

How to Make... Recycled Bunting



What you will need:

- Old fabrics or clothing
- Sewing needle and pins
- Sewing thread
- Printer and paper
- Scissors and a pencil
- An iron
- A narrow ended utensil

The following pages will guide you through the steps to sew your own bunting using recycled fabric - we used a pillowcase, an old skirt and an old curtain!

Try writing a positive message on yours and maybe hang it in the window for passers-by to admire and be inspired by...

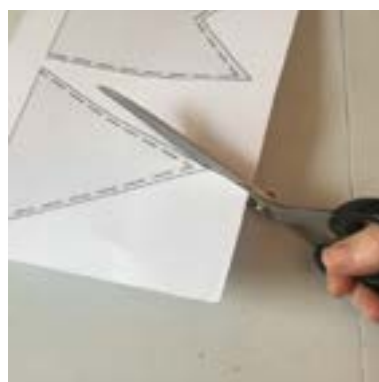
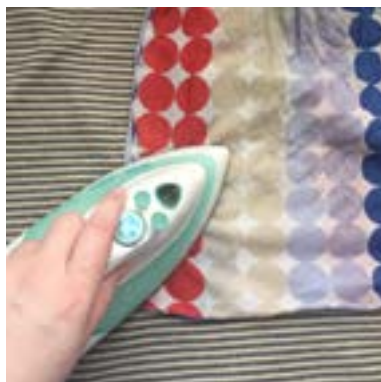
At the end of this tutorial, you will find some speedier, no-sew options too...



1 - Write down your bunting message so you can work out what letters you will need and how many panels of bunting to make.

2- Print out the attached letter templates and cut out the letters you need.

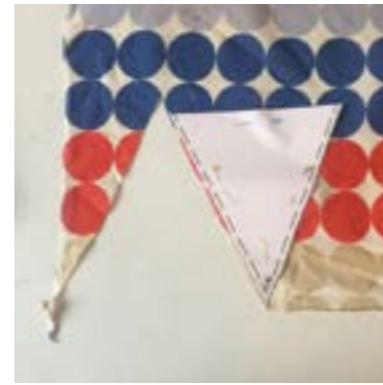
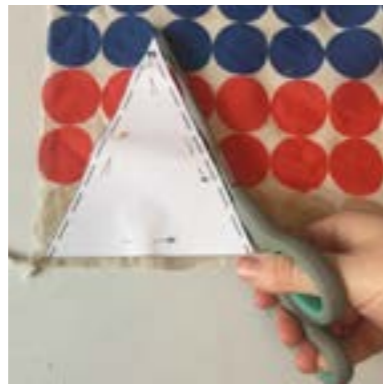
3 - Draw around the letters onto your chosen fabric (we used an old skirt for our letters). Try drawing the letters on backwards so that any pencil marks do not show up when the letters are turned over. Cut out each letter from the fabric.



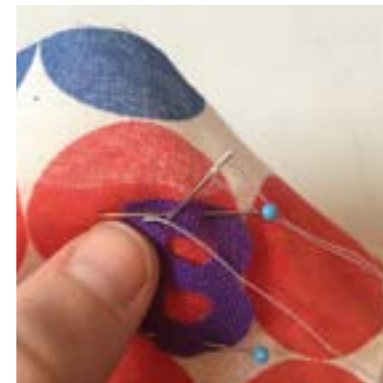
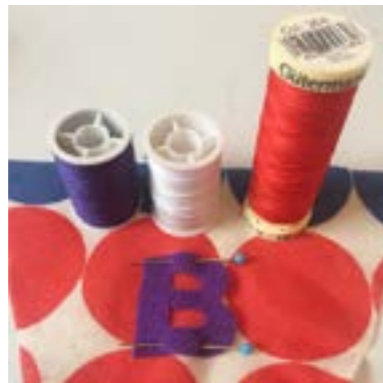
4 - Choose your fabric and iron using the heat setting suitable for your fabric. Ironing your fabric will make it flat and easier to work with. Our bunting was made from one side of an old pillow case.

5 - Print the attached shape templates and cut out the shape of your choice.

6 - Pin the paper pattern to your fabric. Try pinning the template close to the edges of the fabric to save wasting any when it is cut out.



7 - You now have 2 options: Either, Draw around your pattern and cut it out - or - Keep your pattern pinned to your fabric and cut around it. You will need to cut out 2 shapes for each letter / panel for your bunting.



