



Upcycling: Create Beautiful Things with the Stuff You Already Have

Danny Seo , Seo Danny

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Renowned environmental lifestyle expert and *Today Show* regular Danny Seo shares 100 of his most inspiring projects for creative transformation. Have neglected items around your house? They can be the source for exciting craft possibilities! Turn your old leather belts into a cool doormat (or even a briefcase!); worn-out paperbacks into gorgeous bud vases; tennis balls into a quaint country swing; chopsticks into a handsome trivet, and many more. With full-color photos throughout to guide and inspire, Danny shows that it's easy to be crafty, and fun to be budget- and eco-conscious.

Upcycling: Create Beautiful Things with the Stuff You Already Have Details

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From Reader Review Upcycling: Create Beautiful Things with the Stuff You Already Have for online ebook

Margaret says

I was really excited to find this book at the library as I'm really "into" up cycled crafts. However some of the crafts were just ridiculous! Who would want to make a cement water bottle? The very first project in the book involved cutting up an oriental carpet to make a "bearskin" rug! Nevertheless, there are enough interesting projects within this book to make it a worthwhile read.

Marcia says

Great craft ideas using stuff you have around the house. The projects are cool and feel fresh-creations you would be proud to have in your home. I liked that each project is attractively photographed and has a short supplies list with common materials, nothing exotic, and brief directions. They all feel do-able! Several projects feature using multiple samples for the home store (carpet squares, counter top chips) and this trend pops up on Pinterest too. I appreciated that the author stresses to make a purchase and then grab a few samples, and not just go in and wipe out the displays. Crafters have ethics! These will be fun to try.

Sara says

Got this from the library also. Some really great ideas in here. I like it for decorating the more rustic style of our family lake house. Although, others in my family are strongly opposed to a "carfty" look. This book should be perused at a time that is NOT Christmas! I am having trouble getting into any of these ideas, as the time is not available right now. This is a January, February book! But I really liked it!

Megan says

Maybe I'm not an upcycler. I thought a few things were cool. But a lot of projects were pieces that would take a long time to acquire - chopsticks? Paint stirrers? And just bc something is Free doesn't mean taking a lot of them is ok- laminate counter samples?

Edit 2/21. This is how non memorable this book was to me - I just requested it at the library again?. 2 weeks later.

LGMF says

This book looked like it was gonna be great, but I did not think that the materials were "stuff you already have." Unless you happen to keep five plastic bananas, an abundance of paint stirrers or quick drying

concrete about your house. I wouldn't have a problem with the crafts had it not been advertised this way.

Starbubbles says

I felt a lot of this would require you to obtain objects and supplies that most would not have. Also, a lot of felt like extra clutter or at worst, more trash. But the other projects were pretty cool, such as the wine cork bathmat. Though, you would need a lot of them. That's a lot to accumulate before crafting.

Karen says

A few great ideas here, but do not believe the line that you will just have this stuff in your home. Not at all. I really liked 1/2 the ideas. Some give inspiration to change a little to work more in line with what you like or need. The other 1/2 might be treasure for another man, but were not at all motivating to me. This book was OK, but I have seen a lot of better ones with the same recycling ideas, but actually had ideas to do with things I had at home already in truth.

Mandy says

There are very few things in this book that I have any interest in actually making. There are a few great things like the cast-iron pipe hooks and towel rack, the tiered trays made out of mugs and plates and the pots and pans robots. There are also some things that are down right ugly. I love the concept, but the execution was a bit weak. I guess the biggest problem is that a lot of the projects that are so easy a kid could do them look like a kid did them. I enjoy a certain degree of childishness, but I was hoping for more ideas of trash to treasure that obscured the trash part a bit more.

Justin says

Oh man! This book is so rad! Danny Seo has an interesting mind to be able to pick out all these clever things to make with, well, garbage. I'm excited to try some of his ideas out for myself! I recommend this book to anyone who is even remotely interested in crafting.

April says

Not even one project I'm interested in making. Also I think the title is misleading. Do you have 5 plastic bananas sitting around waiting for a new purpose?

Tamara says

The thing about upcycling is that it is often not eco-friendly at all.

Taking objects that are already useful in their own right (such as clothing, office supplies and tote bags) to make other objects, especially objects that are simply decorative (wreaths, wall art, throw pillows) is not helping the cause.

However, there were some useful projects included, such as:

Restringing a plastic lawn chair, p28

Wine cork bath mat, p36

Carpet sample patchwork rug, p66

CD dumbbells, p148

Maria says

Most of the crafts aren't that practical or use things that most people don't already have, which belies the title. For instance, I love the faux-bearskin rug, but it involves cutting up an oriental rug, which most people don't have just lying around waiting to be recycled/upcycled/destroyed.

The project I am planning on trying is the leaf silhouettes. If they turn out as nicely as they look in the book, then it will have earned its three stars.

Patti says

Great source of ideas for a hobby crafter.

Amberwench says

Not the usual upcycling book of junk glued together and called 'art', this one has ideas that look good and some of them are even useful. (It does still have a few 'art' pieces too)

Miss Pippi the Librarian says

"Upcycling is a little bit of recycling, and a little bit of craft."

Upcycling includes ideas for decorating, entertaining, giving, kids and the great outdoors. The setup includes a full-page picture opposite of a page explaining supplies and instructions. I greatly appreciated the visual index in the back which involved a small picture of each project with the page number imbedded in the picture.

Some of my favorite craft projects include...

Plastic-Bottle Hourglasses

Leather Belt Doormat

Fallen-Branch Shelves

Button-Silhouette Artwork

Jar-Lid Dining Table

CD Dumbbells

Newspaper Fire Logs

Lipstick-Case Crayons
