Refashion

Name: ___________________________ Age _______
Club: ___________________________
as of January 1
Advisor: _________________________
Acknowledgements

Original book, titled *Upcycle*, was written by Laura Rochester, Wood County 4-H Alumna.

Revised February 2020: Judy Driscoll, Erie County Master Clothing Educator and Dianne Galloway, Erie County Master Clothing Educator
The black embroidered table cloth measured 43”X 77”. The skirt was made by measuring and cutting 18” inches from the edge longest edge. A waist band was cut using the waist measurement plus 12”. The extra width was to allow for the wrapped waist. The skirt was gathered and then pinned to the waist band. The inside edge of the waist band was hand stitched. Snaps were added to secure the waist band.

The blouse was embellished with a decorative machine stitch in coordinating black thread. Sleeves were shortened and a rolled cuff finishes the look.
The term 'refashion' is being used all the more often lately, everywhere you look, there is somebody reworking an old garment, customizing a thrifted piece, or creating a dress from vintage fabric.

Welcome to Refashion! This project is for members who are looking to take something old and make it into something new. This project requires basic knowledge of clothing construction, because you won’t necessarily be using a pattern.

You will be choosing outdated articles of clothing or a discarded household textile and turning it into a refashioned, stylish garment. Be sure to take BEFORE and AFTER photos of your garment and add them to the Activity #5: Project Summary.

After constructing your Refashion garment, choose accessories to create a total look outfit.

### Project Guidelines

Step 1: Complete all five project areas.
Step 2: Take part in **at least three** learning experiences.
Step 3: Participate in **at least two** leadership/citizenship activities.
Step 4: Complete the project review.

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Learning Experiences . . . .

Learning Experiences are activities meant to compliment the project *Refashion*. Here are some ideas or you could come up with your own. Complete at least three learning experiences and record what you did. Have your project helper initial next to each one when you finish.

- Visit at least two different thrift stores
- County Judging
- County Style Review
- Club Demonstration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan to Do</th>
<th>What I Did</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Helper’s Initial</th>
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Leadership/Citizenship Activities . . . .

Choose at least two of the leadership/citizenship activities or create your own. Record what you did and have your project helper initial when you complete the activity.

- Donate clothing back to your area thrift store
- Organize a clothing drive and donate items to a thrift store or homeless shelter
- Encourage another member to refashion some of their clothing
- Organize a repurposing activity for your club

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Activity 1: Stuff I Like

You never know what you’re going to find when you go thrift shopping but having a general idea of what you are looking for is never a bad idea. Look through your closet or online to decide the types of clothing you like. What styles look best on you? A quick closet check will help determine your favorite colors as well as the fabrics you like to wear. Use this table to help assess your current style and help narrow the things you are looking for while thrifting.

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<tr>
<th>Styles I Like</th>
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This print dress was made into a romper. The side seams were matched by laying one side on top of the other. Pinning the side seams helps the garment from slipping.

Using a pattern, tape the center front and center back seam allowances. Pin the pattern to the garment and cut along the curve and the seam between the leg.

The sleeves were removed and stitched to prevent raveling.
Activity 2: Let’s Go Thrift Shopping

Shopping for clothes to refashion and shopping for clothes at a retail store are two different processes. After years of shopping for clothes at a department store, we’ve trained our eyes to judge an article of clothing by a strict set of rules. We take into consideration its color, style, fabric and design. We try it on to make sure it fits our body in a flattering way, and if everything adds up, we purchase it.

Thrift shopping for clothing to refashion follows a different set of rules. Keep these tips in mind while thrifting for your Refashion project.

Focus on the fabric, not the fit! One of the hardest things about shopping for clothing to refashion is ignoring the style of the garment. Remember, you can always change the style. Focus on any fabric that catches your eye.

Bigger is always better! You can always take seams in, but it’s very hard to make something bigger. Buy “baggy”. The more fabric you have to play with the easier it is to refashion.

