

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Bra project gets lots of support **Lynda Hammond**

It's amazing just how much good a little spandex can do.

When I first discovered this rather unusual idea I thought it was a little tacky. But the more I saw of it the more I liked it. In addition to this fun column on garage sales each week in *The Arizona Republic*, I'm also fortunate enough to be able to do craft and garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona. And while looking for my next project I found *it*: turn an old bra into a purse. I know, I know...sounds a little weird but bear with me—it gets better.

I was still a little skeptical, that is, until I called Margaret Beardsley, executive producer of the popular morning show. She's seen a lot of craft projects in her 25 years in the television business and knows a good thing when she's sees it. "I knew the bra project would be perfect for my audience because it's fun and innovative."

So, I was off--looking for bras at garage sales hoping to pick up a few for a real bargain. But that didn't happen. You see there aren't that many people willing to put their old bras on display—I can't figure out why! But there just aren't! I'm sure if I looked long enough I would've eventually found some. Nevertheless, I had to bite the bullet and go to a discount store where I paid \$8 each for three bras.

Then under the lights of Studio B at the station in Phoenix Host Tara Hitchcock and I made purses out of bras. Tara concocted a Southwestern-styled bag. She started with a black bra, added brown suede fringe and horse appliques. I created a bright, colorful purse starting with a purple bra, framing it with fluffy pink fringe and adorning it with sequined lips on one side and a butterfly on the other.

Okay, so it's not everyday we might see someone walking down the street with a purse made out of a bra. So, when I was trying to figure out what to do with the completed "purses" it hit me. Why not donate them to a worthy cause: breast cancer research? And coincidently a group had listed a garage sale on my web site with all the proceeds going to breast cancer research. Lisa Lamont listed the sale on my site and I asked her if she'd like to have the bra bags to sell at her event. Thankfully, she didn't laugh at me and hang up. In fact, she liked the idea. "I think it's a great way to raise funds for breast cancer. Making the bra purses is a good way to make people pay attention. Everything helps." Lisa, 43, is a member of a group of women in Tempe that call themselves "The Rack Pack". They're participating in other fundraiser's too, including the Breast Cancer 3-day, 60 mile walk in November. Lisa says she thinks the bra purses could be a fun craft project for her group, too. "You have to find humor when you look at breast cancer and the bra purses can add some laughter to the whole situation. I didn't realize how many people were affected (by breast cancer) until I started talking to people."

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women. The best way to help combat the disease head on is to detect it early through yearly mammograms, monthly self-breast exams and awareness. So go ahead get your bosom buddies together and turn some

spandex into a fun project that is sure to grab a lot of ..ah..support!

Go to [GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) and click on the crafts page for the simple directions on turning a bra into a purse. <http://www.GarageSaleGal.com>



TV Host Tara Hitchcock and Garage Sale Gal, Lynda Hammond, show off their “bra purses” during a recent segment on 3-TV’s Good Morning Arizona. They made the unique bags to help draw attention to breast cancer awareness. The bras will be sold or auctioned off by the “The Rack Pack”, a group of women in Tempe raising money for cancer research.

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Tell us a little bit about it. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who runs the website www.GarageSaleGal.com where you can list and look for garage sales on-line. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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