

thrift(scoring)

Educate yourself: Seek out books from the local library or bookstore on costume or design, or sewing/clothing construction, including information on fabrics. Page through old magazines or books and get an idea of what was in fashion when, and what kinds of styles, details or eras that you favor. Knowing what's what will help you to quickly spot interesting finds.

Use your senses to save time and effort: Scan the racks and shelves with your eyes to root out items with the design, colors and patterns you love, rather than examining each piece on the rack. Familiarize yourself with the hand of all sorts of fibers, so you can gauge the quality and content of the fabric in the clothes you covet. And remember, the nose knows: that old school stink may be hard to get out!

Have a plan: There's no need to check every single section and rack of the store, unless you have a lot of time to spend! Stick to the areas of the store with the stuff you love and need most, unless you're looking for something specific.

For example, in every thrift store I visit, I scour the shoes, belts/scarves/jewelry, dresses, skirts, tops, craft section (if they have one), as well as the books. If I have time, I take a twirl through the men's department, pants, and household items, and I might take a second look through the sections I originally visited, or explore areas I don't usually visit.

Keeping thrifting thrifty: Fill your cart with all that catches your eye, and then pause at the end of your excursion to examine each item. Ask yourself, Do I really love it? Should this other item just be left behind? I try to leave the thrift only with what you REALLY love. Give yourself a limit: bring a set amount of cash (say, \$20), and only allow yourself to spend what that strict budget allows.

Go often!: Lots of thrifts refresh stock weekly or more often, especially the bigger charity thrifts such as Salvation Army, and Goodwill. Some thrifts even restock daily! The more you go the more chances you have to (thrift)score!

On matters of fit: Try things on if you can, as sizes through the decades can vary widely. If your local thrift does not have a dressing room, use available mirrors and just hold the item up to you, to gauge the fit or wear strategic clothing (like leggings or a loose, long skirt and perhaps a tank top), and try the item on over or under your clothes.

Fix it up, or maybe not!: Some thrifted items are easy to adjust, like taking in side seams, hems, or mending sections of a popped seam, but fixing up complicated garments may be ill-advised. Same goes for stains: some marks may come out, but if an item is extremely stained, it's likely to be a lost cause and is best left behind. If it's cheap enough, you could give hand-washing or dry cleaning a go, but beware: some old, fragile items may disintegrate. Buyer beware!

Keep an open mind, take a risk!: Most thrifted clothing can be found for cheap, so in that sense, it's low-risk! Just try it on, and try it out! You never know what you might find, or what might flatter.

what to look for now:

high waisted pants or skirts / thin belts / full skirts / patent leather shoes / bows and bowties / folkwear / vests / bold patterns
metallic shoes or sandals / jewel-tone anything / gold jewelry / fancy cocktail hats / clutch purses / whatever you love! :)

visit **wardrobe_remix** here:
<http://www.wardroberemix.com>

post a clear, high-quality HEAD to TOE photo of you showing off your REAL, EVERYDAY STYLE, to **wardrobe_remix**, a DIY street fashion community!

this is how you do it:

go to <http://www.wardroberemix.com> or flickr.com/groups/wardrobe_remix upload your photo to your flickr account, join the **wardrobe_remix** flickr group, and add your photo to the group!

yay!

some of my favorite thrifts in san francisco, because i love you!

thrift town: 2101 mission street (mission district)
good for just about everything, but especially clothing, shoes and home goods. check out the book section, too!

goodwill as-is: 86 11th street (in SOMA)
almost like dumpster diving. cheap, dirty, and a little scary, but you never know what you might find! p.s.: around the corner on mission and 12th is a regular goodwill.

goodwill: 1700 haight street @ cole (upper haight/haight ashbury): **this goodwill in my hood always delivers something interesting.**

search for more here: yelp.com

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re(sources) for re(mixing)

places to go,
books, websites
and magazines to
read [inspiration and ways to DIY!]

