

How To Make a Shop Towel Mask

Grab a mask!

Protect yourself and others in the community.

These masks are made from Shop Towels.

They can be reused & gently washed by hand in soapy water & hung to dry.



"A hydrophobic nonwoven layer such as **shop towel** made of PP [polypropylene]... is an ideal structure for a homemade mask because 1) the droplet will not penetrate through the hydrophobic media to contaminate the wearer's mouth or nose and 2) nonwoven fabrics have a better filtration efficiency than a woven fabric."

- Dr. Peter Tsai, Univ. of Tennessee Prof.,
inventor of N-95 masks

Note: This mask is not medical grade. Designed for some protection against respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing or talking. Not a substitute for social distancing.

Support for materials used for our mask making comes from Catherine Washburn Medical Association, IMC, Sunset Builders Supply and individual donations.

Want to help make masks? (No sewing.) We are looking for volunteers.

Please contact Tracey: 468-3570 outdoors@rockisland.com

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What you need:

a stapler with staples, some tape, scissors.

Additional materials (provided):

Shop towels, twist ties (or wires from straightened paper clips), rubber bands and paper for wrapping finished masks. (I have extra No.10 staples and rolls of tape if you need some.)

Before starting:

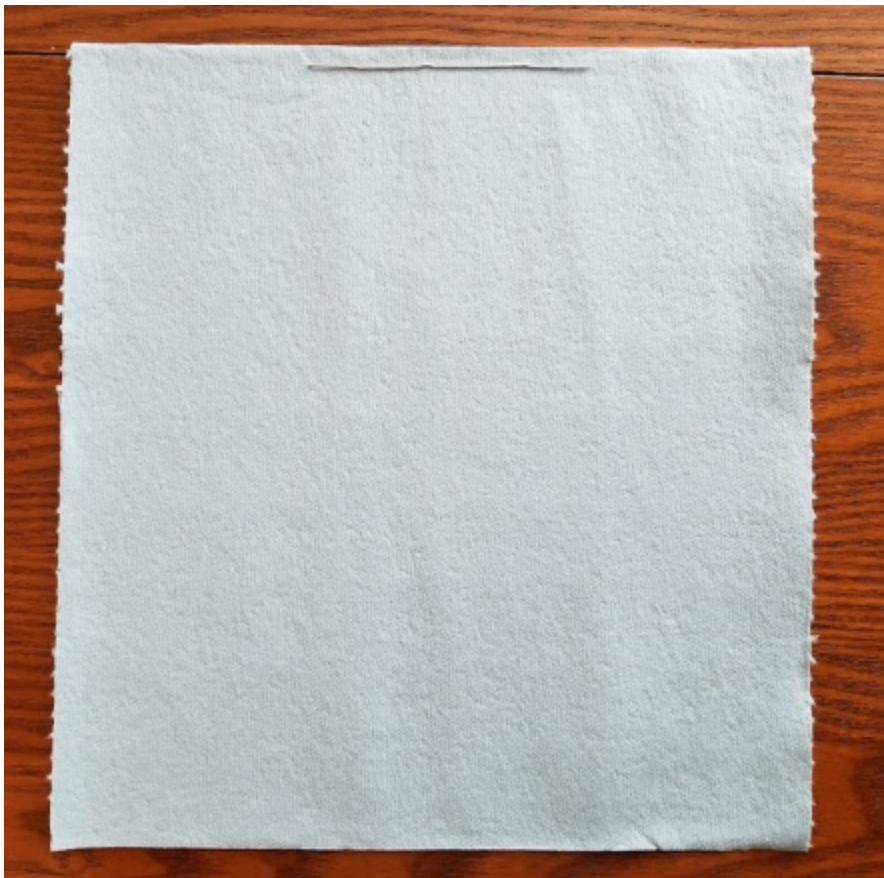
Wash you hands thoroughly with soap. Put on a mask while you're making these Shop towel masks. Thank you!

STEPS:

Note the orientation and dimensions of a completed mask before you start, so that the product is an ideal fit for a wearer and for loading in a mask dispenser.



1. Tear out a piece of the blue towel and have **the smooth edge face up (rough edges on the sides)**. Place a piece of twist tie or wire about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top edge.



2. Use two pieces of tape to tape each end of the wire to the blue towel, as shown. Covering the ends with tape helps prevent the wire from poking through the fabric.



3. Fold to the top edge over the wire and press the fold along the entire width of the towel. The fold should be around $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide if possible. But if it's a little wider, no problem. It'll get better with more practice.



4. Repeat the fold two more times for **a total of three folds** over the wire, as shown.



5. Without letting go of the folds, flip the towel over back and forth for 1.25" accordian folds with the wire part centering around the middle, as shown. Please try to keep the width of the folds to no more than 1.5".





6. Repeat the accordion folds until you run out of the material.





7. Staple the folded towel twice about 1" from each end.



8. Cut along the edge of a fold in the middle so that the folded end can be split into two sides as shown. Do the same for the other side.





9. Insert a piece of rubber band and pull it toward the staples. Staple again twice about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the other staples, as shown. Do the same for the other side and you'll have a finished mask! Congrats on making the first one!

