

## Britches for Boys

### T-shirt Makeover for Shorts

Use these simple instructions to make a T-shirt into comfortable knit shorts for boys in Africa—the shorts will become a prized possession. Please use a new or “like-new” T-shirt for this project. (There are restrictions in some countries regarding used clothing and import taxes.) Mail completed britches to Britches for Boys, c/o Nancy’s Notions®, 333 Beichl Ave., Beaver Dam WI 53916-0683, and we’ll ship the britches to their destination. For additional information, go to [littledressesforafrica.org/blog/](http://littledressesforafrica.org/blog/).

#### SUPPLIES:

- Adult sized T-shirt (Approximate sizes: Small T-shirt = size 4–6 shorts, Medium = size 8–10 shorts, and Large = size 12–14 shorts.)
- Rotary cutter, mat, and ruler
- Matching all-purpose thread
- 1 yd. drawcord elastic
- Stretch Needle, size 75/11
- Optional: Twin Stretch Needle, size 4.0 mm/75
- Optional: Seam sealant such as Fray Check™
- Optional: 1½ yd. cotton cording

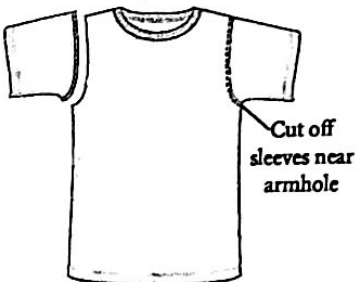
#### INSTRUCTIONS:

##### 1. Prepare T-shirt.

- Lay a T-shirt flat on a table in front of you with hem toward you and neck closest to the opposite side of the table.
- Lay sleeves flat and to each side of the shirt.

##### 2. Cut leg pattern from the T-shirt.

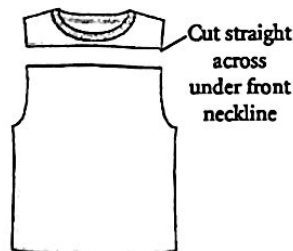
- Cut off both sleeves near armhole seams. These rounded cuts will become the crotch of the shorts.



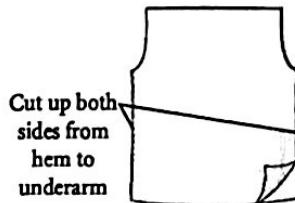
- Determine shorts length. Cut off 3”–6” from the bottom of the T-shirt, depending on shorts length.



- Cut a 2¼” band from the fabric trimmed off the bottom of the T-shirt and set aside. (waistband)
- Mark a straight line across pattern just under the front neckline ribbing, the same distance from each shoulder seam. Cut along this line through both layers of the T-shirt.



- Cut open each side from the hem to the underarm. These two pieces are the legs of the shorts.

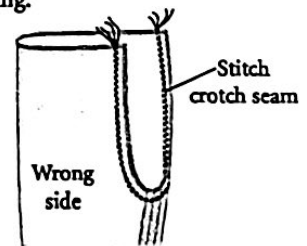
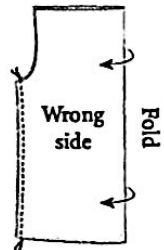


*Note: This technique is especially good for shirts with logos as they will remain intact on the sides of the finished shorts.*

##### 3. Complete the shorts.

- Insert a Stretch Needle, size 75/11.

- Sew or serge each leg seam, right sides together, with a ¼” seam.
- Turn one leg right side out. Tuck the leg that is right side out inside the other leg, meeting right sides and matching leg seams and curved crotch area.
- Stitch or serge crotch area, using a ¼” seam. For added reinforcement, restitch the seam close to the original stitching.



##### 4. Prepare the waistline.

- Quarter mark waistline with pins or a fabric marking pen.
- Trim the length of the 2¼” wide waistband that was set aside.
  - Measure the waistline of the shorts and add ½” for seam allowances.
  - Trim waistband to the measured length.