

# Decorating Shoes

Arts | Fashion



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## WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Personalizing your wardrobe and experimenting with fashion is meaningful because it allows you to express who you are and what makes you unique. When you customize your clothes or try new styles, you're not just following trends—you're creating something that reflects your personality, interests, and creativity. It's a fun way to explore your identity, build confidence, and show the world what makes you special. Plus, it can be empowering to wear something you made or styled yourself, knowing it's truly one-of-a-kind.

## TIME

10+ minutes

## MATERIALS

- Plain canvas shoes (any color)
- Markers or fabric pens (\$5+)
- Fabric stickers or iron-on patches (optional) (\$2+)
  - o Fabric glue (for sticking fabric) (\$5+)
  - o An iron (if using iron-on patches, with supervision)
- Fabric scraps (optional)
- Scissors (safety scissors for younger participants)



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## INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Choose Your Shoes:** Start by picking a pair of plain canvas shoes. These could be white, black, or any colour you like. Make sure they're clean and dry before you start decorating.
2. **Plan Your Design:** Think about how you want your shoes to look. Do you want a fun pattern, your name, or maybe some cool shapes? Lay out your stickers or fabric pieces on the shoes without sticking them on yet to see how it will look.
3. **Get Creative with Markers:** You can also use fabric markers or pens to draw directly on your shoes. Add some doodles, write your name, or create patterns to make your shoes even more unique.
4. **Start Sticking the Stickers (Optional):** If you're using fabric stickers, peel off the backing and press them onto the shoe where you want them. Make sure to press down firmly so they stick well. For iron-on patches, place them on the shoe and have a supervisor help you with the ironing. Put a piece of cloth over the patch and press with a warm iron for about 30 seconds, then let it cool.
5. **Add Fabric Decorations (Optional) :** If you want to add extra fabric designs, cut out shapes or patterns from fabric scraps. Use fabric glue to stick these onto the shoes. Let the glue dry according to the instructions on the bottle.
6. **Let Everything Dry:** Once you're happy with your design, let the shoes sit and dry for a few hours. This will make sure everything sticks properly and won't fall off when you wear them.
7. **Show Off Your New Shoes!** Once they're dry, put on your new custom-designed shoes and show them off to your friends and family! You've just created your very own fashion statement.

## RESOURCES

- How to use fabric stickers: [https://www.dutchlabelshop.com/en\\_ca/faq/iron-on-instructions/](https://www.dutchlabelshop.com/en_ca/faq/iron-on-instructions/)
- Iron safety: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/documents/IronSafety2013.pdf>

\*all prices are estimated from item listings on *Amazon*

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## **SUPPORTS NEEDED**

Some individuals may need assistance with the finer motor skills associated with the craft. Supervise and step in if needed. Some tools such as scissors, glue and an iron will require supervision and assistance. Encourage individual creativity here!

## **OTHER THINGS TO NOTE**

If you make a mistake, don't worry! You can always add more stickers or fabric to cover it up. Be creative! There's no right or wrong way to decorate your shoes. Have fun with it!