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Removing Sleeves

Updated: Mar 6

I don't know about you, but I don't love wearing sleeves. China is hot. And if I have to remove my own sleeves, I want the shirt not to look like trash after the first wear. The buildings in our area are not insulated, so during the winter layers become your best friends. Fuzzy blankets, fuzzy socks, and fuzzy outfits are the best!

In today's example, the sleeves are being removed because our apartment is freezing, running the heater during the day feels unethical, and the cat has twiggy arms so she cannot walk with so much fabric. She's a skinny little gal.

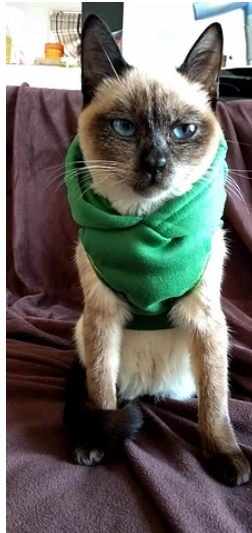
Today's project is simple yet time-consuming. It's just removing the sleeves then hemming them to prevent fraying.

Supplies needed:

- a shirt
- hobby knife
- a stapler
- electrical (PVC) tape
- needle & thread

Method:

1. Prepare the shirt:
 - Turn the shirt inside-out;
 - For each sleeve, tape and staple the seams leading to the seam on each end of the sleeve seam. [refer to the image 2];
2. Remove the sleeve:
 - Prudently cut the thread crossing from the main fabric to the sleeve fabric. Do this all the way around the seam;
 - Once free, lightly remove the thread. It should unravel by slipping through the tiny holes. If it does not easily unravel, help by cutting the thread and using a pin or toothpick to hook it;
 - Now that the sleeve is free, clean up around the hole in the shirt;
3. Close the hem:
 - Prepare the thread and needle;
 - While using cheap thread, I like to double back when threading the needle. Dollar store thread tends to snap. It's just the price you pay for being cheap;
 - For the cat's 20cm radius sleeve with backstitching method I used 110cm of thread after doubling (440cm in total);
 - For an adult shirt's sleeve, I would use about 2 meters twice over (8 meters in total), or multiple threads.
 - Fold the end of the fabric over itself;
 - Hide the knot within the fold. Starting at the seam, back stitch in spot for a few rounds;
 - Start making the way around the hole, backstitch in spot again before and after each seam;
 - Lengthen stitch or backstitch all of the way around. I prefer the back stitch. I think it looks better;
 - I like to stitch a bit on each seam to reinforce the manufacturer's seams. It just feels right.
 - When done (or the thread length runs out) tie the thread off. [continue as needed]



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