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Gender Dress & Society

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### **T-shirt Final: Wrapped Warp**

I designed this shirt to be a wrapped crop top, worn with high-waisted pants and long, pink sashes. I had a T-shirt that was about 2x bigger my size, I had to get a bigger size to ensure I had enough fabric. First, I *cut* the sides of the t-shirt, up to where I wanted my crop top to end. I then *flipped* the t-shirt, with the two flaps cut open, and cut horizontally across the back of the t-shirt. The shirt was now short at the back, and long in the front. I cut the front of the t-shirt from the neckline to the hem; halving the shirt entirely. When I put the shirt on, I *wrapped* the shirt diagonally over the front of my chest, trying to cover the entire chest in both pieces, and tied the wrap in the back. I *cut* two holes and *inserted* the remaining fabric which I made into two, long pieces by *tying* them together. I *adhered* the pieces together by tying them, which made the wrapped flaps longer in length. I *stretched* the ends of the cotton and spandex fabric, which rolled out the cut edge.

I chose this wrapped design because I love the idea of wrapped pieces. I love that you are in control when wrapping your piece, whether it be a dress, a skirt or a top. You can choose to be sexy, and reveal cleavage, or choose to be modest, and conceal the chest area. Either way, the draped effect of wrapped items looks elegant, effortless, and beautiful. I especially love the way a wrapped piece can accentuate, or hide the curves the woman wearing it, giving volume in areas desired, while at the same time tightly shaping the sections that are tied up, or giving space where needed. Wrapped tops are an extremely versatile piece. I also chose to do a wrapped piece as an ode to the Indian side of my culture. A *Sari* is a traditional Indian garment worn by females, usually fitted with a skirt, and extra fabric attached in order to be *wrapped* around the shoulder to complete the look and conceal the skin. Growing up watching Bollywood movies, I loved seeing beautiful actresses who I now can identify with, wearing the beautifully embellished pieces on screen which I often found myself wearing to events.

As for decoration, I chose the color pink. Besides being my favorite color, different shades of pink always look good against my skin tone. I love anything pink, and the color reminds me to be bold in my choices of dress. I chose to outline the sash in a simple, thick pink ribbon. I chose a thick ribbon length because pink was the only other color present and I wanted it to stand out, I chose to embellish my pink ribbon with stick-on jewels. These jewels reminded me of the embroidery on my sari's during past events. I used the ribbon to tie a sash around my waist, pulling the entire thing together. I wanted to incorporate the style of American women with the decoration of Indian women.

This piece represents me in my most casual wear. A wrapped top, embellished with pink accents & rhinestones. This of course, being on a neutral base (white) which all complimented my skin tone. I would wear this with a long, deep pink skirt; the short length of the shirt needs something long to balance out its stark look. I like to choose pieces which stand out now. Basic pieces with just enough decoration to catch anyone’s eye, it’s like my philosophy to myself; blend in for the most part but never let anyone forget you are especially unique in your own way.

The words in the back represent my general outlook on life. I tend to have gratitude and always practice thanking God for what I have daily; whether I feel like things are going wrong or right. Never give up is something I always do. I endure all possible setbacks when I have my eyes set on something. The last set of words (to the right) says “Dream brave. Enjoy it!” I always try to encourage people to boldly chase after their dreams. When I hear that bit of doubt in someone’s words, it ignites a fire within me to fuel their own fire. I love to motivate others and make people see their true potential. Sometimes a kind word is all someone needs to unlock their next level, why not be the friend to encourage someone to live boldly, and best of all; enjoy the freedom and happiness that comes with being bold and fierce. The last word in the end is “Cheers”. This is my toast to everyone reading, a cheers to life, a good luck wish, surrounded by angel wings to represent the blessing of God that always surrounds us.

Minimalist | Bold | Modest | Sultry

The back of the top features the following text and graphics:

- Top left: "The Best life" with a small arrow pointing to the right.
- Center: "Never give up!" with a small star above "give" and a small star below "up!".
- Top right: "Dream Brave" with "Dream" above "Brave".
- Bottom right: "Enjoy it!" with a small star above "it!".
- Bottom center: "Cheers" with a pair of angel wings above the word.

# WRAPPED WARP

Wrapped: to cover or enclose one in soft fabric.

