

Challenge issued! After 6 months of making footstools, stuffed with plastic bags, I am challenging you and your sewing friends to start making them yourselves! So far, I have made 18 footstools, stuffed with about 12,000 plastic bags, donated by our Creative Passions guests and friends. Think about that, 12,000! In 6 months, there are 12,000 less plastic bags in landfills. What if more of us were making them, or other items, to help the environment? I would love to hear your ideas of items which can be made from (previously used) plastic bags, bottles, etc.

I do not have an official pattern, but here it is, in a nutshell, you will need:

2 charm packs (or 80--5" X 5" squares)

1 piece of heavier fabric 18 ½" X 18 ½" (for base)

1 piece of ¼" plywood 16" X 16" (sand down edges and corners, for base)

650 clean, used plastic bags

1. Arrange all 64 squares in a 4 squares X 16 squares set, to make sure no 2 similar squares are next to each other.
2. Sew together squares 1 square X 16 squares long into a row.
3. Repeat step 2, 3 more times.
4. Sew together the 4 rows.
5. Sew short ends together, to make a loop. Set aside.
6. Arrange and sew squares 4 squares X 4 squares, for the top.
7. Sew the 4 X 16 long loop to the 4 X 4 square, right sides together, you now have 5 sides.
8. Sew 5-sided cube piece to 18 ½" X 18 ½" piece of the heavier fabric, right sides together, 3 SIDES ONLY! You will need to leave one side open to stuff in bags and wood.
9. Start stuffing bags into corners and edges first, then fill rest of the way with 550 bags.
10. Slide piece of wood into opening while there is still room (this will be the firm bottom of the footstool), then continue to stuff with remaining 100 bags. All bags are in same area of footstool (not 550 below wood piece, and 100 above piece).
11. The final seam will have to be sewn by hand. I suggest putting some weight on the footstool, to help squeeze seams together. Pin, clip, or clamp seams together and sew final seam together by hand, with a doubled thread.

**Send a picture of your finished project, whether this one, or another recycling project made between July 1 and December 31, 2019, and on January 2, 2020, I will draw a name for a free stay at Creative Passions, your choice of weekday or weekend retreat!!**