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### ***Retrofit: Turning Today's Clothes into Period Costumes*** **Faerie Skirt and Wand**

Create fantastical, faerie-inspired skirts and a matching magical wand from everyday clothing and materials. Try one or combine all four options outlined in this lesson.

Click [here](#) for the full tutorial or visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org/retrofit](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/retrofit)

These projects are best for ages 4-8.



**Materials Needed for All Projects:** one or more skirts to upcycle, scissors and/or heavy-duty scissors, elastic ½" in width, ribbon, scrap cotton fabric, nylon net or tulle, fabric marker, stone or crystal, twig with branches, chenille stems

Image: Eugene Berman (American, born Russian, 1899–1972), Costume Design for Giselle, Act II, in *Giselle*, 1946, watercolor and ink on paper. Gift of the Tobin Endowment, McNay Art Museum, TL2001.25.7

## Skirt Overlay

### Materials Needed

- scissors (*ask for caregiver help if needed*)
- ½" wide elastic
- ribbon
- cotton fabric
- nylon net or tulle



### Instructions

1. Cut a piece of elastic several inches larger than your waist. Tie in place to keep it from wiggling. Cut a piece of ribbon double the length of the skirt you will wear then fold in half and place on top of the elastic with level ends pointed away from you.



2. Slide your hand into the ribbon loop and then up and under the elastic. Grab both loose ends of the ribbon with your hand. Pull ribbon ends through the loop you have made and tighten. Repeat.



3. Tie on a pleasing amount of ribbon on the elastic or try mixing and matching fabric strips or nylon net/tulle. Then tie and knot the elastic to fit your waist.





## Altered Skirt

### Materials Needed

- scissors (ask for caregiver help if needed)
- skirt with layers or an oversized t-shirt
- **optional:** fabric marker
- **optional:** narrow ribbon



### Option #1: Leaves

1. Find the sides and center of your skirt by looking for the **seams** (where it is sewn together). If you are a faerie prince, you can use an oversized t-shirt instead. Using a fabric marker, draw a large leaf outline in the center of your skirt. Next, draw and connect a half-leaf to the center leaf.

**Note:** avoid drawing on the **hem** (thick, folded edge at the bottom of skirt or t-shirt).



2. Cut out your leaf outline. To create the veins of the leaf, draw a center line, then add more lines coming out diagonally from the center to the outside edges.

**Helpful hint:** draw softly with your fabric marker because too much pressure may cause it to drag. If marker drags or catches on the fabric, go more slowly and hold the fabric in place with your fingertips while slightly stretching it as you draw.



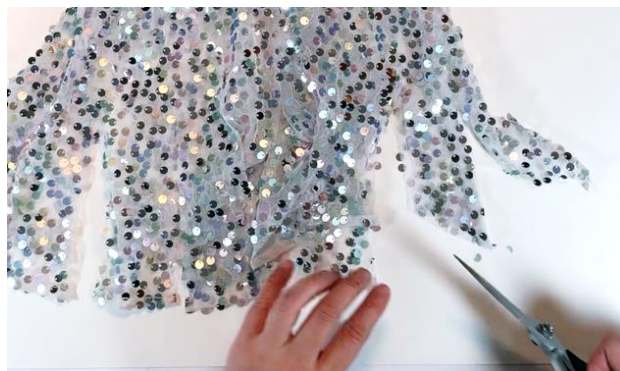
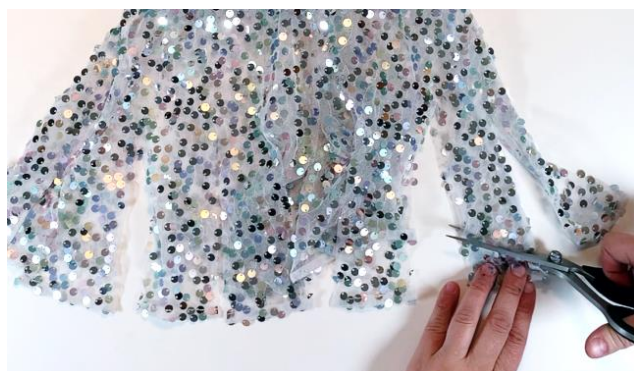
## Option #2: Angled Strips

1. Cut vertical slits in your skirt. Try to cut at regular intervals and keep all of the slits the same width.



2. Cut diagonal angles into each strip. Starting at the bottom right edge of the first strip, cut an angle upwards to the left.

**Note:** always starting your cut at the bottom right will keep your strips the same length.



3. Repeat until you have cut angles for all the strips. Nice job!





## Option #3: Ribbon Drape

1. Make two marks just under the waistband of your skirt. The distance from a mark to the nearest outer edge should be about half the distance between both marks. Repeat on the backside of the skirt.



2. Very carefully, cut a small snip through the top layer of fabric where you made the marks. Next, cut four pieces of ribbon that are about twice the length of your skirt.



3. Thread one end of a ribbon under the fabric and then up through a hole you cut. Then cross the ends of the ribbon and pull them tight to the fabric to knot. Tie a knot and let the ends dangle or tie into a bow. Repeat tying ribbons into remaining cuts.



## Faerie Crystal Wand

### Materials Needed

- cool stone or crystal
- twig with small branches
- heavy-duty scissors (ask for caregiver help if needed!)
- chenille stem

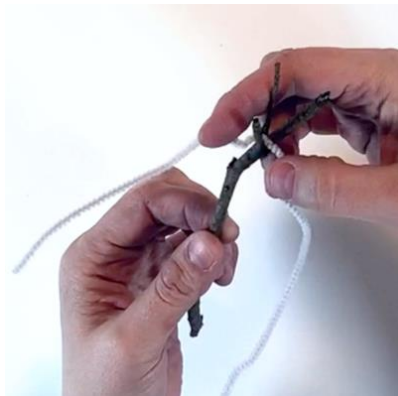


### Instructions

1. Find a place on your twig where your cool stone wants to sit, where it feels stable and won't fall off. Trim any ends of the branches that seem too long.



2. Wrap the chenille stem over and around the twig, at the base of where you will place the stone or crystal.



3. Place stone onto branch. Wrap chenille stem around stone and branches until it feels secure.





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4. Enjoy your new costumes and go on a magical adventure!



## **Resources**

[How to make sheer fairy wings](#)

[How to make cardboard fairy wings](#)

[Tips for scissor skills and safety](#)

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