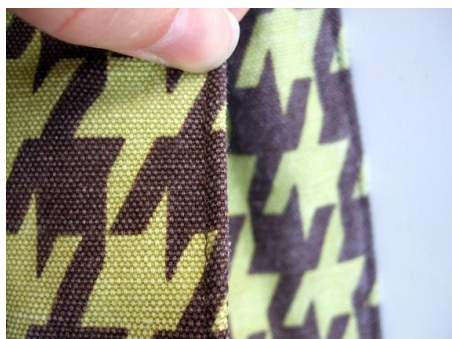


10) Treat the corners like a straight line. Since the flap is curved, it might curl just slightly. It irons out quite nicely though.

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11) I pulled the lining away so I didn't sew through that. See the 3 pins? I sewed one continuous line along the 3 sides that are pinned, just turning and adjusting at the corners. You are pretty much just topstitching the outside.



12) Repeat on the other side of the bag, then along the two short edges of the bottom.



13) Add this extra step to make your bag hold its shape better and you are done!



Drawstring T-Shirt Bag

By: [Notes From a Very Red Kitchen](#)

The Drawstring T-shirt Bag is a simple sewing project you can easily make to hold everyday school belongings. Transform an old t-shirt into a new bag the kids can use for school.



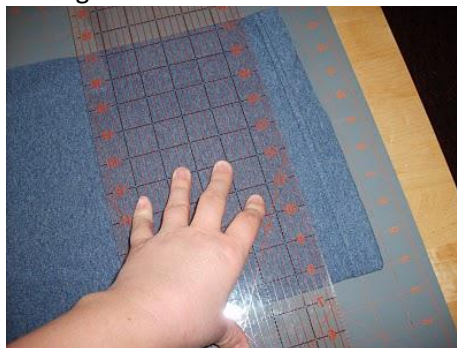
Supplies:

- T-Shirt
- Scissors
- Skinny Twill Tape
- Sewing Machine
- Cutting Board

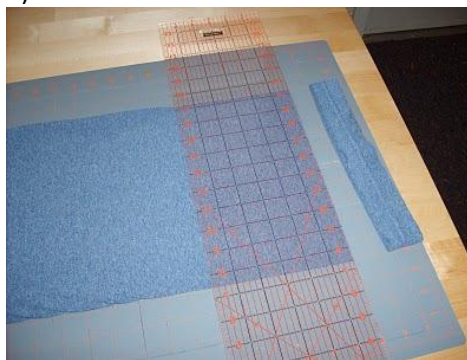
1) Fold t-shirt in half lengthwise.



2) Line the folded edge up with a line on your cutting mat.



3) Cut off the bottom of the shirt.

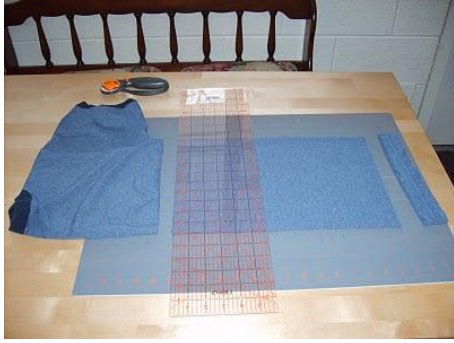


You could leave the bottom of the shirt attached and just use it for one of your edges if you want to. I chose to cut the bottom off of the shirt I was using because the shirt had been well worn and the bottom edges didn't line up very well anymore.



4) Cut off the top of your shirt.

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5) Unfold the remaining middle portion of the shirt. Your shirt should now just be basically a tube of fabric.



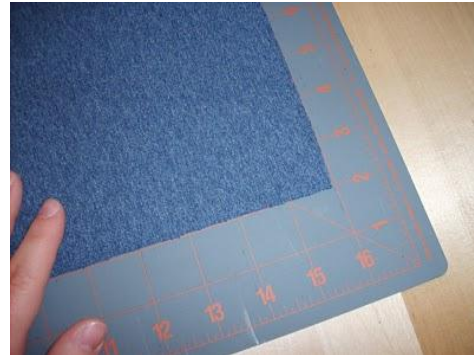
6) Cut along one of the side edges of the tube. Open tube. You will now just have one long strip of t-shirt fabric. Turn it over so the wrong side is facing up.



