

Upcycle Today

.... it's quick & easy !

Be Inspired

From this ...



YOU too could make this stylish and cuddle-some hot water bottle cover. A little warmth and comfort to get us through to spring.

All you need is a felted jumper, fabric oddments, felted scraps and a little creative imagination.

to this ...



No specialist tools or equipment required.

by Dorota Stumpf
Stumpf British Handmade



Headway charity shops are full of wonderful jumpers ... if you come across a very felted one ... snap it up. It might be unwearable but its 'potential' is enormous.

This was originally XL .. with a good design pedigree ... but accidentally felted down in an over-heated wash or furious spin.

These are the remnants of a felted jumper from a previous step-by step. I upcycle regularly and have a hoard of charity shop materials ready for creative upcycling. Someone else's rubbish is MY treasure. There's upcycling potential everywhere you look from furniture to fabrics.



The contrasts in pattern & texture complimented each other very well. I decided to design something seasonal, practical, beautiful and functional.



Check to ensure your empty water bottle fits through the neck of the jumper.



* Remember ... you can always fill your bottle with water once it's **INSIDE** the cover.

Health & Safety : Careful Hot Water



Position the empty bottle so it sits centrally inside the jumper - ensuring the screw top doesn't extend beyond the roll neck.

Pin carefully around the edge of the bottle - allowing for a 3cms margin. Cut both layers of the jumper at the same time from shoulder to shoulder as shown.





Heart:

I used the upper sleeve section which has a natural fold along its centre.

Although I used a felted jumper for this design detail, you might consider using upcycled fabrics. Let your imagination run free.

Mark half of the heart shape, cut and position as shown below.

* Note: 100% woollen felted knitwear is tightly compacted so it shouldn't fray. If in doubt, and increase felting, wash and spin at a higher temperature than the washing instructions.



Check to make sure it's the size and shape you intended.

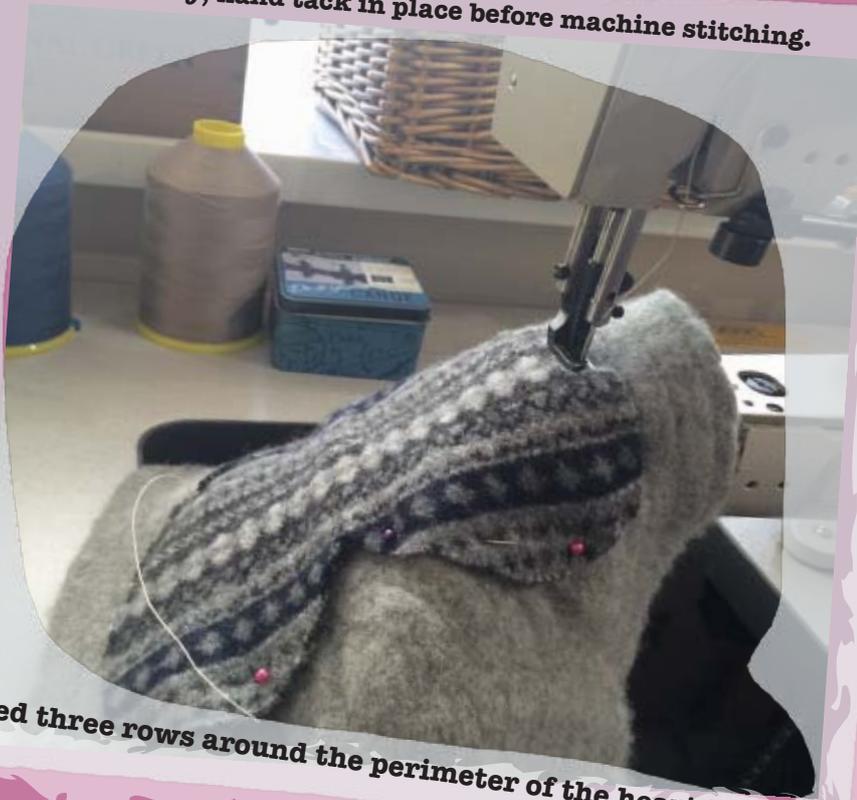
Trim further if necessary - edge in lace, or ribbon from your textile upcycling drawer. If you don't have one ... it's time to start one.

Take the hot water bottle out - pin the heart onto the front section.



Machine stitch in place.

Alternatively, hand tack in place before machine stitching.



I stitched three rows around the perimeter of the heart to give a rustic 'handmade finish' to the appliqué.

Remember you can hand stitch, or blanket stitch, the heart in place.

Turn inside out again and pin edges neatly together.



Machine or hand stitch, starting at the shoulder, 1cm from the edge, creating a balanced curve at each side of the base.

If you're feeling adventurous, try blanket stitching the two edges together with thick wool or strips of felt. This gives a more interesting, **fashionable** and decorative finish to the outside seam. There's no end to the creativity you can unleash.

Enjoyyyyyyyyyy !!!



**check the jumpers for interesting buttons
or labels - they can be used to add character...**



... a touch of ribbon.

Make a bow stitch then take a bow !



Be as creative as you like ... the only considerations are

comfort and washing - you make all the design rules.

Creative embellishment gives the magical finishing touch.

Finished !



A superbly-cosy, 100% wool & ethical upcycled cover for your hot water bottle to keep you warm until spring. Make one for yourself or for someone you love.

We hope you've enjoyed this upcycling tutorial and that you'll continue to support our Headway shops by both donating and purchasing from us.

Visit this page regularly for more creative and ethical upcycling projects. *Dorota Stumpf*

Fashion Accessory Designer
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Keep all your textile scraps ... you'll make good use of them at some stage ... there are many more home & fashion accessories coming up soon.