ReadyMade
INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE
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HOW TO:
MAKE CUSTOM CLOTHING
HOT IDEAS FROM 5 TOP DESIGNERS

TOOL STORAGE TIPS

ORGANIC

Ready(Made)-to-Wear//ReFashion '07
Name:Lorna Leedy//Label:Fancy Pony Land//Year Founded:2002

Redfield, Texas... Coeur d'Alene, Idaho... Dunsmuir, Colorado... Joshua Tree, California... What sounds like the travels of a train-hopping hobo is actually a sampling of the out-of-the-way locales that clothing line Fancy Pony Land has called home since its inception five years ago.

Founded by 32-year-old designer Lorna Leedy, the peripatetic label (based in a Eurovan camper in Marfa, Texas at press time) offers two women's lines every year, in addition to men's and women's Western-style snap shirts, and a kids' line. "Place is important to what I make," Leedy says. "Each place I set up a studio is inspiring in its own way, through its unique landscape, animals, people, and weather."

Raised in Washington, Leedy studied weaving and art at Evergreen State College in Olympia, before moving to New Orleans, where she began making one-of-a-kind garments for galleries and performance-art fashion shows. Since hitting the road, her clothing has featured bold colors and meticulously crafted appliqués reflecting each collection's whimsical storybook theme, like "Magic Beans, Poison Apples, Precious Lettuce" and "Egyptian Super Heroes." Up next for the line: relocation to a tiny, uninhabited island where Leedy and her husband—a park ranger—will live in a solar-powered cabin. We can't wait to see the collection the remote oasis inspires.
www.fancyponyland.com

Photos Denise Prince Martin

Recycled Cardigan Sweater

INGREDIENTS

- Old wool sweater that fits pretty well (crewnecks and narrow v-necks are best)
- Wool flannel or gabardine fabric (for banding)
- Material for pockets and appliqués (bits of other sweaters, leather, vinyl, etc.)
- Buttons
- Thread matching the various fabrics
- Non-fusible medium-weight interfacing

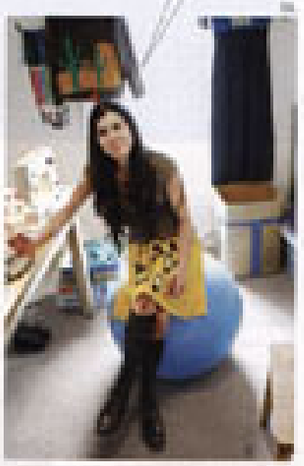
TOOLS

- Chalk
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Iron (optional)
- Pins
- Scissor
- Sewing machine (with a button-hole attachment)
- Razor blade
- Paper and pencil
- Ruler

1. Mark the centerline on the front of the sweater with chalk, and cut open. 2. Cut off neckband, with a 1-inch angle. 3. For the banding, use woven wool (like wool flannel or gabardine) or wool jersey (knit). 4. Determine how much banding you need by measuring the open edges, from the bottom front edge of the cardigan, up around the neck, and down to the other end. 5. Cut one long 4" wide strip of matching fabric with the grain. If necessary, you can cut short strips and attach them, right sides together, with a ½" seam allowance. Press seams open. 6. Fold the end of the banding under 1", and with right sides together, pin it in place with the banding extending about ½" longer than the sweater. Stage the banding to the sweater's open edges, starting at the bottom front edge of one side, work up and around the neck down to the other end. Be sure not to stretch either the sweater or the banding as you go. When you get near the other end, fold the banding under 1" and cut before attaching. Tip: It's a good idea to add a piece of interfacing to either side of the banding where the buttons will attach, to help support the stress of buttons. Cut two strips of interfacing about 1" wide and include them when you stage the banding to the front of the sweater. The interfacing goes on the back (or wrong side) of the banding, lining up with the sweater and banding edges. 7. Press this seam open, on the right (or top) side of the sweater. 8. Stage the length of the unattached edge of the banding strip. 9. On the inside of the sweater, fold and press the banding so that the unpaired edge on the strip lines up along the inside of the stitched seam where the banding and sweater attach. Be sure to give yourself enough of an overlap to catch the edge of the banding when you topstitch it. 10. Pin the folded and pressed banding strip to the sweater on the front side, and using thread that matches the banding, top stitch the banding 1/8" in from the seam where banding meets sweater. 11. Press the banding, tucking seams around the neck line. 12. Determine where you want buttons, and mark with chalk. For men's garments, when looking at the garment, the buttons go on the left; vice versa for women's. 13. Measure the diameter of the button and mark the buttonhole to this size on the banding. 14. Stitch the buttonholes using your buttonhole attachment. 15. Cut open the buttonholes, starting with a razor and finishing with scissors. 16. Overlap the two fronts to make sure the buttonholes line up with your chalk marks. 17. Sew on buttons.

17. Lorna Leedy (left right), her Eurovan, and the neck sweater (on model).
18. In addition to her regular lines, Leedy does custom work as well.
19. Appliqués assist adventures.
20.–21. The Texas desert inspired Leedy's cactus cardigan.
22. Leedy at her sewing station.

> "I think being an artist and having a small business is pretty much about doing it all yourself." —LORNA LEEDY



FOR THE POCKETS

18. Using another knit fabric or scraps from another sweater, cut out pockets to your preferred size and shape. 19. Serge all edges of the pockets. 20. Fold and press the serged edges of the sides and bottom of the pockets inward to about ½". Fold and press the top of the pocket down to a ½". 21. Topstitch the pocket top at 1/8" and press. 22. Pin the pockets in place on the cardigan. 23. Topstitch the pockets to the cardigan, reinforcing the top corners of the pockets by stitching over them two or three times. 24. Press the whole shebang.

APPLIQUÉS

25. Draw or trace your appliqué shape on a piece of paper and cut it out. 26. For fabric appliqués, trace with chalk or pencil. Remember that if you're tracing onto the back side of the material, you have to flip over the appliqué stencil to make for the appliqué to turn out facing the way you'd drawn it. 27. Cut out your appliqués. 28. Pin appliqués in place carefully. 29. Topstitch down the appliqué using matching thread. Stitch close to the edge, and go slow! If the appliqué is fabric, the main thing you want to avoid is bubbling, so stretch the appliqué slightly as you stitch it. 30. Put on your sweater and hit the open road.