

Some tips on how to recycle old sheets: eco-dye them and make yarn for crochet projects!

What you need?

- Old sheets (theoretically from cotton and white but hey, life is not perfect :P)
- Walnuts (theoretically resulting in shades of brown)
- Red onion (theoretically resulting in shades of red)
- Beetroot (theoretically resulting in shades of red)
- Vinegar (makes the color last)



The main ingredients of this experiment 😊

Step 1: Boil the walnut shells (or the red onion peels + beetroot) to help extract the color. More plant material equals more concentrated color. When satisfied with the color of the eco-dye you are ready for Step 3.

Step 2: use the vinegar on the sheets. Let them soak in vinegar while the walnut shells are boiling

Step 3. Pour the eco-dye on the sheets. Repeat Step 1 if more eco-dye is needed to nicely cover the sheets.



Step 4: let the sheets stay in the eco-dye until the liquid cools off. Regularly mix and turn the sheets around. Look in amazement how instead of getting shades of red you get shades of yellow / green 😊



Step 5: accept the unpredictability in eco-dyeing ☺ It seems that the most reliable result is obtained with walnuts shells. Hang your color stained sheets in the sun. This will also help the color last.

When they are dried you are ready for the next phase: make yarn out of them for crochet projects!

What you need?

- A good scissor (very important because a lot of cutting is involved)
- Patience (very important because a lot of cutting is involved)!

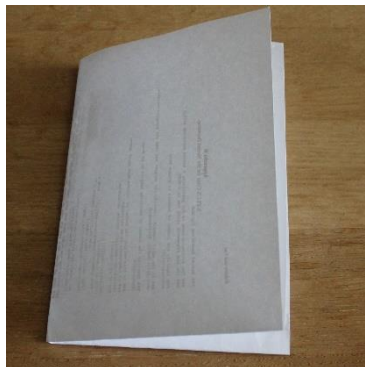
The main goals in this process is to minimize the cutting needed and to obtain a continuous strand of recycled yarn. You reach these 2 goals by folding and cutting the material in a certain way.

Step 1: cut of the sewed margins of the sheet

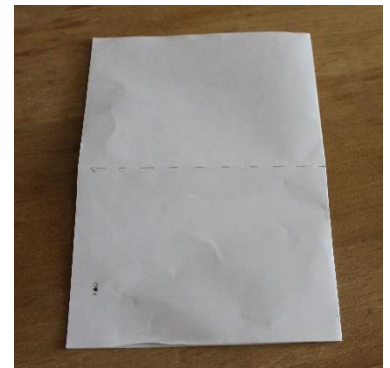
Step 2: start the folding and the cutting. In my experience folding it two times is most efficient with a good scissor. Bellow an example of how to fold and how to cut (paper was used).



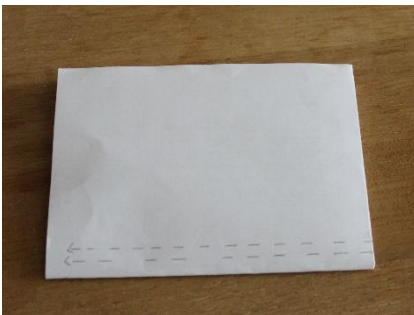
Fold in half (paper example)



Fold again (paper example)



The first cut should follow the striped line. Note that the cut stops a few centimeters from the margin! (Paper example)



Continue cutting as the striped lines show. Decide for yourself how thick you want the strand of yarn to be (Paper example)



Folding the real sheet



... and the next one

The first cut



... and after some more cutting you get this

Step 3. When we actually make the continuous strain of yarn. First unfold your sheet. Start on one side and cut as you see in the image bellow. The sequence is 1 alone, repeat 2 together till the end of the side. Then go to the other side of the sheet and make the strain by cutting a sequence of 2 together till the end of the side.



And the result...with a little care it should not be so messy: P



About me:

(Still) a PhD and passionate by all things crafted and especially by crochet. For more projects and tutorials please visit: www.zarazacrochet.weebly.com.

If you enjoy my work please have a minute and think about the reason why I go through all the trouble of putting together the tutorials and maintaining the blog. I do all this effort with the hope in mind that some of you will also take a look at the 2 associations that I endorse: **The Friends of Cats Association** and **SOS Dogs**. Both associations work to address the problem of the cats and dogs with no home in Oradea (Romania) and surrounding. For more information send me an email, I will be happy to tell you more ☺

What can I do about the cats and dogs in Romania?

If you can't adopt, you can volunteer

If you can't volunteer you can sponsor

If you can't sponsor you can donate

And if you can't do any of the above, you can spread the word :)