

Special Shoes For The Jester

By Darlene Lane

The easiest way to achieve a designer looking shoe is to cover an existing shoe with fabric that matches your outfit. Don't be too concerned about the style of the shoe because it can be cut down to accommodate the look you are trying to achieve. Straps can be removed, T straps can be cut in half, or the front edge can be trimmed to resemble a slipper.

- 1) Lay a scrap of costume fabric over the shoe, making sure it covers the entire shoe.
- 2) Remove the fabric and cover the entire shoe with Gem Tac. Allow the glue to dry to a tacky state.
- 3) Position the fabric over the shoe once more and starting at the heel center seam, cut into the scrap all the way to the shoe front edge. Cut several more slits along the front edge curve.
- 4) Cut away the inside excess to about 1/2". This will be folded to the inside of the shoe.
- 5) Using a toothpick, Gem Tac the inside edge of the shoe approxi-



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mately 1/2" wide all the way around the shoe top.

6) Fold the fabric over the edge to the inside.

7) The back seam can be done one of two ways. One way is to put glue on the outside of the back seam of the shoe and butt the two pieces of fabric together along this glue line. Trim off the excess. This seam can later be covered by a decorative trim. Or . . . fold one side of fabric over the other by turning under the top pieces so you have a folded edge along the back seam. Glue in place. No concealment is necessary for this type of finished edge.

8) The bottom shoe edge can be finished off in one of two ways also. If there is a heel present on the shoe, remove it. Trim away bottom edge excess fabric to about 1/2" and glue this in place over the existing sole. Trace another sole and glue to the bottom of the existing sole. Replace the heel. Or . . . apply more Gem Tac to the shoe/sole crease area (this is where the shoe top and the sole meet) using a toothpick. Push the fabric into this crease as far as possible and trim off the excess

using a very sharp scalpel. Starting at the back heel, glue a narrow flat trim over the side of the sole. This trim will cover any slight imperfections that may occur during the trimming process.

For my jester shoe I sewed a braid to the shoe top. Then I sewed a metal piece to the shoe front to resemble a decorative buckle-like ornament. To this I attached bells using jewelry jump rings. The shoes began as an inexpensive pair of vinyl doll shoes and in the end became a beautiful addition to my Jester's doll costume. The metal shoe ornaments and bells can be purchased from Sandy's Dream Dolls in Glendale, Arizona. ♥

Lay fabric over shoe

