

## Dazzling Spring

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Keywords: Design, Eco-Fashion, Up-cycle, Green

This design was inspired by a ruffle-covered pillow that my friend bought for me as a present. I was challenged to create a garment using unusual materials. The materials I chose to use were as follows: white plastic trash bags (base for the dress, ruffles, and decorations), a piece of black ribbon from a package, and white polyester fabric for lining and coverage. The concept of Dazzling Spring is classic, elegant, and pure. I named Dazzling Spring because I think that spring represents initiation of a year or refreshment. Animals wake from hibernation and seeds start to grow and come out from dirt. I wanted to give this refreshing and elegant feel to the audience by my design.



To begin this process, I began with a pattern and made many alterations to it including the high and low skirt. I quickly found that plastic bags are very slippery, thin, and hard to pin and sew. After trying many “textbook” methods, I found that using a stapler to hold and pin the plastic together, worked best. The staples were also easy to take out. Because Eco Fashion is very unique, a creative approach may be required. Upon completion of the dress and fitting it to my model, I then began the assembly of hundreds of trash bag bows. The bows were small 3 inch rectangular cut pieces of white trash bags, gathered and sewn in the middle, and then attached to the surface of the gown. Due to the dress being all white in color which could make it look too much like a wedding gown, I added black ribbon to crisscross at neck front, pass under the arms to center back, and tie into a bow. The black ribbon gives an elegant, yet trendy look to the design.



“Going Green” is a trend that is hitting every industry today, and the Fashion Industry is no exception. Designers today are stretching themselves outside the box of conventional design. They are taking materials, which already have a designed purpose, and repurposing them to create bold, new fashion trends. The options at one’s fingertips are literally endless.

Reference:

*The complete photo guide to sewing.* (2009). Minneapolis, MN; Creative Publishing International.