WeSew2

growing the next generation of fabric addicts

Liliana decided to use fabric instead of a T-shirt and cover the entire back of her hoodie.

Hello, junior Q-bies! Our WS2 editors loved the last project so much (they are still *all* sleeping on their pillowcases!) that I wanted to create another project that would be just as easy, fun and useful. So here's one you can make with things you may already have in your room— DIY hoodies! If you have an old T-shirt you ab-solutely love but it no longer fits, you may want to use it here. Some of our junior staff went to thrift stores for a bit of "treasure hunting," so that's an option. I hope you like this one so much that you will make them for your friends, too.

Once you get the hang of a square, mix it up and try a different shape. I have done hearts, stars and even a skull-and-crossbones as the outside shape. Change it up to suit your style!

—<3 *Tracy Mooney,* WeSew2 *editor*

diy hoodies

supplies

Hoodie
T-shirt
Sewing machine
Ruler and/or measuring tape
Pins
Thread
Scissors or Olfa chenille cutter

Use a favorite T-shirt that you can't bear to part with and a zipped hoodie to make this fun project.

1. Start by measuring the design (both how tall and how wide) on your T-shirt to decide how big a space you need to measure out on the back of your hoodie.

2. Use chalk or a pencil to mark the hoodie's center back. For example, my XL hoodie was 24" long from shoulder to bottom edge, so I marked the 12" point with a chalk line. Then I did the same across the back from underarm seam to underarm seam and marked it with a line, making a big plus sign. Cyd's hoodie was much smaller, but I used the same technique to find the center mark.

3. Figure out how big you can cut your T-shirt design and mark out the cutting line using a ruler and a pencil or chalk. (It can be as big as your sweatshirt or as small as you like.) Cut out along the lines. If your T-shirt design is larger than your sweatshirt back, just pick an area of the design that you like best.

4. To center your design, fold T-shirt piece in half and lay it along the vertical chalk line marked on the hoodie's back

5. Pin through *just the back layer of the sweatshirt* at all four corners of the T-shirt as shown here.

6. Take away the T-shirt piece and the back will look like this. You should be able to see the pins on the inside back of the sweatshirt. This is so you know where to place the T-shirt piece inside before sewing.

7. Using the pins as a guide, lay the T-shirt piece **wrong side up** on the **inside back** of the hoodie. This is so that the design shows through when you are done. Make sure that the design on the T-shirt faces up, too. There's nothing worse than your design being upside down! (Ask me how I know…)

8. Stitch along the edge of the T-shirt piece. When you come to the corner, leave the needle down, pick up the foot and pivot the

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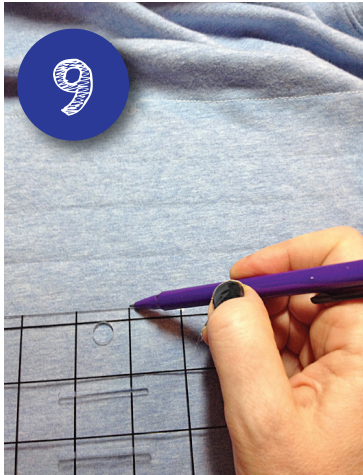
fabric. Put the presser foot down and keep sewing. Stitch slowly, and don't pull the T-shirt.

9. Flip the hoodie to the back again. You will see the outline of the T-shirt piece that you just stitched down. Now, mark straight lines every 1/2" to 1" with chalk or pencil across the T-shirt piece.

10. Stitch along the chalk lines. It will look something like this, with little "channels" of fabric between the lines of stitching. Note: If your presser foot is pushing the fabric so it puckers as you sew, try using a walking foot if your machine has one. If not, loosen the foot pressure a little bit. (Your machine manual will tell you how. Ask an adult for help.)

11. Carefully pinch just the hoodie material and snip a tiny hole in the middle of a channel, between the stitching lines. Do not cut into the T-shirt. Using either the chenille cutter or scissors, cut down the center of the channel to the edges of the stitching, being careful not to clip your T-shirt. Cut each channel of fabric. Fluff the cut edges by rubbing them lightly with your fingers.

Your hoodie should look like this! And after the next time you wash it, the cut hoodie edges will fray and roll a bit more, making the design show up even more.

Rub the cut edges of the hoodie strips a little to fluff them up and reveal your T-shirt design.