Make Plarn For Earth Day with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Plarn
(upbeat music) - Hi everybody it's Faith from Creative Bug, coming at you live-ish. We actually had to tape this a little bit earlier. But as you are watching it, I will also be watching it. I'll be watching you watch me, which is kinda spooky, but it's gonna be terrific, because I'll be able to answer any questions you have, as you watch. Today, in honor of Earth Day, we are making upcycled, recycled plastic yarn, which some people call plarn. But that word doesn't sit very comfortably in my mouth. Let me know how you feel about the word "plarn". You don't have to tell me how you feel about the concept of plarn, because it's obviously fantastic. What you're going to need is some plastic bags. Now I know in the state of California, you are charged for bags, and they're a little bit nicer quality. So if you're using those bags, you're gonna wanna make smaller cuts. But if you're just using your normal junky bags. We will be cutting with a rotary cutter on our cutting mat at a inch and a half. So let me show you. After you get really good at this, you can do a couple bags at once. But let's start off calmly, with one bag at a time. And we're going to line it up on our mat. I'm gonna do an inch and a half. And you just cut straight strips. It should be really easy, if you have a new blade. And if you don't have a rotary cutter, you're welcome to use scissors as well. I've seen some people do this in a zig-zag pattern, so they end up with one long piece of yarn. But I actually really like the loops. Because I think it's a lot stronger. And I think it allows for more variation in color. When I first did this project, I had access to a lot of different bags. And so you can stripe, or make a variated yarn. And this yarn is amazing for outdoors projects. Or if you want to make mats. I had made some shopping bags out of it. And my little sister, who is a weaver, had actually woven a bunch of place mats, that my parents still use. It's one of my favorite things about going home, is when they set the dinner table. I see these beautiful things that my little sister made. There's also a group of women in London, I believe, who crocheted mats for homeless people out of this yarn. And it's really great for something like that, because you can rinse it off, if it's being used outside. Also it's good for if you wanna make car mats. Okay, so now we have our strips from one bag. And you're probably gonna wanna do this to 10 bags, just so you can do that assembly line situation. And it's really simple. You take one loop, you take another loop, and you put it through, and pull it. So this is smaller than a knot, but still really secure. And you're going to keep doing this, until all of your strips have been used up. Please let me know in the comments too, if you've ever made plarn. What you've done with it. How you celebrate Earth Day. Because I think an upcycled project is an ideal Earth Day celebration. Also, if you have cut it askew, and it ends up being a little weak, it might rip at this point. I would recommend just discarding it entirely, instead of trying to work with it. Also, you can see here, it didn't exactly mesh end to end. So we can just stitch that in later, when we're working with it. Now, I am going to show you how I work with it with a crochet hook. We're not making any particular project, but just to give you an idea of the possibilities of the medium. Like I said, you have to pay for bags in California, so I was very lucky that the nice lady at the Indian Restaurant gave me a whole bunch of these, because I told her what I was doing with it, and she wanted to support the cause. So thank you lady, from the restaurant down the street. You may or may not be watching, I do appreciate it. Okay, after we have gone through all of our strips, I'm gonna wind it up into a ball. Now this doesn't mean that we can't add more later. In fact, you will need to be adding more later, because this is only gonna give us a couple of yards. But I'm just gonna wind it up for

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now, and show you how I use like a massively sized crochet hook. This is the size Q, is perhaps larger than I needed. But I wanted to be able to show you effectively on camera how exactly to work with plastic yarn. Because it's such a bizarre medium. As with any crochet project, I'm gonna start with a slipknot. And then you'll be working with both pieces of yarn at the same time. So I'm just gonna chain a few. And just like with any yarn, you're gonna wanna gauge swatch before you start. So if you wanna make something like a floor mat for your car, and you're working back and forth. Or you wanna make a reusable beach bag, you'll be doing that circularly. Make sure you make yourself a swatch first. And I'm just chaining some, and then I'll be doing single crochets, so you can see. (mumbles) is a single strand right here. Just gonna go back in. I really like how working in the round works, with this plastic yarn. It's a lot more stretch than you'd assume. It actually has more give than if you were working with, say, a cotton yarn, or a linen yarn. But it's certainly not as stretchy as, like a wool blend. Here we go. Another thing that's fun about this yarn is it doesn't dry out your hands like some yarns do. And I certainly would not recommend putting lotion on your hands, and then working with this. Because it's very slippery. So, I'm gonna continue back, working my gauge swatch. Still going into both loops of the stitch. And once again, I'd use a much smaller gauge hook, if I was working this for a project. Especially one that required some density like a bag. Definitely comment if you have used this before, because I can't imagine it could be used for garments. But maybe it can be. Maybe you have made some wild recycled bag dress. And won an award with your local ecology fashion school. Okay, so as you can see, it gives this kind of netting effect, which we wouldn't have if it was a much tighter gauge. But this is good for something if you need to rinse it out. Think I had, wasn't a (mumbles) welcome mat, because it was on the inside of my house. Well, I don't know, can it be a welcome mat, if it's in the house? Anyway, thank you so much for joining us on this special holiday. This should give you some idea about plastic yarn, and how to use it. And, have a blast. (upbeat music)

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