Tee shirt tunic / dress / skirt

This upcycle is a great way to re-make an old tee shirt to a summer staple. Personally I think it looks better when made from old tee shirts as they have become softer over time and drape beautifully. The great thing about tee shirt / jersey fabric is it will not fray like traditional woven fabric.

It can be worn as a tunic / sunbather as in the photo above, or as a skirt and the top band is the waistband and tie - so perfect as a multi-functioning piece for holidays!
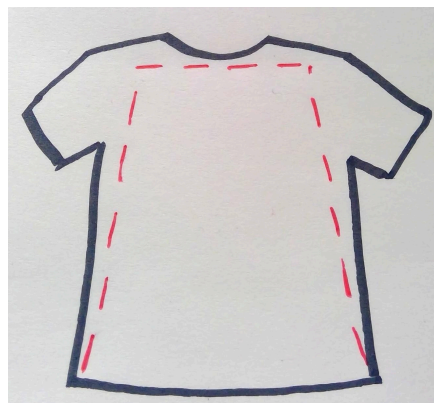
Materials needed

1 x tee shirt
Top stitch thread or embroidery floss (for blanket stitch)
Needle (for blanket stitch)
4 ply yarn x 50 gram (preferably cotton or cotton blend)
Size 3 or 3.5 crochet hook
Beads for ties (optional)

1. Begin by preparing your teeshirt

Mark out an A Line tunic shape and cut away the sleeves and neck of your teeshirt

Sew up the side seams using an overlocker/ zig zag stitch on a sewing machine or an hand sewn seam with needle and thread. Jersey will not fray so there is no need to finish raw edges.

2. Hem the top.

Turn over the hem on the top of the A-line and do a running stitch to hold in place.

3. Blanket stitch the top and bottom.

Using either same colour or contrasting thread, blanket stitch both the top turn over 'hem' and bottom hem of teeshirt. This stitch will be the foundation for the crochet. I usually aim to have about 4 or 5 stitches per inch. Don't be too concerned if stitches look uneven to begin with, as once the full hem is done they tend not to be too noticeable.

I prefer to use top stitch thread, and stitch in a same colour so it blends better. If the top thread is not available you can use embroider floss (only use about 3 strands so you may need to split the 'Anchor' Brand as they are 6 strands). Alternatively, you can also split your 4 ply crochet yarn.

Photos and instructions for the blanket stitch and doing the first line of crochet can be found at
https://theupsew.wordpress.com/pattern-links/how-to-add-a-crochet-trim/

4. Crochet the tie

The tie is a foundation stitch crochet length about 1.6 - 2 m long. The foundation chain is a thick double chain with natural stretch so much more comfortable to wear.

If you have not done a foundation chain before, you can find a lot of instructional videos on this on You Tube

5. Crochet the trims.

The top trim is 5 rows of crochet. You can add more and change the stitch.
I generally will do
1 row SC
1 row HDC back loop only
1 row HDC fillet (hdc x 1 chain x 1)
1 row HDC
1 row SC

Please note these are american crochet terms

The top trim is a simple edge, and the tie is threaded through the fillet stitch. The beads can then be put on each end of tie, and knot each end of the tie to keep in place.

The bottom edge and this can be made longer and more elaborate.
You may need to do a stitch count before you start to ensure it will fit - the frill is on a base of multiples of 10
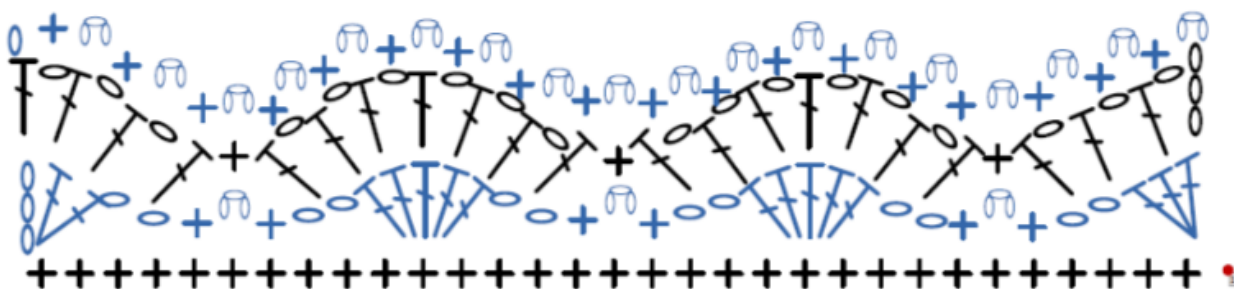Please refer to chart below.
I have written the instructions below but as I generally use charts for crochet these instructions will need to be used in conjunction with the chart)

1st row - 1 row SC
2nd row - turning chain 3 and 2DC in first stitch, ch 2 skip 3 chain, (1SC, 3 chain skip 1 stitch, 1SC 2 chain skip 3 stitch, 5DC in next stitch, 2 chain skip 3 stitch) x repeat to join to the half pattern ending with 2 DC so the 5DC joining shell is complete.
3rd row - turning chain 3 and 1 chain, 1DC 1ch x 2 1DC in next stitches, 1SC in 3 chain, 1DC 1ch - please refer to chart
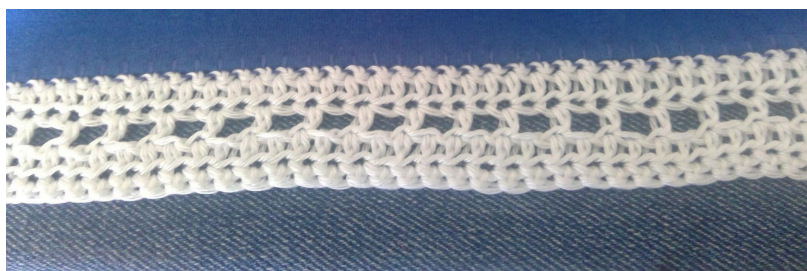4th row 1SC in each chain space and 3 chain in between.

Stitch Legend

2 dc in 1 st - 2 double crochet in 1 stitch	hdc - half double crochet
3 dc in 1 st - 3 double crochet in 1 stitch	hdc blo - half double crochet in the back loop only
5-dc shell - 5 double crochet shell	open pic - open picot
	sc - single crochet
ch - chain	t-ch1 - single turning chain
dc - double crochet	t-ch3 - triple turning chain
dc v st ch1 - v stitch (dc, ch1, dc)	

The tees shirt tunic in the photograph used less than 50 gram ball yarn and I was able to use the remainder for a cardigan trim, both are a UK size 10. But if you wish to make the trim longer or using a smaller hook or making a larger size you may need more yarn.

Top Trim

Bottom Trim