

Trash Fashion Workshop

T-shirt Transformations

Recycle Runway >>> 

Backpack

Time Commitment:

1.5 hours

Skill Level:

Intermediate to Advanced

Materials:

2 large T-shirts (1 will be the outside of the bag, the other will be the lining.)
Scissors, Ruler, Chalk, Pins, Needle,
Thread, Sewing Machine (optional)

Directions:

- Cut the Bag:** Lay both T-shirts flat, on each shirt mark with chalk and then cut through both layers a rectangle that is about 19"x14".
- Sew the Bag:** If hand sewing, place the 4 rectangles together and pin with the "outside" pieces facing out and the lining pieces facing in. Choose a color thread to use, a contrasting color is fun! Sew a whip stitch (sew with the needle going from back to front & around to the back again, repeat) with stitches 1/4 inch apart. Sew 1 short (the bottom) and 2 long sides.
- Sewing the Casing for the Draw String:** Fold 1 inch of the top unsewn edge to the inside of the bag, pin and sew it.

NOTE: If you use a sewing machine for steps 2 and 3, replace the whip stitch with a zig zag stitch. (the seams will be exposed in the finished bag.)



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Directions Continued:

- Cut the Drawstring:** Using the scrap pieces from one of the T-shirts, cut two strips $1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches wide from bottom to shoulder. They should each be about 50 inches long or about double the length of the T-shirt. Take one end in each hand and S-T-R-E-T-C-H them out long.
- Prepare for Attaching the Drawstring:** Cut a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long slit next to the side seam, on each side of the top of the bag in the drawstring casing. CUT ONLY THROUGH THE TOP LAYER OF FABRIC. Next, 1 inch from the bottom corners of the bag, poke a whole through all 4 layers of fabric.
- Thread the Drawstring:** Take one of the draw strings and attach a safety pin to one end. Thread it through one hole in the drawstring casing and pull it through all the way around and back out the same hole. Pull the ends so that they are even. Remove the safety pin and thread both ends through the hole at the bottom of the bag on the same side from the back through to the front. Tie them in a big knot so that they don't slide through the holes, if you want you can hand sew them in for reinforcement. Repeat this process with the other drawstring on the other side.

Variations/Options:

- ⇒ Sew a pocket on the outside of the bag.
- ⇒ Sew letters, shapes or images from other T-shirts of contrasting colors for decoration.
- ⇒ Instead of a backpack, make it into a long handled bag by skipping the steps tying it through the bottom corners.