No-Sew T-shirt Totes with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - T-shirt Tote

No-Sew T-Shirt Totes

(lively music) - Hi everybody. It's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Thursday at 4:00 Pacific time. If you're anything like me, you love a tote bag. I rushed into that. I'm really excited about these tote bags we're making today. In my world, tote bags are basically currency, as are cats, but tote bags are a lot easier to come by. I must have 40 in various nooks and crannies in my house, so why not make some more. You can never have too many tote bags. This is also a great way to use up those t-shirts that you got at the 5K, Fun Run, or maybe you donated blood and they give you a t-shirt instead of delicious cheese, which is what they used to give out when you donated blood where I went to college in Vermont. All you can eat cheese; it was a very good reason to donate blood. For this project, you will need a t-shirt, a smaller one actually. Usually when I'm thrift shopping for materials for t-shirts that I'm gonna cut up and make into other things, I go for a really big size, but for these, you want small or medium. And find something with a cute decoration on the front. This one is from a coding camp. I also really liked this pilgrim pug because, of course, a pilgrim pug makes perfect sense. You'll need a pair of scissors or if you want to up the ante on your life crafting show, a rotary cutter because nothing adds a little danger to a tote making segment like a rotary cutter. Ask me how I know. Begin by smoothing your t-shirt out on your work surface and we're going to cut off the sleeves and we're going to cut out the collar. We're basically making the handles of our bag. It's super simple to do this with your scissors. We're going to trace around. And I like to go straight up. And you can even, if you wanna make sure it's super symmetrical, fold it in half after you've made your first one and repeat the cut on the second side. Make sure you detach all the fabric and don't forget, we are live, so if you are also a tote bag fan, let me know. Let me know about your favorite tote bag. I can talk totes 'till the cows come home. So you can see I must have done a terrible folding job 'cause this is actually a bit slimmer, so we can cut in, or that might do, like when you're trimming your bangs and end up with real 90s micro bangs. We could just leave it as it is for now. I think I'll go with that. Now we're going to scoop out the neck. Give yourself at least six inches from the top. But I wanna make sure that I get as much of this cute little image as possible. So just going right along the neck, repeating it on this side, right along the neck. Like go and that is superb. Okay, I'm gonna trim it a little bit on the inside here so that it's closer to even. Now, we're going to turn it inside out. And I'm going to cut off my bottom hem, just 'cause I think it makes it a little bit cumbersome to work with when we're tying our knots. This is a no sew project so this is great for working with kids. You could sew the bottom by hand, but we're just tying knots. It's very easy. Cutting off the bottom like so. And then we're going to make a mark three inches up from the bottom. I'm gonna use my plastic ruler, but you can just use a normal ruler. You can even free-hand it but it is good to have a solid line running across. We're using our marking chalk. This is also on the inside, so you can use ball point pen if you don't have anything else. We currently are in the middle of a quilting class. This is our daily challenge for the month of May. Quilting class with Anna Maria Horner, and she uses a pencil to mark some of her quilts, which I was so scandalized by and then totally tickled. Now we're going to cut off the very edges. We're gonna cut off these hems up to the line we just made. Repeat on this side up to the line we just made. Then we're going to cut every 1/2 inch all the way up to the line. And we're just making straight cuts. We're going to do this all the way across. I wouldn't go much slimmer than a 1/2 an