7) Decide what you will use for your drawstring so you will know how big to make the tunnel that it will run through. I used some left over skinny twill tape I had lying around.



8) With the wrong side facing up, line up one short edge with the ruler on your cutting mat.



9) Fold the edge up. The amount that you fold up your edge will depend on how wide your drawstring is. My drawstring was about 1/4" wide, so I folded my edge up one inch in order to give myself plenty of room for the drawstring to run through.



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10) Pin in place.



11) Repeat on the other corner.



12) Pin across the middle. Repeat on opposite short end.



13) Change the stitch on your sewing machine to a zigzag stitch.



14) Sew edges, making sure to back stitch a couple of times as you start and finish your seam. This will reinforce the places where your drawstring comes out, making your bag more durable.

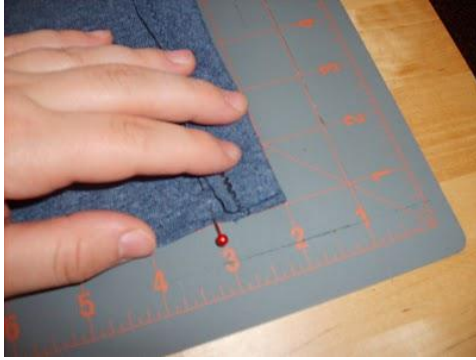


15) Change the stitch on your sewing machine back to a straight stitch.



16) With right sides together, line up the top edges and side edges of your bag. Line up your edges with your cutting mat ruler. Using a pin, mark just below your drawstring tunnels. I pinned mine an inch below the top of my bag.

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17) Pin the rest of the edge. Repeat on opposite side edge.



18) Starting at your marking pin, sew side edges together. Be sure to back stitch at the beginning and ends for reinforcement. **DO NOT SEW THROUGH YOUR DRAWSTRING TUNNELS.**



19) This is what your bag should now look like.



20) Turn your bag right side out.

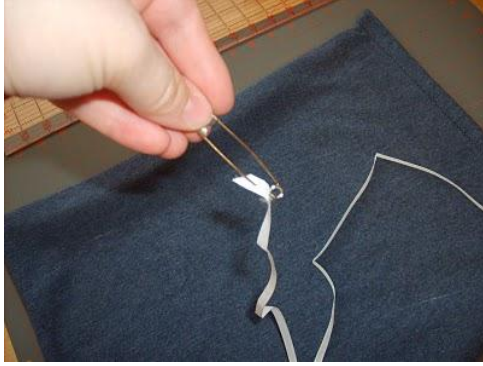


21) Measure and cut a length of drawstring. It should be a little longer than twice the width of your bag.



22) Pin one end of your drawstring to a safety pin. This will be easier with a bigger safety pin.

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23) Feed your safety pin through your drawstring tunnel.



24) When you come to the end of one side, feed your safety pin through the drawstring tunnel on the other side of your bag and keep on going.



25) Once your drawstring is through both sides, take off your safety pin.

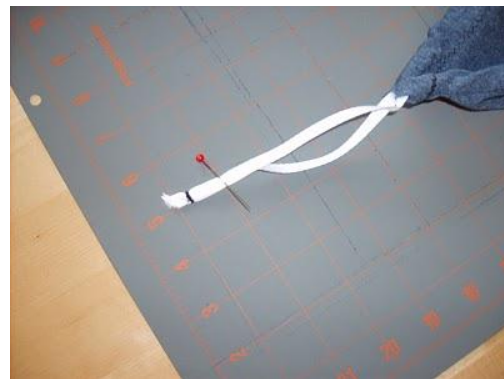


26) Pin drawstring ends together.



27) Sew back and forth across drawstrings.

This step isn't really necessary, but since this bag is going to be used by a child I'd rather not have the drawstring pulled out and have to re-thread over and over again for the rest of my life.



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28) Tie a knot close to your stitching. This will put the bulk of the strain on the knot instead of your stitching and will help your bag last a long time.



