



Tutorial: Recycled Bottle Cap / Recycled T-shirt Necklace

Materials:

for the bottle cap pendant:

- bottle caps (the metal kind from glass bottles)
- patterned or brightly colored fabric or paper
- Diamond Glaze (tm) adhesive or something similar (comes in a purple-and-white bottle; can be found at Texas Art Supply and other specialty art and craft stores).
- white glue or similar adhesive
- scissors
- pins

for the necklace:

- an old T-shirt (make sure it's one you don't want to wear any more).
- 1/4-inch washers
- 1/4-inch round magnets

Instructions:

Step One: Wash your bottle caps. A good way to do this is to let them soak for an hour or two in a bowl of water with two tablespoons of vinegar mixed in. Rinse and dry them when they're done soaking. The vinegar will help take away the smells still on the bottle caps (because we're pretty sure you don't want your jewelry to smell like root beer).

Step Two: Cut out a circle from your fabric or paper that fits the inside of the bottle cap (we liked looking through magazines for really cool patterns and images). Put a drop of white glue in the bottle cap and press your circle on. Let it dry for a minute or two.

Step Three: Squeeze a thin layer of Diamond Glaze into the bottle cap, making sure to pop any bubbles with a stick pin. You might also need to use pins to push down the paper - during this step the edges sometimes try to float to the surface. If you accidentally move your beads or glass during this step, the pins can be used to nudge them back into place.

Step Four: Wait for the Diamond Glaze to dry. We recommend waiting overnight, but use your best judgment as to how dry the glaze is.

Step Five: Now it's time to work on the pendant! Cut a sleeve from your T-shirt, leaving the connecting seam off. Cut a strip (about 1/4 to 1/2-inch wide) from the cut edge of the sleeve. You now have a loop made from T-shirt material. Snip it at the seam (if there isn't one, just pick a place) to make one long strip. Stretch the strip so that the material curls under to make kind of a T-shirt rope.

Step Six: Double the T-shirt rope so that you have a fold at one end and two lined-up cut ends at the other. Stick the fold through one of your washers, then pull the cut ends through that loop. We recommend holding the cut ends in one hand and the washer in another as you pull the rope through. You'll end up with a knot around the washer.

Step Seven: Stick a magnet on the washer.

Step Eight: Stick a bottle cap on the magnet.

Step Nine: Tie the cut ends of the T-shirt rope in whatever length you like.

Step Ten: Enjoy your recycled necklace!