

this has been a miss shannon lee production.
 sweaty southern radical queer/trans convergence
 may 2006.



turn that boring housedress into a
 sizzling halter!



♥ I find that the most common thrift store find for a fat girl is the collared zip or button front polyester housedress... so when that gets old, convert it! stretch poly is so easy to work with.



♥ cut along the lines as I've outlined in the diagrams, taking into consideration your own curves. leave hem room!
 ♥ hem the cuts you've made
 ♥ maybe add some contouring stitches along the side seams.



♥ I see these kinds of dresses with ^{come ribbon} belts all the time, so you can get away w/ not contouring it
 ♥ at the back of the neck, allow an inch to 2 inches in addition to the full collar and hem.

♥ tada!
 ♥ you may want to add a little elastic to the back if you find it's too loose.

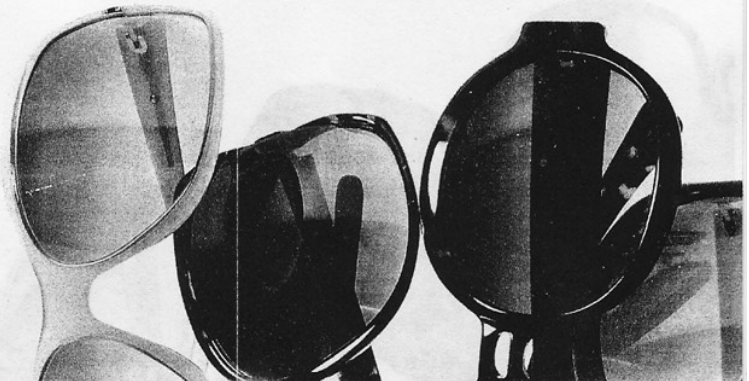
@advanced

when i found out i was doing this workshop, my mind raced with ideas for a little zine-lette about fat shopping and fashion for folks to take away with them... complete with a full list of accomodating stores and fatty fashion tips, etc. etc. but the more i tried adding, the more i felt like it was policing people's fashion sense and i hate that... i know half the shit i wear is, on paper, a glaring don't, but when pulled over these curves and paired with my own style of accessorizing totally work.

my only don't is

DON'T listen to what everyone else says is a DON'T.

even exploring your fashion options comes back to re-educating yourself. i know there was a time when i'd bitch about fat girls not being models in magazines, but when i did see a size 14 thought "she's too fat to be a model" it was a catch 22. the less representation i saw of myself out there, the less i felt it belonged out there. but the more i looked at fat bodies, my own body, the more i was able to see the beauty of them. the more i just put on that tight skirt and got used to seeing myself in it, the hotter i started to feel in it.



i've found that even in fat positive online communities and within conversations between fat girls that we are still tearing each other down. a lot of gals base what they think other fat girls should/ shouldn't be wearing on what they themselves are too uncomfortable to sport... i've been told that i show my rolls too much, that my skirt is too tight, my shorts too short and it has nothing at all to do with being "2 fat 4 that" but with it being a total shock to the eyes. we get so used to seeing only one type of body represented in fashion. we get so used to accepting the monopoly that thin ladies hold on what's "hot" that when we actually see a fat girl in some high heels and short shorts we automatically think showing skin = gross.

well, i for one am a huge advocate of showing the skin. wearing a tight or short shirt that shows my fat is like the biggest fuck you out there. fuck you for all those years i wore sweaters in the dead of summer. fuck you for hating body. fuck you for being afraid of a roll of fat.

to turn that muumuu into a tube dress!



♥ look for something big enough to allow 3 or 4 more inches than what actually fits your body

♥ look for great prints & fabrics. stretchy stuff is especially fabulous, and easy to get a good fit

♥ cut just below the sleeves, allowing at least an inch for a hem.

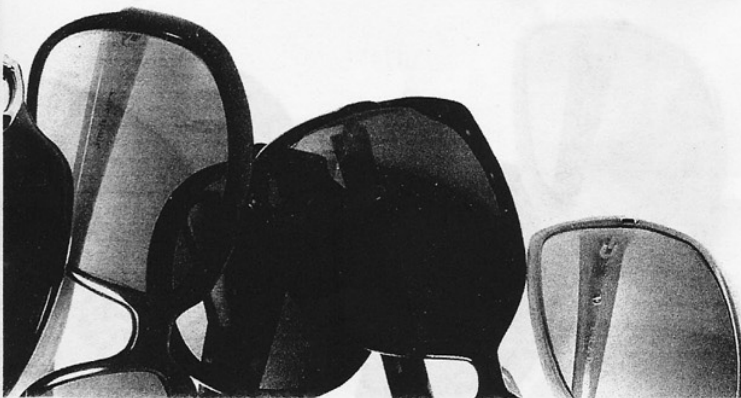
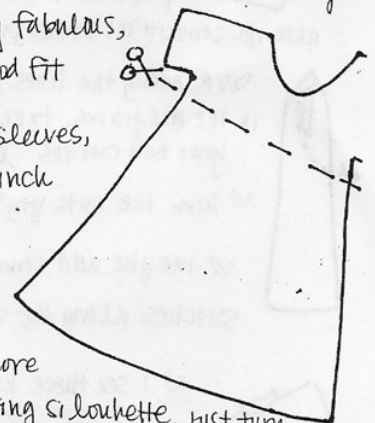
♥ you may want to stitch along the side seams to create a more

form-fitting silhouette. just turn the dress inside out to do it. cut off excess material if necessary.

