



### IT'S SEW EASY Series 1500 Upcycle Sewing: Vintage Linens



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**Upcycle (up-si-kel)** To improve existing goods (such as clothing) through the use of labor, materials, and creativity

*Good for the planet, good for your budget!*

Most of us don't use dresser scarves, tea towels,

#### MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

- Vintage linens, optional: buttons, embroidery thread, scrap fabric, beads, ribbon
- Thread, temporary markers for tracing, iron and ironing boards, pins, seam ripper, sewing machine, sharp sewing scissors.



Use **rectangular shapes** like dresser scarves and tea towels to make:

### 1) Travel shoe holders

When packing a suitcase, no one wants the soles of their shoes touching clean clothes. Instead of using plastic bags, make beautiful shoe holders.

- The size of the shoe holder is a factor of the width of the shoes as well as the height. The photo on the previous page shows a side-by-side example made from a long dresser scarf. The finished holder needs to be longer than the shoes to prevent them from sliding out; ideally it would be long enough to fold over.
- Take example shoes of the size to be accommodated and drape the linen on top of them. Mold the linen over the top of each shoe to verify there is adequate width. Alternatively, use separate pieces for each shoe.
- Arrange the linen(s) in a side-by-side or single shoe configuration. Sew closed such that there is a single opening per shoe. Wherever possible use original seams and edges and sew them together.

### 2) Casing for a Pashmina style wrap

Traveling often involves being in multiple temperatures in a short period of time. One of my favorite things to bring is Pashmina wrap, easy put on and take off. To have it handy I typically keep it in my travel tote bag or purse where it could easily become damaged. The solution is a slip-on cover.

- Role the wrap into the shape of a closed travel umbrella, about 10" - 12" long.
- Using medium weight linen, create an open-ended sack slightly larger and longer than the wrap.
- Stuff the wrap in the sack for traveling. Typically the end does not need a closure as the friction of the two fabrics holds the wrap in place

Bonus: The encased wrap serves as a great neck support on a plane!

P. S. I find beautiful Pashmina wraps at my local thrift store at amazing prices.

Use **pillow cases / any size vintage pieces** to make:

### 3) Bags with ties – for laundry, general use, or gift bags

Cloth bags are always handy yet sometimes making a drawstring or button closure can seem like too much work. Try this alternative method:

- Start with two matching size pieces, one for each side of the bag. Alternatively use one long piece that can be folded on top of itself to make a bag.
- Cut a ribbon piece long enough to wrap twice around the bag and tie in a bow, as shown at the right. Finish the ends as needed. Scale the width of the ribbon to the bag size.
- Position one panel right side up and center the ribbon 1.5" – 3" (scale for bag size) below the top opening. Pin in place.



- Attach 1" of the center of the ribbon by sewing a rectangle, leaving the of rest of the ribbon loose.
- Hem the bag opening if needed
- For 2 separate sides, pin the right sides together & sew 3 seams (not the end with the ribbon). For one long piece, fold it on itself, right side out. Sew up the sides.
- Tie the ribbon closed around the top of the bag.

Use **pillow cases / large pieces** to make:

#### 4) Hanger covers



Hanger covers are beautiful and can be made for any type of hanger. The hanger itself is used to make a pattern. When the cover is made a bit larger than the hanger, it could double as a garment shoulder cover. Add a secret zippered pocket on the inside and hide things!

Start with vintage linens that are wider and longer than the hanger. Pillowcases with decorative edges are ideal. The decorative edges can be used as ready made hems.

Make a pattern:

- Lay the hanger on top of a piece of scrap fabric or paper (that is larger than the hanger) and trace the outside of the hanger\*. Mark the opening for the hanger handle. Add in markings for a 1/2" seam allowance. Add at least 3" length below the hanger, plus hem allowance if needed.

\*If the hanger is angled a bit and doesn't sit flat, rock it flat on one side to trace and then rock the other way and trace.

- At this point, the two sides of the pattern may not match. Cut out the pattern and fold it in half, laying one side on the other. Trim away any small uneven areas. If there are big uneven areas, you may need to trace again.
- Use the pattern to cut out two sides, using any existing hem as the hanger cover hem. If a longer hem is desired, then adjust the pattern placement to create a longer drop.

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