

Plarn

Best for Ages

6+

Workspace

Flat indoor or outdoor surface

Is electricity required?

No

Description

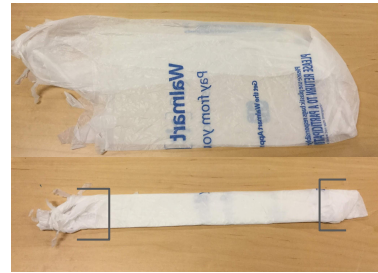
Plastic yarn, also known as plarn, is a fun way to reuse a common household material and create new from old. A plastic bag doesn't just have to be bag. By turning it into plarn (plastic yarn), it can be anything you want!

Materials

- Plastic bags: any size will work, grocery bags are used in this example
- Scissors
- A flat surface: cardboard, a table, or a lapboard

What to Do

1. Fold the sides of the plastic bag in so that it becomes a tidy square. Smooth it out.
2. Fold the bag in half so that the handles meet each other. Then fold it in half at least 3 more times so that it is a long, thin strip. The thinner the strip, the easier it will be to cut. Smooth the bag after each fold.
3. Cut off the bottom of the bag and the handles. Save for another project or toss.
4. Measure two fingers from the end and start cutting the bag into small rolls.
5. Unfold the rolls so that they are long loops.
6. To attach the loops together to make weavable plarn, grab two strands and loop one through the other and back through itself. Pull so that it is taut. Repeat several times to create a long strand of plarn.
7. Use the strand of plarn in the same way you would use a strand of yarn. Try weaving, braiding, or braiding to make your own plarn creations!



Concepts Explored

- Reusing materials
- Innovation

Plarn

Troubleshooting Tips

- If a loop of plarn breaks, simply knot the ends of any broken strands to remake the loop.
- If you run out of plastic bags, investigate other materials that could be used to make plarn with.
- Focus on the fold! The more square and flat the bag is, the easier it will be to cut.



What else could be used to make plarn besides a plastic bag?

Are there other methods to tie the bags together?

Are there other materials you could use to level up your plarn creation?

What is Happening?

- Making plarn is a great way to reuse a plastic bag which reduces the amount of plastic in our trash. By rethinking the use of plastic, we can learn to **reuse materials** such as cardboard boxes, paper, and other one use items as well.
- Plarn is by definition an **innovative** device. By making plarn, one is creating a new method of making. You are also making a product that meets relevant demands; finding a use for otherwise wasted plastic.
- We can use plarn to practice sewing, weaving, and tying knots without needing to buy string or yarn.

Taking it Forward

- **Create:** stronger bags, bracelets, mats, jump ropes, baskets, and so much more!
- **Connecting this activity to the real world:** Several individuals and charity groups make plarn mats for people experiencing homelessness.
- **If you like this activity, you might also like these [Amazeum You](#) activities:** weaving, simple sewing, paper lanterns, and cardboard wearables.
- **Learn more about this activity at local library:** *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia* by Miranda Paul