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Projects
Under
\$20

72 Ways to Revive Your Home

**Tiny Bath
Makeover**
(on a Budget!)

**Smart DIY
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Solutions**

**BANISH
BORING!**
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Accent Walls

**Updates for
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← Build a Bench
from Old Cabinets

Fall 2014
Vol. 21 / Issue 3

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on the cover Learn how to build your own comfy nook from kitchen cabinets. See page 60. photograph **ADAM ALBRIGHT**

find more!

Look to the Web
for other great DIY
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and must-try ideas.

1 Dresser, 4 Ways

See how four of our
favorite bloggers
put their own creative
spins on the same plain-
Jane IKEA dresser.

BHG.com/DresserHacks

Wow-Worthy Walls

Combine DIY art,
objects, and other
accents to create
statement-making
decor in your home.

BHG.com/DIYWallArt

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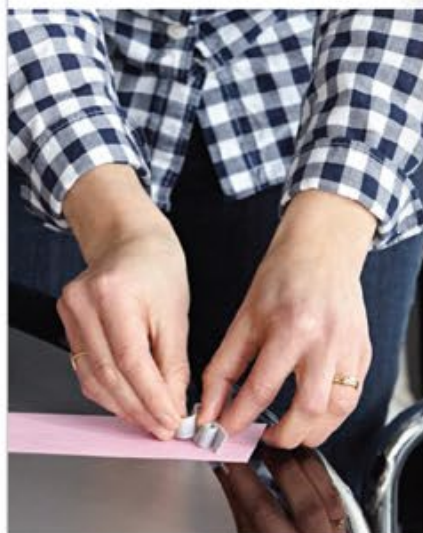
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editor's letter



Think felt is the stuff of grade school crafts bins? Think again! Amy Palanjian, author of *So Pretty! Felt: 24 Stylish Projects to Make with Felt* (Chronicle Books), shows Team DIY how to make lovely, modern felt necklaces during a recent crafternoon.



Chain of creativity

It doesn't take long browsing Etsy, Pinterest, or your local newsstand to find a macramé plant hanger, a cross-stitch tea towel, or a funky piece of string art. Even major retail stores (Target, West Elm, Urban Outfitters) have taken these techniques of yesteryear and updated them with fresh, modern style.

Skills that have been around for years never go away. Rather, they are reinterpreted by crafters and DIYers again and again, each time with new motifs or colorways, another link in a chain of dynamic craft that connects generations. Mother to daughter. Grandmother to granddaughter.

Recently, my beautiful, creative mom and I collaborated on a few pieces for her gallery wall of photos that chronicles our family tree. Walking the hallway, I see photos of one grandmother, who quietly instructed while I unraveled and restarted the same crochet stitches until I had a lumpy trivet, and another grandmother, who gave me embroidery needles and floss and showed me how to chain-stitch. Of my dad, who let me hold the drill while we built birdhouses. And of my mom, who put paint, clay, and the art of storytelling in front of her children and never worried about the mess.

The newest photo is of my baby daughter. I am in awe of her place in this line and grateful for the creative spirit she'll absorb and carry on—and especially, the things she'll teach the rest of us.

Bethany

Bethany Kohoutek,
Do It Yourself™ editor

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try it

shape shifters

Versatile crafts felt takes a starring role
in geometric accents that add practical beauty.

projects **JODI MENSING HARRIS** | photographs **STEVEN MCDONALD** | words **KELLY ROBERSON**



All the right angles

ABOVE: Felt comes in a range of thicknesses; thicker felt is more difficult to cut but is generally sturdier and smoother. This stylish catchall gets its structure from midweight 3-millimeter-thick felt. Download and print the octagon pattern from BHG.com/DIYFelt. Use packing tape on the underside to attach the pattern to the felt sheet (a). Cut out the felt shape using sharp scissors; notch each corner, stopping at the marked point on the pattern. Pinch the cut corners and sew using a straight stitch and matching thread (b).