Don’t completely ignore the design. Sometimes you will find a garment that has great fabric and is big on you, but it has lots of design elements like pleats, ruffles or elaborate embellishments. These can be hard to work around. Look for outfits with simple construction. This allows you to add your own detailing.
Go in open-minded. You may have decided on the type of outfit you want to make, but the clothing you found is made of a fabric that is not suited to the design you plan to make. Instead, try to first find a piece of clothing with a fabric you like. Then decide what design would work with that fabric. For example, thin shear fabrics work best with looser fitting garments, while heavier fabrics are great for more fitted, constructed garments.

Get creative! Think outside the box. Turn the clothing upside down and view it from a different angle. A dress could become a shirt, a skirt made into shorts, or pants into leggings.

Dresses are easiest to refashion. A big plain dress leaves you with lots of fabric to work with.

Keep it Comfortable. Make sure the design elements in garment(s) you choose are things you are comfortable working with. You should be comfortable with the fabric you are working with because there is usually no pattern to follow and no way to run to the store for more fabric.

Look inside for the care labels. Be sure the care instructions of the garment will work with your refashioned garment.

You are the designer.... So have some fun!

A ribbed tank top and maxi skirt were transformed into a summer dress by removing some of the skirt’s length. The waistband was removed retaining part of the seam. This helped to stabilize the gathers of the top ruffle. The tank was stitched to the skirt and then elastic was added to allow for and easy fit.

Belt loops and a sparkly belt finish the look.
With these tips in mind, head out to your local thrift stores. Spend some time browsing until you find that one or two pieces of clothing you want to refashion. Use this space to journal about things you found while shopping and start brainstorming. What will you make with the clothing you found?

Use this space to start to sketch possible designs for your Refashion project.
Activity 3: Assessing Your Choices

What garments did you purchase to refashion?

Describe the fabric weight, fiber content and overall design.

Have you worked with this type of fabric before?

What article(s) of clothing are you planning on making?

List a few different styles of clothing that this material would be well suited for.

Are there any detail elements that you like/dislike? How do you plan to work with them?

Does your clothing have a zipper, buttons, or elastic? If so, how will you incorporate those into your final product? Or will you remove them completely.

What care is needed for this fabric or garment?
Activity 4: Ready, Set, Refashion!

It’s time to refashion your purchase. Hopefully by now you have thought out and planned how you will remake the clothing you purchased. There are no patterns to follow for this part but here are some helpful tips to aid in you redesigning.

Starting with clean laundering or dry cleaning the item(s) or textile you have selected, following the recommendations on the care label attached to them

**Make sure you have a good seam ripper.** Refashioning is a lot of trial and error. Sometimes you’ll sew a seam several time before you get the right fit. Don’t be afraid to rip and re-sew.

**Baste first.** Pin the seam where you want it and try it on for fit. Once you have adjusted the pins, baste the seam in place and try on again. It’s easier to tear out basting than regular machine stitching. Once it is perfect, stitch over the basting with regular stitches.

**Trace something you already own.** Sewing something without a pattern takes a lot of practice but tracing a piece of clothing that you know fits and is similar to what you have in mind, makes the job easier. For example, if you want to make a shirt similar to one you won, lay the old shirt on your “new to you” garment and trace the shape with tailor’s chalk. Be sure to leave room for seam allowances.

Two tanks were combined to make a loose-fitting tank. Triangular black cut outs were added to the side seams of the striped tank. Trim was added to the neck line and arm holes using the black shoulder straps and neckline trim.
Activity 5: Project Summary

Cost of your Refashioned outfit: _______________

Cost of a garment similar to the one you made if you purchased it at a department store: _______________

Amount of money you saved by Refashioning: ______________

Summarize how you upcycled your clothing item. What changes did you make?

Did you have any unforeseen problems?

What would you do differently?

Did you learn any new techniques?

Where do you plan to wear your new outfit?
Share your Before & After pictures!

Before

After
Refashioning Resources . . . .

- Pinterest

- I Can Work with That Blog -- [https://icanworkwiththat.blogspot.com](https://icanworkwiththat.blogspot.com)


- Refashioning -- [https://diariesofamaker.blog](https://diariesofamaker.blog)

- AND MANY MORE available on line.