

Alter the bottom of the tee by deconstructing the hemline. Pair the look with gathered roses at the top for a tattered-chic statement that's perfect for a night on the town.

**▶ 1.** On the front of the tee only, make a fold 3½ inches (8.9 cm) up from the hem. Use the zigzag stitch on your machine, and sew on the fold. Next, make random short folds, 3 inches (7.6 cm) or less in length, and sew them on their fold lines using the zigzag stitch.

**2.** Sew around the edges of randomly placed narrow rectangles using the zigzag stitch. With sharp scissors, carefully cut away the inside of each rectangle, leaving only the stitched outline. To complete the look, add a few rows of randomly placed zigzag stitches.

**3.** Make five gathered roses of different sizes (page 12) from an old tee. Sew them across the neckline. Stitch a mother-of-pearl button at the center of each rose.



**TATTERED CHIC**

## Roses

Everyone loves roses, especially on a lovely T-shirt. Large or small, gathered or rolled, they always add a designer touch.

### *Gathered Roses*

Gathered roses have a delicate wavy edge that is soft and flirty. They look much harder to make than they are. If you practice with scrap fabric first, you'll be whipping out successful roses after only a few tries.

Start with strips cut from old tees or knit fabric. The strips can be almost any size. A longer strip yields a larger flower, and a wider strip yields a fuller flower. For a regular size flower, begin with a strip 1½ inches (3.8 cm) wide and 14 inches (35.6 cm) long. Hand sew or machine stitch a long stitch, called a gathering stitch, along one edge. Don't backstitch or knot the ends. Pull the threads to gather.

Begin rolling one end of the gathered strip toward the other, making three turns as you do. Hand sew the rolls in place. Continue loosely rolling and stitching until you reach the end of the strip. Sew the center of the flower to the tee, then open the petals as you wish and hand tack in place. If desired, you can add a button or rhinestone embellishment at the center of the flower.

### *Rolled Roses*

Rolled roses highlight the texture and layers of fabric. The same principals for determining strip size for gathered roses apply: the strips can be almost any size; a longer strip yields a larger flower; and a wider strip yields a fuller flower. For a regular size flower, begin with a strip that is 2 inches (5 cm) wide and 10 inches (25.4 cm) long. Lay the strip flat. Fold the strip in half widthwise to make a strip that is 1 x 10 inches (2.5 x 25.4 cm). Fold the right end over ½ inch (1.3 cm) to make an angle, and use a needle and thread to hand tack it in place through all layers.

Fold and twist the tail of the strip until it forms a small circle. Working on the back of the circle, hand sew the folds to secure them. Bring the tail to the underside of the completed circle, and continue folding, twisting, and stitching until you've folded the entire strip. Sew the rose to the tee. Add a button or rhinestone embellishment to the center, if desired.

