



Remake-It-
Yourself: A DIY
Workshop on
Tie-Dye and
Upcycling

A Feminist Makerspace Workshop

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Why Upcycle?

- Cosplay and costuming
- Expression of personal taste and style
- Learn how to tailor by hand
- On a budget
 - Economical
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, resell
 - Environmental



Local Thrift Stores

- **Buffalo Exchange** – Dallas, TX: <https://buffaloexchange.com/location/greenville-ave-dallas/>
- **EV's Thrift Store** – Dallas, TX: <https://evsthift.com/>
- **Genesis Benefit Thrift Store [Women's Benefit & Support]** – Dallas, TX: <https://www.genesisshelter.org/benefit-store/>
- **LifeSavers Foundation [non-profit org.]** – Richardson, TX: <https://www.lifesaversfoundation.org/>
- **Out of the Closet [Benefits AIDS Healthcare Foundation]** – Dallas, TX: <https://outofthecloset.org/>
- **Pennies for Heaven Resale** – Dallas, TX: <https://www.pfhresale.com/home-page/>
- **Simply Grace Thrift Store [Women's Sober Living]** – Richardson, TX: <https://simplygracethriftstore.com/>
- **Uptown Cheapskate** – Richardson, TX: <https://www.uptowncheapskate.com/location/richardson/>
- **& more!**

Where to Donate Old Threads (Locally)

- **American Kidney Services (AKS):**
<https://www.donatetocharities.org/clothing-pickup-dallas/>
- **Dress for Success:** <https://dallas.dressforsuccess.org/>
- **Genesis Women's Shelter and Support:**
<https://www.genesisshelter.org/benefit-store/>
- **One Man's Treasure:** <https://www.onemanstr.org/>
- **Operation Finally Home:** <https://www.operationfinallyhome.org/>
- *& more!*

Tutorial: Make a No-Sew Fringe Pillow

- **Materials needed:** t-shirt, bobby pins (optional), fabric shears/scissors
- **Materials not included:** fabric stuffing and/or a pillow form
 - Should you wish to stuff your pillow rather than use a pillow form, I recommend Poly-fit (available at Amazon, Hobby Lobby, Joann Fabrics & Crafts, Michaels, Walmart, and other craft stores)



How to Make a No-Sew Pillow: A Speed Run

- Special thanks to [Dana Vento](#) and [SNLouise](#) for the helpful tutorials on how to make a fringe, no-sew pillow!
- **Step 1:** Lay out your chosen t-shirt
 - If at home, wash and iron your shirt (it's ok if you haven't!)
 - Smooth out the wrinkles to ensure it's as flat as possible





Step 2: Hack away!

- With fabric shears (preferably), remove the arm and neckline
 - Cut down the left and right side of the shirt
 - Try to keep your cuts even (use a ruler for guidance, if possible)
 - Easier to work with square and rectangular shapes
 - After cutting, measure & mark each corner
 - *Recycle your scraps:* use them for rags, future projects, etc.
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Step 3: Cut each corner

- The measurement for your corners is based on how long you want your strips to be
 - 2"-3" inc.
 - Use a ruler and/or tape measure for guidance
 - Corners here are cut at 2 ¼"
- Measuring the corners ensures continuity



Step 4: Mark where you'll cut

- With a writing utensil (chalk, pencil, e.g.), mark lines for where you will make your cuts
- The marks pictured were approximately 2" and 1" apart
 - Your marks can be between 2"-3" long depending on the size of the shirt
- **Optional step:** *if you're using a pillow form, measure its size to determine the size of the strips*



Step 5: Cut away!

