

A Five Minute Funky Shopping Bag

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskatesclub.net*

These make very handy shopping bags to keep in your handbag, they fold up into a small, compact square, but when they are in use they hold an amazing amount of shopping, library books, craft supplies, knitting, beach gear, sports gear and so on.

Best of all they cost nothing to make! Not a cent for materials (yes, you'll pay for the electricity you use for the sewing machine!) and each one will be unique.

These bags are made from old t-shirts, or those souvenir t-shirts that are lurking at the bottom of the drawer, old favourites that you no longer wear but can't part with. Now they have a use, and it's a practical one too.

They also make great gifts, especially if you use a t-shirt to suit the recipient's taste and personality.

You will need:

A t-shirt

Sewing machine

Thread to match the t-shirt

Pins

Iron & ironing board

Step 1. Press the t-shirt, lining up the side seams, sleeve seams and neckline.

Step 2. Turn the t-shirt inside out and line up the side seams. Stitch across the bottom. Reinforce this by stitching across again.

Turn the t-shirt right side out.

Step 3. Lay the shirt flat, lining up the side and shoulder seams. Pin in place. Press.

Step 4. Take a medium size mixing bowl and place half-way over the neck line of the t-shirt.

Draw around the bowl. You should have a half circle, a little larger than the original neckline.

With sharp scissors carefully cut around the line you have drawn, being sure to go through the front and the back of the t-shirt.

Step 5. Line up the armhole seams on both sides, press and pin in place.

Carefully cut around the inside of these seams, as close as possible to the original stitching.

Turn the bag right side out, press and it's done!

You now have a funky and unique bag, and in under five minutes!

