

# T-shirt to Tote Scrap Projects

Use the scraps from our T-shirt to Tote Project to make a produce tote or coaster!



**What is River Keepers T-shirt to Tote Project?** The purpose of this project is to reduce the amount of plastic bags found in and near the Red River by encouraging people to use reusable totes instead of plastic bags. Volunteers cut or tie T-shirts into totes that are used for outreach. The sleeves and collar of the T-shirt are not used in this process. The following sewing projects are ideas to use these scraps. Contact River Keepers to see about picking up T-shirt scraps or to volunteer!

## Produce Tote Instructions

### Materials

- T-shirt sleeves
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing machine and supplies

### Process

#### 1. Cut T-shirt sleeves to make patchwork

Cut the finished edge of two T-shirt sleeves off and cut them in half to create two handles for the produce tote. Cut so they are the same length and set them aside.

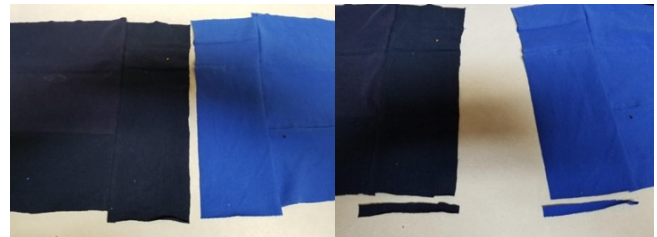
Measure and cut 8 - 4" x 8" and 2 - 4" x 4" patchwork. Lay out the fabric as pictured.



#### 2. Create sides of the produce tote

Sew the patchwork together using a straight stitch and about a 1/8" - 1/4" seam. This creates the sides of the produce tote. They should measure about 12" x 12".

Some of the pieces may not line up and you may see one column is longer or shorter than another. Trim the edge so they are approximately the same length.



#### 3. Sew the sides of the produce tote together

Put each side on top of each other with the patchwork seams on the outside. Pick which side you want to be the opening of the produce tote. Do not sew that side. Pin and sew the other three sides together with about a 1/4" seam.

#### 4. Create and sew the opening seam

Fold the opening of the produce tote over twice and pin it all the way around. Sew over the folded material.



#### 5. Sew the handle of the produce tote

Pin the two handles onto each side inside the tote. Place the handle so it is slightly below the folded hem you just made. Check if the handles are lined up and adjust as needed.

Sew the handles onto the bag on top of the previous stitches.



## Coaster Instructions

### Materials

- T-shirt sleeves
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing machine and supplies

### Process

#### 1. Cut T-shirt sleeves to make patchwork

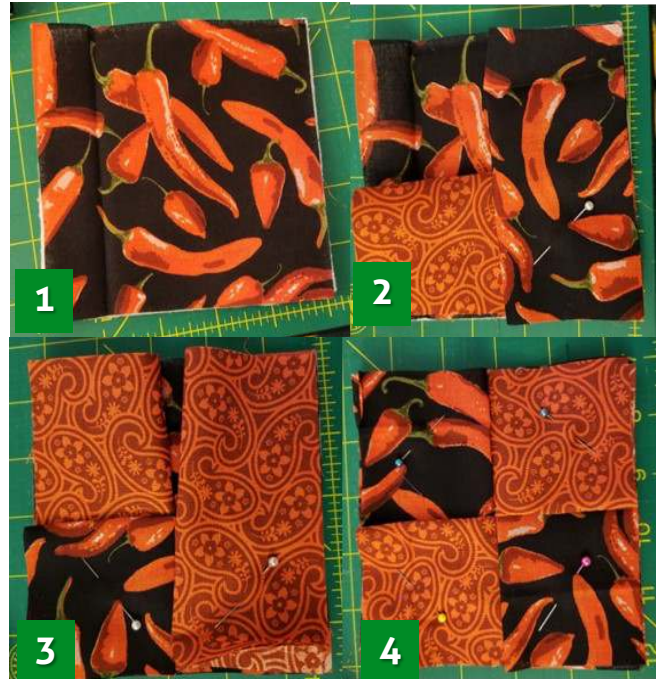
Cut 5 squares that are 5" x 5". If you don't have enough fabric, you can use 5 - 4" x 4" squares instead.

#### 2. Layout patchwork to make the coaster

Place one of the squares flat on the table. This is square #1.

Fold the other 4 squares in half.

Take one of the folded squares and place it on top of square #1. Line up the folded squares open side with one of the edges of square #1. Take the other 3 folded squares and consecutively line them up with each new folded square lining up with a new side of square #1. Note: What you see now will be hidden later. This is a great way to hide any small stains.



#### 3. Sew around the edges

#### 4. Trim all the corners



#### 5. Flip the coaster inside out and push corners down

Coaster instructions supplied by Kirstin Viland and Gladys Kopp

Last updated: May 2020