Camp Creativebug: T-shirt Hacks with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - T-shirt Hacks

T-shirt Hacks

- Hi, everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live. It's been a minute. For those of you who don't spend time with me before, it's so good to see you again, and for those of you new to Creativebug, or, just seeing me, hi, I'm Faith. I live in New Jersey with my partner and little baby, in a spooky old house alongside of a river. And, it's really misty and foggy right now. It's kind of chilly, but also humid. It's a perfect summer day for staying in, and doing some crafting. Now, T-shirt hacks are something that I find a really accessible craft, because who doesn't have tons and tons of T-shirts hanging out that need a little pizazz, or a little bit of embellishment? Also, alone the themes of camp crafts, I have my fabulous Creativebug Family Camp T-shirt, and I got a couple extras. And, I have to be honest, I was supposed to cut them up and dye them and color on them, and I couldn't, because I loved the shirts so much, and I really didn't want to mess them up. So, I failed in that, but I did buy plenty of other T-shirts to cut up, and to color on, and to dye. And, we're going to dive in, in a minute, but first, let me tell you what you'll need for this first project. You're going to need some fabric markers. These are Crafts 4 All brand, in an array of colors. And, your T-shirt, pre-washed of course. And, a folder or a piece of cardboard. And, for this, we're going to ink an outline of your first initial. Now, when I was at summer camp, one thing we did at the last day of camp was everybody would sign each other's T-shirts. It was kind of like signing a yearbook. And I thought this was such a fun... A fun was to commemorate time together. But, sometimes, if there's a lot of little signatures and they're all far apart, it loses that graphic impact. And so, we're going to cluster them together so that they form an overall shape, and the overall shape is going to be an initial. Let me tilt this up just a little bit, so you can see the top of my head. I guess the top of my head is not as important as you seeing the T-shirt. It's just an average top-of-the-head. So, we're putting this cardboard folder in-between our layers, so that it doesn't go through to the front. And you want your shirt to be pre-washed, where you have markers working their way into the cardboard. And, we're just going to fold the shirt around the cardboard, but if you're working with really little kids, you might want to pin it into place, or tape it into place, so that you don't have to hold it into place. And, we're just going to go ahead and mark a big initial. Now, mine has an F on the back, but I'm gonna make this for my boyfriend, Chad. So, I'm gonna make a big C. And I was going to do this upside down, but what if I did it the wrong way? Sometimes, your pen might skip a little bit. That's okay. And we want the thickness of our lines to be no bigger than two inches, no less than one. And, I had some family members write their names, but of course, I don't have that many family members living near to me. So for the other family members, I asked them to write their name on a piece of paper, and send me a photo of it. Now, you're not going to want them to write their signature, because signatures can be kind of hard to reproduce. But if they do their names in big block letters, I'm gonna turn, here's my C for Chad, or Creativebug, and we just want to make sure we have the up-side up. And I'm gonna sign my name on Chad's shirt, and I'm gonna use a new color. I'm gonna use blue. My favorite color is blue. And I'm gonna write my name really big, in big block letters. So you can see, there's my name in big block letters. I'm touching both sides of it. And I'm going to write my baby's name, Mica, like the mineral. He's very sparkly, and so is Miss Mica. And I'm gonna do Mica's name in a bit of a cursive. I'm gonna do it around the middle. So, this is fun to experiment with lettering, different colors and patterns. Maybe you're working with a child who's new to writing. Maybe you're working

