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Second-Time Cool: The Art Of Chopping Up A Sweater



Synopsis

Create unique fashion styles using old sweaters! Here's a book for anyone interested in designing a wardrobe that expresses individuality in fun and creative ways. *Second-Time Cool* shows how easy it can be to recycle knitted sweaters and strike a dazzling look. Simply grab an old wool sweater, wash in the hot cycle, pick up the scissors, and follow the instructions outlined in this book. Ideas include appliques, slippers, vests, wrist and leg warmers, stylish tops, bags and purses, and much more. The book helps readers think creatively about what can become what: a sleeve can become a mitten, the center of a sweater a skirt, and a turtleneck a hat. The authors remind readers to look for interesting fashions from the past in secondhand stores. Retro is in: it's all about learning to customize, cut up, and change used clothes with confidence. Also included are: the basics of knitting and crocheting line drawings to guide readers step-by-step instructions on the how-to's of cutting up a sweater to produce a unique style. Instruction pages are replete with full-color photography, while images displaying the end results offer inspiration. The authors are a collective of Swedish designers, expert knitters, and fashion journalists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up – This unusual craft book presents an amazing array of ideas that can be made from a wool sweater that has been washed in the hot cycle and dried until it becomes like felt. When the fibers bind together, it can be cut without fraying. The finished products range from Northern-European trendy teen-style clothing to more conservative mittens, purses, hats, and

scarves. All of the suggested items are accompanied by color photographs. In addition to the craft ideas, there is a lengthy discussion of recycled fashions complete with pictures of avant-garde designs. Beginners might be frustrated by the lack of step-by-step instructions, and the author uses terms like applique and rosette without any added explanation. There are also cursory introductions to knitting, crocheting, and embroidery but no real patterns. For newcomers, Judy Ann Sadler's *Making Fleece Crafts* (Kids Can, 2000) is a better place to start. However, *Cool* is ideal for those teens experienced in handwork and willing to try some of the stylish creations. Donna Cardon, Provo City Library, UT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 7-10. This book isn't for the fainthearted. The idea is to rip up existing knitwear and create a new garment. Ivarsson begins with a short history of recycling clothing and an environmental message. She then explains how to throw a sweater into a washing machine (so the material felts together) and begin cutting. There are no real patterns. The idea is to free one's creativity and to show how a sweater can become leg or wrist warmers, mittens, bags, scarves, even skirts and slippers. Mostly, this is filled with inspirational color photographs and directions for different kinds of knitting, crocheting, and embroidery. First published in Sweden, the book features models that are an attractive if somewhat motley crew; many of the outfits they wear are beyond hippie-style. Still, this provides lots of new design paths for the adventurous crafter. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I ordered this book because it looked interesting....well, it is! It is a wonderful idea book. It gives minimal instructions for creating garments out of found clothing (sweaters), but it is jam-packed with the neatest ideas and everything is doable with minimum skills. What is especially nice is that the photographs, writers, models are not from the U.S. It is always nice to really get a look into the style of people from different countries. Excellent book and "search" offered by does not highlight the best parts. Do not go by the minimal pages that are offered as a sneak peek.

Great little book with new ways of looking at those things that no longer get your juices flowing. This will help you re-design items in your wardrobe to give it a new lease on life. Great ideas and great ways to save a bundle of dough on the items you already have in your wardrobe.

Not so great ideas. Dated.

Had good pictures and interesting text. But it wasn't what I was looking for. I wanted more of a how-to with patterns and such. And so this book did not meet my needs.

I was very disappointed in this book. It tries to be cool (like it says in the title) but honestly I expected a certain level of sophistication and directions for projects. It lacks both although the book does show you how to knit and crochet, how to make pom poms and how to make fringe (all of which I already know how to do) and gives you a little history lesson all at the same time. If this was still the 80's this book would have been perfect. If you like Cyndi Lauper (and that was the first concert I ever went to) or maybe Madonna in *Desperately Seeking Susan*, you might like this book for inspiration. As for me, I am returning the book. I recommend both "Heartfelt" and "Felt it! Stitch it! Fabulous!" They get 5 stars from me!

Don't go looking for much in the way of instructions here. However, you will find lots of inspiration to make some Cindy Lauper-like creations (or maybe you'll be expressing your own inner rock-star-image!) by cutting up wool sweaters washed in the hot cycle so that the felted fabric can more easily be cut, sewn and embellished. There is a potential here for some wonderful projects that will absolutely scream "YOU!" I love the fact that the models are not... well... models. They are average folk and that adds to the charm of the book. Even though *Second-Time Cool: The Art of Chopping Up a Sweater* is a very thin book, there are lots of ideas that can be generated if you are the kind of person who can be inspired by visual cues to imagine your own creation.

Idea-book for shrinking a wool sweater into a more felted material and then altering it, or just using the material to make altogether different items such as handbags, hats, mittens, and shoes. The book was translated from the Swedish, where they need much warmer clothing than I do here in California, and there's not much technically on sewing, but you can get that elsewhere. This book's strengths are its very fun ideas, and the encouragement it gives to personalize your style with things you've made yourself.

i LOVE this book. received it yesterday & spent the evening enjoying the text & photos inside. it's well-written & exciting for those (like me) who love thrift shopping for items that are unique. and what could be better than taking those found objects & converting them into something even MORE interesting? this book is not for those who prefer to dress like their aunties. this book is for those

who don't want to dress off-the-rack. the projects offered cannot be exactly duplicated because materials will, of course, vary. but that's the fun of it! i will use this book as a jumping-off point for my own imaginative play with fabric & design. congrats to the authors for a truly fun look at fashion variety. i look forward to their next offering!!

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