- Cut along your marks around the entire circumference
- Saves time to cut first, then tie later
- **Optional step:** *Secure the two pieces of fabric together with bobby pins; so long as you work on a flat surface, you might not need this step*



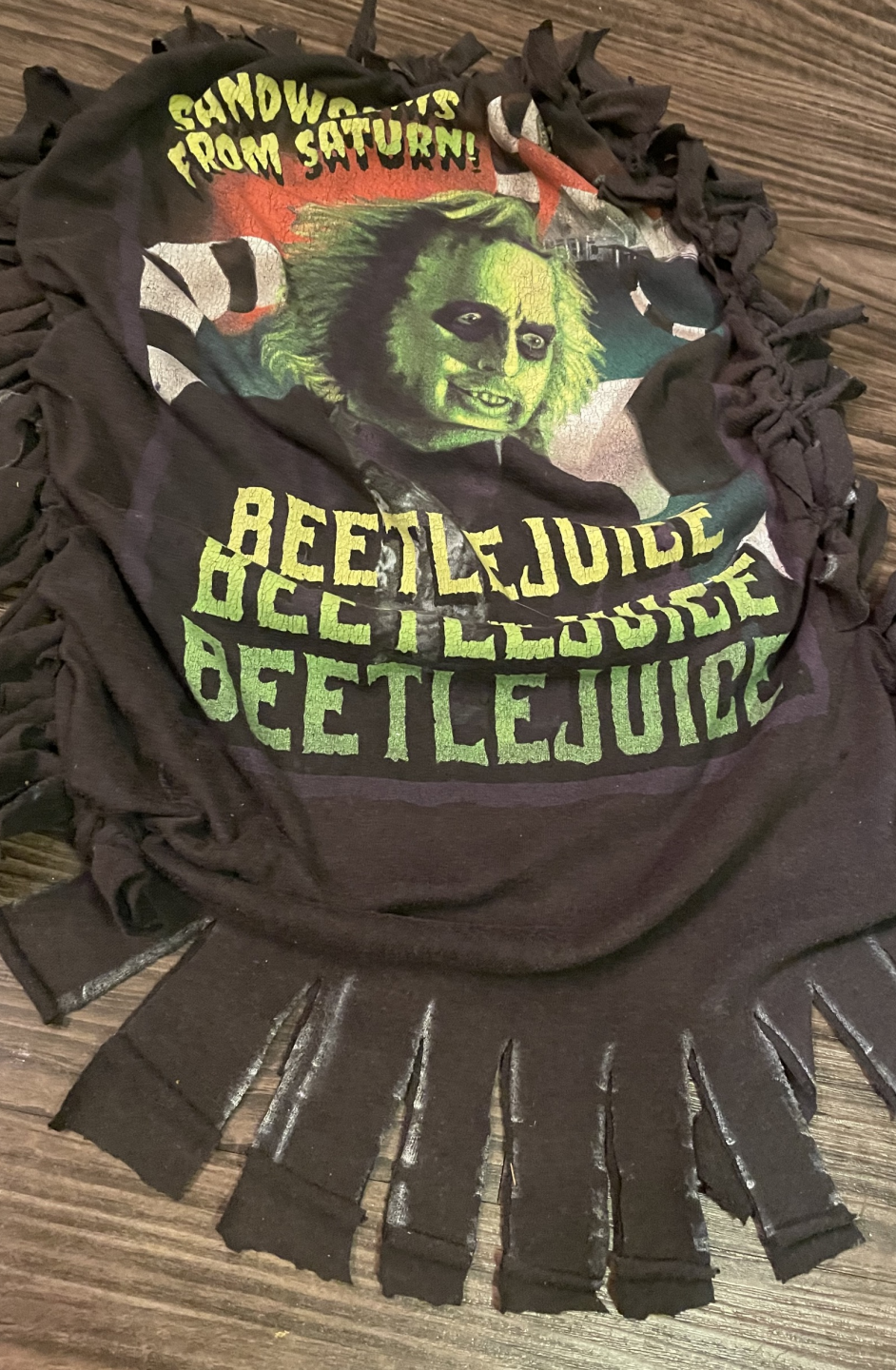
Step 6: Start tying

- Start in the bottom corner (lefthand or righthand side) and work your way around, tying the top and bottom strips from both layers of fabric
- Tie the two strips together like bunny ears or as though you're lacing you're shoes
- Leave the bottom half open for stuffing or to insert your pillow form

Step 7: Work your way around

- Again, leave the bottom half open for now
- When tying your knots, do a double knot to ensure that each one is tight and secure
- The fabric may buckle and shrink (depending on the type of material and the size of the image impacts appearance as well)





Step 8: Stuff the pillow & tie the bottom

- Notice how the image looks compressed; here's why:
 - I forgot to cut the sides in the beginning
 - The image is quite sizeable, and the corners become rounded due to tying
 - Mistakes happen: it's part of the process. ˘\ (ツ) /˘
- Then, you're done! Congrats on your no-sew pillow!

