



Eco Craft: Recycle Recraft Restyle

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Who knew taking care of the planet could look so good? *Eco Craft* shows how, with 30 truly beautiful home décor projects that elevate environmental consciousness to stylish new heights. Every idea is amazingly clever: who would *ever* have imagined that plastic six-pack can holders could become a chic Moorish-inspired filigree tri-fold screen? Or that glass baby food jars would make a charming candle chandelier? Every project features at least one beauty shot in a modern home setting, easy-to-follow instructions, and step-by-step color photos, while handy icons spotlight the key techniques, materials, and the estimated time to complete each project.

Eco Craft: Recycle Recraft Restyle Details

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Ashley says

Some excellent ideas for re-purposing typically discarded items. Making "fabric" by ironing together plastic bags is something I'd like to try.

Love the repurposed jars, too. I save a fair amount for storage, but had never come up with a chic way of labeling them: enter chalkboard paint. Perfect!

Suzie says

The concept is brilliant--using trash to create "new", useful things.

I really liked a few of the projects but doubt I will be attempting them.

My favorites were the IKEA-esque lamp shades made of milk jugs and the simple potato stamping newspaper to use as wrapping paper.

I was hoping for more uses for things I throw out myself, but didn't really get that. I'd preferably like to only make something either beautiful or essential, whereas a lot of ideas I've found here and elsewhere are usually things I wouldn't use anyway or use things like paint which doesn't seem very environmentally sound.

Tracey says

Adult nonfiction; craft. Unlike many "upcycling" craft books, this one features projects that I actually wouldn't mind having in my home. Or if not my home, exactly, then somebody else's--the point being that they don't look like the tacky cut-up plasticky crafts usually featured in such volumes. Many of the materials probably won't be found in your average home (who around here has an old inner tube lying around?) but the ideas are still inspiring. Worth a look-through.

Emily says

I'm not sure what I was expecting, but this wasn't it. First of all, there was way too much variance in the projects. Meaning some were super fancy looking and had difficult to find pieces (that wouldn't necessarily be cheap) and a lot of technical skill, and others looked like things you'd make at elementary school craft camp. Many were things I had seen before. Some were just weird. There was one idea I liked and may use, and that is the glass jars with a square of chalkboard paint for labeling, though I will use it for a slightly different purpose, if I follow my current plans. There is also a form of paper mache I hadn't seen before, using mostly paper pulp, but I'm not sure I like it any better than the kid of paper mache I did a lot in college. The main thing I look for in a craft book is inspiration, and other than the chalkboard paint thing, there

wasn't any of that in here for me.

Patricia says

I like the wide range of crafts presented. Some are really easy and quick and some require more skill, dedication, focus and time. Some I have seen before, but it is nice to be reminded of them....while my mind is sharp, it is impossible to remember everything. I had never seen the plastic bag craft (pp. 60-63 Do lunch). I've tried several different shopping store bags and haven't been pleased with the quality of most of them, so I normally just use paper bags over and over until they tear apart. My twist on this craft is covering the paper bags I have left with plastic bags I have saved up...,here's hoping! My next resort if this doesn't work is reworking the felt bags I have left with other fabrics and using this idea as a finish.

Ellen says

Creative, unusual projects (such as a very pretty room-divider screen made of those dastardly plastic rings from six-packs of canned soda [or piss beer:]) and plenty of photos make this craft book both practical and inspiring. I'm pondering buying a copy just for the 2 or 3 projects that I felt I might make repeatedly as gifts (I checked it out from the library, of course).

There are a number of pretty good craft books now that use stuff people would normally throw away to make practical and beautiful household items, and (thankfully) none of them remind me of the bad old days of kitschy, fugly crafts made from recycled materials (e.g. the plastic-fork-cemented-into-an-upturned-hairspray-lid "recipe card holder"...). That is, except for those retro-vibe books that have gleefully sought out those distinctly dated, bizarre craft projects expressly to celebrate the kitsch.

Anyway: *Eco-Craft* is pretty to look at, contains both easy projects and challenges, and showcases some pretty ingenious ideas, a few of which result in pieces with a sophisticated look that belies their origins. Check it out.

Denise says

Great for browsing, but step-by-step directions are clearly written if you want to jump right in.
Adult

Christine Turner says

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photos, while handy icons spotlight the key techniques, materials, and the estimated time to complete each project.

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Darla says

not much new

Natasha says

Received this book as a birthday present. Love, love, love it! Re-purposing is always more eco-friendly than recycling. Personally, I like the idea of creating my own home accessories (or gifts) where I have control over the materials and appearance. If you want the "perfect" accessory for your decor, make it!

There are some beautiful and practical crafts in here. Some ideas are new versions of old ideas (wine bottle vases). Some projects require access to special skills or tools (sawing bamboo, knitting needles for rugs), but overall, it is an excellent book with many projects that vary in scope, purpose, and difficulty.

Cory says

While most of the projects are actually very attractive, many of them require either ingredients that are hard to find, or levels of skill that I don't possess. I'm also a bit confused as to the overall goal. Yes, I can turn all of my take-out containers into drawer organizers, but then I won't have enough drawers to put them in and eventually, they will fall apart or I won't need them. And then they'll be garbage again. And do I really want to FILL my house with tchotchke crap that I've made out of garbage?

Sarah says

This is one of the best books I've seen about re-using materials that are not recyclable (the room divider that others have mentioned, which utilizes the plastic rings that house 6-packs of soda cans; also the tote made from coffee bags which are not otherwise recyclable). I am in the midst of making the asian-inspired pendant light from plastic milk jugs. The projects are not anything that are too advanced - any novice would be able to do them as presented or modify them to their own taste. I highly recommend this book.

Michelle says

Many ideas for reuse of items I would have never thought to use (6-pack plastic holders!) however many of these crafts are either way above my skill level/patience threshold, or items that I honestly don't use in the first place (coffee bags). I like the *idea* of this book, but wouldn't do many of the projects.

Samantha Breza says

I wouldn't try any of the crafts that involve plastic bags, but the rest look good.

Crystal Balboni says

Eco Craft is a book about recycling a reusing products in a beautiful way to help lighten the load of your carbon footprint. Why buy something new when you can make it out of what you already have in your recycling bin or out in your yard? The projects really are very put together and look classy. My favorite was the first one, a cushy rug made knit out of old wool sweaters. Unfortunately, for me there were very few projects that I already have supplies for since I try not to buy some of the items in the first place, such as plastic milk jugs or six pack soda rings. I thought the idea of ironing the plastic bags together to make a sort of "fabric" with it that you can use for other projects is awesome! That is something that I will try out :) The author seemed down to earth and I really enjoyed reading the intro and her tips and facts. This is a great book to give you a new perspective of using items you may have originally looked at as trash! It definitely sparked some creativity in me.

3.5 stars
