

# Maternity Top from XXL T-shirt

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/maternity-top-from-xxl-t-shirt>

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This tutorial shows you how to construct a maternity top from a large t-shirt. It is based on sewmama2gcc's Big Ugly Shirt Refashion with a few little additions by me!

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## Step 1 — The Big Shirt



First thing you need to do is go out and buy a large t-shirt, unless you already have one lying around. It needs to have a bit of length (mine covered my bum) and a bit of extra width (good few inches).

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## Step 2 — Find Your Bust Line



Try the shirt on in front of the mirror and mark underneath your bust with pins.

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## Step 3 — Measure & Cut



Take the shirt off. I used a tape measure and measured from the outside of the collar down to the lowest pin. Lower each pin by 1.5cm (seam allowance) then make sure they are all horizontal using the tape measure. Cut along your pin line the whole width of the shirt.

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#### **Step 4 — Cutting the Bodice**



Take a tank top that fits you (and is of similar fabric) well and lay it over the top half of the shirt. Cut around the tank, making sure you leave an allowance for the seam. Turn the shirt inside-out and sew up the side seams. NOTE: You need to make sure the top fits you without excessive stretching of the fabric, or you won't be able to get it over your bust once you've added the gathered bottom.

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## Step 5 — Creating Darts



Try your top on inside out. If it doesn't sit flat against your bust you will need to add darts. Pinch the extra material and place a pin where you need to sew your dart. Sew your dart. Try the top on again, repeat for the other side.

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## Step 6 — Gathering the Bottom



Now take the bottom of the shirt we cut off earlier. Sew long gathering stitches along the raw edge and secure the threads at one end. Turn this bottom half inside out and place the top half of the shirt (right side out) inside so that the two raw edges are together. This will help you determine how much to gather the bottom. Gather the bottom until the all of the side seams match up. Pin & sew.

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## Step 7 — New Maternity Top



So you have something that looks like this. You can leave the top at this step if you like. The jersey material won't fray so you can leave edges unfinished.

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## Step 8 — Adding Sleeves



I wanted to add sleeves to my top to break up the colour a bit. I made them from an old top which only suited my body shape when I was 15kg overweight! I folded the shirt in half and cut a triangular shape. I then pinned this (right sides together) to my arm holes and sewed them on. I sewed the open edges together to finish the sleeve. (I didn't take too many detailed photos of this, sorry)

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## Step 9 — Making the Flower



To make the flower, cut a long rectangle from the same material you did your sleeves with. Sew long gathering stitches along one long edge and gather the material as much as you can.

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## Step 10 — Adding the Flower



Draw the gathered material into a circle and sew the open edges together. Adjust gathers if necessary. Sew this onto your top in a position of your choice. Place another piece of material over the top (to hide the stitches) and secure with a button.

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