

Activity

Making a Mat from Old T-shirts

YOU WILL NEED:

- 4-5 old cotton t-shirts
- Ruler
- A sheet of cardboard — approximately 50 cm x 54 cm
- Chalk
- Twine or wool
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil



Images courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens & Eimear Murphy



Gather a number of old and unwanted cotton t-shirts. Cut off and discard the bottom hem.



Using a ruler and chalk, draw a line 4 cm up from the bottom edge and cut.



The 4 cm strip will be a loop so cut at both sides to make two single strips. Pull tight to make them long and narrow.



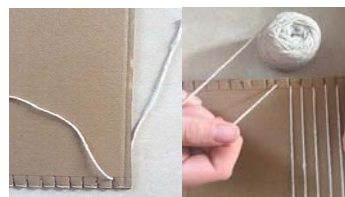
Cut as many strips as necessary. The mat above needed approximately 56 single strips.



Lay out the strips in a rough pattern. Use an even number of strips for knotting later.



On the longer side of the card, draw a 1 cm line in from the edge. Then from the edge, cut up to the line at 1 cm intervals along the length of card. Repeat on the opposite side.



Slide the string into the first slot, leaving 12 cm. Pull the string over to the slot on the opposite side, loop around to the next slot and repeat to string the board.



After weaving the first strip through the string, tie the start of the string to the strip.



Following the pattern you laid out, weave each strip through the string, alternating the weave for each row, as in the image above.



When you have woven in the last strip, tie the end string onto the last strip.



When finished, begin on one side and double knot the first two strips on either side of the twine. Continue until all are tied. Repeat for other side.



Unloop the twine from the card and spread out the rug. Move the weave where necessary and trim any extra long tassels if needed.