Over and under

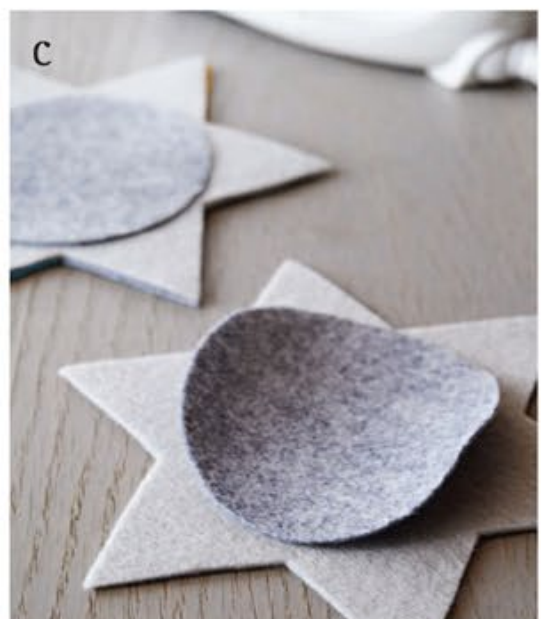
BELOW: Felt doesn't fray. We took advantage of this property by weaving strips of felt for a clean-lined lattice table runner that's simpler than it looks. Cut a 9-inch-wide piece of felt to your desired length and several 1½x10-inch strips for your lattice. Mark lines in disappearing ink the length of the runner 1½ inches apart. Using a crafts knife or a rotary cutter, cut strips in your runner along the lines, leaving a 1½-inch uncut border at both ends. Weave strips of felt into the runner (a), creating a pattern and leaving gaps between sections as desired. Pin the ends in place and sew around the runner ½ inch from the edge. Trim the excess at the strip ends. **TIP:** Felt quickly dulls implements, so sharpen scissors and change needles as needed.





The coast(er) is clear

LEFT: Dense wool felt—usually found on a bolt and purchased by the yard—is ideal for heavy-use items such as these sophisticated coasters. To make them, download and print the diamond, star, and circle patterns found at BHG.com/DIYFelt. Trace and cut out a star and circle from neutral-color felt and paper-backed fusible web, such as Wonder-Under. Apply the fusible web to the corresponding felt shapes. Cut diamonds from a variety of felt colors, using packing tape to hold the patterns in place (a). Remove the fusible web's paper backing from the star shape to expose the adhesive, and then fuse the diamonds in place on the star (b). Fuse the circle to the back of each coaster for added padding (c).



try it





On the move

OPPOSITE: Practical for kids, pretty enough for adults, this felt pencil roll is easily customized. To make one that holds 20 pencils, start with a 14x13½-inch piece of felt. Fold the bottom edge over ½ inch and stitch. Fold the bottom with the hem to the inside to form a 14x8½-inch roll; sew the sides using ½-inch seam allowances. Using a disappearing-ink pen, mark small, equal-size pockets for each pencil (a). Sew along each line, backstitching at the beginning and end of each row for added durability. To make a tie, sew a 9x1½-inch felt strip to the pencil roll edge (b).



Dot matrix

ABOVE: Regular crafts felt combines with thick felt pads for furniture feet to make this Pop Art-inspired rug. Cut out 36 felt circles in a variety of colors using one 3-inch-wide felt pad as a pattern. Attach the circles to the adhesive side of the felt pads. Arrange the circles in a pleasing grid pattern and flip them over so the protective pads are facing up. Cut strips of neutral-color ½-inch-wide cotton trim for each row to match the length and width of the rug. Attach the cotton trim to the felt pads using fabric glue (a); let dry 24–72 hours before using.