8 - Pin each letter to the middle of one of your shapes - leave room around the edge of the fabric as this will be sewn later.

9 - Use a needle and thread to sew each letter to a fabric panel. We used 'back stitch' to do this. Don't be afraid to choose a contrasting colour of thread, it can look great and helps the shape of the letters stand out.



10 - When you have sewn on the letter, remember to tie a knot in the thread at the back of the fabric to stop it unravelling.

11 - You now sew together two shapes to create one neat edged panel.

Place one blank shape (to be the back of the panel) onto the table - front side up. Then, place a lettered shape on top - front side down (so that the two front sides of the panel are touching). The panel will be turned the right way out after you have sewn it.



12 - Making sure that the edges of the fabric match up well, pin the two shapes together

13 - Use back stitch again to sew the bottom two edges of the triangles, making sure you are sewing through both pieces of fabric as you do so. Remove the pins from the fabric as you sew. The top edge of your fabric will be sewn into the tape of your bunting later on.

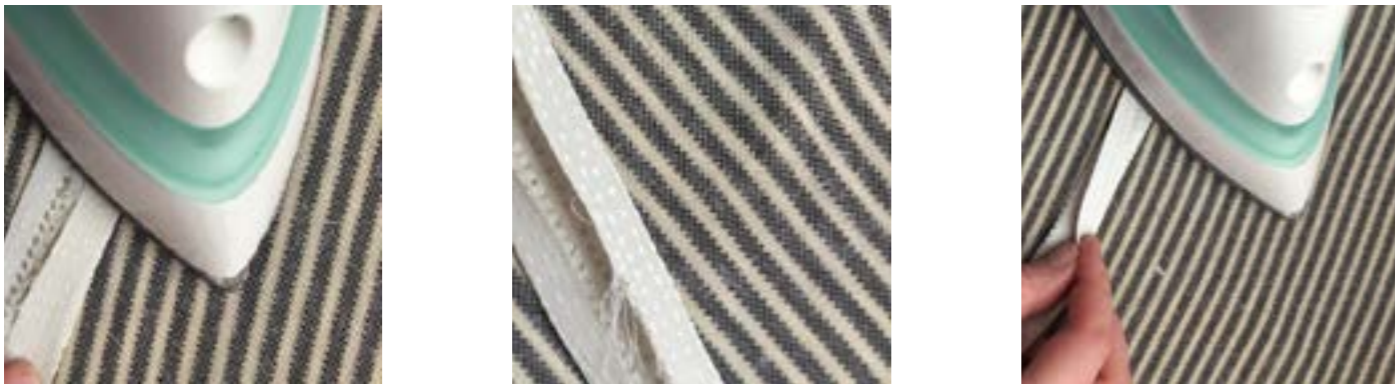


14 - Carefully, turn the panel right-side-out (as you have sewn it inside out to keep the untidy seams on the inside of the fabric) You can use a tool to help push out the point - you could use the end of a paint brush or a wooden spoon. Do not push too hard as you can break the seams.



15 - Iron your panels to make them sit flat and give a crisp shape.

16 - Lay out your lettered panels side by side with a good gap between each. This will allow you to measure how much tape you will need to hang your bunting. Allow plenty of extra length when measuring to allow for gaps between words and for extra length each side to tie up your bunting.



Now you will create the tape to hang your bunting from. If you have some spare, wide ribbon you could of course use this instead and go to step 19. In the following steps you will use a strip of fabric to create you own biased binding style of tape to sandwich your panels between:

17 - Choose some fabric to create you tape from. It will need to be the length that you measured in step 16 and 5 cm wide. Thinner fabrics are best for this stage as they are easier to fold and manipulate as required. We used a strip of old curtain fabric for tape.

18 - Utilising the iron, crease the fabric into the shape you need. Fold the other 2 edges of the strip of fabric into the middle and iron to hold it in place. (creating a U shaped fabric tube) Do this for the whole of the length of your fabric strip.

19 - Utilising the iron again to press your fabric into shape, fold the strip in half and iron along the whole of the length again. Your fabric strip should now be 1/3 its original width.

If you are using wide ribbon instead of making your own tape, you will need to complete this step by just folding the ribbon in half and ironing the whole length.



20 - Lay your tape (or ribbon) across the table and begin to place your letters in the correct order and spacing. Remember to leave a length of tape (or ribbon) at each end for tying up your bunting when it is finished.

