

Publication: October 2006

*Buy retail, add detail!  
Give old clothes a second chance at life!*

***Customizing Cool Clothes:  
From Dull to Divine in 30 Projects  
Kate Haxell***

Loveland, Colo.: *Project Runway* addicts and DIY fashionistas will love the simple projects in **CUSTOMIZING COOL CLOTHES: FROM DULL TO DIVINE IN 30 PROJECTS** (Interweave Press, October 2006) by Kate Haxell. In **CUSTOMIZING COOL CLOTHES**, Haxell offers fun, funky, and fashionable ideas for repurposing, reinventing, or refashioning ordinary store-bought, vintage, or closet rehab garments to create an entirely new wardrobe. Projects are guaranteed not to bust the crafty gal's budget and are perfect for even beginners with little to no experience in sewing or needlework. Most of the projects don't require a sewing machine—all you need is a pair of scissors, needle, thread, and simple trimmings, such as frayed silk, sequins, beads, vintage buttons, printed fabric, ribbons, dyes, and feathers.

Crafters will start by learning techniques for simple sewing and embroidery stitches, and move into choosing embellishments, sourcing and storing materials, and tackling their own unique designs. Then the recipes come for 30 unexpected, easy-to-follow projects that take a widely available garment—denim jeans, a velvet jacket, straight-legged pants, or a flared skirt—and offer tips to create a more spiced-up version. In the hands of Kate Haxell—who

prides herself in her diva's wardrobe on a budget—old clothes are given a second chance at new life and ordinary retail garments are transformed into designer originals.

Projects are divided into four categories—trimmings, buttons and beads, ribbons, and stitching—and include:

- *Trimmings*: Give a ruffled, vintage camisole an updated neckline with organza trimming and a sheen of pearl beads;
- *Buttons and Beads*: Jazz up a simple bolero with sequins, beads, and a satin bow to make it worthy of girls' night out;
- *Ribbons*: Shorten a skirt hemline without cutting into fabric by using a creative, ribbon-ruched technique;
- *Stitching*: Transforming two T-shirts into one but deconstructing and restitching
- And much more!

Fashionistas don't need a tailor or personal designer to liven up their wardrobes. Whether the style is Bohemian, classic, retro, or edgy, the projects in *Customizing Cool Clothes* will suit the new crop of do-it-yourselfers, with enough ideas to inspire experienced needlework and sewing enthusiasts alike.

### CUSTOMIZING COOL CLOTHES: FROM DULL TO DIVINE IN 30 PROJECTS

by Kate Haxell

Interweave Press • October 2006 • \$21.95

8¼ x 10¼ • Paperback • 128 pages • 240 photographs

ISBN 10: 1-59668-015-6 • ISBN 13: 978-1-59668-015-9

Distributed to the book trade by Independent Publishers Group

**About the author:** Kate Haxell is an all-around crafty gal and member of the new generation of do-it-yourselfers who isn't afraid to work with her knitting needles, sewing machine, and electric saw all in the same weekend. She learned sewing from her grandmother at a young age, creating eccentric outfits for her compliant dolls. After obtaining her art degree, she went to work for *Country Living* magazine, then moved into book publishing and editing. Her passions are knitting, beading, sewing, and woodworking and her previous books include *Decorative Knitting*, *The Seed Bead Book*, *First Knits*, *Simple Handmade Storage*, and *Simple Handmade Garden Furniture*. She lives in London.

**About Interweave Press:** In business since 1975, Interweave Press publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, and beads. Throughout Interweave's evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for doing, and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes six magazines, including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, *Spin-Off*, and *Fiberarts*. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in the field of interest, the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.