Tutorial: Sew a Pillow

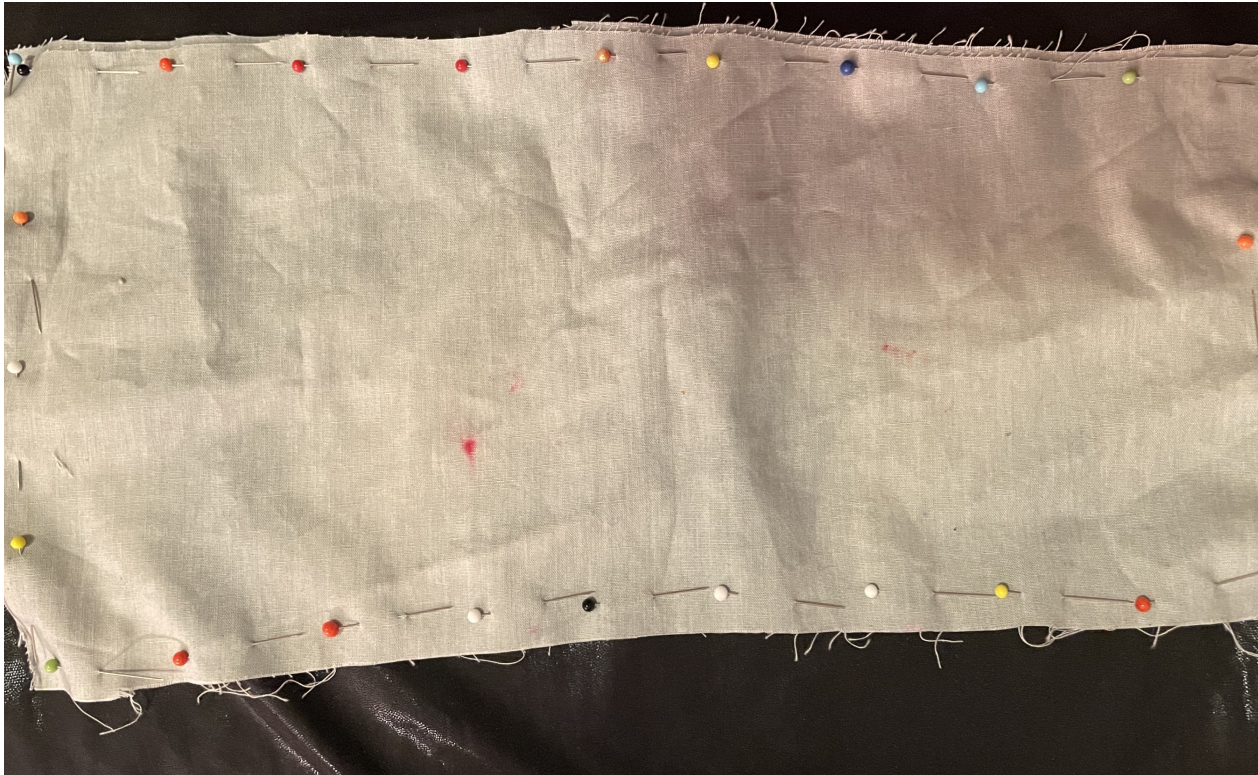
- Feeling bold? Feeling adventurous?
- Ready to dance with a sewing machine or tackle some old shirts with a needle and thread?
- Look no further than this self-guided tutorial on how to sew a pillow
 - **NOTE:** *This part of the tutorial is not covered in the workshop!*
 - Follow the slides asynchronously to learn how to sew your own pillow :)
- **Required materials:** thread, needle, old t-shirt, and pillow stuffing or pillow form