- <http://www.knittinghelp.com/>
- <http://www.craftster.com>
- <http://www.supernaturale.com>
- <http://www.craftzine.com/>
- <http://www.style.com>
- <http://www.etsy.com>
- <http://www.getcrafty.com>
- <http://www.hel-looks.com>
- <http://whipup.net/>
- <http://www.knitknit.net/>
- <http://www.knittingpatterncentral.com/>

- Reader's Digest Complete Guide To Sewing** (superb sewing reference)
- Designing Apparel Through The Flat Pattern** (patternmaking basics)
- The Art of Manipulating Fabric** (amazing ways to transform fabric into textural loveliness)
- Vogue Knitting: The Ultimate Knitting Book** (THE knitting bible)
- Stitch and Bitch Crochet: The Happy Hooker** (good basic book with crochet patterns, too!)
- The Ultimate Sourcebook of Knitting and Crochet Stitches** (use this as a jumping off point!)
- The Cheap Date Guide to Style** (a great, funny British style manual that celebrates real style)
- Street:The Nylon Book of Global Style** (street fashion a la Nylon Magazine)
- Rare Bird of Fashion: The Irreverent Iris Apfel** (be inspired by her fearless personal style!)
- Couture Sewing** (techniques for haute couture sewing)
- Fabric Savvy** (know whatcha workin' with)

**Nylon / Blueprint / Bust / Adorn / Selvedge
Threads / Craft: / Make: / Readymade / Teen Vogue
Fiberarts / Interweave Knits / Interweave Crochet
Streets / Vogue Knitting / Knit 1**

remix your wardrobe
{craft your own original look!}

Do or Dye: Use fabric dye to change the color of a garment completely or freshen up that which has faded (black garments are really notorious for fading and love a new layer of dye now and again, especially if they are in otherwise good condition). Overdyeing lighter colored garments with bright colors can make for a super funky style statement, and of course, there's always good old tie-dye, and it's friend dip-dyeing, too! Tip: Dyeing works best on garments made from natural materials...unfortunately, there's no way to save that polyester, my pretties! For more information about dyeing, seek out a book on tie-dye from your local library or used bookstore, scour the net for dyeing tips and/or tutorials, or just experiment!

All That's Fit to Print (Upon): Easy printmaking/fabric printing techniques can jazz up jeans, jackets, jumpers, and more. Find a simple shape, and then fashion fabric stamps out of potatoes, erasers, or printmakers linoleum like Speedball Speedy-Cut carving block (found in the printmaking section of your local art supply store, or online). Dab the stamps with fabric paint, and stamp away on the surface of your fabric or garment! Know how to silkscreen? Use that versatile medium to create cool images you can add add to ready-made new or old clothes, or, if you're so inclined, you could even print lengths of your own fabric with your signature images, out of which you can make your own clothes! Super limitless possibilities abound!

Decorate Your Duds: Use thread and needle or trusty sewing machine to change simple things on your clothing like hems, and side seams, making the garment fit you and the most recent silhouette du jour. If the garment is on the plain side, you could add embroidery, or even beautiful store-bought ribbons, tassels, braids, beads, buttons or other traditional trims favored by seamstresses. Use trims in a contrasting but complimentary color to create an interesting, eye-catching look. Don't forget to think outside the sewing box, too! Cruise the aisles of your local dollar store or hardware store for unusual items to gussy up your garments, like small washers, string, faux flowers, or shoelaces (a few of which tied together would make a cute bow on the neck of a dress, for starters!).

Shopping for Sewers: If you have the skills to sew, get thee to the stores, the thrifts and fabric stores, that is! Thrift stores are jam packed with possibilities for clothing and the making thereof: old sewing machines that can live again in your hands (with the help of a sewing machine mechanic/guru, perhaps?), bags of notions like thread, buttons, and more, fab bits of fabric, not to mention linens like sheets, pillowcases, doilies and tablerunners, or even placemats, any of which could be put to use in the creation of a cool garment. And many thrift has a cache of vintage sewing patterns! These are a goldmine because fashion is cyclical, and what has gone before usually comes around again. Look for silhouettes that could make sense in the here and now, or just buy them for sartorial inspiration (if they are not your size)! New patterns you find at the fabric store can be made with old fabrics you've thrifted, or make a secondhand pattern with newfangled fabric! Experiment, and let the new and the old alike that you find at the fabric stores and thrifts inspire you in the making of truly original wearables.

Yarn, Y'all: You know it: handknit and hand-crocheted items are super-duper cool, and add a haute homemade edge to one's wardrobe. There are tons of great magazines and websites out there with au courrant patterns, but don't forget to peruse the thrifts, used bookstores, or the local library for old patterns and books about these undeniably awesome fiber arts. Sure, sometimes the yarns aren't available anymore and the colors may not be up-to-date, but some ingenuity and creativity and open-mindedness about the details and possibilites could make for a new twist on an old idea, a la YOU.