

# **SEW BE IT**

## **Basic Stuff:**

### **TOOLS:**

Fabric or material, thread

Sharp scissors--NOT to be used on cardboard

Measuring tools - tape measure, yardstick, tape, seam guide, marking chalk or pen

Fabric gluestick

Pins, safety pins

Needles for hand sewing

Seam ripper

### **START:**

At the beginning. Teach students how to thread the machine and fill the bobbin.

Keep it simple -- don't worry about following complicated patterns unless you have a member with experience

Practice on old pieces of fabric until you're comfortable with team member's skill

Use a light touch on the machine--go slow!

Watch fingers!!

Use big stitches---they're easier to take out!

**Remember our theme song "From a Distance"--the finished product does not have to be perfect**

**FINISH:** Clean up each day and PUT STUFF AWAY so you can find it right away at the next team meeting

Consider any finishing touches--trim, ribbons, fasteners

### **TIPS:**

Look at remnant tables for bargains.

WalMart often has tables of fabrics for \$1 or \$2 a yard

Get acquainted with the thrift shops. Old curtains, old sheets, old table cloths can be had for a few dollars

Consider using old clothes as a start to the costume and add on.

It's a lot easier to add an apron to a skirt than to make a waistband

Consider type of fabric--some frays badly, and other blends can be cut with no attention to the edges

Type of fabric will also dictate whether finished piece can be washed. Don't be afraid to use iron--flat fabric is much easier to manipulate than a bunch of wrinkles

# DON'T SEW? SEW WHAT!

## Alternatives to sewing:

- Stitch Witchery
- Hot glue and not so hot glue\*
- Duct tape\*
- Velcro
- Safety pins
- No Sew Costumes (see great reference book for sale)
- Staples and staple gun (safety first though!)

## Random Tips:

Use all aspects of your materials--the hems of sheets and pillowcases are great to slide over dowels or PVC pipe

Pillowcases are an easy costume start for younger teams--cut head and arm openings, decorate

Some fabrics are easier to paint on--rubberized or coated upholstery fabric is an example

Don't expect your garage floor ever to be the same after having a team "create" in that space

Spray paint on styrofoam will melt the styrofoam--a good clerk at the craft shop will tell you that, as you check out with 3 cans of spray and those expensive styro-foam balls. However, a coat of gesso (found in same store) painted on ball will protect the styrofoam and allow the spray paint to stick

Good Will Hunting--You will find more variety and colors at cheaper prices on the women's side of the store. Tell the boys on the team to get over it. And don't take all 7 team members on the same shopping trip with-out another chaperone. They have too much fun!

Use items in unusual ways--a purse for a hat, pink spandex pants pulled up to the shoulders for an alien, etc.