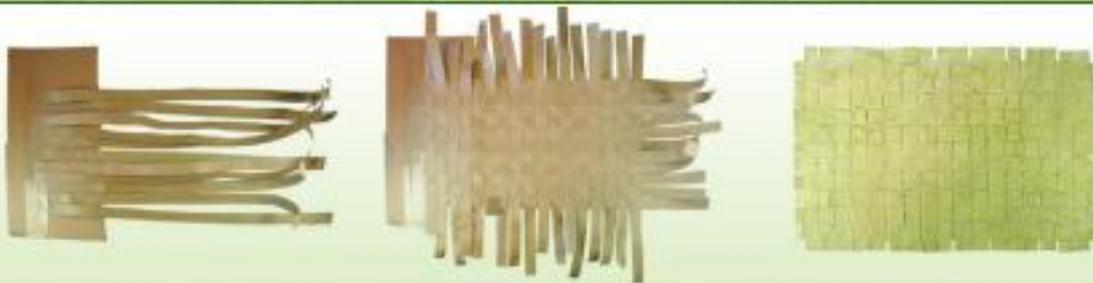


# 12 Thrifty

## Trash to Treasure Crafts eBook



favecrafts



## ***12 Thrifty Trash to Treasure Crafts eBook***

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## Letter from the Editors

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Hi Crafters,

Have you ever heard the phrase, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure?” Whether or not you believe it’s true, FaveCrafts has numerous projects that turn any piece of trash into a new creation worthy of a treasure chest. This creative collection will show you how to transform all trash - plastic, paper, cardboard and old clothes - into something new!

Since craft projects can become expensive, reusing old materials is a great way to save some green while also being green. Whatever it is you’re looking for, we have just the thing.

You can find more trash to treasure ideas, free knitting patterns, craft projects and extensive decorating ideas at [www.FaveCrafts.com](http://www.FaveCrafts.com).

Our eBooks, like all our craft projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our crafting community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Crafting,

*The Editors of FaveCrafts*

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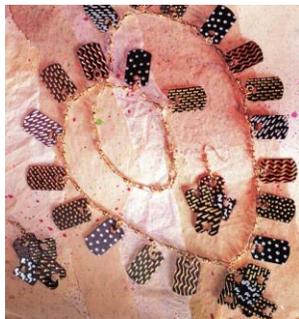
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## Plastic Crafts

### Bread Tag Jazzy Jewelry

By: Heidi Borchers of Inspired at Home

Instead of tossing those plastic bread tags, turn them into jazzy jewelry with a bit of paint and this idea from Heidi Borchers of Inspired at Home. Every little bit helps when reducing your amount of household plastic waste. Best of all, when people ask you where you bought your fantastic jewelry, you will have some fantastic bragging rights!



#### Materials:

- Aleene's® Super Thick Tacky Glue™
- White paper scrap
- 33 plastic tabs from bread bags in assorted sizes
- Acrylic Paint – black
- Paintbrush
- Tulip® 3D Fashion Paint: silver, gold, bronze
- Needlenose pliers
- 44 gold finish jump rings
- 28 size-10 brass snap swivels
- 2 size-7 brass snap swivels (available wherever fishing tackle is sold)
- 1 pair fishhook earrings

#### Instructions:

Cut 2 tiny strips of paper for each of 23 plastic tabs. Glue 1 strip to each side of 1 tab to cover slit only. Let dry. Repeat for each of 22 more tabs. (This step will help to keep the jump rings from pulling through the slit in the tabs.)

Paint both sides of each tab black. Let dry. For necklace charm, glue 5 tabs together, using 1 tab with paper strips at top of charm (see photo). Let dry. In the same manner, glue 4 tabs together for each earring. Referring to photo for design inspiration, paint 1 side of each tab, necklace charm, and earring design with metallic dimensional paint. Let dry.



Using needlenose pliers, attach 1 jump ring to each of 20 tabs. Attach 1 jump ring to necklace charm. Attach a second jump ring to each jump ring. To assemble necklace, link together all size-10 snap swivels. Attach jump rings to necklace. For each earring, remove snap from each size-7 snap swivel. Using needlenose pliers, attach 1 jump ring to each earring design. Attach jump ring to 1 end of 1 size-7 swivel. Attach fishhook earring to other end of swivel.



