

What to do with your old



By Master Sgt. Karen Pettitt
Managing Editor



As soon as the Air Force announced the test wear phase of its new and improved blue battledress uniform, office conversations quickly turned to what people would do with their old ones ... beyond hunting in them that is. Ideas quickly flowed and thanks to some Air Force spouses who have amazing craft and sewing skills, a few of these ideas came to life. Here's just a sampling of some of the creative things you can do with your set of BDUs. Enjoy!

BAGS

Here's an idea from Christine Woodbury for the beginner seamstress. Just cut off the bottom of the pant leg and sew the ends. The drawstring is already in place. You could make the bag deep or shallow depending on what you want to store. An idea (right) from Holly Isenburger uses the same concept only add an elastic seam at the bottom for use as a plastic bag holder. No need to buy these from the TV for \$9.99 anymore!



BINDER

Gwen Reese finds a clever use for the pant pockets on her version of the binder cover. Just secure those right on the inside to hold your pens, pencils, calculators, etc. Plus, with those handy pant strings, you can keep the binder tied securely shut. All you need is a little glue and then you can be stylin' to your next meeting (or maybe your teen will think it's cool anyway).

JESTER HAT

This one may not be for the novice, but it's just as fun to put together (and wear). Christine Woodbury has been making cute jester hats out of soft felt or sham-type material for the neighborhood kids, but making this out of a BDU was a bit more challenging, she said. It doesn't stretch, so even though this is a large size hat, it will most likely only fit children. Even if you can't wear it, it's still a great hat for your desk or office area. Plus it'll always be a reminder of that good 'ole uniform.



QUILT

Vivian Gardner is a true magician when it comes to quilts. This has been the most charming and useful idea, as I've tested it out at the park and on picnics. I just love this! The pockets actually work and could be used to hold baby bottles or toys as well. What's best is that it's a memento of one's time in the service and could be a great retirement gift.



APRON

Gwen Reese came up with this apron used from the shirt. She lined it with black fabric and made strings around the neck and waist. This type of apron comes in especially handy for those who like to grill outside or go camping. It's a little heavier than normal aprons, which is why it's great for those fall, winter and early spring cookouts!

