Make an Eco-Friendly Dog Toy with Faith Hale

Chapter 1 - Make an Eco-Friendly Dog Toy

Overview

(upbeat music) (film slate clacks) - Hi there. I'm Faith Hale. I'm a staff artist here at Creativebug, and I love all things upcycling. I've recently been making a lot of T-shirt yarn, and a project I really enjoy is these braided dog toys. They're 100% cotton. You can toss them in the washing machine, and they make a really sweet gift for a furry friend. (upbeat music) They're really quick to make, and if you have any experience making friendship bracelets, you'll be able to whip these up in no time. (upbeat music) (logo clacking)

Materials

- For this project, you'll wanna make sure you use some T-shirt yarn. You can either buy it or you can make it yourself, but either way, make sure you have something that's made out of jersey and mostly cotton. You'll need 12 pieces of yarn each five feet long. For this two color dog tie, I'm using six of the white and six of the blue. This yarn I bought, this yarn I made. You also need a pair of sharp scissors.

Make the toy

- Begin by making an overhand knot, leaving about four inches of tails. At this point, it doesn't really matter where your colors are. And you'll pull the knot really tight. I like to go through and pull the strands one at a time, I really want this knot to be as small as possible. That's fabulous. And then we'll go through, grouping our yarn by color, and alternating the colors, that gives us a really fun barber pole effect, so we have two blues, two whites. Two blues. Two whites. Two blues, two whites. And like when you're beginning, say, a friendship bracelet, the first row is the most chaotic. Don't sweat it if it feels really uncomfortable. I'm going to begin by making a 90-degree angle with blue. Looping over and under with the white. Keep this loop with your finger. Over and under. Over and under. Just alternating colors. Over and under. And then, our last yarn that hasn't been incorporated yet, this white strand, we're going to go over. And when we come back up, we're going to go up through the loop. So over and under. Then we flip it to the bottom, and you can see where we started our circle and ended it, and then we're going to just slowly half tighten all of these. And you can see pretty quickly, it forms this spiral shape. Go around a few times, just incrementally tightening everything. And we'll flip it back over and repeat the same process. It doesn't matter which piece you start with. Over and under. We've gotten to the last strand again, so over, under, and through this loop. When we flip it back over, it has that same messy tangle as the first time, but with a little bit more of a base to work off of. And there we go, we can see this swirl pattern starting to be established. We repeat that exact same stitch until it measures about six inches from the beginning of the knot. It'll look like this. And then we'll repeat our same overhand knot, trying to get it as close to our braid as possible. Don't worry if your ends are all uneven. We can fix this after we've tightened it. Sometimes I have the loops just over the end, so that when I pull them tight, they can slip off. And then you'll just repeat tightening all of the strands until your knot is about the same size as your initial knot. (vibrant electronic music) Trim your ends so that they're the same length as your initial ends, about four inches. And there you have it, a fabulous little toy. This is washable, just toss it in the washing machine. Dry it on High. If you wanna use more than two colors, six is really

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fun to play with, just be sure that you're grouping two of the same color at a time, or else it can get really chaotic and messy. Also if you want a toy for a larger dog, I'd suggest doubling the length of the yarn, knotting it in the middle, before continuing to make an equivalent braided portion on the other side. I think this makes such a sweet little present for your four-legged friend. If you're making gifts for the rest of the family, you might as well make one for your pet too.

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