

# Turning Their Trash Into Your Profits

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You can profit from selling crafts and crafting supplies even if you never make a single project.

There's many ways to profit from craft related items, but this report deals with one tactic that is not known by many, yet has proven to be extremely profitable for those that have tried this method.

In your town, is there a business that operates by selling used appliances? If so, this business is probably quite profitable because the owner is making money off of his or her skills, while putting very little investment into his or her business.

The owners of used appliance stores usually pick-up broken down appliances from the street, like washers, dryers and refrigerators that others have thrown away, or they purchase these broken appliances dirt-cheap from others that do not want to pay for costly repairs.

They then take the appliances to their shops, repair them, clean them or paint them if needed and resell them to make a very hefty profit.

You see used car dealers, small engine shops and even furniture stores using this method, yet you very rarely see other types of business owners apply this method towards their sales.

How many times have you seen a used clothing store, or a thrift shop, repair clothes to resell for a nicer profit? Me, I've seen none. Usually used clothing stores and thrift shops wash and dry clothing that doesn't need to be repaired, while throwing the damaged clothing into the trash.

What about toys? How many times have you seen toys being thrown away along side of the road? Now I know it's not very wise to repair toys, because if not repaired correctly then you could be held liable for damages if a child is hurt, but still you're overlooking one very profitable venture by ignoring other people's "trash".

Now you can make money, by recycling others trash, by visiting yard sales and thrift stores and even by asking your family and friends for all their used clothing and old stuffed toys before they throw them away.

First I'll cover ways to profit from yard sales, then I'll discuss profiting from recycling other peoples unwanted clothing and toys.

Have you ever been to a yard sale, and noticed handmade items being sold extremely cheap like crocheted bedspreads, afghans etc.

What about other handmade objects like yard signs, toys or decorative household items?

Usually you will find handcrafted items at yard sales or in thrift stores dirt-cheap.

By simply purchasing these items, cleaning them and reselling them with a nice markup on the price, you'll find your profits increasing with very little work or effort on your part.

I have seen afghans sell for 50 cents many times at yard sales, with handmade quilts and crocheted bedspreads selling for as little as 3 or 4 dollars each.

These are extremely low prices for quality, handcrafted items.

Afghans can easily be resold for \$25.00 or more per afghan, with quilts fetching prices as high as \$150 sometimes if in good condition.

Doilies are another handcrafted item that can be purchased affordably to re sold for a nice profit. Some people will sell bags of doilies for just a few dollars, or even price doilies for as little as 10 cents each.

You can resell doilies easily for several dollars, and if they are larger doilies they could bring you as much as \$25.00 each, based on how many different colors are used in the design and how large they are.

The reason most people sell these items so cheap is because they do not appreciate the quality and workmanship that goes into making these wonderful items, and so they are pretty much selling them just to clear space and make a little extra money.

I see people selling quality items like these all the time, for meager pennies. If they only knew that there are people that will pay good money for these types of items, they would never sell handcrafted items so cheap in a yard sale, or donate them to thrift stores. They would instead find other ways to sell their items for more profit.

Their ignorance can work for your benefit, because now you do know and you can take advantage of their ignorance to help build your own savings account.

So just as appliance repairmen purchase “junk” appliances so they can resell them for profit, you too can purchase other peoples “junk” crafts to resell for profit.

Now sometimes you’ll find items that may have a few minor damaged areas. If you know how to repair small rips, nicks and dents etc. in crafted items, then this won’t be much of a problem for you.

But if you do not know how to make small repairs, then you should still consider purchasing the items if the price is affordable.

Even if the items are damaged, you can always hire someone to repair the damages, or you can sell the items as second hand goods where the new owners repair whatever damages may be on the items.

Another thing you will most likely find a lot of at yard sales or in thrift stores, would be arts and craft related supplies.

Even used clothing and toys can be used as arts and crafts related supplies.

After you wash used clothing, then you can take the buttons off the clothing and jar them separately to sell, while cutting the cloth into regular 5 or 6 inch squares to be sold as quilting pieces for patchwork quilts.

Or you can purchase a basic 2-piece rag doll pattern from any crafting store and cut out pre-cut rag dolls for others to sew together.

You can also cut the cloth into heart shapes, and package 2 hearts in a bag with potpourri for instant scented pillow kits.

There's many ways to use cloth, and used clothing can be pre-cut into many things to be sold for profit to other crafters.

Thrift stores are great places to get used clothing, and usually will let you pick up used clothing for free when they clear their racks of unsold items.