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inch because then it makes more holes on the bottom and I wouldn't go much wider either 'cause then it makes the bottom a little bit chunky. And don't forget, we are live, so if you have any questions, please let me know. Do you collect tote bags? I know I have a fried who collects a tote bag for every time he goes into one of those hippy-dippy natural grocery stores and I just think that's the cutest thing. I was in a hippy-dippy natural grocery store and thought, I should buy a tote bag for Joe. But, isn't that kind of the purpose of it is that it's its very own souvenir, you know. So I didn't buy Joe a tote bag. But I could give him this one if I wanted. Okay, now we have our fringe cut. We're going to pinch one side, and we're going to knot together the pieces of fabric that are on either side of what we just cut. So see here, these two correspond, these two correspond, and we're going to make square knots. Right over left, under and through. Left over right, and we're gonna repeat that all the way down the line. Now, sometimes if you pull really tightly, the adjacent strip can get kind of sucked into it, and it's hard to remember exactly where the previous one was. Just go ahead and take your time. Be patient with yourself. Of course, the full rhyme is right over left, left over right, makes a knot neat and tidy and tight. But sometimes if you go through the whole rhyme every time you tie a knot, you know, you start to feel a little nutty. - [Announcer] All right, first question comes from Patty. Patty wants to know, why not just sew it? - The first question comes from Patty. Patty wants to know why not just sew it. Great question, Patty. You're welcome to sew it. I also think this is a great beginner's project, if someone is just learning how to use a straight stitch. I'm assuming you are a sewer, Patty, and as a sewer, yeah, of course we're going to want to sew things. It's a lot easier, but this is a really satisfying project if you maybe don't have access to a sewing machine or, I know I've talked before about vacation projects or mountain cabin projects. When I was kid, we would go to New Hampshire for a week every summer and we would come up with some really cool projects because we didn't have our arts and crafts bins. It was just maybe the Good Will down the street or the five and 10. And so I really like these kinds of projects that don't take, that takes as little special equipment as possible. But no, these can also definitely be sewed. I also didn't mention that these are, they're totally washable, so they're great for a farmer's market tote, or if you are in the state of California or a bunch of other states, then you save 10 cents when you bring your own bag. Also, my local grocery store, if you bring your own bag, they give you a token and then you put the token in the box that you wanna vote for to get the donations for the month. You can give it to the food pantry or kids. And it makes you feel, it's my favorite part, favorite part of the grocery store. (laughing) I love getting the token 'cause I am a full grown-up. We're just continuing on knotting these strips together. I also found three inches to be plenty enough to make the knot. If you find it is too baggy, you can cut them afterwards, but I wouldn't trim them more than an inch or so. - [Announcer] Next question comes from Jane. Jane wants to know is the fringe supposed to be on the outside of the bag or the inside? - Jane wants to know should the fringe be on the inside or the outside. Great question. I feel like you could go for a beachy thing and have the fringe on the outside. That's certainly your prerogative, especially if you wanted to add pony beads. Oh my gosh, remember those t-shirts. They'd be like surfs up and you get on the Jersey shore and there was beads galore. I don't think my mom liked them 'cause they made a lot of noise when they were in the dryer. But, I am choosing to put the fringe on the inside for the purposes of this project. But you're welcome to put it on the outside. When I'm done knotting, which I promise will be any minute now. This does seem like it's taking quite some time, doesn't it. (laughing) you'll see what it looks like. Maybe you prefer the look of the fringe. Then you'll always be on your beach vacation, even if you're at the grocery store. And if you have knotted correctly, oh thank goodness, we still have two more strips to go. I was making a previous sample

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and I had one extra strip. Felt like a real ding-dong. But I just tied it in with the last two. And would you believe it, it is a simple as this. So before we turn it inside out, we can see for our guests curious about the fringe, this is what our fringy bottom would get us. You're going to want, at this fun time, to pull it out a little bit, 'cause it'll be really tightly bunched together. Let's see what happens when we turn it inside out. This is one of those projects that's suspiciously easy. You get to the end of it and you're like, oh, that was it, really? You can see the bottom is a little open. You certainly wouldn't use these to carry dried beans or un-bagged rice. But it certainly works for produce or laundry. And there we have it. If you wanna go over some of the edges and clean up. I'm trying to do this ambidextrously, but let's be honest, I am just a humble righty, despite knowing in my heart of hearts that lefties are the cooler of the handed people. Go ahead and even up any raggedy edges. Also, because this is jersey, it will naturally curl on itself a little bit. If you wanna see some of these totes in action, I've got this guy here with, I stuffed it with its own scraps, which is a little cannibalistic. My phenylethyl acetate brings all the boys to the yard. I don't know what this means. I Googled it. I got some information about esters and compounds. You can see this shirt is a little bit bigger. And then, I thought this one was so fabulous 'cause it's that, the classic I love New York design. This ends up being a very beachy bag, even though our fringe is on the inside. You can find this episode, if you'd like to revisit it and parse it for all the life secrets I told about childhood vacations, you can check it out on Creativebug.com/CBTV. All our lives live there. We thank you so much for joining us and we'll see you next Thursday. (lively music)

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