

Dress to Kimono



Refashion



JANOME

Looking to update your wardrobe without spending a lot? This dress to kimono tutorial is a great way to look cool for the summer, without spending big bucks to get the designer look.

This tutorial will take you through the basic steps of turning an outdated dress into a modern piece – and with lots of room for customization, you can achieve the look you want!



SHOPPING TIP: Thrifting for the perfect dress? Look for something lightweight and with short - long sleeves. If you can find a dress without a waistline--you scored big!

Step 1: Remove any details on the dress that you don't want. {On this dress, the collar and bow were removed. The neck was sewn shut once collar was removed.}

Step 2: Remove gathering at waist (if applicable)

Step 3: Cut dress down center front. Mark the center front with a marking tool and cut through center of dress. Be sure to only cut the front.

Step 4: Bring waist seam to natural waistline (my waist moved up by 3.5") & remove and alter sleeves, if necessary. {My sleeves needed the cuff removed and I wanted to eliminate the gathering at the top.}

Step 5: Draw a curved edge along the neckline and serge or zig zag the new curved line and the rest of your raw edge.

Step 6: Fold in your freshly serged edge 1/2", or double if you don't want the serger stitches to show. To get a clean fold, fold all the way around your neck.

Step 7: (optional) If you find there is too much fabric, or you want a little more shape to your kimono, add a small piece of elastic to the back. Cut a 4" piece, mark center of back. Mark 3.5" away from center on both sides. With each end of elastic at outer marks, stretch and zig zag elastic to dress.

Step 8: Hem to desired length and add a fun trim! You can choose to keep it full length, or shorten it all the way up to your waist!



Hemming Tip: If you want a shorter Kimono, try refashioning a blouse!