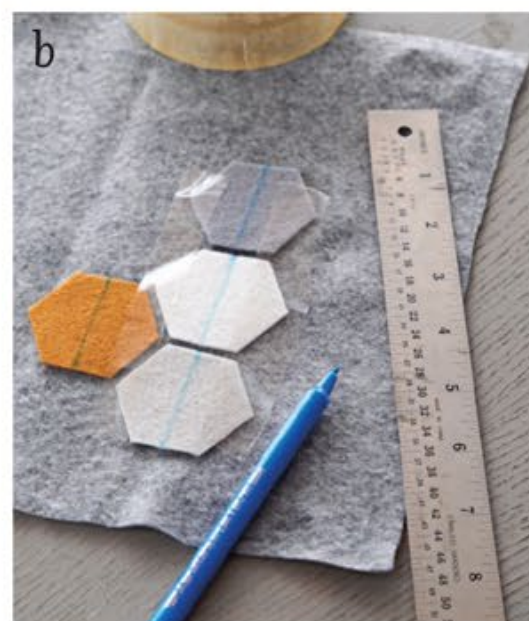
Special thanks to

The Felt Pod, thefeltpod.com; National Nonwovens, nationalnonwovens.com

Buzzworthy decor

OPPOSITE and BELOW: This honeycomb-inspired pillow comes together with a little machine stitching and simple hand sewing. Choose a pillow form size; ours measures 10×14 inches. Cut out two matching pieces of felt for the pillowcase, adding ½ inch to each side for a seam allowance. Using the hexagon pattern available at BHG.com/DIYFelt, cut out shapes in a variety of colors to create a pleasing design (a). Using packing tape or pins, attach the hexagon shapes to the pillow front, leaving the centers free and small gaps between each shape. Mark a seam line down the center of each row (b), and machine-stitch using neutral-color thread. With right sides together, sew the pillowcase, leaving a 5-inch gap on one side to insert the pillow form. Turn the pillowcase right side out, insert the pillow form, and whipstitch the opening closed with matching thread.

For Resources see page 110.



felt facts

There's so much more to felt than primary colors and flimsy rectangles. Today's felt is made from acrylic, wool, bamboo, or rayon blends and is sold off the bolt and by the sheet. It's also available in a variety of thicknesses, from 2 to 10 millimeters. If you can't find the right felt for your needs at local crafts or fabrics stores, hit the Web. Our favorite sources for beautiful felt include commonwealthfelt.com, purlsoho.com, and thefeltpod.com.



order in the house

hide & seek

It feels fantastic when belongings are neat and tidy. But when they're out of sight, it's pure delight!

words + styling **PAMELA PORTER**
photographs **JAY WILDE & MARTY BALDWIN**



Under cover A DIY fabric skirt attached with hook-and-loop tape conceals shelving on this unfinished table we painted white (\$116–\$160; readytorecover.com). The Casa Natural Wooden House (\$50; cb2.com) opens to reveal storage areas inside. And slide the nifty top on the sleek Matrix Keira Coffee Table (\$306; wayfair.com) to unveil a compartment to stash your favorite reading material.



Team DIY
Pamela Porter

Lidded baskets are my favorite organizing solution. They flaunt pretty texture, shape, and color, but these decorative accessories double as storage dynamos. The lids allow the baskets to be stacked on the floor, a shelf, or anywhere, but best of all, they conceal the contents.

Out of sight, out of mind. Finding ways to stow your stuff where you don't constantly see it helps you control clutter and stress less. Whether you carve out creative storage nooks or utilize ingenious products like these, challenge yourself to hide the heaps.