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with a child who can't write, and are just scribbling. If you write the outline for them, it gives them something to color in. And, you might want to go over the lines more than once. So we've written Mica's name. And I could... Well I could, I should, I will, I must keep filling this in with names, but once you get to the end, you're gonna want to add some confetti. We're really blocking this in, so we're adding as much color as possible. Remember, we don't want it to look like a yearbook page where only a couple of people have signed it. We want it to look like a yearbook page where everybody's signed it. I always got the teachers to sign my yearbook page. I don't know about you, but please tell me if you have. You can write it in the comments next to this video. They always had the nicest handwriting anyway. So once you filled in your letter with names, or once the other people have put their names in, go ahead and give yourself some confetti. Just random dashes, random lines. When I was doing this, I was thinking of Courtney's daily practice, she's very big into brush pens, and she always turns them when she's working with them so that the pen marks go in all different directions. When I say "always," I'm actually just thinking of one particular one, where she uses them to make sprinkles on the donut. If you're not watching Courtney's Daily Challenge right now, hop on? It's not too late to join. It's so good. The projects are super quick, super easy every day. And there's her source material, so you can draw exactly what she's drawing, even though she does encourage you to draw the world around you. I like drawing a little bit of Courtney's world. And at the very end, she draws Oakland, where I used to live until not too long ago. And I miss very much, though I'm excited to be here in New Jersey, in this very spooky town. It's kind of old, and has a lot of antiques, and it is just North of where Washington crossed the Delaware. So, I've added all my confetti. And look at this. That's adorable, right? Let me show you the... The name with the shirt. Increased names. There's our Creativebug shirt. It's so cute, right? I love this little guy. And there is my F, all filled in. Theo got a little smiley face. Pete got some beautiful, marquee lettering. It's because Pete is like, an extra sparkly guy. And there is our autographed T-shirt. And this next project does not require anything other than scissors. I'm gonna use a marker to show you where I'm cutting. And this great. I have done this on a live demonstration before, but this is great if you have a commemorative T-shirt that you don't wanna get rid of, but you don't actually wear, because it preserves whatever is printed on the top. So we're going to flip our shirt inside-out, and we're going to cut from the bottom, every half an inch, about two inches up. I'm gonna smooth this out, and let me show you what that'll look like. So actually, now that I'm drawing these lines out, that's gonna use more like three inches up. Ended at two thirds of an inch across. Yeah. Can you see that? And then, we're just gonna cut all the way across. And you're gonna cut both sides at once. Now, if you accidentally do this with the shirt right-side up, that's fine. Also, this is a great little tote-bag for the beach, or a market tote. It does have holes in the bottom, so you wouldn't want to carry your bead collection, or a large stash of, say, dry beans. Trying to think of what else would fall in the cracks, that you'd normally carry. Pebbles, gravel. If you're going rock hunting, panning for gold, you would not want to use this tote. And you can tell as my mind is wandering, my cuts are getting a little more dramatic, but we're almost there. - [Erica] Faith, Taron is wondering if you were ever a camp counselor, or if you could tell us a camp story. - Taron is wondering if I was ever a camp counselor. Oh I guess people can heat this. I don't have to repeat your question. I am a camp kid through and through. I wonder if Taron is trying to expose my... My secret clown-camp past. I went to a wonderful Presbyterian camp, Johnsonburg Presbyterian, and we had different units each year. And one year I did lifeguard training. I took it very seriously, and I got my certification. I could hold my breath for a really long time. I'm sure you could have guessed that. I'm a very strong swimmer. And the next year I decided to get a little silly, and went to clown camp. That was our special unit.

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And I'll tell you the clown story in one moment. First, I'm gonna move on to our next step, which is, we have this crazy fringe. And at the very end, that first cut you made, we're gonna cut this in half here, and we're gonna tie these two pieces together in a double knot. So, right over left, under and through, left over right, under and through. And, let me tell you, the clown camp was pretty wild. Lotta characters, as I'm sure you can guess. And one day, we had pratfall training, so we learned how to fall down, and also how to open doors on our faces. Now, don't try this at home. Maybe watch a YouTube video first: "How to Open a Door on Your Face." Do clowns even do that anymore? I feel like maybe they just stick to electric buzzers. You put your foot in front of your body, so when you open the door, it hits your foot, but, you're supposed to be wearing big old clown shoes, and so I did open a door on my face. I was very embarrassed. Picture clown face-paint, just flat against a door. And I couldn't even pretend it didn't happen. Everybody knew. You had that big, red nose spot right in the middle. So I'm gonna continue to knot all these all the way down the shirt. And, this is meditative, calming. Easy, very easy. Simple. If you have little, little kids, you can pre-cut. If you have bigger kids, they can go to town themselves. And as we are knotting it, it'll bunch up, and you just straighten it. Now, when you get to the very end, you're going to cut yourself essentially a V-neck. So, let me draw this out for you. I did love clown camp, so, and Johnsonburg was a very special place. I did a lot of singing. I also went to Pripsteins, in Canada, and there I was... I worked in the kitchen, but I was still invited to participate in the color-guard games. So there's our V. But, because of the hours I was working, I was not allowed to participate in the color games, but I was the mascot instead. For the red team. We did win that year. We also did a kitchen-themed dance at the talent show where we... We rocked enthusiastically to a rhythmic beat. Beautiful. So we have cut our V, and then we cut off the sleeves. Oh, I didn't even answer the original question. The question was, was I ever a counselor? Yes, of course. I think that my goal in life is to continue being that exact person I was when I was a camp counselor: unbridled enthusiasm, lotta fires, cooking outside, and okay, I don't actually cook outside. I have a kitchen. Barely; we're renovating. So we have our sleeveless V, we have our knots. Pretend these knots go all the way across. I'll show you a finished version. You're not gonna get only this half-finished version. And, see how this is like sewing, so it just stitches itself up. And when you pull on these cut edges, it'll curl in, so you don't even have to hem it. And here is a little version I made. I think this one's super cute. Once again, not for gem collecting, for your beads. But, it's great to take to the beach, and also to stuff full of, say, your baby's favorite toys like the paper-towel roll, some plastic cups, and an empty ginger-ale bottle. She loves empty bottles. And sometimes, she just screams into them. Now, the third project is the one I'm the most excited about. It's ice dyeing, and for this you will need some Rit powdered dye. You'll need lasagna tray, and a cooling rack. You might need some tape to keep it balanced. So, if your rack rests inside of the tray, that's great, because we have these little feet. But if it just fits on the top two, that's fine. And you can tape it if you need to, with just some duct tape. And you're going to want a pre-wetted shirt. Oh, I tried to cut some corners while putting my wet shirt in the ice bucket, and now all the ice is stuck to it. Pretend you don't see any ice yet. That's gonna be the surprise. So you're gonna have a pre-wet T-shirt. And we're going to crumple it gently on the surface. This crumbling adds to the super-groovy tie-dyed effect. And you don't have to pre-treat your shirt. Just make sure that it is pre-washed, and you do want it to be wet before you get started. Now, we are using the dye in its powdered form. If you're putting the dye straight into the hot water, you would want to dissolve it fully. But we're using just the powder, and because we're using the powder, you're going to want to wear a respirator. Now, some of us might already have these kids of masks on hand. And, you're gonna have to bear with not being able to hear me