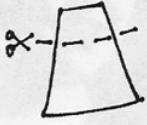
♥ fold over your top hem & sew or iron-on hem. you may want to add elastic depending on the material

♥ add a bow or belt to spice it up. xo

(i) intermediate

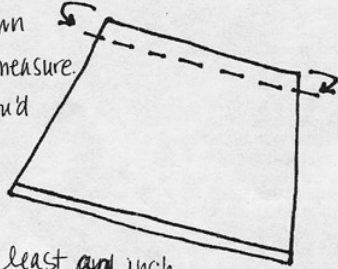


to make a small long skirt fit a hot fat ass!



♡ the trick is to find a skirt that is long enough and has enough flare that you can cut it to the desired length and have it fit around the hips.

♡ if you don't trust your own eye, use a ribbon tape measure. measure around where you'd like the skirt to fall and compare it to the skirt.



♡ make sure to allow at least ~~an~~ inch for the new waistband. fold over at this point and sew. or if you're feeling especially lazy, use some iron-on hem tape.

♡ you may want to add elastic or a zipper depending on the type and stretch of the fabric

♡ good luck and happy altering! @easy



♡ short shorts + hot pants.

♡ halter tops!

♡ summer dresses in stretchy airy fabrics.

♡ showing off your stretchmarks!

♡ personal style! tailoring!

♡ making up your own sense of whats in & out.

♡ wearing stuffy jeans all summer long.

♡ worrying about your arm fat.

♡ only being able to find tropical print mumuus that fit like tents.

♡ covering up that hot fat belly.

♡ expecting everything to fit perfectly off the rack.

♡ in/out lists.

Out.



for the penny pinchers...

tj maxx and ross dress for less.
totally hit or miss, but worth picking through for the gems.

fashion cents, simply fashions, citi trends.
usually have moderate to large plus size sections with sizes that go up far beyond what i'm used to seeing in stores. up to date on all the uber trends, but slightly low quality. it's a plus to have some sewing know-how, as buying these clothes are like buying an old \$300 car, it's not really worth it unless you can maintain it yourself.

thrift.
again, like finding the needle in the hay stack. but it happens! you've got to be dedicated and prepare for some arm muscle cramping from scooting countless pieces of crap aside in search of something you love. and don't let your fat keep you from being creative. love the print of that size 8 but can't get it over your head? ALTER! let your inner clothing designer free with a pair of scissors and a few stitches here and there.



so you're going to the mall...

unfortunately, other than lane bryant, i am not aware of any other mall stores that have sizing that goes past 20 or so. found something in a store that you love that doesn't fit? tell the sales associate, let them know how much money they are losing by neglecting your business.

lane bryant.

well, duh. but it's pricey. tops there are not an option for those of us who belong to the itty bitty titty committee.

gap.

in-store women's sizes up to size 16. available online up to size 20.

old navy.

in-store women's sizes up to size 20. plus sizes available online up to 26.

new york and company.

goes up to a not-so-generous size 18, but xl's are generally roomy.

american eagle.

in-store sizing up to 16. online up to 20. the most bitchy sales people ever.

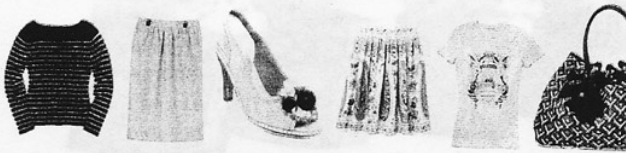


we've all been there.

you're just trying to find something to wear that isn't a muumuu or tapered legged stretch pants and it feels like every bitch in the place is looking at you like "how dare you be in here."

well, fuck em. if i can pull it up, zip it up, snap it up or stretch it over this hot fat ass, it's going home with me.

now, apologies in advance... this is not the most comprehensive shopping guide... this list is not at all considerate of any other political agendas other than buying cute stuff that fits. you may want to do your own research into whether or not you want to support these clothing manufacturers.



brands.

i've found a number of brands that are making really hot plus size clothes, and charging an arm and a leg for them. but hey, if you've got the flow to splurge, here are some to check out...

