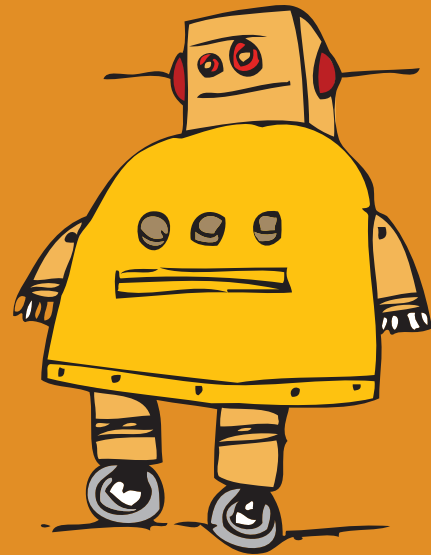


# The Best of Instructables Craft



## Crafting 2.0: Beyond Scrapbookers and Doily Makers

For years, I was under the impression that “crafting” was an activity for bored grandmothers smelling of potpourri, or New Age hippies selling homemade hand soap. Not to disparage perfumed grandmothers or soap-hocking hippies, but crafting seemed as foreign to me as the surface of the moon.

Somewhere along the line, my thinking changed, roughly around the time that people started viewing my Instructables and describing them as “Craft.” At first, I was outraged. I wasn’t crocheting doilies; I wasn’t making soap. I wasn’t even using natural fibers!

I had inadvertently stumbled into an emerging craft movement that had directly spawned from the DIY (do it yourself) ethos of previous decades. This new wave of crafters didn’t lean on tradition so much as modify, mash up, subvert, and transcend standard conventions.

Shunning store-bought items for handmade, this maverick community of crafters believes in making things themselves, by whatever means necessary. Frequently, hefty ideas are constrained by thin wallets, limited tool sets, and modest materials, leading to a resourcefulness and flexibility that can rival a highly trained Navy SEAL.

With equal parts independent thinking, unconventional materials, and highly unorthodox methodologies, crafters on Instructables create objects that are both useful and personally meaningful. It’s this tendency towards extreme personalization that makes a trip to Instructables such a treat.

Say you need a wallet. Go to a store and wallets might be made of leather, or vinyl, or canvas, but they’ll roughly be of the same style, size, and material. Go to Instructables, and you’ll find dozens made out of everything from playing cards to inner tubes, all constructed with more design variance than seems possible. It’s this endless variety, spurred on by fierce individualism, that makes the Instructables Craft community like no other. – Randy Sarafan

