

Woven Plastic Bottle with Camilla Brendon

Get creative with artist Camilla Brendon to make a useful recycled pot or planter to brighten up your garden or interior

Suitable for all ages, young children will need an adult to work with.

You will need:

- Cardboard, from a cereal box or similar
- Plastic bottle, tub or pot, a 2L bottle will work well
- Thin plastic eg. plastic bags, film from food
- Scissors
- Ruler and pen or pencil
- *Bottle tops and ring pulls (optional extra for decorating)*



1. **Find a bottle** and using scissors cut the top end off. This will become the pot.
2. **Get some cardboard** and cut it to the size that you'd like to make your weaving. A 12x10cm board will make a weave of approximately 9x9cm. You might make one weaving to go around the circumference of the bottle (for a 2L bottle make a board that is 15cm wide and 60cm long) or you might want to make a few smaller weavings.
3. When you are ready **measure** 2cm down from the top and bottom edges then mark lines at 1.5cm gaps all along the top and bottom and cut to the 2cm line.
4. **Get a plastic carrier bag** or plastic delivery bag. Cut both ends off so that you are left with a plastic tube.
5. Start **cutting round** and round the plastic bag to create a continuous string of plastic yarn about 0.5cm thick is fine.
6. Now you will **create the warp**, which are the strings that go from top to bottom of your board. When you get to the top, loop over so that there is a horizontal 1.5cm bit of warp showing on the back side of the board. You may wish to secure this with tape or tie a knot.
7. Now you are ready to **weave the weft**. You need to go from left to right then right to left and go over and under each string of the warp. Make sure that you go over and under the opposite way from the previous line when you start a new one.



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8. You can **change colours** or use a single colour. Why not add unusual materials like fruit sacks (the ones the lemons often come in).
9. When you have finished, **remove the weave** from the cardboard. If possible, pull the loops over the top of the cardboard at each end of the board, one at a time, and tie them with simple knots. If you cannot pull them over cut the warp strings and tie them.
10. You can now **tie your weavings onto the pot**. Do this by making small slits in the top of the bottle with your scissors – you may be able to use the loops from the cardboard or tie the weaving on with warp strings or new plastic strings.



Take it further:

- You can add tassels of strings with ring pulls or bottle tops to the base of the weavings so that they dangle from the bottom of the hanging basket and move in the breeze.
- You can turn this pot into a hanging basket by braiding three or four plastic strings together to make a handle. To attach it use a hole punch to make two holes on opposite sides of the bottle then push the braid through, you can use a chopstick or skewer to help then tie a simple knot to secure it.
- If indoors add a succulent or spider plant if the plant is going directly into the pot carefully make drainage holes for excess water. If the plant has a small pot already you can place that inside the hanging basket.



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Camilla Brendon

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