30) Go rummage through your scrap bin and find something fun. Pin it on. (Be sure you just pin it through the top layer of your bag so you don't accidentally sew your bag together. Or you could be really on the ball and complete this step before you sew your bag together.



29) Ta-da! You're done!



31) Sew your fun little scrap on.



Scrunch up your drawstring and go!
Wait. Not yet. It needs a little something more.



Toddler Summer Ruffle Dress

By: Fawnda and Jeanine for [Fireflies and Jellybeans](#)

Send your little girl back to school in a super-cute and comfy dress. The Toddler Summer Ruffle Dress is a quick and easy option.



Supplies:

- Tank Top (or a T-shirt will work too!)
- 2 Strips of fabric



1) Cut your strips.

Here are some suggested dimensions (in inches):

12M - 3 X 36 and 6 X 36

18M- 4 X 36 and 7X 36

24M & 2T- 5 X 36 and 8 X 36

3T & 4T- 6 X 36 and 9 X 36



2) Serge the bottom edge to finish it off... totally optional... you can hem it (add an inch to the length) or you can leave it raw to fray (shown below!)



3) But your pieces together with the right side facing up on both of them. And sew together to create a ruffle.

Here is a trick that works to ruffle in my machine: Set your tension to the highest setting. Hold the thread while sewing.



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Ruffles come automatically!



Leave the threads long so you can adjust your ruffle.



4) Line up your ruffles around the bottom of the tank top and cut off the extras.



5) With right sides together sew on the edge to create a circle.



6) Pin right sides together to the bottom of your tank top.



7) Sew around the tank top using a zigzag stitch (so it will stretch with it)



All done!



The Jackie O Dress

By: Jessica for [Me Sew Crazy](#)

Some kids sewing patterns are so elegant and chic! Make the Jackie O Dress from for your mini fashionista in no time at all.



Supplies:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yd. (maybe less) Fabric
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yd. (maybe less) Lining
- Interfacing
- Grosgrain Ribbon
- [Pattern](#)

Cutting:

Cut out pattern pieces for appropriate size.

For bottom of skirt cut the following:

Size 2-

- Cut (1) 8L" x 20W" rectangle of exterior fabric & lining
- Cut (2) 8L" x 10W" rectangle of exterior fabric & lining

Size 3-

- Cut (1) 10L" x 20W" rectangle of exterior fabric & lining
- Cut (2) 10L" x 10W" rectangles of exterior fabric & lining

Size 4-

- Cut (1) 12L" x 20W" rectangle of exterior fabric & lining
- Cut (2) 12L" x 10W" rectangles of exterior fabric & lining

Size 5-

- Cut (1) 13L" x 20W" rectangle of exterior fabric & lining
- Cut (2) 13L" x 10W" rectangles of exterior fabric & lining

We are going to cut 2 separate pieces of interfacing.

- One piece of 1" x the length of your skirt
- Another piece of 1" x the length of the back of your bodice. See Photo:



Interfacing:

On the wrong side of the fabric, we are going to iron on the interfacing $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge of one of the back skirt lining lengthwise & on one of the back bodice lining.

Sewing:

1) With right sides together, Sew the front of the bodice to the back of the bodice at side seams and shoulder seams - DO NOT sew the back of the bodice together. Press open seams. Repeat for lining. See Photo:



2) With right sides together, Sew front of skirt to back of skirt at side seams. DO NOT sew the back of the skirt together. Press Open Seams. Repeat for lining. Be sure the interfacing is on the outside seam (not being sewn to the front), AS WELL AS, on the same side as the interfacing on the bodice. (I forgot to do this on mine - argh - woops!) See Photo:



3) Picking up the skirt piece again. Mark the center of the front of the skirt. Lay the bodice down so that the side seams are clear for measurement, and lay the skirt down below it so that the center of the front of the skirt sits under the center of the bodice. We are now going to pleat the bottom of the skirt.