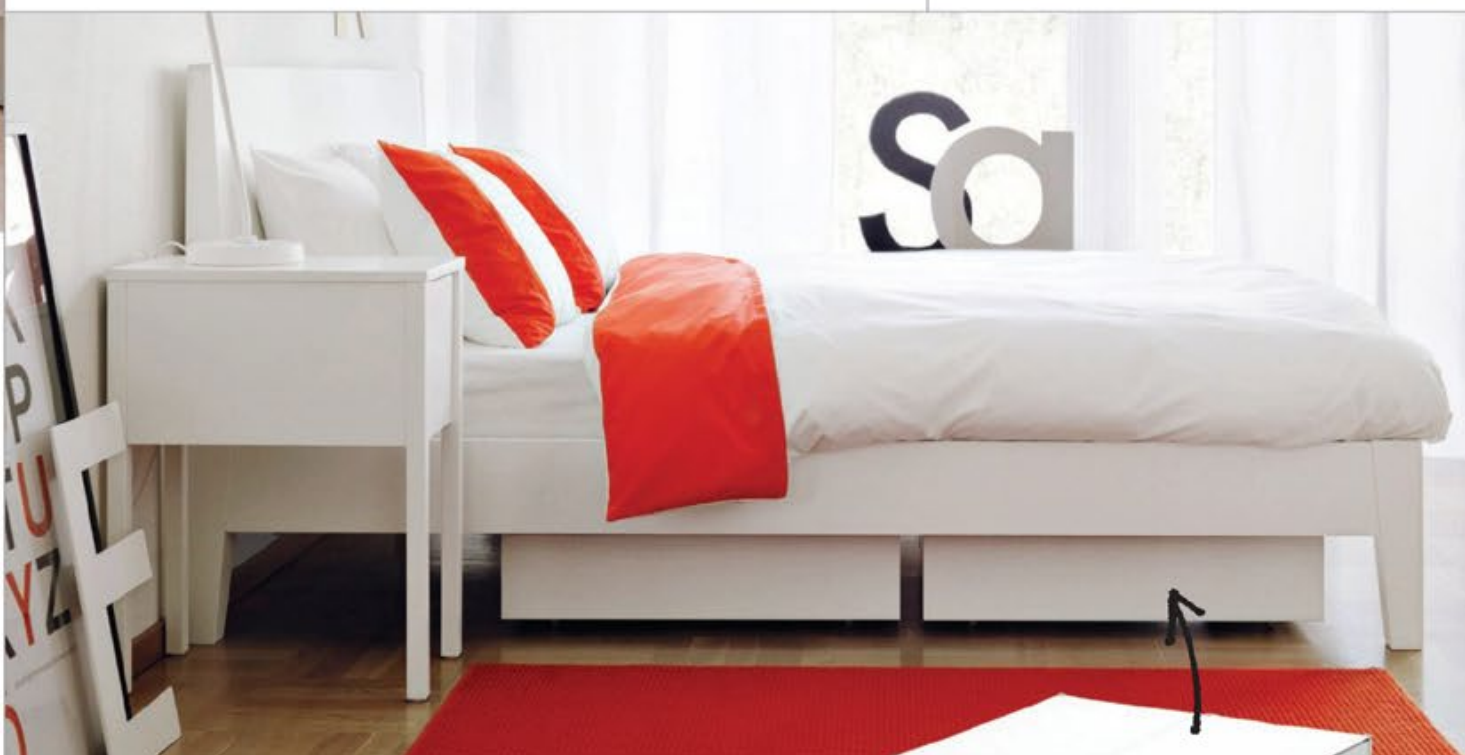
1. On the side Keep necessities close at hand yet out of sight with the Brimnes Headboard. Its hidden shelving eliminates the need for bedside tables. Holes in one shelf accommodate cables for a clock or for charging electronics. \$110 for queen size; add the coordinating queen bed frame with generous storage drawers for \$249; ikea.com



2. From cover to cover Handmade from discarded books, this bin will corral your much-loved clutter cleverly. Plus, a portion of the proceeds goes to the Books for Kids Foundation. \$73; ableandbaker.etsy.com



3. Piggy back This cabinet cleverly attaches to existing door hinges to offer large-capacity storage in small spaces. Try the award-winning design in a bath, kitchen, laundry, or craft room. \$199; grandinroad.com



4. Bunk mates The Vardo Underbed Storage Boxes use that empty space under the bed. They come in black or white and feature small casters for easy access. A fabric dust jacket on top snaps in place to keep contents clean. \$30 each; ikea.com.



