

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Let the Reconstruction Begin! But First</i>	9
Chapter 1: The Ins, Outs, and Inside-Outs of This Book	11
Chapter 2: Reconstruction Reasons.....	23
Chapter 3: Scoping Stuff with an Eye for Design	33
Chapter 4: Deconstructing 101: Taking Stuff Apart.....	49
Chapter 5: Reconstructing 101: The Very Basics of Sewing.....	63
<i>Part II: Shirts: Sluggish to Spectacular</i>	87
Chapter 6: Transforming T-shirts	89
Chapter 7: Redefining Boring Button-downs	107
Chapter 8: Pullover Overhaul	125
<i>Part III: Breathing Life into Dead Pants</i>	147
Chapter 9: Basic Slacks Brought Back.....	149
Chapter 10: Regenerating Jeans	169
Chapter 11: The Existential Stretch Pant	183
<i>Part IV: Salvation for Your Sweaters and Other Knits</i> ...	199
Chapter 12: Do It Again with Your Cardigan	201
Chapter 13: Pullover Sweaters Pulled in All Directions.....	217
Chapter 14: Afghan Today, What Tomorrow?	235
<i>Part V: Skirts and Dresses (re)Done Right</i>	249
Chapter 15: Bridesmaid's Redemption	251
Chapter 16: Second Life For Your Skirt.....	269
Chapter 17: Addressing That Tired Old Dress.....	281
<i>Part VI: Now What to Do with All These Scraps?</i>	295
Chapter 18: Brand New Bedding	297
Chapter 19: Deck the Halls with Lots of Scraps.....	315
Chapter 20: Decorative (re)Touches.....	327

<i>Part VII: The Part of Tens</i>	339
Chapter 21: Ten General Tips	341
Chapter 22: Ten Fix-a-Stain Tricks	347
<i>Index</i>	353

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
How to Use This Book	2
Conventions Used in This Book	3
Foolish Assumptions	4
How This Book Is Organized.....	5
Part I: Let the Reconstruction Begin! But First . . .	5
Part II: Shirts: Sluggish to Spectacular.....	5
Part III: Breathing Life into Dead Pants.....	6
Part IV: Salvation for Your Sweaters and Other Knits	6
Part V: Skirts and Dresses (re)Done Right	6
Part VI: Now What to Do with All These Scraps?	6
Part VII: The Part of Tens	6
Icons Used in This Book.....	7
Where to Go From Here.....	7

Part I: Let the Reconstruction Begin! But First**9**

Chapter 1: The Ins, Outs, and Inside-Outs of This Book**11**

Reconstructed Clothing Defined	12
Clothes of a different color	13
Mind-altering alterations	14
Clothing for cloth	15
Trash to treasure	16
Just Who Do You Think You Are?	17
The dabbler	17
The environmentalist.....	18
The student	18
The artist-designer	19
Perusing This Book For Your Best Interest.....	20

Chapter 2: Reconstruction Reasons**23**

Reduce.....	24
Reuse	25
Recycle	26
Reaping Financial Gain	27
Rescuing Old Favorites	29
Redeeming Closet Space	30
Representing Your Self	31

Chapter 3: Scoping Stuff with an Eye for Design 33

Shopping Your Own Shelves	34
Lifting the Thrifting Veil.....	34
The ease of city selection.....	35
Stocking up in the suburbs	36
You'd be surprised what you'd find here	37
Updated Optimism on Dated Styles	38
Playing the Numbers	39
Giving Ill-Fitting Clothes a Second Chance	40
Damaged But Not Done Yet.....	40
Good stains versus bad stains.....	41
Deals on decent damages.....	41
Wear 'n tear worn well.....	41
Feel-Good Fabric	42
Best Bet Basics	43
ABC's to Avoid	43
Armpit issues	44
Beadwork and other tempting adornments.....	44
Critters and creepies.....	45
Depilatory delusions.....	46
Expectations of supernatural proportion	47
Fragrant fabrics — if you have to hold your nose, put it back!.....	47

Chapter 4: Deconstructing 101: Taking Stuff Apart 49

Creating Space to Minimize Waste	50
Neat freak	50
Chaos theory.....	52
Organized chaos	52
Getting the “Gotta-Have-Its”	53
The seam ripper — a holistic alternative in anger management	53
Scissor happy.....	54
Safety pins to save your soles	54
Taking It Up a Notch with More Tools	54
The rolling cutter — a love/hate relationship	54
Suck it up!	55
No fuss lint brush.....	55
Leaving Caution (and Washing) to the Wind	56
Washing woes.....	56
Making your life, and allergies, a whole lot easier	57
The miraculous marvels of modern washing	57
Dryer be damned.....	57
Making the Most of Flaws.....	58
Stains.....	58
Tears and holes.....	59
Deconstructing Like a Pro.....	61
Sightseeing seams	61
To be or not to be a seam.....	62
Get over it and get started	62