How to Sew a Pillow: A Crash Course



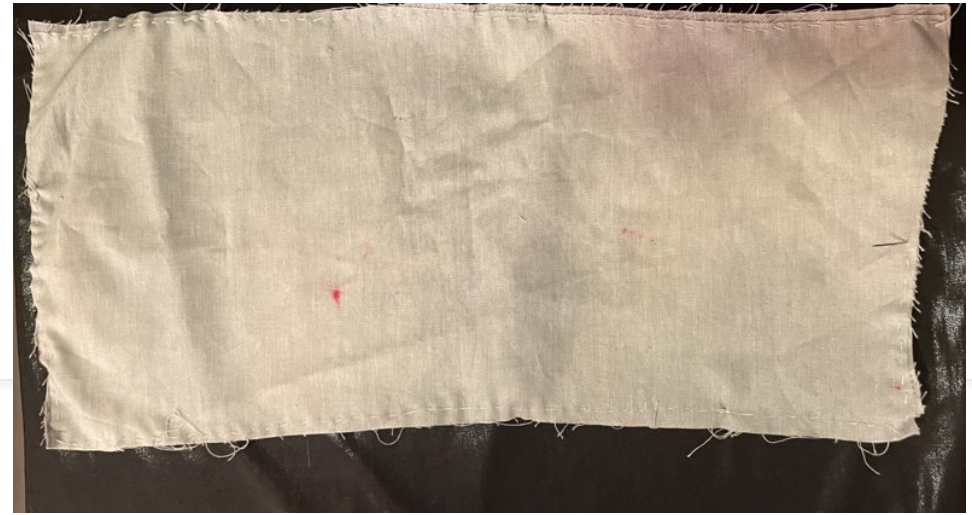
- **Step 1:** Thread your needle
 - There are many ways to do this
- Use thread that matches the color of the fabric you're working with
- Feed one end of the thread from your spool through the "eye" (hole) of the needle
 - Tie a knot around that end
- Cut your selected length of thread
 - Less than 12" to avoid tangling
 - Note that length varies and you'll have to repeat this step
- Tie the loose end of thread into several knots
- Cast aside your needle and thread (use a pin cushion, if possible)

Step 2: Cut and pin your fabric

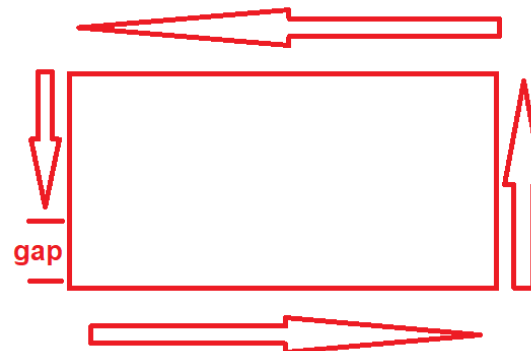


- Grab your fabric (your t-shirt, scrap fabric for me)
- Follow step 2 in the no-sew tutorial for a rectangular or square shape
 - Give a half inch of clearance since the fabric will shrink and curl
- Make sure your fabric is even, ironing is preferred though not necessary
- Turn your fabric inside out
 - This ensures that your stitches are hidden on the inside after sewing and flipping it to the right side
- Pin your fabric around the border

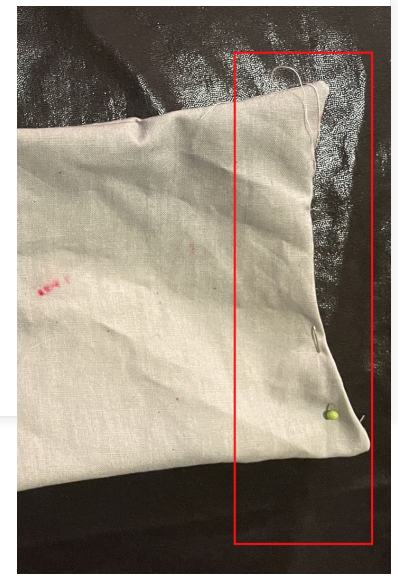
Step 3: Start sewing!



