PLASTIC FILM CROCHET

Input materials	Pre-condition/Pre-treatment	Operation & maintenance	Objectives / Key features	Key technical parameters
Suitable waste: – Clean light plastic (LDPE, PP)	Washing and drying plastic	Cutting of plastic strips	Crochet plastic films into bags and mats	Crochet needle type K hook
Outputs / products	**Technical complexity**	**Maturity level**	**Educational aspect**	
Robust plastic bags, baskets, mats	No infrastructure required Low-level skill required	Widespread use	**Topics:** Reuse; Consumption **Practical exercises:** Crochet film plastic	

Strips of film plastic such as water sachet and single-use plastic bags can be easily crocheted and converted into long-lasting reusable plastic bags, baskets and mats.

Washed and dried plastic are cut into thin strips and crocheted into various product [1]. This is a very easy and cheap process to make use of low-value plastic waste.

Applicability: Handicrafts are aimed towards small-scale application by individuals or group of individuals.

Design considerations: -

Materials needed: Large sharp scissors and crochet needle size K (6.5mm) or larger are required.

Technical operation & maintenance: To make a plastic ribbon, plastic bags or films are rolled neatly. While the lip is kept intact., thumb-width strips are cut with a scissor along the way. Once done, plastic is unfolded and lied on a table. Diagonal cuts are made on the intact lip. The long ribbon can then be crocheted into bags, purses, baskets and mats.

Health and safety: Only clean plastic should be used and hand washing ensured after handling of dirty plastic.

Costs: -

Social, legal and environmental considerations: -

Strengths and weaknesses:

- ⊕ A very easy and cheap option to make use of single-use soft plastic
- ⊕ Easy to link with educational purposes
- ⊖ Very limited amount of plastic waste can be handled with such practice
- ⊖ Low-market value of end-product

> References and further reading

1. WasteAid, Making Waste Work: A toolkit - How to crochet film plastic into bags and mats 2017, L., et al., Blue Schools - Linking WASH in schools with environmental education and practice, Catalogue of Technologies. 2018.