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for a second. I'm so sorry, but safety first. Oh, but I will open up my dye. And you could use gloves for this part. Now, one great thing about using this Rit dye for it is a packet generally dyes two adult-sized T-shirts if you're dunking the whole thing. But I have found that for the ice-dyeing technique, a packet goes a really long way. You could probably get 10 T-shirts out of one packet. This is also a great way, if you have a shirt that has been stained, or another shirt that maybe it fits really well, but it doesn't, well, it's stained. You can dye it to cover the stains, and also this, I'm waiting to show you, because it's just so exciting, it's worth the wait. But, it has unexpected effects every single time. And you can use just one color of dye and actually get a whole bunch of different colors, it's because the blends, this is a dark-green blend, but you'll see when we put the dye on that there's some pink in here, there's blues, there's purples, it's absolutely fascinating. And this could lend you, lend you, lead you down a rabbit hole of looking at how colors are made, and the different blends that go into making any color. So, I'm gonna put on my mask. And we are going to sprinkle about a half a teaspoon, covering, oh no, I forgot the, I forgot the ice part. Holy smokes, the whole point of the ice-dyeing is the ice. I got over-excited, this is what I'm telling you. It's that magnificent. So we're gonna cover the surface of our T-shirt with ice. And, you might be asking me, to your computer, you might be saying, "Oh no, she's in such a pristine-looking white room. "I hope she covered the floor "with a drop cloth or newspaper." Of course I did. Ideally, you would do this outside, or you know, maybe in your laundry room, because we are sprinkling the dye. If it's windy, the dye might float around. So this is great for outside. Or, if you have to do it inside, put down a drop cloth. Am I also picking up the ice every time I talk? I'm so sorry. They're getting nice and even coverage. But, there's still gonna be blotches. There's still gonna be light spots. And because the whole T-shirt is wet, the dye is... (sucking) Is going to suck itself up into the blank spots. So now we're gonna put our mask on, and we're gonna sprinkle about a half a teaspoon on the dye powder over the top of this. This Rit dye, all purpose, all-purpose dye is great for cotton or cotton blends, but if it's more than 35% polyester, you'll need to use a different kind of dye. You can also use acid dyes. Jaquard makes a lot of really awesome colors, but Rit works just fine for me. Okay, mask on. Looks like I got an ear hanging out. And then, fold it over to close it, and stick it back in the box. Now, this doesn't look like much. And it definitely doesn't look like I put enough on. But I assure you, I did, and I'm gonna show you what exactly this looks like next. When I showed Jed, he said, "Did you mean to do that?", because it looks a little funky. And, almost a little moldy. So here we have, once the ice is all melted, this is what the shirt will look like. And I haven't moved it. But when you pick it up, you'll see, there's white spots, there's saturated spots, there's blotchy spots. Ooh la la. It's cool, right? Now, if you like it exactly how it is, with these white spots, rinse it in hot, hot water until the water runs clear. But if you want it to bleed a little further, rinse it in cold water, and the cold water will bring the dye that it hasn't soaked into the fibers to the white spots, and will dye the white spots. And to keep it super vibrant, you'll want to spray it with a fixative, or dip it in water. But I like it to be a little more subdued, as far, subdued as tie dye can be. And this is the example using navy-blue dye. That's beautiful, right? And you can see the navy has... There's spots of pink, there's spots of blue, there's greens. It's all different colors. Totally unexpected, every time. And you can see how there's no white showing on this. When I pull it out, there's definitely splotches of white, but I rinsed it in the cold water, and the cold water covered it. Now, I didn't... I didn't rinse it enough. So, this one, this one piece of laundry got kind of grimy. But it was just that one piece of laundry. I mean, Chad didn't think that was a good enough excuse, but it was just this one piece of laundry. And, it wasn't the other pieces. But this would have... Wouldn't have happened if I had rinsed it in hot water, cold water, and hot again, before tossing it in the washing machine. Learned from my

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mistakes. And I'm so excited to watch the one I just sprinkled. See, I can show you... Oh, I might risk falling out of this chair if I lean over to pick up that tray. But rest assured, the ice is already melting. It's 90 degrees in here. Like I said, it's summertime. But, we really appreciate you spending your afternoon with us. We always love spending time with you here at Creativebug. And, unless Erica has anything to add, like (indistinct) I could chime in. - [Erica] I think we're good. - I think we're good. Thank you so much, it was so great seeing you, and we'll see you soon.

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