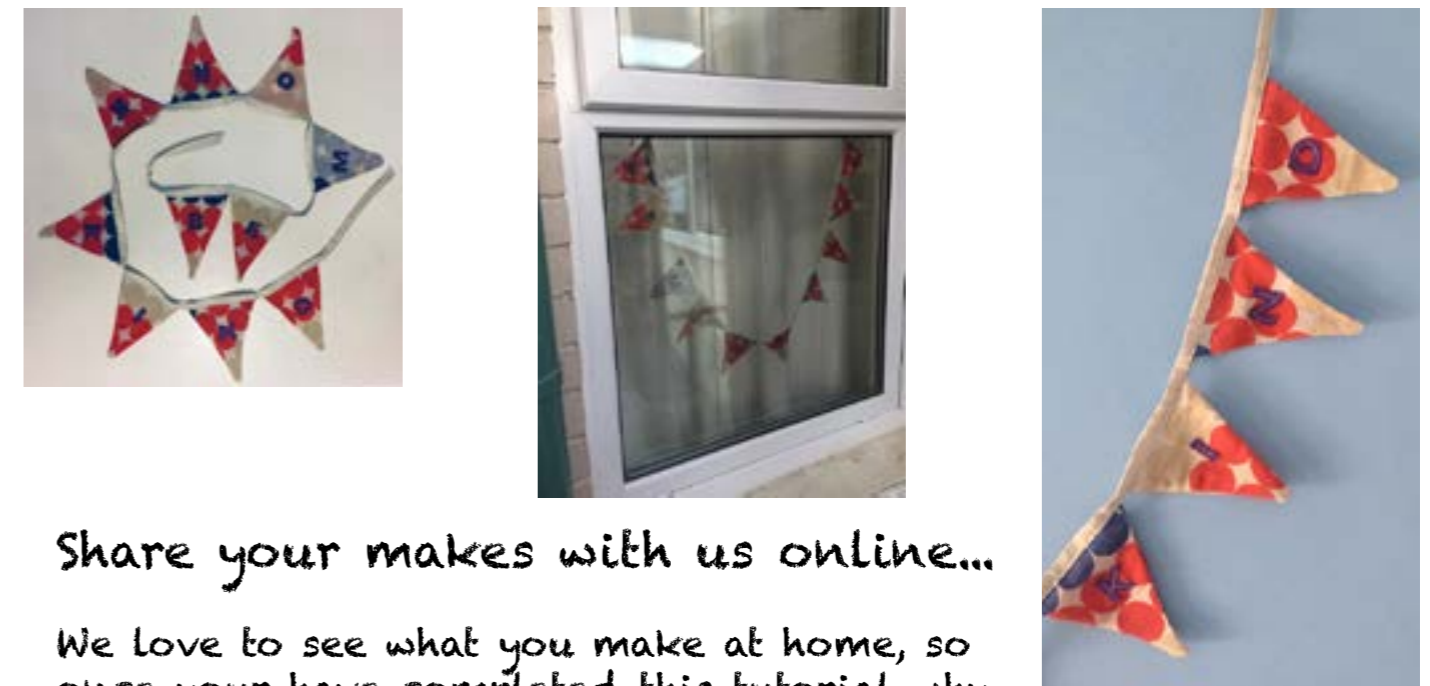
21 - Sandwich the top of each panel between the two halves of the tape (or ribbon) and pin them into place whilst you work your way along the whole of the bunting's length.



22 - As you pin each panel in, utilise an object such as a pencil to help keep the spaces the same distance. For gaps between words, use a slightly larger object to separate the words to make the sentence more readable.

23 - Use back stitch to sew the whole length of the tape (or ribbon). Make sure that you are sewing through the front and back sides of the tape as well as the panel sandwiched inside.

Well done.... Now sit back and admire your handy work before displaying it in your chosen position!



Share your makes with us online...

We love to see what you make at home, so once your have completed this tutorial why not share the result on social media and tag us in:

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No-Sew Methods...

This method utilises the existing seams in reclaimed fabric... in this case, the hem of an old dress!



If you have access to some pinking shears, use them to cut your fabric shapes. The zig-zag edges allows the fabric not to fray.

Utilise the seam in the old fabric as a channel to thread some ribbon or string through.

Attach a safety pin to one end of the ribbon and use it to help you to push and thread the ribbon through the channel in the fabric.

Create and thread as many panels as you wish. You can also create letters and attach them with glue, rather than sewing them on.



You can also try making bunting from non-fraying fabric (such as felt) or draw your own messages onto paper bunting using pencil crayon or paint...