Repeat for other earring.

Heidi's Designer Tip: For added strength, be sure to add a dab of dimensional paint over area where you glued strip of paper. This will give added strength to this area where the jump rings are attached.

## Plastic Bottle Lid Art

By: Heidi Borchers of Inspired at Home

Even plastic bottle lids can be recycled for fantastic art projects like this one from Heidi Borchers of Inspired at Home. Turn the lids into a contemporary art canvas that's sophisticated but easy enough for kids to do!



### Materials:

- Canvas – 8" x 8" (or 4" x 8" or any desired size)
- Plastic bottle lids (from water bottles) – on the 8" canvas art we used 16 lids – on the smaller canvas, we layered lots of lids)
- Paint brush- ½" flat
- Acrylic paints- black and other assorted bright colors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Aleene's® Super Thick Tacky Glue™
- Assorted jewels, flat marbles, small glass mosaic tiles

### Instructions

1. Use pencil and ruler to measure and mark sections on canvas. On the 8" canvas, we divided into 16 - 2" squares. On the 4" x 8" canvas, we measured 3" x 3" for the center, flanked with two 2"

x 3" sections.

2. Glue one plastic bottle lid into the center of each section. On the 8" canvas, we glued every other lid reversed. One up, one down, one up, one down. On the small canvas, we layered all sorts of sizes and shapes. Let glue dry.
3. Paint the entire canvas and plastic lids with black paint. Let dry.
4. Using photo as guide, paint each section with a different color. Note that some of the black paint is left to show through the color. Paint each plastic lid with a different color. Let dry.
5. Glue a jewel, flat marble, or tile into the center of each plastic lid. Let glue dry.



Heidi's Designer Tips: To transform this into an affordable kid's group project, use a cardboard cereal box instead of the art canvas for the base. Just tape the box closed with masking tape before gluing and painting. The kids will enjoy seeing how they can turn trash into an artistic treasure!

## Recycled Yogurt Cup Bud Vase

By: Michelle Sybert of Her CupOverfloweth

This wonderful project comes to us compliments of Michelle Sybert of Her Cup Overfloweth. Michelle recycles an ordinary kid's yogurt drink container into a cute little bud vase. Hooray for less plastic waste! Make these with your kids on Mother's Day for fellow moms, grandmoms and your own home. Find this craft and 21 other crafts for kids in our FREE [Summer Crafts for Kids eBook](#).



Turn an empty kid's yogurt drink container into a bud vase, perfect for those teeny tiny wild flowers you and your child collect on long (or short) afternoon walks! Before you begin, you will need to gather your materials and set up your workspace.

### Materials:

- Empty yogurt drink container (child size)
- Mod Podge (or other decoupage glue)
- Wide mouth disposable bowl or cup
- Small craft size paint brush
- Scissors or paper cutter

- Scraps of craft paper (try not to use card stock)

### Instructions:

1. Strip the plastic covering off the container. Set container aside.



2. Cut paper into small ½ in. by 2 in. strips. Set aside.
3. Pour small amount of decoupage into bowl (enough to dip your strips of paper in).
4. Using your paint brush, apply decoupage to the outside of container.



5. Piece by piece (this is the most time consuming part), dip the scraps of paper into the decoupage glue and lay on the outside of the container (similar to Papier Mache technique). Using your finger tips or the paint brush, smooth out wrinkles and any excess glue. We layered them in a somewhat messy pattern, because, well, that's how kids are...a little messy!



6. Wipe of bottom of container with a paper towel to get rid of any residue and let dry for approximately 1 hour (give or take a few minutes). Now you are ready to add flowers!

## Paper Crafts

### Green Crafting Gift Wrap Bow

By: Allyson Spindler, Guest Contributor

Don't throw out your old magazines, do some green crafting with them. Having a lot of patience and time you can create this amazing-looking multi-looped gift bow. Magazines have never been so crafty until now.



#### Materials:

- 1 magazine page (or 8 ½ x 11" paper of your choice)
- Small hole punch (or a sharp object for poking a small hole)
- 1 metal brad
- Scissors

#### Instructions:

1. Cut across the magazine page to make nine ¾ to 1 inch strips.



2. Start with one strip and make a loop at one end.



3. Turn the strip and make a loop at the other end.



4. Use the small hole punch (or sharp object ~ be careful!!) to make a hole through all 3 layers of paper.



- Place the brad through the hole.



