

No-sew Custom T Shirts

This project is all about having fun with t shirts and sweatshirts, without any sewing at all!

You just need a pair of scissors and some old t shirts / vests / sweatshirts. The great thing is the material doesn't need hemming, and the cut edges kind of roll in on themselves, which means they don't need to be cut perfectly. Here are some example of slashing and knotting. Sometimes cutting pieces out and sometimes just how its slashed. You could think about your references for a graphic idea. Maybe it's a message, like Pride, or Black Lives Matter. Or maybe its something irreverent like stars or unicorns, Spongebob or wings. Or maybe its completely abstract and about exploring the technique. Expect the unexpected and try to go with the flow a bit, incorporating any accidental moves into part of the design.



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Cut-outs can be super simple and graphic.
And why stop at t shirts!



Moxy T shirts brand



How to Make a No-sew T Shirt Bag



1: Cut your T shirt or sweatshirt as shown, through both the front and back together. It doesn't need to be immaculate, but you can draw guidelines with chalk if you wish. You can use pen or pencil but this might not wash out. How low you cut the sleeves off will determine how long your handles are. Please bear in mind they will stretch. If you are using a vest you might not need to cut down at all. Its worth keeping the off-cuts for other projects



2: tie the front cut tassel to the corresponding back tassel, using a double knot. Leave the two side ones free



3: This is probably the trickiest step, but it looks and sounds more complicated than it is. There will be a small hole in between each knot, and this will eliminate that. Each knot has two strands. Take the free strand from the side and tie that to one strand of the next knotted section, using a double knot, then take the other strand from the knotted section and tie it to one strand of the next knot, and so on all the way to the other side



4: Your bag is now complete. Lying flat it still looks like a piece of clothing, but fill it with stuff, and it will transform.

I decided to cut the hem part off each tassel, but that is just personal preference. You could thread beads on, or braid them together. Experiment!



5: If you prefer your bag without tassels, simply turn inside out. The technical term for this is "bagging out".

If you prefer your bag like this and your t shirt has an image you want on the outside, turn your t shirt inside out when you do step 1.

How to make a No-sew Custom T Shirt



1: Mark out your cutting pattern using chalk. You could use pencil or pen if you don't mind these might not wash out. You could also cut freehand.

You could use the graph on a t shirt as your starting point.



2: Make your cuts using scissors. It doesn't have to be immaculate.

Make sure you don't cut right to the end, so that your strips are still attached. But if you do accidentally cut further than you meant, go with it, and let it become part of the design.



3: And that's it!

I added a few slashes at the hem and the sleeves, working with the hems as part of the design.

And experiment with layering up! Bright colours peeping through the slashes are always good.

