



Creativity Works - At Home

Make a tassel with participatory artist and illustrator Ellie Shipman

Making a fabulous tassel from wool or plastic bags.

Learn how to make tassels with wool and/or plastic bags to decorate your home or play with!

Tassels have a fascinating history and date back to ancient Egypt. Tutankhamun, the young Egyptian pharaoh was found wearing tassels and in the middle east, they were used as talismans.



Ellie with examples of tassels in wool and plastic.
For info about Ellie visit: www.eleanorshipman.com

What you'll need:

1 - Wool Tassel - Watch the video!

- Wool or thick yarn/string/cord
- Scissors
- Your hand!

2 - Plastic Bag Tassel - Watch the video!

- Two clean plastic bags, in different colours if you have them
- Scissors

Wool tassel: Step 1

Wrap the wool around your four fingers until it is an inch wide and 3/4 inch thick.



Step 2

Cut two 5 inch pieces of wool and tie one through the top of the wool loop.



Step 3

Tie the other 5 inch piece 1/2 inch down around the loop to make the 'head.'





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Step 4

Cut the loops of the tassel open.



Step 5

Trim the ends of the tassel.



Step 6

You now have a finished wool tassel!



Ideas

You could make a row of different coloured tassels to tie in a string to decorate your home, or add your tassel to a keyring or make four for the corners of a cushion.

What will you make with yours?

The V&A Museum hold a collection of tassels dating from the 7th century.

You can view the collection here:
www.collections.vam.ac.uk

How to make a plastic tassel:

Step 1

Lay a plastic bag flat and cut across it into 1 inch wide strips. Discard the base and handles.



Step 2

Repeat with a bag of a different colour. You'll now have two colours to make your tassel with.





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Step 3

Place the loops over your fingers.



Step 4

Cut one of the loops open into two.



Step 5

Tie one cut piece around the top of the loops in a double knot.



Step 6

Tie the second piece around the loops about 3 inches down from the top to make the 'head.'



Step 7 & 8

Cut open the ends of the loops and trim the ends neatly.



Step 9

Your tassel is ready!
Could it be a cheerleading pom pom?
Or something to flutter in the wind?

