

DON'T THROW THAT AWAY! Maggie shares recycling ideas for creative and useful items made from materials most people consider trash!
 See more information about Maggie's Corner workshops and online tutorials at <http://www.maggiescorner.org/> Page 1 of 2

PLARN=PLASTIC YARN

Double-band Cut
 Lay grocery bag flat
 Fold in thirds lengthwise.



Cut off bottom seam and top handles
 Cut into strips, open,



place one strip inside other.
 Pull strips snug, roll into ball.



Crochet into many different items



PLARN=PLASTIC YARN

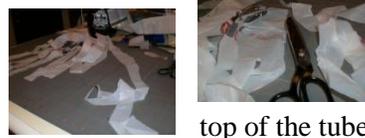
Single-strand Cut
 Lay grocery bag flat, cut off



bottom seam and top handles,



leaving tube section in center.
 Straighten the tube section flat,
 fold as in pictures, leaving area at



top of the tube.
 Cut strips just past the fold,
 leaving top



section of the
 tube, then finish cutting as shown



COFFEE BAG TOTES

Don't throw away those vacuum packed coffee bags; make them into a pouch for a change purse, install a zipper and add grommet and key ring.



Also make a patchwork custom shopping tote!
 The one below is double layered with lining being the commercial size espresso that comes in a silver bag.



To prepare coffee bags, cut top and bottom seam off coffee bag, open side seam flatten bag, and wash well with soapy water; hang to dry. Then remove the vent plug, layout as any material and cut out pattern. Then sew together. I use a #100 sewing needle (US 16,) and 100% mercerized cotton quilting thread.

FEED BAG TOTE

Don't throw away that feed bag; recycle it into a reusable market tote. Great for Farm Market shopping!

The shopping tote above is lined



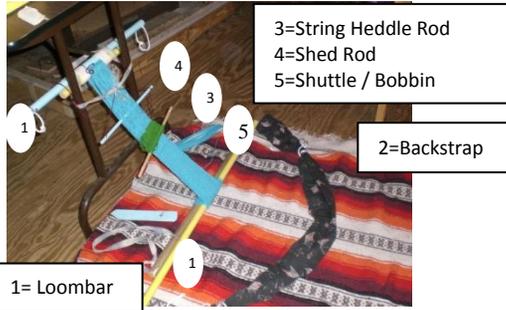
with cotton fabric; the handles are cotton twill core covered with the same feed bag material as the outside of tote.

To prepare the bag, cut top and bottom seam off, open side seam, flatten, and scrub with soapy water, line dry, then layout and cut according to your pattern to make a tote. The one shown here is a 5-panel tote, with finished size of 14" x 14" x 6".

Any plastic woven feed bag or grain bag can be used; is machine washable but don't put in dryer.

BACKSTRAP WEAVING

Don't throw away that old mop or broom handle, turn it into a backstrap loom. The backstrap



BACKSTRAP WEAVING

The backstrap loom bar is attached to your body on one end, and on the other end the loom bar is hooked to an immovable object. Your body is the tensioning device for the warp threads. The loom bars hold the warp thread. This project is being made from 100% cotton 4 ply worsted weight warp thread; the same thread is used for the weft thread, as well as being used for the string on the string heddle rod.



An end string is attached to the alternate shed rod to secure it from falling out of the shed; no need for this precaution on the string heddle. The first 6" is not woven on each end because that section will be braided for the backstrap attachment on each end.

loom is simple and portable. It is similar to the Navajo apparatus except no frame is needed for loom bars because it is attached to your body with the backstrap on one end, and hooked to an immovable object on the other end. Your body is the tensioning device for the warp threads. The loom bars hold the warp thread. The string heddle rod lifts every other warp thread so that the shuttle can pass through with the weft thread. The shed rod creates the shed opening for the alternate warp threads so the shuttle can pass back through the shed and create the weave. The beater bar (not shown) beats down the weft after each pass and the next shed is opened. To warp the loom the warp threads are wound on a warping board, to a predetermined size, dependent on your project.

Woven T-shirt strip-Tote

Don't throw away those old t-shirts; recycle into a reusable market tote.



The shopping tote above is old t-shirts cut into strips and woven on a backstrap loom using cotton warp threads, and the t-shirt strips are woven as the weft strands.



As you can see in the picture above, around the loom bar is the cotton warp threads and the weft thread is the stripped t-shirts.

Woven T-shirt rag rug

Don't throw away those old t-shirts; recycle into a rag rug.



The rag rug above is woven from old t-shirts cut into strips, woven on a backstrap loom using cotton warp threads; the t-shirt strips are woven as the weft strands.



As you can see in the picture above, the weaving is off the loom and the ends of the warp threads are being tied-off.