



Analogue Activity Ideas

Resource Overview

Examples and simple activities using analogue tools, craft techniques, and accessible materials.

Use this resource to design simple activities based on analogue tools, craft techniques and accessible materials. It can support first workshops, low-threshold activities or community sessions that do not require digital machines.

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Written by Jessica Guy (Fab Lab Barcelona | IAAC)

#activities #practical #beginner



Repair / Customisation Workshop

Encourage sustainable fashion through repair and creative upcycling of clothing.

	Facilitator skills	Sewing and mending, basic tailoring, creative design, patience, problem-solving, ability to guide diverse skill levels.		Outputs	Participants leave with a repaired or customised garment and new skills in mending and creative expression
	Target audience(s) & Age group(s)	Teens to adults; suitable for beginners and experienced participants.		Make-a-Thek gains insight into community creativity and sustainable practices	
	Techniques and tools	Sewing, patching, embroidery, fabric paint, scissors, needles, threads, pins, embellishments.		Learning Objectives	● Learn basic sewing and repair techniques ● explore creative design on clothing ● Introduction to "sustainable" consumption practices
	Duration	2-3 hours			

Warm up activity	Main activity	Follow up activity
Introduction and examples of upcycling (15min)	- Assessment of garments brought by participants (15 min) - Hands-on repair/customisation session (90–120 min)	Sharing and reflection (15 min)

Material list	References
- Sewing machine (optional) - Needles, Threads, Scissors, Pins - Additional fabric or old clothing pieces for re-use - Fabric paint - Embellishments and Patches	Etta Studio Kanatamanto Social Club - Distributed Design Platform Creative Talent ReJean - Distributed Design Platform Creative Talent Nika Ravnik - Distributed Design Platform Opendot Foundation Workshops example 1 and 2

Repair / Customisation Workshop

Encourage sustainable fashion through repair and creative upcycling of clothing.

Image from workshop set up (in space)



*Credits: Opendot | Distributed Design "Activism and repairability"
Workshop 2025*

Image from outcome examples / references



*Credits: Opendot | Distributed Design Repair Workshop 2025 | By Edoardo
Cardascia, Lena Capo, and Chiara Guarino*

Embroidery / Stitching Workshop

Teach hand embroidery and stitching techniques for artistic expression/beautiful repair techniques.

	Facilitator skills	Hand embroidery, basic sewing, patience, teaching fine motor skills		Outputs	Participants create embroidered items (customisation for example), repair techniques, learn new stitching techniques, and gain confidence in handcraft and how to get creative with needle and thread. Documents participant preferences and creative trends.
	Target audience(s) & Age group(s)	Children (10+) and adults; beginners welcome.			
	Techniques and tools	Hand stitching, repair stitching, embroidery patterns, hoops, fabric, needles, threads, beads, items for mending		Learning Objectives	• Introduction to basic embroidery stitches • Understand basics of pattern design • Learn basics of repair stitching (mending holes, attaching patches) • Improve hand-eye coordination • Learn about local embroidery culture
	Duration	<i>min 2 hours</i>			

Warm up activity	Main activity	Follow up activity
Introduction to embroidery, mending and materials and why it's better to repair (15 min)	• Demonstration of stitches and mending techniques (15 min) • Individual practice on sampler fabric (60 min) • Creation of a small project or mending personal items (30 min)	Sharing and reflection (15 min)

Material list	References
• Embroidery hoops (optional) • Needles, Threads, Scissors, Pins • Sampler fabrics, repair fabrics or clothing items • Optional extras such as beads, patches • Print outs with reference information (stitching patterns etc.)	• Helpful guidelines for mending and darning by Reflow & Waag Textile Lab: https://waag.org/en/reflow-instructables/ • Romanian Embroidery and Stitching Organisation Semne Cusute/Stitching Stories • BacktoEco • Embroidery and coding (advanced)

Embroidery / Stitching Workshop

Teach hand embroidery and stitching techniques for artistic expression/beautiful repair techniques.