- Repeat with the remaining 8 strips. (I find it best to hold the prongs of the brad between my teeth while I loop the next strip, but do whatever works for you.)



- Open the brad to hold all the strips in place.



- Attach your finished bow using double sided tape.

## Brown Bag Place Mat

By: Julia Andrus of Eco Green Crafts

Use a weaving technique, a recycled paper bag and eco-friendly craft projects to make an attractive and earth friendly place mat. All the products used to create this charming place mat are eco friendly. The tacky Green Glue is completely botanical. Even the paints contain no or low VOC's (volatile organic compounds).



### Materials:

- Brown Paper Grocery Bag
- Eco Green Crafts™ Green Glue™
- Eco Green Crafts™ Acrylic Paint
- Eco Green Crafts™ Gloss Medium

### Instructions:

#### Make Strips

1. Deconstruct paper bag.
2. Measure and cut 2-inch-wide strips along the entire length of the bag.
3. Working with one strip at a time, dampen the strip with water to remove any creases. Fold down 1/4" along one edge of the length of strip, as shown.



4. Fold the opposite side so that it just overlaps the edge of the previous fold, as shown.



5. With the iron set on high, iron the strips to dry and flatten them, and to strengthen the creases.



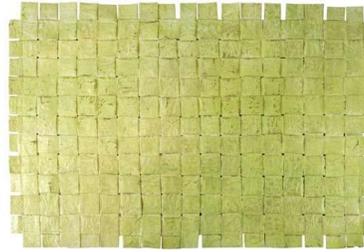
6. Apply a thin line of Green Glue™ along the 1/4" edge.



7. Turn strip over (folded side down); iron strip smooth.



- Repeat process to create a total of eleven 24" strips and seventeen 18" strips.

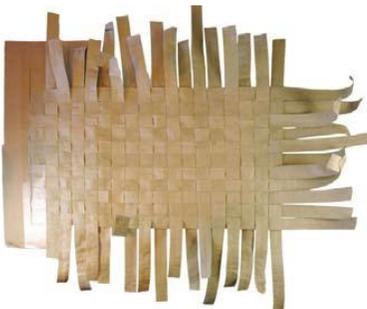


### Weave and Finish

- With tape, affix the 24" strips to a piece of cardboard as shown.



- Weave shorter strips through longer strips, alternating each strip, as shown; affix each strip with Green Glue™ and allow to dry.



- Remove the cardboard and tape; cut the ends of each strip to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- Paint as desired with Eco Green Crafts™ Acrylic Paint; allow to dry.
- Brush entire surface with Eco Green Crafts Gloss Medium; allow to dry.
- Roughen / distress the surface of the mat with sandpaper as desired

**Colorful Paper Pens**

By: Eco Green Crafts

Update plain pens with this fun green craft project. All the products used to create these paper pens are eco-friendly. The surfaces are covered with a paper grocery bag. The paints contain no or low VOCs (volatile organic compounds).



**Materials:**

- Ball-point pens
- Brown Paper Grocery Bag
- Eco Green Crafts™ Green Glue™
- Eco Green Crafts™ Acrylic Paint
- Embellishments of your choice (flowers, poofs, Glass Glintz™, etc.)

**Instructions:**

1. Tear paper bag into long, thin strips.
2. Squeeze Green Glue™ onto one side of each strip. Smear the glue to cover surface of paper strip.



3. Wrap paper strip around pen, from top to bottom, overlapping slightly.



4. Continue to cover entire pen. Allow to dry completely.



5. Paint paper-covered pen as desired with Eco Green Crafts™ Acrylic Paint.

6. Embellish the top of the pen with paper flowers, feather poofs, leather fringe, or anything else your heart desires!



## Cardboard Crafts

### Daisy Container

By: Barbara Matthiessen from Beacon Adhesives

Turn an old coffee container or oatmeal container into a lovely daisy container. This is great for holding anything you wish like kitchen utensils, gardening materials or even snack treats.