order in the house



5. A shoe-in Not only does the Tanisha Grass Green Tufted Ottoman function as extra seating or a place to prop your feet, but inside you'll find a bonus—10 slots for shoe storage. \$174; overstock.com

7. Hang in there Perfect for a guest room or laundry room, Instahanger creates a foot of extra hanging space on walls or the back of a door but discreetly folds up when not in use. Customize with photos or artwork. \$45; instahanger.com



6. Drop zone

The space-saving Leo Desk from Holly & Martin is just 6 inches deep when mounted on the wall but converts to a smart working space when opened. Perfect for a laptop, homework, or quick craft, the compact desk even flaunts adjustable shelves and a corkboard. We customized ours with blue chalkboard vinyl. \$200; rakuten.com



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stuff we love



on our radar

Say so long to summer with a plethora of pretty projects, smart tools, and autumn-saluting ideas.

words **CHELSEA EVERS**
photographs **JAY WILDE**
styling **BRIAN KRAMER**

Strung up

Craft pom-poms and string them into garlands. Kit includes plastic pom-pom maker, two balls of wool, and a plastic sewing needle. \$15; macaroonkids.etsy.com

Best buds

Show off your best blooms with a 3-inch flower-arranging frog that screws onto any standard-size canning jar. \$6 per frog; reproduction Mason jars start at \$13; piperclassics.com



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1. Get in shape
Available in chevron, scallop, and wave versions, precut Shape Tape adheres easily and removes without sticky residue. PaintBlock adhesive technology ensures crisp lines when creating intricate painted designs. About \$15 per roll; frogtape.com

2. Rescue plan
Revamp weathered wood decks and concrete patios with this restorative acrylic coating. The waterproof, barefoot-friendly finish fills splits and cracks up to 1/4-inch deep. \$35 per gallon, \$100 per 3 gallons; olympic.com

3. Say cheese
The Konstruktor kit gives you everything you need to build a working 35 mm camera in about 90 minutes. Punch out the plastic pieces, assemble with a screwdriver, customize with stickers, load with film, and start snapping pics. \$35; lomography.com

4. Door decor
Herald autumnal charms with a custom wreath made from this kit. Wrap more than 3 yards of burlap around a wire frame, then embellish with handmade roses and an optional ribbon hanger and monogram. \$30 (18-inch wreath), \$45 (23-inch wreath); woulfscreations.etsy.com

5. Double duty
Spend less time on projects with Dual Superbond, a two-in-one paint and primer. The high-adhesion formula makes paint stick to slick surfaces. Available in 24 colors, the paint works well on metal, wood, laminate, concrete, plastic, melamine, and more. \$5-\$6; krylon.com



5

6



7



9



6. Precise slice

Make detailed cuts on paper, cloth, and chipboard with this precision knife. An ergonomic finger-loop handle and textured grip ensure comfortable, controlled use. Replace dull blades with a simple twist of the handle. \$6; fiskars.com

7. Better leather

Make wearable items and home accents from Kraft-Tex, a fiber-based material that looks and feels like leather but cuts and washes like fabric. Available in white, black, and natural, the material can be sewn, folded, and even run through an ink-jet printer. \$13 for 1½-yard roll; ctpub.com

8. In a bind

Stitch up a sweet storybook ending with this bind-it-yourself bookmaking kit. The 48-page finished product features an exposed spine and colorful dividers. Request paper and string combos for a truly custom creation. \$18; iglooletterpress.etsy.com

9. Swift cleanup

Keep those pesky leaves from sticking to rake tines with this clog-free version from True Temper. The patented head and extra-long cushioned handle mean you can spend less time manicuring your yard. \$16 for 30-inch-wide rake; amestruetemper.com



10



11



12

13



14

10. Crochet way

Cottage and industrial styles combine in Yael Falk's crocheted wire lampshades. Finished lights start about \$230, but you can make your own with a kit, including video instructions, copper wire, a spool starter, a crochet hook, and a brass light socket. \$69; yoola.etsy.com

