

A HUG FOR YOUR MUG

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PHOTOS BY DAWN JACOB

Whether you hit up Starbucks or a local café down the street, you can expect your hot beverages to be served with a cardboard sleeve. While it's great that these nifty, little barriers are often made from recycled materials, have you ever thought about how most of them are thrown into the trash along with the cup? It doesn't turn out to be so eco-friendly. One resourceful alternative: DIY cute and cozy felt sleeves. They're a breeze to make and will last much longer than cardboard.

MATERIALS:

Sheets of felt at least 11" x 11" (various colors)
Appliqués, buttons, sequins, or other art accessories
Permanent marker
Hot glue sticks
Hot glue gun
Scissors
Ruler

STEPS:

On a sheet of felt, mark one edge at 11 inches wide.

In the middle of that edge, go 3 1/4 inch up, and make a mark for height.

At the bottom of that height mark, draw another 11-inch line that is parallel to the edge in step one.

Trim off excess felt. Now you should have an 11-inch by 3-inch rectangle.

On one of the 11-inch edges, make a mark 2 centimeters in from both the left and the right. (The distance between should be slightly more than 9 3/8 inches.)

Draw a diagonal line between the edges of both lines to form a trapezoid shape.

Cut out the trapezoid. Decorate the sleeve by hot gluing on appliqués, buttons, sequins, ribbon, or other accessories. Let dry.

Wrap the felt around as if you were fitting it around a paper coffee cup. There should be about a 1/4-inch overlap. Secure with hot glue. Allow two hours to dry.