#### Materials:

- LIQUID LAMINATE
- GEM-TAC
- 9" X 5" round, clean & dry container (an old coffee or oatmeal container works great.)
- 8" X 17 1/2" piece of plant print paper
- 1 1/2" X 17 1/2" polka dot paper to coordinate with plant print.
- 4 1/2" circle of polka dot paper
- 35" of coordinating decorative ribbon
- Seven 7/8" white buttons
- 4 1/2" silk daisies
- Soft bristle craft brush, 1" wide, scissors, paper trimmer

#### Instructions:

1. Working in small sections, brush LIQUID LAMINATE over a portion of the

container and immediately place paper over wet surface from the container base up to the top, smoothing with your fingers as you go. Continue until the entire container is covered.

2. Brush a topcoat of LIQUID LAMINATE over the entire container and let thoroughly dry. For a glossier finish, brush another coat of LIQUID LAMINATE over the first.
3. Cover the lid in a similar way.
4. LIQUID LAMINATE as above the 1 1/2" wide piece of polka dot paper around the canister, slightly overlapping, and then coat over top with additional LIQUID LAMINATE.
5. LIQUID LAMINATE polka dot circle to the center of the lid, following above instructions. Dry well.
6. Glue ribbon with GEM-TAC around the base of the canister over the print, covering area where polka dot paper meets the print paper. Use GEM-TAC to glue the buttons on top of the upper ribbon as in photo and then glue silk flowers to the center of the lid.

## Oatmeal Box Pencil Holder

By: Berta Gilholm

These containers look great, even though they are recycled materials. I made one of these for about a dozen people at work. They all use and love them. Match up peoples favorite hobbies, loves and likes with the pictures. Give as a gift filled with pencils or pens.



container outside in the blank area with glue, coat back of pictures and press on wet surface of container and cover with more glue (you want it soaked and smooth but, not runny). Wait 1 hour and put on 1 more coat of glue. Wait 1 hour and mix 1 tbsp of glue, 1 tbsp gold acrylic paint and 1 tsp. water together until smooth and blended (combo glue). Paint the whole container with the combo glue inside and outside. Let dry 24 hours. With a pencil mark small dots around top of container about every  $\frac{1}{4}$  " , punch a hole on each dot around. Thread the needle with yarn, double yarn and tie knot for darning. Sew yarn from the front of container through the holes, up, over and through back to front all the way around. Fasten off and weave in tail to hide.

### Materials:

- 1 – 18 oz. oatmeal container
- Mod Podge glue
- Acrylic paint
- Leftover yarn & yarn needle
- Single hole punch
- Picture (copy of photos, magazine, catalog or computer generated pictures) on thin paper

### Instructions:

Remove label from oatmeal container and draw a cutting line  $4 \frac{1}{4}$  " from the bottom around circumference of the container. Paint the inside, the bottom underneath and  $\frac{1}{2}$  " of outside top of container with acrylic paint of your choice (I usually use gold, silver or bronze colors, this gives it a rich look). Let dry a few hours. Cut out pictures in desired design, coat the

## Magazine Holder

By: Carol Morrison



Learn how to decoupage and make cardboard magazine holders with this cardboard box craft. Decoupage and paint a cereal box to turn it into a decorative storage craft.



### Materials:

- Old cereal box
- Mod Podge
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Scraps of Paper
- Paint
- Sponge

### Instructions:

1. Cut a 45 degree angle from cereal box (make sure you use a ruler and marker).
2. Decoupage the box and put scraps of paper on the box.
3. Paint with any color, sponge method or any method you want.
4. Decoupage again for the glaze finish.

## Recycled Sweater Throw Pillows

By: Heidi Borchers for Inspired at Home

This eco-crafting idea uses recycled sweaters found at thrift stores or in the backs of closets to create cozy pillows. For the best results, look for sweaters with embellishments or great texture. This project comes to us compliments of Heidi Borchers for Inspired at Home.



### Materials:

- Pillow form
- Ruler
- Chalk pencil or disappearing ink pen
- Embellished sweaters
- Sewing machine and thread (either complementary or contrasting color)
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Decorative trim
- Hot glue and glue sticks

### Instructions:

1. Using pillow form as guide for size, mark sweater on right side, using the same measurement as pillow form (i.e. 16" form, draw 16" square on sweater.) Be certain that you shift your pillow form around sweater to include the most decorative areas!
2. With wrong sides of sweater together, stitch along 3 sides of marked guidelines.
3. Cut along stitched edges to ½" from stitched line. Cut along unstitched 4th edge too.
4. Slip pillow form inside stitched sweater.
5. Pin unstitched edges together to hold in place and stitch together.
6. Working a small section at a time, place a line of glue along the stitched edge. Immediately lay trim into glue. Repeat until trim is glued along all four sides of pillow.

