

## Redeemed

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The purpose for this dress came from mission trips. On these trips, I saw houses that were made from or repaired with garbage bags. There was also an area where the people lived near the garbage dump. This reminded me of populations of people that are written off as “unworthy” or “undesirable.”

The dress is made out of pastel green, pastel purple, and white garbage bags. I felt that the garbage bags that are normally “undesirable” represent the “undesirable” people that are seen in many areas. The idea was to use the garbage bags in a way to “redeem” them and make a look desirable.



The other materials are the tab tops off of soda cans. The garbage bags were first cut into strips of about a half inch in width. The strips were then woven into one hole of the tab top and down through the other hole. There were about ten to fifteen of these tab tops on each strip. The length was determined by where the strip was going to be placed on the garment. After making a number of these, the strips were joined together by weaving a different garbage bag into a tab top on one strip and down through the tab top of another strip, alternating these to make the top. The drop waist skirt was made with purple and green garbage bags as the first strips woven. The second strips were woven on the top and left to hang as resembling a pleated skirt. The dress is closed with a tie that is made from braiding the three colors of garbage bags together. This tie is then stitched in and out of the ends of tab tops that were left free for this use.



This contributes to the scholarship in the field of apparel design because this garment is not only constructed of unconventional materials but serves to inspire us to be more globally minded.

## Reference:

*The complete photo guide to sewing.* (2009). Minneapolis, MN; Creative Publishing International.