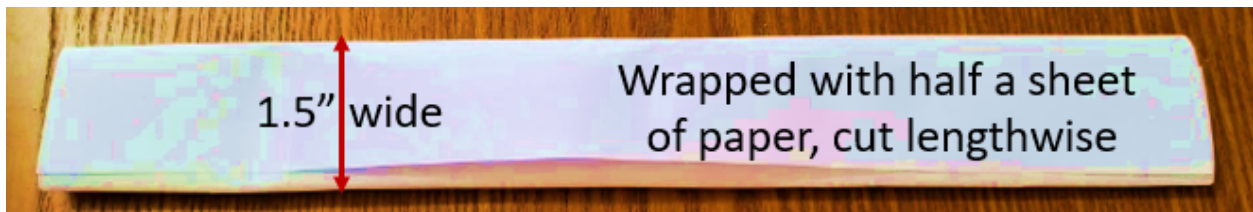




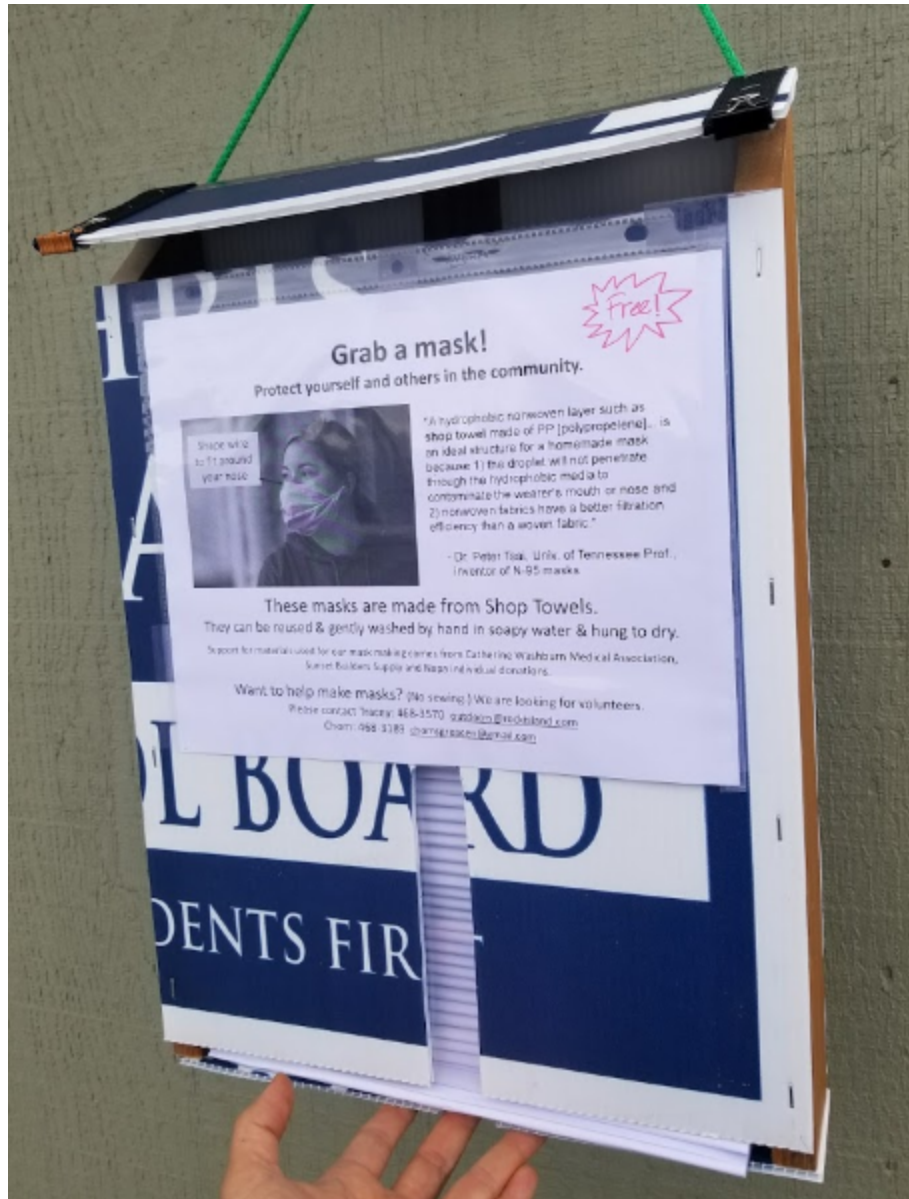
10. Cut normal US letter paper in half lengthwise. Use half a piece to wrap the finished mask by placing it in the middle of the paper.



11. Fold the bottom part of the paper up to cover the mask and the top part over the bottom and tape as shown in the provide example. Try to keep the finished width of the wrapped masks to **no more than 1.5"** so that they will fit well in the homemade dispensers that have been built.



Here is a photo of a mask dispenser. For the masks to stack well, the completed width should be around 1.5".



You can also view the video tutorial on how to make this mask here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edQAHCRTIVQ>

12. Once you are done making a bunch of them, you can line up the wrapped masks into bundles like this. Ideally, it'd be great if the smooth edges are all facing the same direction.



Thank you so much for helping to create masks to keep us and our community safe and healthy!