

WORD UP!

WORD UP!

Recycled plastic and textile letter bunting



WORD UP!

Recycled Plastic Bunting

Visual Step-by-step guide

© Beccy Williams 2020

WORD UP!

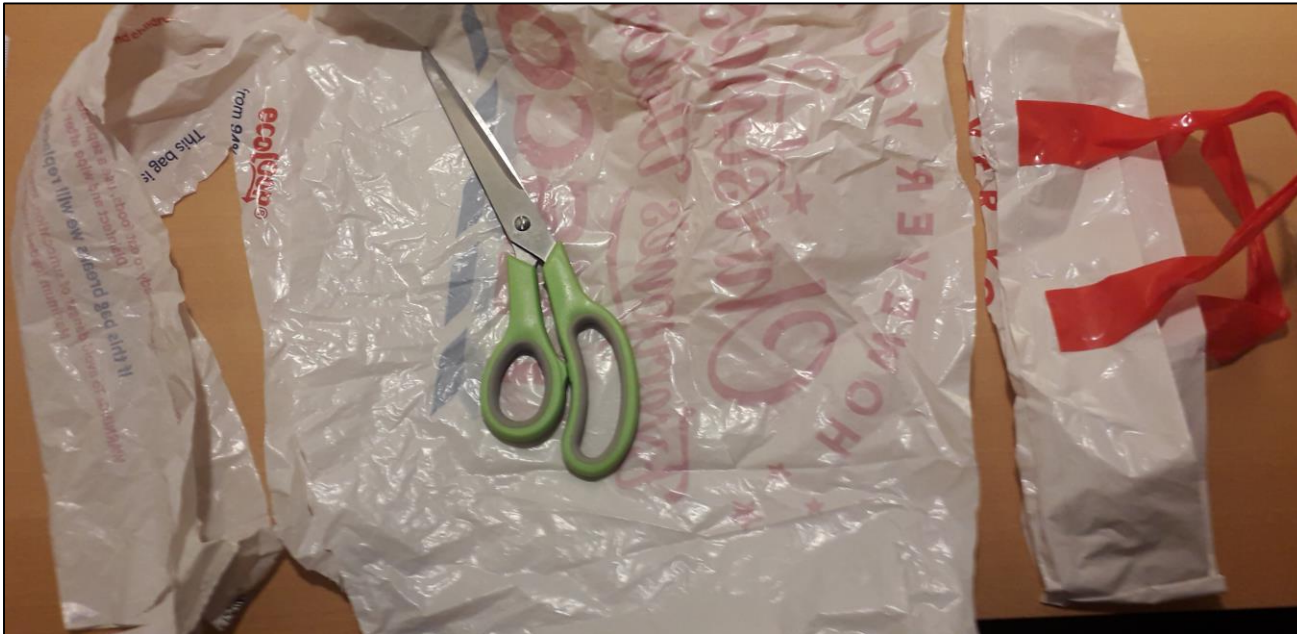
Recycled **Plastic** Bunting

You will need:

- Plastic carrier bags
- Non-stick baking paper
- Scissors
- A large piece of cardboard
- One or two old towels
- A domestic iron
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Fishing line/ string/ yarn