4) Taking the skirt approximately 3" from the

left of the center, fold in towards the center. Repeat for other side. This is a box pleat. Pin in place. See Photo:



5) Now, moving the skirt seam so that it is matching with the bodice side seam above, pleat the skirt towards the left seam and right seam accordingly on each side of the skirt, this is a knife pleat. Pin in place. See Photo:



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6) Now onto the back of the skirt. We will be repeating the center box pleat for the back of each side of the skirt. Being sure the side seam and back of bodice matches with the skirt seams. Repeat for other side, and pin in place. See Photo.



7) Repeat entire pleating instructions for the lining of the skirt.

8) Baste stitch along top edge of skirt & lining, securing pleats in place.

9) With right sides together, match raw edges and side seams of bodice and top skirt bottom. Pin in place and sew. Repeat for lining. See Photo:



10) You should have this when done:



11) Now, with right sides together, place the dresses together, matching all raw edges. Pin around sides, leaving a 5" opening at the bottom. Sew together. (Do NOT sew armholes together because that will be done later).

12) Turn dress right side out through opening, and slip stitch opening closed. Press dress, and edge stitch around entire dress. (Again, not including the armholes.

13) You should now have this:



14) Now we're going to turn and press the raw edges of the armholes $\frac{1}{4}$ " towards the wrong side of fabric for the exterior, this will enclose the raw edge of the lining armhole. Turn once again another $\frac{1}{4}$ " and pin. (It helps to sometimes roll the fabric and pin as you are going. Pin and Sew. See Photo:

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17) Sew buttonholes along back seam with interfacing. Evenly spaced, approximately 2 - 3" apart. And then sew on buttons accordingly.

15) Measure the length of your grosgrain ribbon around the middle dress seam, adding 1" and center on the front of the dress. Pin in place on top and bottom. Sew ribbon around entire dress, stopping at back bodice sides, and wrapping the ribbon ½" onto the inside of the dress. Sew in place. Be sure to fray check ends of ribbon. See Photo:



16) Make bowtie ribbon and place in desired location on front. Sew in place. For a stronger ribbon that doesn't flop around, I put a piece of interfacing in between 2 pieces of ribbon and sewed closed.

Umbrella Recovery Project

By: Jessica for [Me Sew Crazy](#)

The kids still need to go to school, even on the rainy days! With the Umbrella Recovery Project you can take a rainy day accessory and turn it into a bright and lively craft.



Supplies:

- 2 yards of fabric
- 1 Extra large eyelet
- Old umbrella - the kind with a little metal pole sticking out from the top
- scrap of interfacing - 2" circle
- scissors
- thread
- needle for hand sewing
- scrap of Velcro - 1" square
- silicone waterproofing spray

With scissors, snip all of the places the fabric is attached to the umbrella 'skeleton', removing the old fabric completely. See Photo:



2) Once that is done, carefully snip apart on of the triangle seams of fabric, giving you your pattern piece. See Photo:



3) You are going to need to be sure you cut your fabric on the bias, which basically means on the diagonal. This will add a bit more stretch which is necessary. See Photo:



4) Cut 8 pieces of desired fabric, adding a 1/2" all around for seam allowance.

With right sides together, lay 2 fabric triangles on top of each other, matching raw edges. Sew along one side edge. See Photo:

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You will have this when done:



5) Continue repeating until you have all 8 sewn together. See Photo:



6) With right sides together, sew the last seam closed so that you have complete the circle.

Press open all seams.

On the outer seam of the umbrella circle, fold under $\frac{1}{2}$ " towards the wrong side and Press.
Sew around edge.

For the small center circle, if you have an opening like I do (sewing skills not awesome enough to completely close up that little baby), sew a band of gathering stitches round the small circle and pull until closed.

7) Take your 2" piece of circle interfacing, and interface the inner umbrella circle fabric (on the wrong side of the fabric). See Photo:



8) Attach eyelet as instructed. I used Dritz Size 7/16". See Photo:



(Yours will look much cleaner than this if you have the proper attachment tool, I didn't and it was 4am in the morning and I was low on patience...woops!)

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9) Cut (2) 8" x 1.5" piece of fabric on the bias.