- Begin sewing in one corner
- Sew across (horizontally)
- Keep a part of one corner along the vertical sides open (for stuffing)
 - Leave an inch or so open
- The needle should sail up and down, in and out, of the fabric
- Make sure your stitches are uniform
- Remove your pins either as you sew or wait until the end
- If you run out of thread, repeat step 1
- It's ok that the fabric frays (on the inside; we all do) since it will be hidden inside
- Here's a diagram for the direction you might sew in:



Step 4: Reverse, stuff, & sew shut



- After leaving your gap open, remove the remaining pins to turn the pillow "inside out"
 - Which means it's right facing again! (see bottom image)
 - To do so, reach from within to reverse it back to its original front facing form
- Use a writing utensil to push out the corners if they are stuck
- Insert the stuffing to your preference
- Close the pillow by sewing shut the open flaps (see top image)
 - I recommend folding the frayed ends in half, then sewing them together
- Congrats, you sewed a pillow!





Additional Resources for Pillow Making

- Press ctrl prior to clicking on the hyperlinks
- No-Sew Tutorials: On [Pinterest](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [YouTube](#).
- [Turning t-shirts into quilts](#)
- [Tutorial for sewing by hand](#)

A dynamic, high-speed photograph of a powder explosion. The central focus is a large, billowing cloud of white powder that has just impacted a dark surface, creating a massive splash. This white cloud is surrounded by and intermingled with other colors: bright yellow and orange powder is visible on the left side, and a smaller, more dispersed cloud of light blue powder is on the right. The overall effect is a chaotic and energetic burst of color against a stark black background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and movement of the fine particles.

Now, it's time to dye!

Tie-Dye

A method of dyeing fabric where colored patterns are made by tying together small portion of the fabric using tight string before soaking the fabric in liquid dye.



Upcycling through Tie-Dye



- Upcycling – ‘Upgrading’ (adding value) + ‘Recycling’ (reusing)
- – Wegener and Aakjaer (2016)
- Upcycling through tie-dye –
 - Enhances value by adding colors and vibrance to the fabric
 - Adds value by reflecting personal fashion statement
 - (*Vogue Magazine* named tie-dye the “unofficial symbol of chill” in 2019)
 - Promotes sustainability by recycling secondhand fabric and textiles.

Basics

- Resists – Thread/string/rubber band used to tie (resist being stained by dye)
- Manipulation – Tying/ twisting/scrambling etc.

Origins

- 6th century China – craftsmen of Tang dynasty made natural dye using boiling berries, roots of vegetables, and various flowers in hot water and soaked fabrics to create patterns
- 6th century India – craftspeople used tied up cloths with thread and submerged them in dyed water
- Immigrants from India, China, Japan, Indonesia, Peru, and Philippine brought this techniques to the US
- 1920's Great Depression – Reduce, Reuse, Tie-Dye
- 1960's and 1970's hippie culture – DIY countercultural statement, protest, rebelliousness, individuality, and youthfulness

Let's Tie and D(I)Y-e



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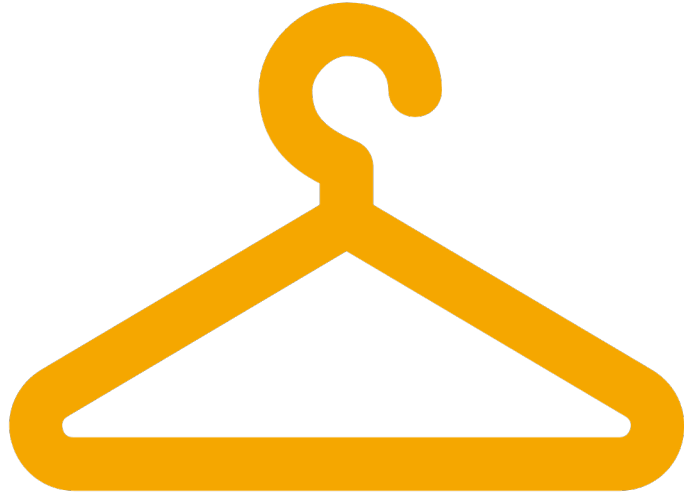
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Thank you!

Thank you for your patience and for participating in our workshop. Now, go forth and tailor some thrift finds to your personal fashion tastes.