

## Londa Rohlfing 'Ties & T's'

Selecting the perfect mix of T-Shirt and Ties (or soft fabrics) and how to snip, slit, tuck and stitch to transform a 'too big' T-Shirt into a comfy knit top.



**The grey T-Shirt with print ties**

1. Combination of 3 ties - not flat but with dimension on some pieces since the fabric is soft.
2. Cut neck edge - cut too low, show 'tuck', rolled strip at center front.
3. Tucking at sides/pleating to make 'fit'.
4. Machine decorative stitching at sides.
5. Thrown in washer/dryer MANY times - poly Russell 300 T from Wal-Mart.



### **The Teal Ties & T's Shirt**

1. Just 2 ties used applied with some dimension not flat. Bias frayed edges.
2. Monofilament thread used for most stitching of the ties onto the T. Use a size 75 Stretch needle, poly thread in bobbin with a lowered upper tension.
3. Bound neckline - using bias silk dupioni.
4. Tie labels at sleeves.
5. Button use - label to get extra attention at left as you 'read' the garment. Don't do as I do - designing ON yourself, not looking in a mirror.
6. Buttons create focal point.
7. Wider at shoulders always makes hips look slimmer.
8. Tuck on one side with decorative stitching.
9. Extra 'play composition at godet insert at left side.
10. Shirring with 1/8" elastic at right side - more on How-To later in this episode.
11. Inside is pinked, no serging done as knits don't ravel.



### **Lilac T with Bobbin Work stitching as embellishment.**

1. Pieces of other left-over projects utilized
2. Bobbin Work - more on the how-to's of that later
3. Shirring at back for a bit of shaping
4. Godets at side - utilizing hem of another T-Shirt



### **Filtering & Coordinating Fabrics and Ideas**

1. As you select ties for a certain T-shirt color, think of it as selecting the 'Main Actress - and Supporting Actresses. The T is the 'stage' on which everything will 'play'.
2. Best place to find ties at realistic prices: Your hubby's closet or Estate sales!
3. COLLECT labels - from anything, not just ties! Local Store Labels - especially fun!
4. Un-stitch hand stitching on back of a tie, remove the interfacing, and gently hand wash and dry. LEAVE lining at ends in place!!!
5. Store prepared ties in appropriate COLOR STASH box with fabrics

**Teal/Green Combination** - the shirred Tie as new possibility - discovered when pulling hand-stitching on back of tie. Keep any button perfect with fabric WITH the fabric.

Fold a T-shirt at the neckline at center front and center back to cut off the neckline finish.

### **Aqua 'Russel' (slick) T**

1. Favorite T's - ones that drape, are 'slick' so 'move' - likely poly/lycra, poly/rayon/cotton NOT 100% cotton. NOT with pocket! Select 1 size larger than comfy fit for you.
2. Which things gathered - what will and will NOT work. To START - doesn't mean everything WILL be used.
  - A. Color – intensity.
  - B. Fabrics - lightweight, soft - like poly crepes, silks, ties.
  - C. Buttons.
3. Show tucking and pinning - use a SAFETY PIN at the sides to hold when removing garment from body fitting. Perhaps even tucking.
4. Importance of safety pins marking the bust points!

### **Construction Tips & Decorative Thread in the Bobbin**

1. Shirring with 1/8" elastic in a seam allowance - lay 1/8: elastic in the seam allowance, close to the seaplane. PULL and zigzag to seam allowance. More on this in Londa's pattern: Sensational Shirring available at [www.londas-sewing.com](http://www.londas-sewing.com)
2. Fun with decorative stitch to easily 'Stitch In' Side Fitting tuck
3. Bobbin work: heavy thread in the bobbin, with garment right side down. BEFORE stitching, plan stitching lines from right side, stitch with monofilament thread in the needle - poly on bobbin. This 'marks' the wrong side for following as you stitch with decorative thread in the bobbin. A special bobbin case might be necessary on your machine. Select an elongated, open stitch. Experiment first!!!

You are making a 1-of-a-kind garment using 2 VERY opposite 'feel' garments: a 'Casual 'T and a 'formal' men's tie! Combine to make very special, interesting and FUN art-to-wear garments!

**Up-Cycle Memento Tops** is a pattern with detailed information on the Ties on T's. Find it at this link: <https://www.londas-sewing.com/product-page/up-cycle-memento-tops-sewing-pattern-booklet-pdf-delivery>

Godets, as added on the Lilac T are covered in Londa's Trendy Tunic Tops pattern. Find it at this link:

<https://www.londas-sewing.com/product-page/trendy-tunic-tops-sewing-pattern-booklet-pdf-electronic-delivery>.