

Tea Towel Garden Banner!

Create your own garden banner! Wait a second.... what is a banner? It's a piece of fabric that you can hang and display and usually displays a message you want to share. Let's celebrate urban gardens everywhere - in our backyards, porches or balconies and use recycled fabric to create your very own garden banner. You can display your banner outdoors or indoors, wherever you want to be surrounded by the beauty of nature!



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Materials

- One tea towel, pillow case or any other fabric you have at home
- Scissors
- White pourable glue or fabric glue. Possibly a hot glue gun (used with adult supervision.)
- Recycled cloth from old T-shirts, pants, dresses, sheets, leftover sewing projects, etc.
- (optional materials) felt, string, yarn, ribbons, buttons, beads etc.
- Any other materials you would like to decorate with, i.e. plastic bags, bubble wrap, packaging materials etc.
- Wooden doweling (dowel rods) or a stick for hanging (optional).



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Creating Your Design

- Work on a flat protected surface. Washable tablecloths work well for messy glue projects.
- Look through your collected fabrics. Choose pieces that you think will work nicely. You might enjoy working with similar colours (analogous) or opposite colours (complimentary) for contrast.
- Decide what should live in your garden shapes you would like to work with; flowers, vegetables, fruit, insects, animals, gardening tools, the sun, etc.
- Begin cutting out the shapes. Keep them very big and simple! You can always trim later. Also, do not get caught up in making your shapes perfect as the more awkward shapes are always more interesting to the eye.
- Arrange your shapes on the banner fabric. Play around with them until you are happy with the design.



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Gluing Down

- Start with the largest shapes first.
- Glue the entire surface of the backside of your shape. Thin cloth will need less glue, heavy cloth such as felt or upholstery fabric will need plenty!
- Press firmly down on your pieces. The glue will take several hours to dry.
- Adding decorated cloth and detail to a larger piece of fabric is known as APPLIQUE.



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Adding the Details

- Add smaller details to your piece. Materials such as buttons or pompoms, small pieces of felt or patterned fabric are fun! You can also use string, wool, or ribbon (or anything you can find) to create interesting lines.
- Time to glue! Use white glue or a glue gun (with adult supervision) or you can try sewing on your decoration.
- Add longer strips of fabric, ribbons, string, etc., to the backside of the bottom of your tea towel (optional)



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Hang It Up

- The perfect place for your garden banner would be a clothes line if you have one. Just use clothes pins. Remember to bring it inside when it rains.
- Other places to display your banner; the front porch, on a balcony (Secure well!!!)
- Another option is to glue a wooden doweling to the top of your banner, securing string at either end to hang your piece (like a picture).
- Bring your garden inside! Hang it in the kitchen, bedroom or favourite place in your home.



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