This unique guide offers savvy tips on how to take outdated clothes from the closet or thrift store and turn them into inspired, one-of-a-kind garments—without a designer price tag. It shows craft enthusiasts, budget-conscious fashionistas, and parents and kids looking for new ideas how to unleash their inner fashion divas and transform old duds into hip new clothes or how to perk up their home décor starting with items that are so passé they’re hidden away.

In stores August 2007
The No Stop Halter Top is a clever way to alter your T-shirt just enough to take it from plain to pretty in just a few easy steps. It’s a perfect piece for a beach or poolside cover-up. With a quick change you can add a skirt and head right out for dinner or a sunset stroll.

This project is easy. You just cut up your T-shirt and bind the edges. Extra decorative effects add fun to both the piece and to the process of making it.

1. **Prep.** Wash and dry your T-shirt according to the label instructions, or, if the T-shirt has no laundering label, use a gentle wash and dry it flat.

2. **First cut.** Cut your T-shirt across the back, armpit to armpit, and along the inside of the sleeve up to the shoulder seam. You will continue this cut line in step 4. See Figure 6-11. (If you don’t feel comfortable cutting free-hand, mark each of the cuts with tailor’s chalk prior to cutting.)

3. **Second cut.** Cut lengthwise from the center of the top back piece, up through the collar. Cut the collar off with a scoop at the neck as shown in Figure 6-12.

4. **Third cut—making dangles.** Cut off the underarm seam, from armpit to cuff. Then continue the cut from the shoulder (Step 2) through the material in a spiral, creating a long dangling strap for your halter top. Do this on each side. See Figure 6-13.

5. **Try it on.** Put your T-shirt halter on, tying the dangles behind your neck comfortably.

6. **Sew,** using the method below that matches your sewing method and desired finish. The instructions depend highly on whether you are hand sewing or machine sewing.

   - Sewing by hand—for a clean look. Hem all cut edges using the quick-hem technique.
   - Sewing by machine—for a rough look. Zig-zag stitch all cut edges with a 1/4-inch seam allowance.

And that’s it! Although this is an easy project, you can tell by Figure 6-14 that this project looks like it took a lot of hard work.

**Materials**

- T-shirt that fits you well
- Safety pins
- Common pins
- Tape measure
- Needle (for hand sewing) or sewing machine
- Scissors
- Thread that matches the T-shirt
- Tailor’s chalk (substitute with laundry marker)

**Directions**

[Images of Figures 6-11 to 6-14]