

Drag Declares Emergency

Plastic Bag Flower Garland



Hi, I'm Kitt, an artist and drag king based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Here are your step by step instructions for making flower garlands by re-using plastic bags and wrappers!

I've created the instructions, hoping to introduce a fun & planet-kind activity which offers time for reflection on:

- taking responsibility for our own plastic waste.
- the power of LGBTQIA+ communities to make more environmentally thoughtful queer & drag crafts.

We'd love you to share your planet kind drag with Craftspace using the hashtag #EcoDragChallenge.



Plastic Bag Flower Garland

Materials

Plastic shopping bags

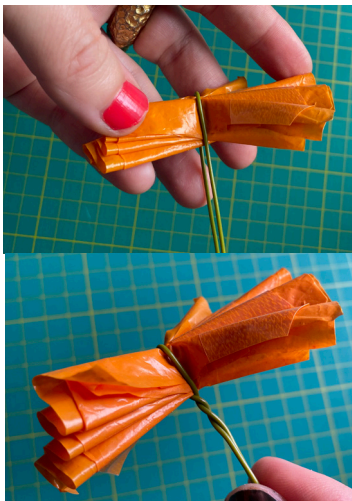
To maximize the recycling benefits, use bags that have holes in them or handles missing etc and not bags that can still be used for carrying stuff. You can also use crisp packets or coffee bags (make sure you clean and dry them thoroughly first!), the metallic side of the wrappers create a lovely glittery effect.

Florist or garden wire

Roughly 60-80 cm, or twice the length you want the completed garland to be. Any jewellery or gardening wire or pipe cleaners will work.



Cut a pile of 4-8 oblong strips from plastic bags & place on a flat(ish) surface with one of the short sides directly in front of you. Starting from the bottom, concertina fold the strips together. A concertina fold has many names- It is sometimes called a fan, zig zag, accordion or staircase fold. It is achieved by folding the plastic strips, first forward and then back on themselves, until they are piled on top of one another in a small stack.

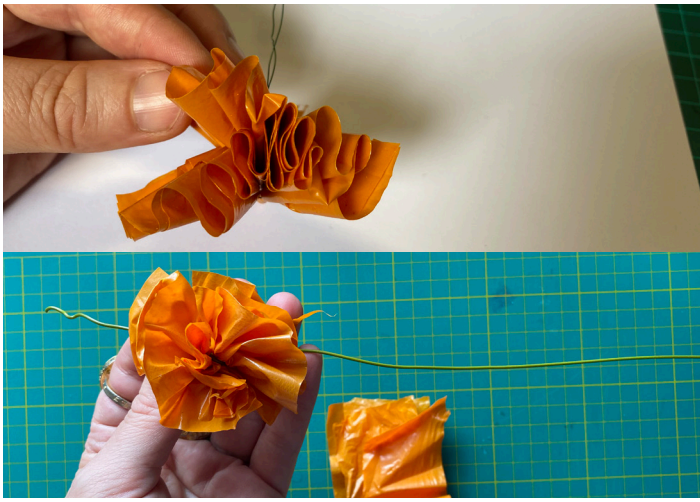


Once the plastic strips are folded, take the length of wire & fold it around the middle of the stack, to create a loop. Pull the wire tightly around the centre of plastic & securely twist together the two lengths either side of the stack. The first stack should be about 2 inches from one end of the wire, leaving room for other flowers that will make up the garland.



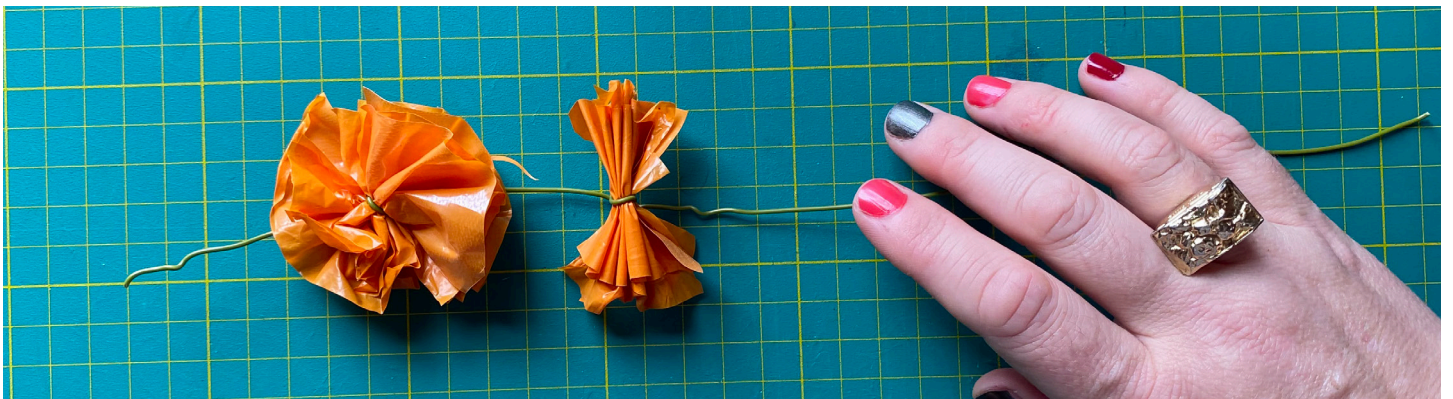
Fan the layers of plastic either side of the wire loop, to form a "bow tie" shape.





Hold the “bow tie” steady by the wire loop and pull the top sheet of plastic in towards it, so the top sheet separates from those below. Continue to do this with each of the plastic sheets on one side of the “bow tie”, then repeat with the sheets on the other side. You should now have a carnation shaped flower at one end of your wire.

Fold a new stack of plastic sheets and attached to the wire about 2 inches from your 1st.



Repeat the process above creating more flowers until you have run out of wire!



Ideas for creating “Planet-Kind” drag

Think about who your drag character is or might be.

- What are their characteristics or interests and how might costumes and props help an audience to understand or recognise these things about them?
- What costume (beard, glasses, codpiece, wig, headdress) or props (backpack, goblet, sword) could be part of your character?
- What objects or mobility aids do you need as a performer? For example, I have decorated my crutch in garlands as part of my drag performances.

#EcoDragChallenge

How to share your fabulous planet-kind drag creations with Craftspace and the world!!!

We invite everyone to share “before and after” / transformation photos and videos of what they’ve made. #EcoDragChallenge @craftspace_

If you’d like Craftspace to share what you’ve made on the website please email takepart@craftspace.co.uk with the heading #EcoDragChallenge.

We are Commoners

For more info on my residency, the Drag Declares Emergency project and Craftspace’s project “We Are Commoners” visit craftspace.co.uk.

Costumes made by Lady Kitt.
Images: Costume images by Art Matters Now. Instruction images by Lady Kitt.