Chapter 5: Reconstructing 101: The Very Basics of Sewing 63

Stocking Up On Sewing Essentials	64
Thread in your head.....	64
On pins and needles.....	64
Keeping it clean	66
Setting Up Your Workspace	66
Don't rock the boat	66
Posture perfect	67
Happiness (and everything else) is within your reach	69
Going Unplugged — Sewing By Hand	69
Third eye of the needle.....	70
Knot enough.....	72
Basic basting.....	74
Run with the running stitch	74
Blanket stitch or bust	75
Hemming and hawing	75
Moving Up To Machine Sewing	77
Key features	77
Tried and true tricks for affordability.....	78
Salvation through servicing	78
Stitch essentials.....	79
Beyond the basic stitch.....	80
Oh Holy Overlock Machine.....	81
What is this thing?.....	81
Key features	81
Making the financial plunge with buoyancy	82
Stay smart and service me.....	82
Starting and stopping with security.....	83
Hungry puckers and differential feeding.....	84
Go raw	84
In a Pinch Tricks.....	85
The heat is on	85
No sew hems	86
Decorative cover-up.....	86

Part 11: Shirts: Sluggish to Spectacular* 87*Chapter 6: Transforming T-shirts 89**

Giving Your T-shirt Some TLC	89
Pre-construction care	90
Post-construction care	90
Upside-Down Skirt in a Topsy-Turvy World.....	91
Materials	92
Directions	92
Variations.....	97

No-Stop Halter Top.....	98
Materials	99
Directions	99
Variations.....	102
Diminishing Waste with Waistbands.....	103
Materials	103
Directions	104
Chapter 7: Redefining Boring Button-downs	107
Prepping, Priming, and Post Care for Your Button-downs	107
Busting Out the Neck Bustles	108
Materials	109
Directions	109
Variations.....	111
Bridging the Sweater Gap Top.....	112
Materials	114
Directions	114
Variations.....	118
Getting Crafty With Cuffs	118
Preciously Painted Cuffs.....	118
Buttoned-Up Bracelets.....	121
Chapter 8: Pullover Overhaul	125
Prepping, Priming, and Post Care for Your Pullover	125
The usual suspects.....	126
Circumventing circumstantial stains and such	126
Running Circles Around Crop Tops	126
All-Season Crop Top	126
Crop Inversion Top.....	130
Tails of Two Crops Top	136
Wrap to Write Home About.....	140
Materials	141
Directions	141
<i>Part III: Breathing Life into Dead Pants.....</i>	147
Chapter 9: Basic Slacks Brought Back	149
Prepping, Priming, and Post Care for Your Pants	149
The usual suspects.....	149
Wearing to watch out for.....	150
Renaissance Repairs Jeans	150
Materials	150
Directions	151
Skirts and Such.....	153
So Easy Split Skirt.....	153
Detachable Bustle Skirt	158

Surprise Fly Top163
 Materials164
 Directions164
 Variations.....167

Chapter 10: Regenerating Jeans169

Prepping, Priming, and Post Care for Your Jeans169
 The usual suspects.....170
 Potential pitfalls to prepare for170
 Repetition Editions Jeans.....170
 Materials171
 Directions171
 Oh-So-Hip Hip Belt173
 Materials174
 Directions174
 Variations.....177
 It's in the Bag Shoulderbag179
 Materials179
 Directions180
 Variations.....182

Chapter 11: The Existential Stretch Pant183

Prepping, Priming, and Post Care for Your Stretch Pants183
 The usual suspects.....184
 Pulls and pills in all the wrong places184
 Bare and Flare Skirt.....184
 Materials185
 Directions185
 Variations.....189
 Layering the Leggings.....190
 Materials191
 Directions191
 Variations.....193
 From Flat to Hat.....194
 Materials195
 Directions195
 Variations.....198

Part IV: Salvation for Your Sweaters and Other Knits ... 199

Chapter 12: Do It Again with Your Cardigan201

Prepping, Priming, and Post Care for Your Cardigan201
 The usual suspects.....202
 Cleaning your cardigan.....202
 Buttons be gone.....203
 Running Wild.....204

Bad Unkl Sista Sweater	205
Materials	205
Directions	206
Variations.....	208
Making a Case for Pillowcases.....	209
Materials	210
Directions	210
Variations.....	212
A Twist on the Upside-Down Skirt	213
Materials	214
Directions	214
Variations.....	216

