Child's Sweatshirt Makeover

By Lorine Mason

Materials
- Child's sweatshirt
- 1/8 yard cotton fabric for front placket/ruffle
- Elastic: 6 inches 3/4-inch-wide and 14 inches 1/4-inch-wide
- Two 1/2-inch buttons
- Three snap sets
- Basic sewing tools and supplies
- Optional embellishments: fabric paint, paintbrush, two complementary fabric scraps, five decorative buttons
- Construction Diagrams

Instructions

Lay a ruler across the body of the sweatshirt, measuring and marking 8 inches down from the underarm seams of sweatshirt along each side. Connect the marks with ruler and cut through both the front and back layers of the sweatshirt to remove the excess length. Fold the sweatshirt in half, matching the shoulder seams, and lightly press a fold down the center front. Cut the sweatshirt open along the fold line (see Diagram A).

Lay a ruler across the sleeve, measuring down and marking 7 inches from the shoulder seam and 5 1/2 inches from the underarm seam. Connect marks with ruler and cut around sleeve to remove excess length (see Diagram B). Repeat for opposite sleeve.

Lay a small plate or other circular object on the front side of the shirt, so that the outer edge touches the bottom and the center front edge of the sweatshirt. Draw a line around the plate between the bottom of the sweatshirt and center front edge to round the corner (see Diagram C). Repeat on opposite side.

Cut along the drawn lines through the front layer of the sweatshirt only (see Diagram D).

Cut a 3 x 45-inch strip of cotton fabric. Fold strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and stitch across each of the short ends using a 1/4-inch seam. Turn right side out and press. Sew two rows of gathering stiches running parallel to each other at 1/8-inch and 1/4-inch intervals. This strip will become the front placket and hemline ruffle (see Diagram E).

Fold the fabric strip in half widthwise and mark center with a pin. Pin the center point of the fabric strip to the center back of the sweatshirt along the hemline. Pin the two ends of the fabric strip to the neckline edges of the sweatshirt. Continue pinning the fabric strip down both sides of the center fronts, stopping at the top of the curve. Gently pull the gathering threads from the center back of the fabric strip and distribute the gathers as you pin the fabric strips along the hemline and curve of the sweatshirt (see Diagram F). Stitch using a 1/2-inch seam. Finish the seam with an overcast stitch. Press.

Turn under the hemline of each sleeve 1 1/2 inches and press. Sew two rows of stitching running parallel to the bottom edge of the sleeve at 3/4-inch and 1 1/4-inch intervals (see Diagram G).

Leave a 2-inch opening along the 1 1/4-inch row of stitching. Insert an 8-inch length of 1/4-inch-wide elastic in the channel made by the two rows of stitching. Overlap the ends of the elastic and stitch together. Stitch the 2-inch opening closed (see Diagram H). Repeat for opposite sleeve.

Lay the sweatshirt on a flat surface with the inside back of the sweatshirt facing up. Measure down 6 1/2 inches from the center back neck of the sweat-shirt, placing the measuring tape at the bottom of the neckline ribbing, and insert a pin. Measure out 3 inches from either side of the pin and add two additional pins. Remove the middle pin (see Diagram I).

Remove the pin on the left side and insert it into a 3-inch length of 3/4-inch-wide elastic. Stitch across the top edge of the elastic, stretching it as you sew to meet the pin on the opposite side (see Diagram J). Repeat stitching across the bottom edge of the elastic.