11. Pour & store

Quickly and cleanly fill regular and wide-mouth jars with salsa, applesauce, or jelly when you use this no-mess canning funnel. The dishwasher-safe tool features a headspace gauge to prevent overfilling. \$9; lehmanns.com

12. Seal appeal

Painlessly repair driveways, sidewalks, and concrete walls with these quick fixes. Seal cracks up to 1/2-inch wide with sanded acrylic latex Concrete Repair, or mend larger cracks in horizontal surfaces with the latex emulsion Concrete Crack Seal. \$2 each; quikrete.com

13. Green chic

This salvage-savvy book will make you think twice about buying new. It's chock-full of creative projects like a backsplash made from bottle caps, candleholders from bedsprings, and even a shipping crate-turned-guest room. \$35; books.wwnorton.com

14. Your way

Stop struggling to find the perfect wallcovering and try manufacturing your own. This self-adhesive paper ships ready to take on ink, paint, stain, or crayon. Good news for renters—it's removable, too. \$56 for a 33-foot roll; cb2.com



15

16



17

18



15. Wise whimsy

This woodland-inspired embroidery kit includes four hoops, seven shades of floss, fabric, needles, and a stitching guide—everything you need to create a whole parliament of oh-so-cute owls. \$49; dioramatist.etsy.com

16. Stuck up

The quintessential sticky note gets a modern makeover with this smart strip variation. At 400 inches long, the fully adhesive Post-It Roll can instantly label files, office supplies, pantry shelves, and more. \$5–\$7; shop3m.com

17. Solid sprouts

House succulents or herbs in this hip hexagon planter. Just mix a small batch of concrete inside the paper mold and let it air-dry overnight. Spice up your life by planting the included chive seeds. \$15; uncommongoods.com

18. That's a wrap

Annoying extension cords be gone! The three-outlet Prop Power Cord eliminates the "just out of reach" problem while working with power tools and lights. Wrap the flexible gooseneck around a ladder, table leg, or sawhorse for easy power access. \$20; quirky.com

what to do with PVC



pipe dreams

Turn inexpensive PVC pipe into totally tubular organizers and artwork.

projects **CATHY KRAMER** | photographs **KRITSADA** | words **HEIDI PALKOVIC**



Kitchen catchall

OPPOSITE: This countertop kitchen utensil organizer is made from an assemblage of segments cut from 2-, 2½-, and 3½-inch-diameter PVC pipes. **LEFT:** Using a compound miter saw, we cut the pieces to 4, 6, and 8 inches long and cut one end of each piece at a 45-degree angle. To remove the lettering and degloss the pipe, we wiped the pipe sides with mineral spirits before spraying them with primer. (Skip the primer if you choose a spray paint that will adhere directly to plastic.) After spraying the pipe with metallic paint, we glued the flat ends of the cut pieces to a painted wood base using PVC cement.



cutting edge

If you don't have a miter saw, try a hacksaw with a miter box, which allows you to cut the pipe at an angle. Smooth the cut edges with sandpaper before painting.

what to do with PVC



Shoe department

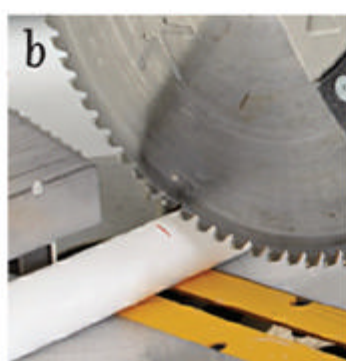
THIS PHOTO: Tame shoe clutter under a bench with cubbies made from PVC pipes. We cut 6-inch-diameter pipe into 12-inch lengths using a compound miter saw. Because of the pipe's large diameter, we cut halfway through the pipe from one side and then completed the cut on the other side. After a quick cleaning with mineral spirits, we prepped the pipe with primer and finished it with a coat of spray paint. You can wedge the pipes to fit into a space, such as between the legs of a bench, or use PVC cement to hold the pieces together.





