CUSTOMISE

Create an embellishment

Bored of your clothes? Customising something you already have is a sustainable way to update your wardrobe.

This example has been created by designer Chloe Patience and shows you how to make a hand-embroidered sequined snake to transform a favourite garment.

What you need:

- Tracing paper and pencil
- Embroidery thread
- Embroidery needle
- Tailor’s chalk
- Felt
- Sequins
- Satin stitch

Hint: Plastic sequins shimmer for a few hours on your clothes but once you discard the item, they lie intact in landfill for a few centuries or more. Try using bio-plastic sequins from the Sustainable Sequin Company.
1. Gather the materials you want to use for your embellishment.

2. Place tracing paper on top of your garment and draw a snake outline by hand in the place you want it to go.

3. Once you are happy with the shape, cut it out and use it as a stencil. Draw the outline onto the piece of felt using tailor's chalk.

4. Attach the embroidery hoop on top of the bit of felt you want to start embroidering. As you work along the snake you'll need to detach and reattach the embroidery hoop.

5. Carefully embroider into the hoop, keeping within the outline. Embroidering is adding decoration by stitching on sequins, fabric or ribbon. You can also use satin stitch to create shapes or patterns on the felt with thread.

6. Once you have finished embroidering, carefully cut around the outline of the snake. Leave a 3mm gap around the outside and be careful not to snip any stitches that hold your decoration in place.

7. Attach onto the garment using pins before stitching around the edges with a running stitch. Finally, you can remove the pins.