

Plastic Bag Crochet



This is fun way to recycle all those old plastic shopping bags that many of us seem to have laying around. It works great as a craft program around Earth Day.

Instructions

Making plastic bag "yarn:"

Instructions available from:

Marlo D. Cairns, <http://www.marloscrochetcorner.com/bag%20cutting%20instructions.html>

You can access my YouTube video of the process here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5dfeciH22A>

Basic crochet instructions:

You may be fortunate enough to have someone on staff who can crochet—many crocheters would be delighted to share the craft. If not, you can easily learn a few basic stitches online or from a book. Here are some helpful resources:

This site shows step-by-step how to get started crocheting:

<http://learntocrochet.lionbrand.com/>

You can see video instructions for most crochet stitches here:

http://www.nexstitch.com/v_crochet_videos.html

This book provides crochet instruction for both right- and left-handed crocheters:

[Tracy, Gloria, and Susan Levin. Crochet Your Way. Newton, CT: Taunton, 2000.](#)

Plastic bag crochet patterns:

- Pattern for tote shown at CYPD 2008 made from this pattern: <http://www.marloscrochetcorner.com/Plastic%20Bag%20tote.html>
- Many patterns are available at this blog, including smaller projects that might be better accommodated in a library program. The owner periodically adds new patterns: <http://www.myrecycledbags.com/>

Tips for Programs

- It helps if participants have at least a basic understanding of crochet beforehand. It might help to offer a beginning crochet class before attempting plastic bag crochet.
- A large project (like the sample tote) will take hours to complete. I offered two sessions, a week apart, and participants worked on their projects at home in between sessions. Another way to speed the process along is to send participants home with instructions on how to make "yarn." We charged a \$10 fee for the class, and refunded half to those who made yarn ahead of time.
- If you send out request for plastic bags (over library e-mail for example), you will probably have more donations than you could possibly use. Request that people save you their colorful bags. Dollar General gives out yellow. Goodwill gives out green and orange.
- You can crochet just about anything long and stringy. Why not try VHS or cassette tape—or start your own recycling revolution with a different material!

I would love to see if the results if anyone else tries this. If you want to share, or have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me (Amanda) at aspencer@marion.lib.in.us.