



<b>Technique:</b>	Sewing
<b>Designed By:</b>	Linda Turner Griepentrog
<b>Skill Level:</b>	Intermediate
<b>Crafting Time:</b>	Weekend

Upcycling a sweater is great fun and a good way to clean out your closet, or satisfy your thrift-store shopping passion. Choose a grouping of coordinated colors of sweaters or mix it up with an eclectic assortment—either way, the end result is always fun! You can even turn a cardigan into a pullover as we've done on the featured sweater.

**Finished Size of Project:** your size

**Supplies:**

4-5 sweaters—one, used for the top, to fit you  
 Surelock Serger Thread- 3 cones  
 Dual Duty XP All-Purpose Thread  
 Coats Bold Hand Quilting Thread

**Additional Requirements:**

Assorted buttons/trims, as desired  
 Serger (overlock) sewing machine  
 Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies

**TIP:** Choose one sweater that fits you for the upper portion and look for extra-large sweaters for the pieced sections as they allow more "yardage".

**NOTE:** Directions for this project have to be general, as each sweater will be different depending on the components being used and their styling.

## Planning/Cutting:

1. Try on the sweater used for the upper portion and pin-mark a line to cut just below the bustline. Take the sweater off and straighten the line if needed. Adjust the front and back to lie flat and cut along the marked line through both the sweater front and back. Serge the cut edges, using the differential feed if needed to prevent stretching.
2. Cut apart the piecing sweaters along the side seams and armholes and serge the edges if needed to prevent stretching.
3. Keep in mind if the original sweater is a cardigan, it can easily become a pullover, as long as you leave the opening at the neck front operable so it can be put on easily.
4. Using the piecing sweaters, plan the location of each portion mixing patterns as desired. Cut them to size allowing for seam allowances and serge the cut edges if needed. Maintain a size similar to the original sweater that fits you. It's best to utilize the existing sweater ribbings or hems to finish the opening edges (lower or cardigan fronts), rather than trying to hem the sweatering itself. Raw edges can also be bound if desired, using harvested ribbing or sweater knit scraps. Note that hems don't have to be all aligned—they can be wonky for an eclectic look.

## Assembling the Sweater:

1. When sewing the new sweater pieces together, use the serger or a narrow zigzag to maintain flexibility in the seams. Sew the side seams and any other vertical seams to create a circular lower portion of the pieced sweater. Tuck serger tails into the seam allowance at the finished hemline using a tapestry needle.
2. Some seams may be lapped if the new sweater pieces have already finished edges (like ribbing)—simply hand stitch the lapped area in place.
3. Hand stitch together the edges of any buttonholes that won't be operable in the new sweater.
4. Sew the lower pieced section to the upper pieced section at the horizontal seamline matching any side seams and centers.



## Embellishing the Sweater:

1. Hand stitch any buttons in place on previous openings through all layers (they won't be operable). Note that you can mix up the sizes and types of buttons for interest.
2. Using a double strand of Bold Hand Quilting thread, accent with big stitches along seams, ribbings, etc. as desired. Keep in mind that some areas of the sweater may need to stretch for fit, so avoid those areas when using big stitches.
3. Pieces of neckline ribbing can be used to create ruffles—simply stretch them as you stitch them to a piece of ribbon. Finish the ends by turning under. Hand or machine stitch the ribbon to the sweater over a seamline as desired.

**TIP:** Keep all the sweater scraps to create more pieced sweaters or other projects.