Usually thrift stores throw clothing away after it's stayed on the racks too long, to make room for other articles of clothing that will sell.

If you find out which days the store cleans the racks, then you can usually obtain literally bags full of clothing by simply riding to the store and picking them up.

Another way you can obtain used clothes cheaply, or for free, would be to visit homes that have held yard sales that weekend to see if they placed their unsold items by the road for others to pick-up. After someone holds a yard sale, they usually either donate the unsold items to thrift stores, or they just place them by the road free for you to take.

Just make sure your local ordinances allow you to pick up others trash in this fashion before you go hunting for toss outs.

Now if you find toys, like stuffed animals or dolls, you can also recycle these for profits.

Stuffed animals can be torn apart, and the fabrics washed and resold for a profit. Many crafters use the fuzzy fabric used to make stuffed animals to make things like beanbags, small animals for dollhouses and use this fabric for decorations (like ABC lettering) on books etc.

Considering this type of fabric can be extremely expensive, then you can profit nicely by selling scrap pieces of these types of fabrics.

A lot of crafters will need just a small piece for a certain project, and usually don't want to purchase a whole yard just to decorate one

book for their child so smaller scrap pieces are highly sought after by many.

Other toys have parts that can be recycled easily, just when recycling parts, make sure that you don't recycle parts that can be swallowed by small children. Yes, eyes on stuffed animals are usually secure, but once unsnapped they become very un-secure and should be thrown back into the trash.

Never save the stuffing as stuffing cannot be washed and would not be sanitary. And always be sure to wash any fabrics that you recycle, and sterilize any plastic parts that you recycle as well.

Other items you may want to keep a good eye out for would be beaded necklaces, especially those with glass beads, as glass beads are highly wanted by other crafters for their projects.

Leather, suede and silk are also materials you should keep an eye out for, because scraps of these materials usually sell for very good prices.

You can also assemble quick kits using your scrap cloth pieces.

For example, you can make scented pillow kits by placing a small bag of potpourri, 2 pieces of heart shaped cloth, and a small piece of lace into a regular zip-lock bag, and resell these kits for \$5.00 to \$10.00 quite easily.

Old crocheted bedspreads can also be converted into kits, especially if they are badly damaged.

Vintage crocheted bedspreads were usually pieced together using individual crocheted motifs. If you happen to find a bedspread made in this fashion, then you've found yourself a very nice treasure indeed.

If the bedspread is in good condition with no rips, stains or loose threads then you would want to resell it as a complete spread.

But if you find that motifs are coming off because of torn threads, or find a stain that can't be removed in one part of the spread, then you can quickly disassemble the motifs by cutting carefully at the seams.

These motifs can then be used to make all kinds of wonderful kits that can be resold for wonderful profits.

Below I share with you an article that shows 15 creative ways to use motifs. You can base your kits on suggestions provided in this article, by packing the motifs in zip-lock bags along with whatever bit of extra materials would be needed to complete the kit.

The text that is in **(bold parenthesis)** provides suggestions for materials to place in your kits, as well as recommended resell price.

Considering that most bedspreads will provide 100 or more usable motifs, then a lot of the kits shared below would net you as much as \$500.00 cash or more. That's not a bad profit margin for a bedspread you may have only paid a few dollars for.

### **15 Creative Ways To Use Motifs**

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1. Attach motifs together to form curtains, scarves, pillows, bedspreads, tablecloths and table placemats.

**(Assemble 10 motifs into a kit where customer can piece them together to make a nice table runner for their coffee table that is 5 motifs long and 2 motifs wide. Resell for \$15.00 per kit.)**

2. Make a satin pillow the same size as motif, fill with potpourri, sew motif onto pillow for a nice decorative scented pillow that can be used to scent closets, drawers and cabinets.

**(Assemble same as scented pillow kit mentioned above, just have cloth same shape as motifs and cut cloth ½ inch wider than motifs for seam allowance. Resell for \$10.00 per kit.)**

3. Use a motif to make a nice “area rug” for a dollhouse.

**(Assemble by placing one motif and a piece of lace to match in a bag. Resell for \$3.00 per kit.)**

4. Crochet motifs using regular sewing thread then sew together to form bookmarks.

**(Although this type of kit can't be made from regular motifs, you can still make a small kit that includes a spool of thread and a bookmark pattern. You can obtain a crocheted bookmark pattern that you're free to use at the following URL: <http://www.lycials.com/patterns.htm> Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**

5. Purchase a journal or small notebook, cover in attractive cloth and sew a motif on the cover to make a wonderful gift.