L.E.I.

denim cuts for the short waisted! hate the long, overly generous crotches of yore? these are the jeans for you! l.e.i. brand goes up to 20 and they also manufacture the l.e.i. "femme" line which go up to a size 28 if i remember correctly.

jessica simpson, believe it or not, has a line of denim that is rumored to include generous plus sizes!

spring street.

available in department stores. they have nice boot leg/flare cut pants with a comfortable inseam (no long crotches!) in lots of different prints and colors. i don't know a reliable place to find them, but i've had luck at ross dress for less. they go up to a size 28.

angels.

denim and khaki pants, shorts, and skirts. go up to a size 28 and are cut very generously in the belly/ass area for the high waisted gals out there who are stacked in the back.

baby phat, apple bottom, and more.

lots of the designers in the industry who make clothes aimed towards the "urban lifestyle" are adding totally sexy plus lines to their resumes. again, this is some expensive shit.

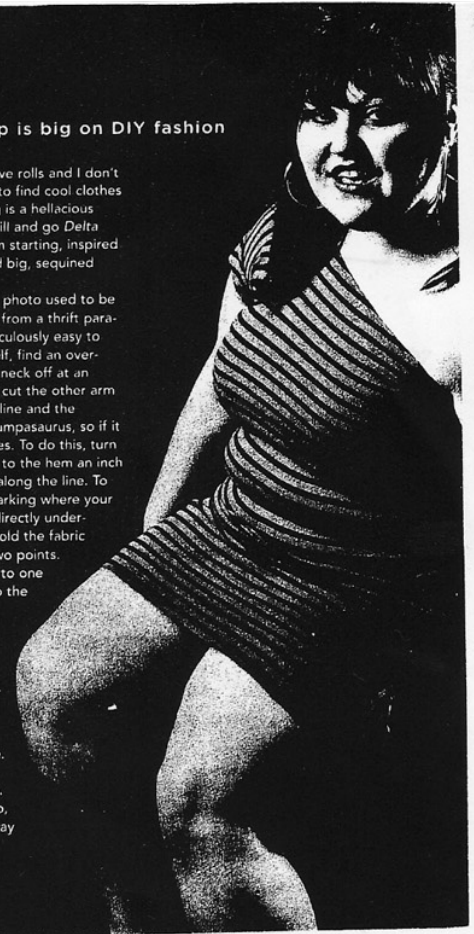
LIVIN' LARGE

Beth Ditto from the Gossip is big on DIY fashion

I'M NOT "OVERWEIGHT"—I'm fat. I have rolls and I don't care, but I've discovered it's impossible to find cool clothes that fit me. Conventional retail shopping is a hellacious experience, so instead I visit the Goodwill and go Delta Berserk! It's a new fashion movement I'm starting, inspired by Delta Burke. Think shoulder pads and big, sequined tiger sweaters, but totally punked-up.

The fancy number I'm wearing in this photo used to be a huge, hideous dress I got for 97 cents from a thrift paradise in Omaha, but modifying it was ridiculously easy to do. To make something like it for yourself, find an oversized dress with stretchy fabric. Cut the neck off at an angle going under one of the arms, and cut the other arm to the length you want it. Hem the neckline and the sleeves. You don't want to look like a frumpasaurus, so if it needs to be smaller, take it in at the sides. To do this, turn it inside out, chalk lines from the armpit to the hem an inch or so inside the original seam, and sew along the line. To accentuate your curves, add darts by marking where your nipples are and where your rolls begin directly underneath. To make a double-pointed dart, fold the fabric and draw a gentle curve between the two points. Starting in the middle of the curve, sew to one point on the edge of the fold. Repeat to the other point.

Another thing I like to do is buy a long skirt and wear it with the elasticized waist just above my boobs. Voilà —it's a strapless dress. You can use a belt to cinch it at the waist, or tie a scarf around the top. Also, stretch denim and maternity pants are the best things that ever happened to fat people. But wherever you shop, if stores don't have clothes in your size, let them know. Try something on, stretch it out, rip it up, and put it back on the hanger as your way of saying, "Fuck off. Thanks for making clothes that don't fit me." [BETH DITTO]



intentionally borrowed from lust. march 2006 ♥

online...

i know there are quite a few out there these days, but finding good quality at a good price is like finding the needle in a hay stack...

torrid. on-line and in-store sizing that goes up much higher than most. carries a variety of brands. in-store clearance is to die for, go in with \$40 on the right day, come out feeling like a million bucks. tons of trendy shit, fat-lingerie, hosiery, swim wear, and shoes (including fat-friendly knee high boots!)

alloy. is *not* exclusively plus online and mail order catalogue. carries several brands that have larger sizes, but i specifically in denim. prices are high in my opinion, but noticed the denim is a lot cheaper than that available from torrid or lane bryant. short waisted cuts and a variety of inseams offered.

