



CRAFTY IDEA: Mig Holder is turning old clothes into new designs.

Picture: Leah McLaren LM241108D-5

It's sew simple: A new-from-old approach that saves you money

A **TEXTILE** artist is helping people save money during the credit crunch by repairing, remodelling and remaking their old clothes.

Mig Holder has been turning old and unwanted pieces of fabric into new clothes, hats, bags and even jewellery since she was a child.

Last year, she left her full-time job at Derby Adult Learning Service to start her own business and has been inundated with requests for her wardrobe alteration service.

She said: "I think, with the credit crunch, people would rather reuse their old clothes than go and buy new ones.

"I can do anything from replacing a zip and altering clothes to making them bigger or smaller to updating old-fashioned items. I can even make a completely new piece of clothing from several old ones.

"Not only are you saving money but it is better for the



RECYCLING IN ACTION: Mig Holder with one of the creations she has made as part of her Blitz Your Wardrobe service.

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environment, too, and means you end up with a unique piece of clothing."

As well as the Blitz Your Wardrobe service, Mig also makes a range of clothing and gifts from fabrics people leave her.

One example is a pair of red velvet curtains which a customer brought along and asked to be made into a new jacket.

As well as the coat, Mig created a hat, cape, bag, jewellery roll and cushion covers from the left-over material.

Mig's front room at her Five Lamps home is full of boxes bursting with everything from buttons and lace to curtain samples and cotton reels, with almost everything donated.

She said: "The only thing which is new is the thread.

"Everything else has been picked up by myself or donated by friends.

"People can leave me with a bin bag full of unwanted clothing and I will go through it for them.

"Anything which is in very good condition I will

donate to charity shops; anything which can be used to make other items, I wash and keep; and anything else I will use as stuffing for items like draught excluders."

Having discovered a love of sewing at a young age – she made her first dress at the age of 10 – Mig believes sewing could see a resurgence in popularity, as people look for ways to save money.

She said: "I think it is such a shame more people don't sew and am very happy to help anyone who is interested in learning to get to grips with the basics."

The standard charge for a Blitz Your Wardrobe consultation is £20 and a price is agreed for each alteration.

Gift items vary in price; for example, bags made from recycled curtains cost about £15.

Mig is holding an open studio event all this week. For more information, call her on 07771 547596 or e-mail migholder@hotmail.com.