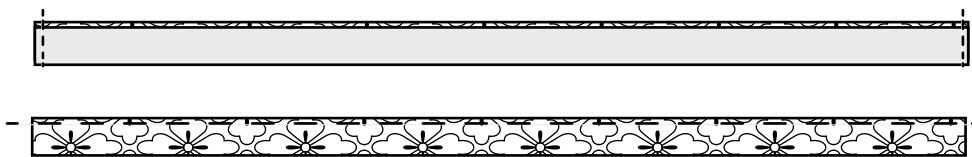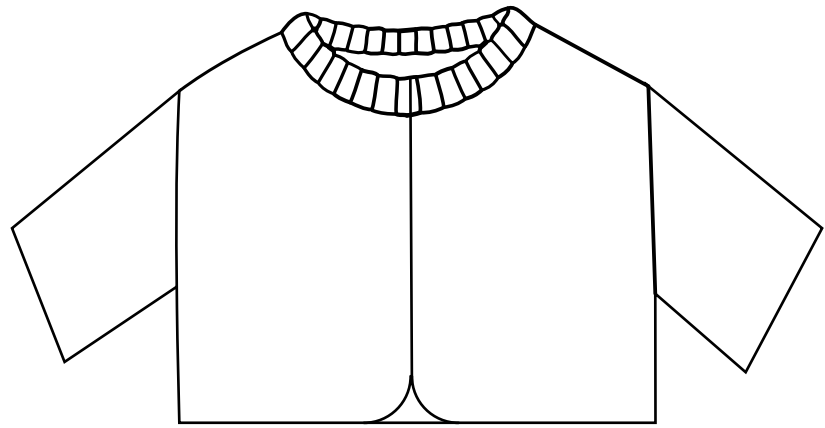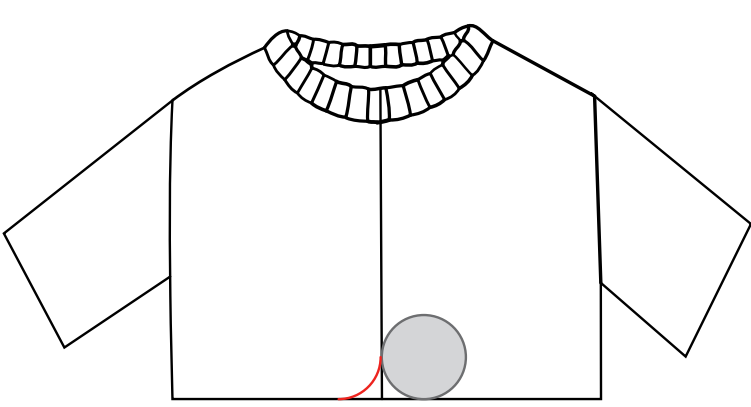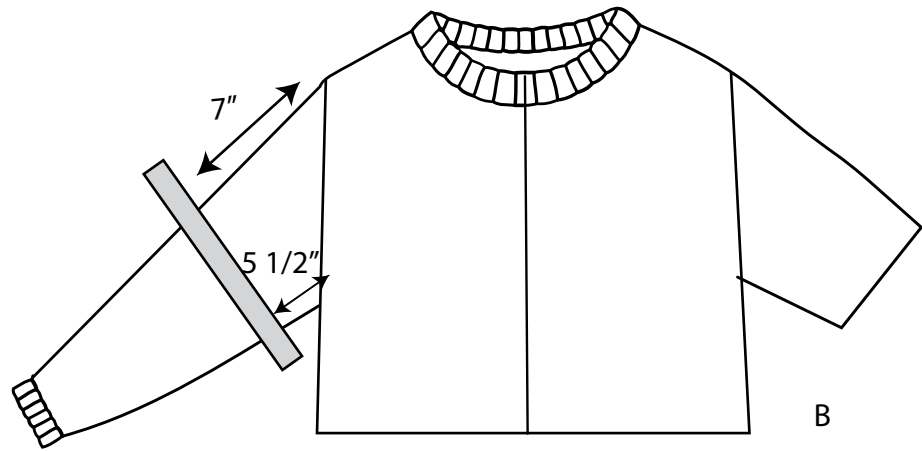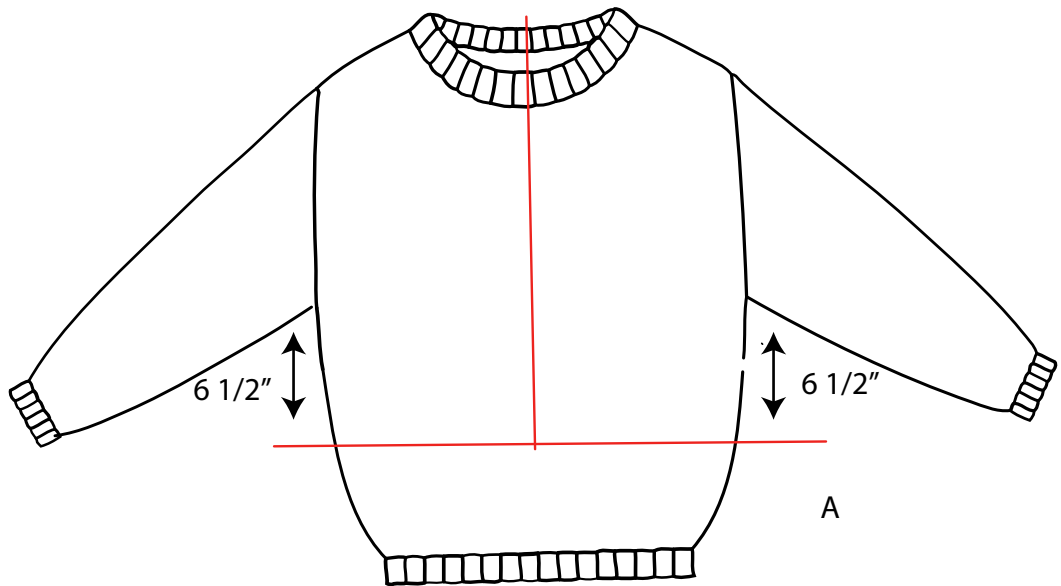Sew a buttons to the right side of the sweatshirt on either side of the elastic (see Diagram K).