See Photo:



10) With right sides together, sew along 3 outer edges with 1/4" seam allowance. Turn right side out and Press. See Photo:



11) Turn raw edge under 1/4" and sew closed. You now have your umbrella closure band.

Taking one piece of the Velcro - the soft piece, sew on 1 side of the closure band. See Photo:



12) Turn the band over, and on the OTHER side, sew the other piece of Velcro - the scratchy piece, and sew the Velcro on the opposite end.

See Photo:



13) Approximately 5" from the bottom of the outer circle umbrella fabric, attach the closure band to the umbrella - on one side only. Be sure to secure this with a few rows of stitches. See Photo:



14) Slip eyelet over the top of the umbrella metal pole and match up the seams with the umbrella skeleton. With needle and thread, attach the fabric to the umbrella skeleton - using the holes in the skeleton to secure. See Photo:



Repeat for all 8 sides.

15) Once the ends are all secure, we are going to secure down the seams in 2 places on each umbrella arm to the skeleton, with just a few quick hand stitches. This should help eliminate the umbrella from letting the wind getting under it and flipping it up...hopefully! See Photo:



16) Bringing your umbrella outside, to a well-ventilated area and spray fabric with the silicone waterproofing spray. Allow the fabric to dry for the time recommended on the can. Be sure to cover it all with even strokes, any area missed will not be waterproof!

And voila, you now have your beautiful new umbrella!

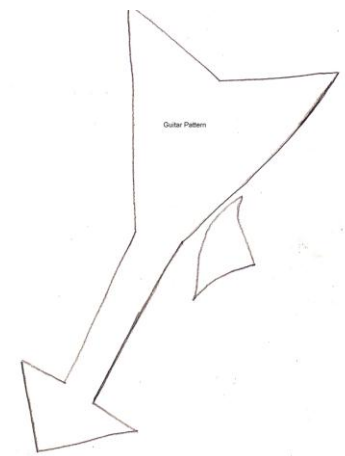
Guitar Reverse Applique Shirt

By: Melissa for [Three Prince Designs](#)

Here's a fantastic tutorial for a rocking reverse applique guitar shirt. A long-sleeved striped shirt shows through the guitar shape in the t-shirt on top for a very cool look.



Next print off your [guitar pattern](#) and cut out the 2 pieces along the solid lines.



Supplies:

- 1 long sleeve shirt
- 1 short sleeve shirt

1) To do this shirt- I took 2 shirts that we already had. The striped long sleeve shirt was looking worn on the front and the plain light blue t shirt was a little dull!

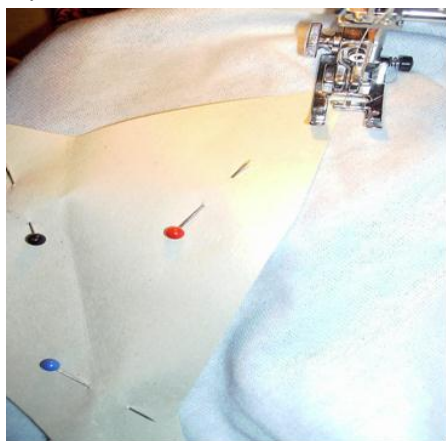
So first find 2 coordinating shirts (preferably one with long sleeve and a pattern on it if possible). Next place the patterned shirt inside the other shirt and line up all seams, shoulder, and neck.

Next pin the guitar pattern on the shirt in the direction you want. Pin thru the paper and top 2 shirt layers.



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Next sew about a 1/8 inch along the outside of the paper template. Only sew thru the top 2 layers of the shirt.



Now you are done!!
Enjoy your work!

After sewing along all the edges- remove the pins and paper. Next carefully cut out only the top shirt fabric inside the guitar pattern you just sewed on. Cut close to the thread- but make sure not to cut thru the thread!!



Next sew a zigzag stitch with coordinating thread all around the cut edges. Next take the small piece of pattern you cut out earlier and pin in place. Zigzag Stitch around the edges to hold in place.

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Free Patterns To Keep You In Stitches

Included in this eBook:

- Clothing for kids
- Lunch Sack
- Sewn Umbrella



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