Heidi's Designer Tips: It's easier to stitch with a contrasting color thread so when it comes time to clip the edges, you can follow the stitching line. Because the trim will cover the stitching line, you don't need to worry about the color of the stitching. Also, if you don't sew, wherever the instructions tell you to sew, you can glue this project instead.



## Old Clothes and Bags

### Easy Recycled Fruit and Veggie Bag

By: Jenya of MyEvaForeva

Talk about going green! Transform sturdy bags made from recycled materials into storage bags for fruit and vegetables in this tutorial from Jenya of MyEvaForeva. Easy to make and washable, these bags make going green simple.



#### Materials:

- Heavy-duty recycled plastic bag, such as a bird seed bag
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Scissors
- Ruler

#### Steps:

1. Wash your bag.



2. Cut your rectangular. I cut out two. (Mine were about 8" x 14" and 13" x 24".)



3. Turn the very edge of the upper line out facing the right side. (Note: The inside of the bird seed bag will be the outside of the finished bag.) Fold two sides together and sew them together (wrong sides facing inside).



4. Fold your tube so the seam is in the middle.



5. Then push the side middle parts to the inside (like in the photo) so they are right near the seam.



6. Sew along that edge.



7. Turn the bag right side out and shape it to take a form of a cylinder.



Tip: These bags are machine washable.

## Crafty Coffee Bag Apron

By: Jane Skoch

Have a friend or family member that loves coffee? This Crafty Coffee Bag Apron by [Jane Skoch](#) would make the perfect gift.



### Materials:

- One coffee bag, washed, dried and ironed.
- 1 1/4 yards fabric for lining, washed and dried
- Ruler

### Instructions:

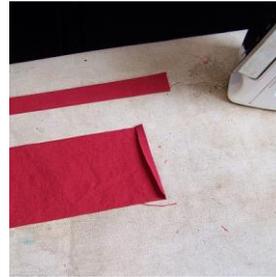
1. Begin by making three strips of fabric. Two of these will become the waist ties and the third will be the next strap. Lay out lining fabric with selvage edge folded together.



2. Cut three strips, each 4" wide. Shorten one of those strips to 24" (this will be for the neck strap.)



3. To finish the edge on the two long straps fold in 1/4" on one short end and press. (The other end will be on the inside of the apron.)



4. Fold strips in half with long edges together and press.



5. Open out strip and fold one long edge to meet the middle and press. Repeat with the other edge so that both raw edges are now folded and meeting at the middle.





6. Fold in half again so raw edges are completely enclosed and press.



7. Top stitch close to folded edge.



8. Cut bag along edges.



9. Mark the center point of the motif. Even out the sides and bottom of bag. In this example, there was 5.25" to the right of the motif. So I cut off the excess on the left side for an overall size of 23.5" x 35".





10. Mark 5.5" to the left and right of the center point; mark 11.5" down on the sides.



11. Draw a curve between the two points and cut out that top portion of the apron. (You could also trace an existing apron.)



12. Use the cut out piece as a pattern to make the same cut on the other side.



13. Place lining fabric underneath the bag and cut out.



14. Pin ties to right side of lining, raw edges together. The shorter strip is the neck piece and the longer strips are the waist ties. The ties should be placed one inch from the sides edges.



15. Place right sides together and pin so that the straps are encased on the inside.



16. Sew or serge using a small stitch length and a 1/2" seam allowance around the

perimeter of the apron. Leave a 6" opening at the bottom. Trim curves and corners being careful not to trim too closely since the weave of the burlap is somewhat loose. Turn apron inside out and press; press the seams of the opening to the inside and pin.

17. Top stitch the entire apron using a fairly small stitch to secure the coffee bag to the lining and reinforce the weave of the burlap.

18. Enjoy your apron!



***12 Thrifty Trash to Treasure Crafts***

eBook from [www.FaveCrafts.com](http://www.FaveCrafts.com)

Included in this eBook:

- Paper Crafts
- Cardboard Crafts
- Clothing and Bag Crafts

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