Sew three sets of snaps to sides of the sweatshirt front placket, matching placement so jacket will close with sides even.
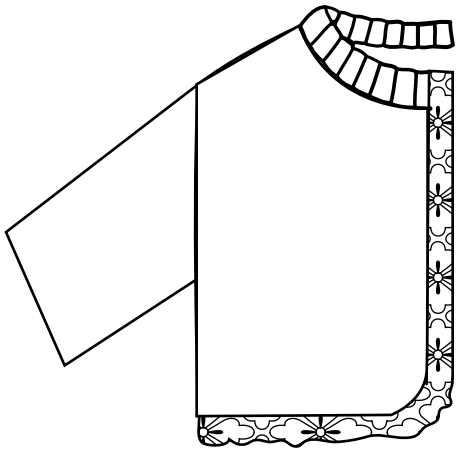
Embellishment Options (See Diagram L)

• Choose a complementary thread color and sew a decorative stitch around the front and back of the sweatshirt following the curves and hemlines. *Note: This will also secure the seams of the placket/ruffle to the sweatshirt.*

• Using complementary fabrics create five yo-yos and sew them to the front and sleeves of the sweatshirt.

• Add decorative buttons to the top of each of the yo-yos.

• Dip the end of a paintbrush into the fabric paint and add dots to the front of the sweatshirt. Be sure to clean the end of the paintbrush continuously to create dots of a similar size. Set aside to dry.
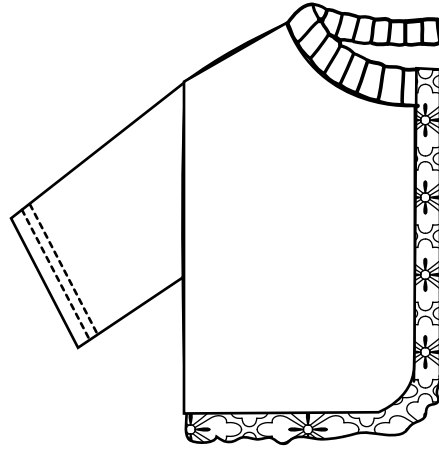
Note: A size 4T thrift-shop sweatshirt was used in this design. Measurements given in pattern should be used only as a guideline if you are using a different size of sweatshirt.

6 1/2"

6 1/2"

A

7"

5 1/2"

