

On the Fringe: Adventures with Minimal Waste, Convertibility, and Budget

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Keywords: Minimal Waste, Convertibility, Budget, Draping

Purpose. The goal of this design was to create a convertible, minimal waste outfit from a fabric remnant bought at a discounted price. These two separates can be worn together or with other garments in an individual's wardrobe. Additionally, the skirt can be worn in two different

orientations. This piece was completed on May 27th, 2014.



The Design Process & Techniques.

Cutting on the straight of grain, a piece of muslin was cut to the same dimensions as the fabric remnant (60 X 53"). The skirt was made by taking the circumference of the designer's waist and reducing this measurement to the radius of a circle. The 2 inches were added to this measurement. A circle was drawn on the fabric by tying a piece of thread to sewing needle and a pen to the end of the thread. The sewing needle was secured in cardboard and a circle pattern piece was made. This circle was laid 9 inches to the right and center aligned to make the waist hole. The resulting circle was made into the bodice front. Other pieces, such as the waist band, bodice strap and bodice back were made by draping on the principal designer. Additionally, a clearance piece of elastic was cut to measure for the waist band. As this piece of elastic was only 1 inch wide, two pieces were sewn together lengthwise in order to double the width.

This pattern piece development was repeated with the fashion fabric, after the fraying selvages were cut from the remnant. The structural and main seams of the garment were executed with a combination of serging raw edges of the fabric and then sewing plain, lockstitch seams. To alter the garment in order to fit the body, hand stitches were employed in a number of areas in the garment.

Material Used. The material used in this piece was 100% polyester shantung. The pieces measured 60 by 53 inches. The final measurements for the bodice included the strap (18"), front band width (20 3/8"), front band height (3/4"), cup height (7 3/4"), cup width (12"), back band width (18 1/2") and the back band height (4"). The final skirt measurements included the waist band width (36 3/8"), the waist band width (3"), skirt front high point (12 1/2"), skirt front low point left (27 1/2"), skirt front low point back (28"), skirt back high point (12 3/4") and hemline length (202").

Contribution of Piece. This design demonstrates that a practical garment design can be constructed with a minimal budget and minimal waste.