Image from workshop set up (in space)



Credits: BacktoEco

Image from outcome examples / references



Credits: BacktoEco

Natural Dyes Workshop

Natural dyes & local materials exploring colour, sustainability, local ecology / waste-reuse, creative craft techniques

	Facilitator skills	Familiarity with natural dyeing processes Awareness of local flora / waste-material sources Encourage experimentation, documenting results, exploring texture/colour variations, combining materials, possibly eco-printing.		Outputs	A local colour palette with colour/swatches on paper, fabric, small textile pieces, ribbons. Raised awareness on waste-reuse, local ecology, sustainability, natural-material potential. (optional) A small “community dye atlas / map” representing local materials, towns/regions
	Target audience(s) & Age group(s)	Teens—adults; beginner-friendly; makers, library/facility users, school groups, local craftspeople, community members			
	Techniques and tools	Material sourcing, dye extraction, testing substrates, cooking utensils, kettle, mordanting/fixing materials, kitchen waste, natural materials		Learning Objectives	• Understand basic principles of natural dyes and how material and water affect results. • Recognise and value local and waste resources • Practice experimentation • Cultivate ecological thinking
	Duration	1-3 hours, or multipart workshops			

Warm up activity	Main activity	Follow up activity
Introduction: brief about natural dyes, sustainability, local materials, safety / hygiene rules (15min) Present possible dye materials; optional “forage & collect” exercise if outdoors (15 min)	• Dye extraction: simmer or steep materials in water observe colour, discuss expectations (15 min) • Tannin “fixing”: soak substrate in tannin-rich solution to naturally enhance colour adherence (20 min) • Dye bath: immerse pre-treated test materials in dye baths experiment with combinations, timing, layering (20min)	Remove samples, rinse if desired, air dry or blot, label each sample (20 min) Wrap-up discussion & reflection: what colours emerged, surprises, ideas for future uses (10min)

References	• Natural Dyes (scroll down to relevant section) • Shemakes Guide on Wool dying Wool mondays	• Suayla Community Dye Baths • Shemakes Fabricademy Bacterial dying Bioshades (advanced)
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Natural Dyes Workshop

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Material list

Dye Materials (local / natural / waste-based)

>> Onion skins (yellow/red), Avocado pits / skins, Coffee grounds, Tea leaves (black or green), Pomegranate skins / Walnut husks or leaves, Oak leaves / acorns, Sumac leaves or berries, Blackberries / elderberries (optional), Garden or urban weeds / flowers (marigold, dandelion, chamomile, nettles, etc.)

Fixing / Tannin materials

>> Tea (brewed strong), Coffee (brewed strong), Walnut husks or leaves, Oak leaves / bark, Sumac leaves / berries, Pomegranate skins (soaked).

Substrate materials

>> Paper: recycled scrap paper, strips, or sheets (if combining with paper-making), Fabric scraps: cotton, linen, wool, or pre-cut ribbons / cords, or even pre-made paper for eco-printing

Container and tools

>> Small pots or portable kettles for dye extraction + Jars for soaking substrate in tannin solution or dye baths + Strainers / cloth bags / nets for plant matter removal + Spoons / tongs for moving substrates safely + Spray bottles (optional, for wetting paper/fabric or for eco-printing) + Small rolling pins or cloths for eco-printing (optional) + Drying lines, racks, or trays for air-drying dyed samples

Documentation & Labelling

>> Small labels / cards / tags to note (eg. Plant or waste material used, location / town / date, dye bath duration / method, observed colour), Pens or markers.

Safety & Cleanup

>> Gloves (optional, especially if using strong tannin solutions) + Towels / cloths for spills + buckets/containers for safe disposal of used plant materials + aprons or protective clothing

Extra Materials (if combining with eco-printing or decorative exploration)

>> Fresh leaves, petals, or small botanicals for imprinting + Cloth or paper for bundling (for hammering / pressing / eco-printing) + Small weights (stones, rolling pins) to press leaves onto substrates

Safety tips

- Use only “safe” mordants like alum, or natural tannin-rich sources — or treat dyeing as experimental/ decorative (ephemeral art) rather than wash-fast textile dyeing.
- Tip: Prepare tannin solution in a separate jar/pot; pre-soak substrate (paper/fabric) for 10–20 min to enhance colour uptake.
- Use a separate pot or kettle for dyeing (never reuse for cooking/food).
- Encourage participants to collect materials locally or bring from home (food scraps, garden waste, local plants - onion skins, nut hulls, coffee grounds, avocado pits, food peels)
- Label and document every dye batch: material, date, location — this builds a “community dye logbook / local colour map / workshop archive”
- Manage waste responsibly: plant residues should be composted or disposed of safely; dye baths should be cooled and discarded safely (check local regulations).

Natural Dyes Workshop

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Image from workshop set up (in space)



Credits: Fab Lab Barcelona | Shemakes

Image from outcome examples / references



Credits: REDU | Shemakes | Participants of the flower printing workshop

Discover more

makeathek-toolkit.eu

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Opendot Foundation
info@opendotlab.foundation



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