**(Assemble by providing a cheap journal obtained from any dollar store, enough cloth to cover journal with 1 inch on each side to spare for folding cloth over journal edges and one motif. Resell for \$10.00 per kit.)**

6. Frame a motif for an attractive wall hanging.

**(Assemble by providing frame and motif, with a few decorative pieces that can be included in the frame like pressed flowers or lace. Resell for \$7.00 to \$10.00 per kit.)**

7. Laminate a motif and glue cork to the back to make attractive coasters.

**(Include a motif, a sheet of self-laminating paper or clear contact shelving paper and cork from an old corkboard. Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**

8. Attach a magnet on the back for attractive décor for your fridge.

**(Provide motif and magnet. Resell for \$2.00 per kit.)**

9. Sew onto a hemmed piece of muslin or satin, attach Velcro on the edges and fold in half for a handy holder for sewing needles.

**(Assemble by providing cloth, Velcro and motif. Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**



10. Embed a motif made of sewing thread into a bar of soap for attractive bathroom décor that will amaze your guests. Instructions for embedding in soap can be obtained through the free “Scents And Beauty Business Course” at <http://www.lycials.com/beautycourse.htm>

**(Assemble by providing a bar of soap and small motif, as well as the above URL so that your customer can receive instructions. Please note instructions for making embedded soap are copyright protected and must be provided by providing the URL above to your customers, you may not sell printed instructions in your kits. Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**

11. Sew a muslin bag the same size as motif, leaving one end open. Attach a motif to front and back of bag, attach Velcro for a closure and crochet a nice handle to make a sweet purse that any little girl will love.

**(Assemble by providing muslin, two motifs, Velcro and a bit of lace for handle. Resell for \$10.00 per kit.)**

12. Sew a motif onto the back pockets of jeans for a decorative touch that will always be in style. Add extra flair by sewing several motifs around the bottom of the jeans legs as well.

**(Assemble by attaching a slip of paper or small homemade card onto one motif. Inform customers to sew the motif onto back jeans pocket to add a designer’s touch to jeans. Resell for \$2.00 to \$3.00 per motif.)**

13. Glue 2 used CD’s together using rubber cement, with the shiny sides facing out. Glue a motif on each side, thread ribbon through the CD hole and hang in your car or by your window for an attractive sun catcher.

**(Assemble by providing 2 CDs, two motifs and a piece of ribbon or lace. Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**

14. Dip a motif lightly in scented wax, lay it on waxed paper to dry, hang anywhere you’d like a freshening scent.

**(Assemble by providing one motif and a chunk of scented wax. Wax chunks can be made by re-melting old scented candles, and pouring the wax into ice cube trays. Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**

15. Cover an empty can with wallpaper, or attractive cloth, glue a motif onto the can for a decorative pencil holder.

**(Assemble by placing a motif, and enough cloth to cover the can into an empty food can. Make sure you sand the edges of the opening of the can for safety purposes. Wrap attractively in colored saran wrap. Resell for \$5.00 per kit.)**

Before I conclude this report, I would also like to share with you one other thing that can prove to be extremely profitable for you.

If you ever see an old sofa, chair or other piece of upholstered furniture along side the road, where someone is throwing it away. If you have a truck, grab the furniture (if the owners don't mind) and take to your home so that you can remove the fabric from the frame.

You can then resell this upholstery fabric for profit to other crafters who use this type of fabric to cover doll furniture, books, etc. If the fabric is a certain type, then you already have a guaranteed buyer in me because I purchase loads of certain types of upholstery fabric for my own personal use. I do pay as much as \$250.00 for fabric from one sofa, if it's the type of upholstery fabric that I'm always looking for.

The type I purchase is the velvet looking upholstery fabric that has a particular backing that looks like grids in cross stitch cloth. If you ever come across a sofa made of this type of material, then please email me at [maria@17steps.com](mailto:maria@17steps.com) with a picture of your fabric, and letting me know if it came off a sofa or chair so I will know about how much total fabric you have in all. If you're not sure if you have the kind of fabric I'm looking for, feel free to email me anyways with any questions you may have.

I hope you have enjoyed this special report, and I hope you have a successful and prosperous future. If you would like information on how to sell the handcrafted items you've found, then the Profitable Crafts series will help guide you to successful sales. For more information about the Profitable Crafts series please visit the following URL:

<http://www.daintywork.com/crafts/volumes.htm>