Chapter 13: Pullover Sweaters Pulled in All Directions 217

Prepping, Primping, and Post Care for Your Pullover Sweaters	218
The usual suspects.....	218
A bad pill you don't have to swallow.....	218
Take Two On the Tees	219
Upside-Down Skirt	219
No Stopping the Halter Top.....	220
New Cut on Crops.....	223
Wrap for a New Way of Life	224
Sleek 'n' Sneaky Sleeves	226
Materials	227
Directions	227
Variations.....	229
Bag Ladies Shoulderbag.....	230
Materials	231
Directions	231
Variations.....	234

Chapter 14: Afghan Today, What Tomorrow? 235

Prepping, Primping, and Post Care for Your Afghan	235
The usual suspects.....	236
Bang for your buck.....	236
Fringe fallout	236
Pimping the Poncho.....	237
Materials	237
Directions	238
Variations.....	241
Vestcoat Investments.....	241
Materials	242
Directions	242
Variations.....	247

Part V: Skirts and Dresses (re)Done Right.....249
Chapter 15: Bridesmaid's Redemption251

Prepping, Primping, and Post Care for Your Dress	251
The usual suspects.....	252
Dry clean or bust.....	252
A Little Heat Gun Goes a Long Way Dress.....	252
Materials.....	253
Directions	253
Variations.....	256
Split Skirt Stick-Up.....	256
Materials.....	256
Directions	257
Variations.....	260
Cape — from Costume to Couture.....	261
Materials.....	262
Directions	262
Variations.....	264
Whip Up a Wine Bag.....	265
Materials.....	266
Directions	266
Variations.....	268

Chapter 16: Second Life For Your Skirt269

Prepping, Primping, and Post Care for Your Skirt.....	269
The usual suspects.....	270
Freeform and Frill Skirt.....	270
Materials.....	271
Directions	271
Variations.....	275
Business Skirt Gone Badass.....	275
Materials.....	276
Directions	276
Variations.....	278
Cutting-Edge Cowl Neck Top	278
Materials.....	279
Directions	280

Chapter 17: Addressing That Tired Old Dress281

Prepping, Primping, and Post Care for Your Dress	281
The usual suspects.....	281
Showing Some Skin Dress	282
Materials.....	283
Directions	283
Variations.....	285

Raw the Right Way Dress	287
Materials	288
Directions	288
Variations.....	290
Sets of All Sorts Top/Skirt	291
Materials	291
Directions	292
Variations.....	292

Part VI: Now What to Do with All These Scraps?295

Chapter 18: Brand New Bedding297

Save-It-All Stuffing	297
Materials	298
Directions	298
Variations.....	300
Casing Your Cozies Pillowcases	300
Materials.....	301
Directions	302
Variations.....	306
Quintessential Quilt	307
Materials	308
Directions	309
Variations.....	313

Chapter 19: Deck the Halls with Lots of Scraps315

Sachet Simplicity.....	315
Materials	316
Directions	317
Variations.....	319
Pragmatic Potholders	320
Materials	321
Directions	322
Variations.....	325

Chapter 20: Decorative (re)Touches327

Deco from Garbage to Gorgeous	327
Materials	328
Directions	328
Variations.....	330
Choker Chop-Up.....	330
Materials	331
Directions	331
Variations.....	333

Put Your Money Where Your Scraps Are Wallet.....	334
Materials	334
Directions	335
Variations.....	337
 <i>Part VII: The Part of Tens.....</i>	<i>339</i>
 Chapter 21: Ten General Tips	341
Don't Be Afraid to Cut It	341
Let Go Of Your Inner Perfectionist.....	341
Get in the Groove of a Good Pair of Scissors.....	342
Enjoying Evolution	342
You Are Your Own Model	343
Stains Can Be Your Guide.....	343
Clever Closures	344
Pinning for Winning	344
Lock into a Good Overlock	345
No Salvation for Armpit Stains	345
 Chapter 22: Ten Fix-a-Stain Tricks	347
Brushing Up on Your Painting	347
Dye Do-overs.....	348
Drawing 101 — Sharpie Style.....	348
Patchwork Pride.....	349
Turning the Dial to Decorative Stitching.....	349
Seemingly a Mere Seam	349
Deco-Serge Splurge	350
Worn with Purpose	350
Exemplary Embroidery	350
Buttons and Beads That Can't Be Beat	351
 <i>Index.....</i>	<i>353</i>

XX

Reconstructing Clothes For Dummies