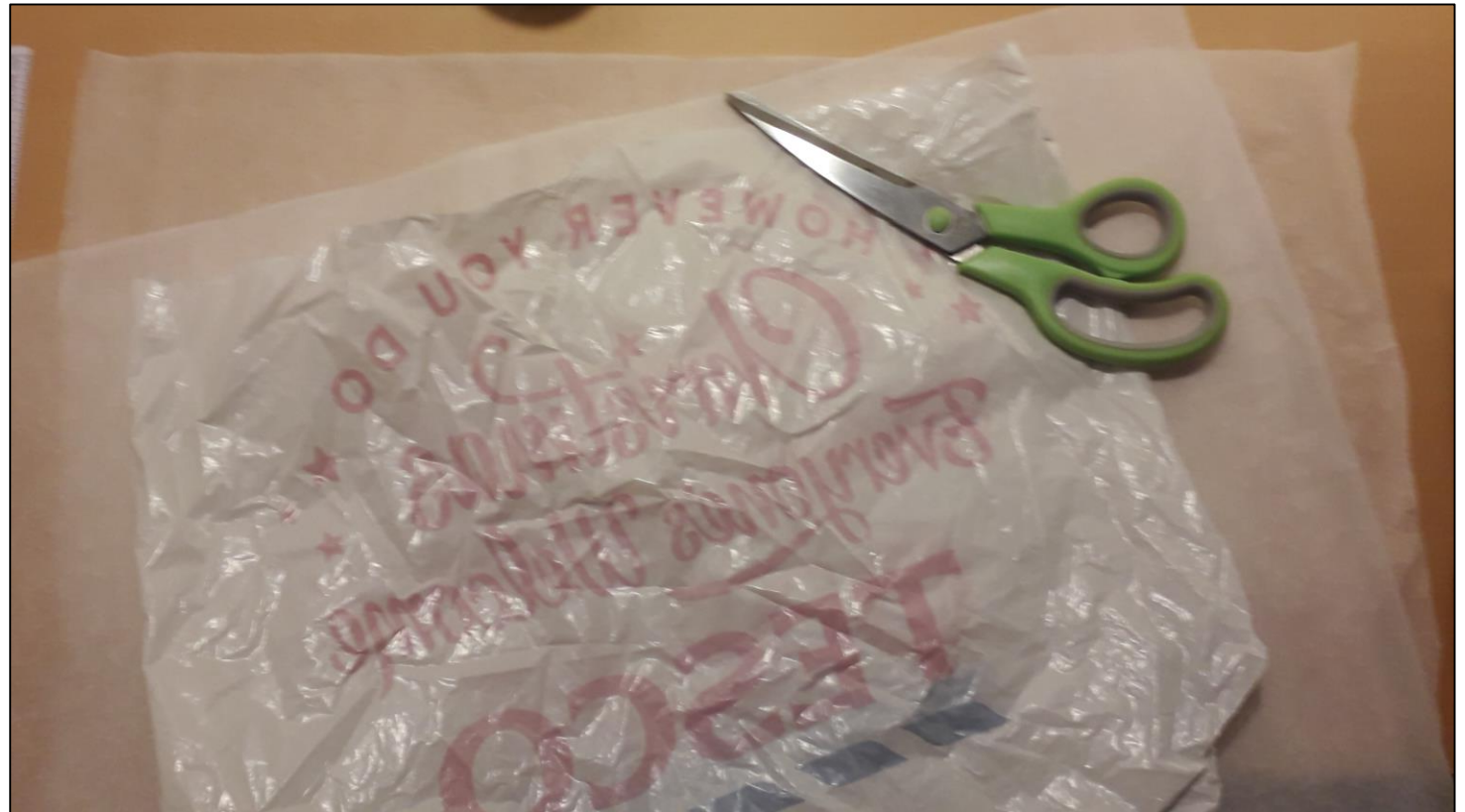
Step 1: Preparing your plastic bags

- Cut off the handles and bottom of the bags
- If your bags have any branding, turn them inside out so they cannot be seen.
(Companies can get upset if they see their branding on things that they have not given permission for. This is called 'Intellectual Property' or I.P. You can be taken to court and have to pay money, so be careful!)



Step 2: Cutting the baking paper

- Cut baking paper BIGGER than your plastic.
- x2 pieces



Step 3: Designing your plastic sheet

- Lay out your first piece of baking paper, you will build your layers of plastic to be fused on top of this.
- **Get creative!** Ripping bags gives great texture and can warp patterns in fun ways. Make a base layer from boring bags, and cover them with your colourful or patterned ones. Don't bother to cut out shapes, as the plastic will shrink and change as it heats-up and cools down. **Focus on colour and pattern!** You can add a layer of bubble wrap or clear plastic on top to stop small bits moving while you fuse the plastic
- Add the second layer of baking paper, making sure the plastic is fully covered.



Step 4: Preparing your ironing surface

In a well ventilated area....

-Lay out a large sheet of cardboard ,cover with a towel , or two! (this is to protect your work surface)

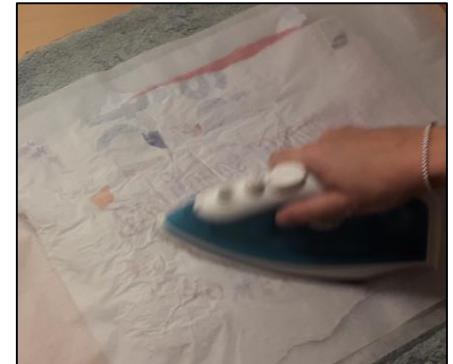
-Turn on your iron. You should have it on the highest temperature with no steam.

THE IRON SHOULD BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES AND SWITCHED OFF WHEN NOT IN USE!



Step 5: Heat-fusing your plastics

- Lay your baking paper and plastic 'sandwich' on your covered work-surface.
- Iron quickly (approximately 20-30 seconds)
- Keep the iron moving at all times, press down firmly.
- Iron all areas of your plastic as evenly as possible.
- Flip the sandwich over, and iron all over for an even shorter time.
- Allow to cool for 5 minutes before removing the baking paper (which can be reused for your next 'sandwich')
- Repeat until you have one piece of recycled plastic for each of your letters,
unless you find one piece of recycled plastic makes two letters, then
you only have to make half as much.



Step 6: Marking and cutting-out

- Draw around your template with a pencil.
Important: draw on the back (or least favourite side) of your plastic, with the **template in reverse**.
- Cut-out your outline with scissors.



Step 7: Cutting holes for threading

- Draw a line 2cm from the top edge of your cut-out plastic letter.
- Fold along the line , trying not to crease the plastic too much.
- using scissors, make a series of 0.5cm cuts along the fold.
- un fold the plastic and remove the pencil line.



Step 8: Threading

- Using a darning needle, or with your string Sellotaped to the end of an old pen
- Thread your string in and out of the slits at the top of your letters.



Step 9: Hanging your bunting

-Tie the two ends of your string to walls, or wherever your bunting is being displayed.

(Try to get your line pulled tight to create a straight line.)

-Arrange the spaces between letters (this is called 'kerning'), and you're finished!

