

How-To Make A No Sew T-Shirt Tote Bag in 10 Minutes
borrowed and revised from MommyPotamus by Heather Dessinger
<https://mommypotamus.com/no-sew-t-shirt-tote-bag-tutorial/>

Supplies:

- Old t-shirt – The thicker the fabric, the sturdier the bag – with or without a design.
- Sharp scissors, preferably fabric scissors, or child-friendly scissors.
- Washable marker (optional) or pencil.
- Mixing bowl.
- Ruler or flat edge of a book.

Directions

Step 1: Cut the sleeves off



If you'd like to fold the t-shirt in half you can cut both sleeves at once so that they are identical. Or, if your material is too thick to cut them both at once, you can cut one, then fold it in half and use the cut side as a guide for the next sleeve.

Step 2: Cut the neckline area



You can cut free-hand or, if you'd prefer, you can turn the shirt inside out and trace the outline of a bowl before cutting.

Step 3: Determine how deep you want the bag to be



If you haven't already turned your t-shirt inside out, do it now. Determine where you want the bottom of the bag to be and trace a line across with the ruler or book. Keep in mind that depending on the fabric used, your tote is likely to stretch and become longer when it gets filled.

Step 4: Cut fringe



Now grab your scissors and cut slits from the bottom of the shirt up to the line marking the bottom of your bag. (Remember to cut side slits also.) You'll want to cut both the front and back layers together because they need to match up for the next step. A good width is to cut the slits about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide.

If your t-shirt has a design that you want showing, then before you start to tie your fringes you'll want to decide if you want the fringes to show on the outside or be hidden on the inside because that will determine if you keep the t-shirt inside-out or not before you start to tie the fringes.

Step 5: Tie Fringe



Take your first pair of front and back fringes and tie them into a knot. Then tie two more pairs. Now if you lift your bag you'll see that although the pairs are pulling the bag together, there's a hole between each pair. This next step will close those holes.

In the first photo above, you see three sets of fringes that have been tied in knots. Now you will want to grab one strand from the middle set (the one with the arrow pointing left) and tie it in a knot with one of the strands on the left set. Then take the other strand from the middle set (the one with the arrow pointing right) and tie it in a knot with one of the strands on the right set.

Then tie the next, fourth, set of front and back strands and tie the remaining strand on the right (or third) set to one strand of that next set. Follow these simple steps until all the strands are tied.

Now turn your t-shirt right side out again and you're done! Remember, a fun variation is to turn the bag right side out when tying the fringe so the fringes show. And you could tie the straps in knots, or tie bits of t-shirt scrap to the top as embellishments.

