

All the Trimings Scrap Ball Pattern

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This is a great project for anyone who can't bear to throw away even the skinniest of scraps. (Sounds like someone we know....) These bright and cheery scrap balls use several shades and textures of one color for each ball. They're light enough to hang on a tree but also look great in a bowl, displayed on a mantle, or anywhere you want to add a little color.

What You Need

Fabric Strips: (per large ball) 2 1/2 yds. of about 1/2-inch-wide cotton-solid strips for Base Coat, between 12 inches and 40 inches long.

Colorful Fabric Strips: 1 1/2 yds. of about 1/4-in.-wide cotton solid and print strips for decorative layer, between 4 in. and 12 in. long.

Other Materials

Polystyrene balls: Three, in 2-in., 2 1/2-in., and 3-in. diameters

Ecrú Cotton Crochet Thread: 4 3/4 yds.

Clear-drying fabric glue

Tapestry needle

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What You Do

1. To create base layer, wrap 1/2-inch-wide fabric strips around polystyrene ball from its “North Pole” to its “South Pole,” working around entire ball until covered. When one strip ends, add another, wrapping over previous one and overlapping any loose ends as you work.
2. To add outer layers, wrap 1/4-inch strips around ball, this time wrapping in different directions and leaving some of base coat uncovered. Use several different fabrics to create visual interest. Add layers of strips until you’re pleased with ball’s appearance.
3. Leaving 10 in. free at beginning, wind crochet thread around ball. Wrap thread in different directions, keeping thread taut. Make sure to wrap thread over any loose fabric-strip ends to secure them. After you’re satisfied with design, snip thread, leaving 15-inch tail.
4. Using tapestry needle, stitch loose thread ends into ball, making small tacks at thread intersections on ball to keep it from unwinding. Work around ball by sliding needle through polystyrene ball, from one intersection to next. When thread ends get short, trim close to surface. Use clear-drying fabric glue at any loose thread intersections.