B

C

D

E

Thrift Store Children's Sweatshirt Makeover
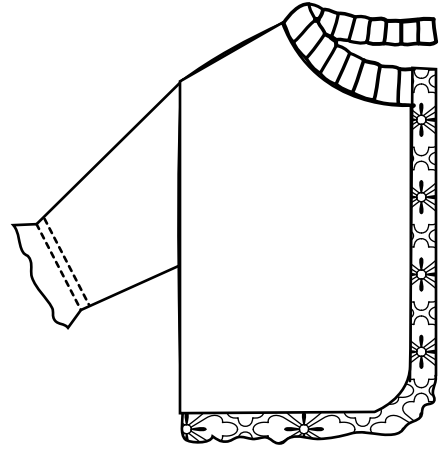Diagrams by Lorine Mason©
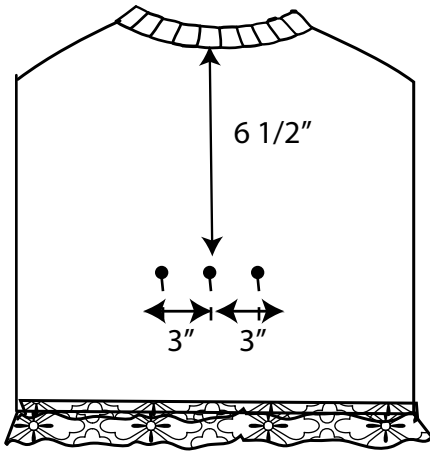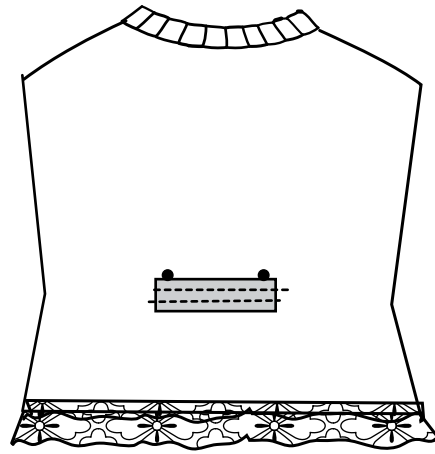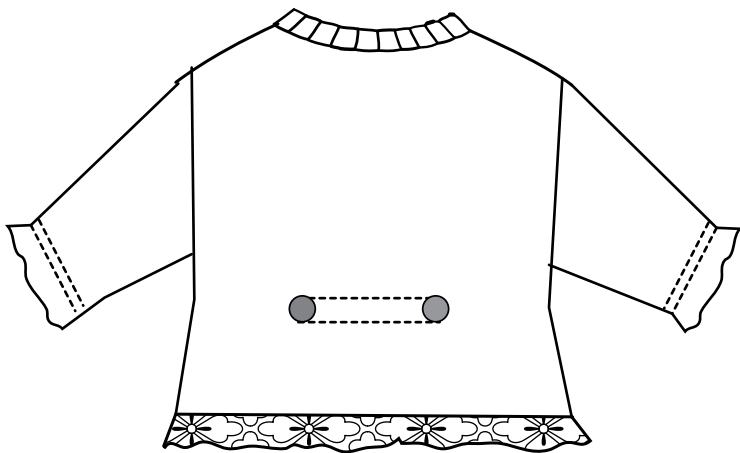www.lorinemason.com

Cutting Lines

F

G

H

Diagrams I & J
Inside view of
sweatshirt back
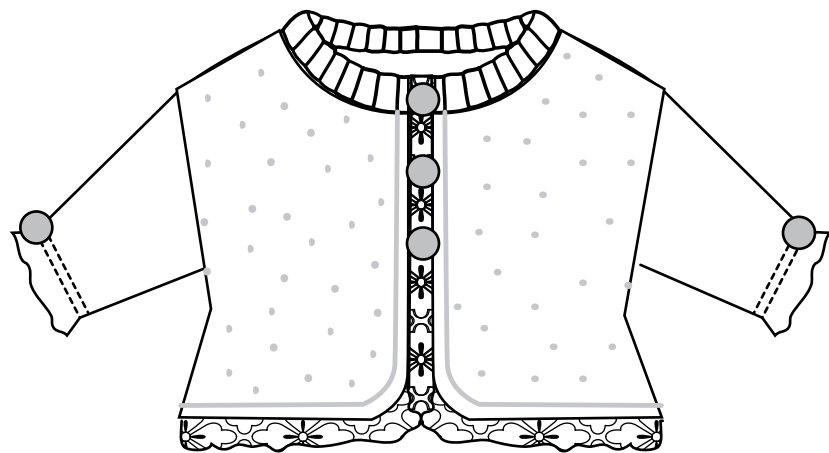for elastic
placement

6 1/2″

3″   3″

I

J

K

L

Button
Placement

YoYo
Placement

Decorative Stitching
Line