Seeing circles

LEFT: Three-dimensional abstract art is easy when you use dyed slices of PVC pipe as your medium. **TIP:** When cutting thin pipe slices with a miter saw, always leave enough pipe to hold safely. With a little planning, leftovers are great for other projects, such as the kitchen utensil organizer on page 26 or the shoe organizer, opposite.



how to make pipe art

What you'll need:

- PVC pipes ranging from 1 inch to 5 inches in diameter
- Mineral spirits and clean rags
- Miter saw
- Clear PVC cleaner
- PVC stain dye in desired colors

(We used Rekhaoil liquid dye concentrate.)

- Rubber gloves
- Metal paint pan
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint in desired colors
- Artist's canvas
- PVC cement

step 1 Gather your supplies. Using a clean cloth (a), wipe PVC pipe with mineral spirits to remove lettering and degloss the pipe. Cut pipe into ½- to 2-inch-long pieces using a hacksaw or compound miter saw (b).

step 2 Following manufacturer's instructions for ratios and wearing gloves, mix a small amount of clear PVC cleaner with PVC stain dye. Pour mixture into a metal paint pan. Dip the PVC pieces into the dye, rolling the pieces in the solution to coat all surfaces. Remove after 15 seconds and let dry on a rag or paper. Repeat the process a few times so the PVC has a watercolor look. Let dry.

step 3 Using acrylic paint, dry-brush random strokes of color onto the artist's canvas. Let dry.

step 4 Apply PVC cement to back of a dyed PVC slice and attach it to the painted canvas as desired. Continue adhering segments to the canvas, placing smaller diameter segments inside larger segments and layering pipe slices as desired.



stain source
To purchase, search for "Rekhaoil PVC stain dye" on eBay. A little goes a long way. Work in a well-ventilated area when using the product.

what to do with PVC



Sort it out

RIGHT: A PVC laundry sorter brings order to lights and darks. We fit lengths of PVC pipe into a 36x20x30-inch box shape using elbows at the corners and tees for the side supports, then used hook-and-loop tape to fasten the laundry bag tabs over the top horizontal supports.



how to make a laundry sorter

What you'll need:

- Twelve 17½-inch lengths of 1-inch-diameter PVC pipe
- Six 26½-inch lengths of 1-inch-diameter PVC pipe
- Eight 1-inch 90-degree PVC side outlet elbows
- Four 1-inch 90-degree PVC tees
- Wiping cloth
- Mineral spirits
- PVC cement
- Plastic primer
- Spray paint

step 1 Gather your supplies (a). Using a cloth, wipe each piece of PVC pipe with mineral spirits to remove the lettering and to degloss the pipe. Allow to dry.

step 2 Dry-fit PVC pipes to create the rectangular box shape, using the 17½-inch-long pieces for the horizontal

supports and the 26½-inch-long pieces for the vertical supports. Join the pieces using elbows at the corners and tees at the centers of the side supports (b).

step 3 Working one joint at a time, remove an elbow or tee and apply a thick layer of PVC cement to the inside of the fitting (c). Push a length of pipe into the opening, and wipe away any excess PVC cement if necessary. Repeat until all pieces have been cemented together and allow the cement to dry.

step 4 Spray PVC framework with plastic primer and spray paint, allowing to dry between coats (d).

step 5 Sew the laundry bags using instructions at BHG.com/DIYLaundryBag and insert into PVC framework using hook-and-loop tabs.

Door duty

THIS PHOTO: Keep tools and tape tidy with this back-of-the-door organizer. We drilled holes along two 18-inch lengths of PVC pipe to accommodate screwdrivers and pliers and to allow for the insertion of eyebolts to hold S hooks. (Clean pipes with mineral spirits, prime, and spray paint before inserting eyebolts.) We assembled the tape holder using four 4-inch lengths of PVC pipe and three tee connectors for the vertical support and three 6-inch lengths and caps for the tape supports. To hang from a door, use industrial strength hook-and-loop tape.

For Resources see page 110.

Special thanks to:
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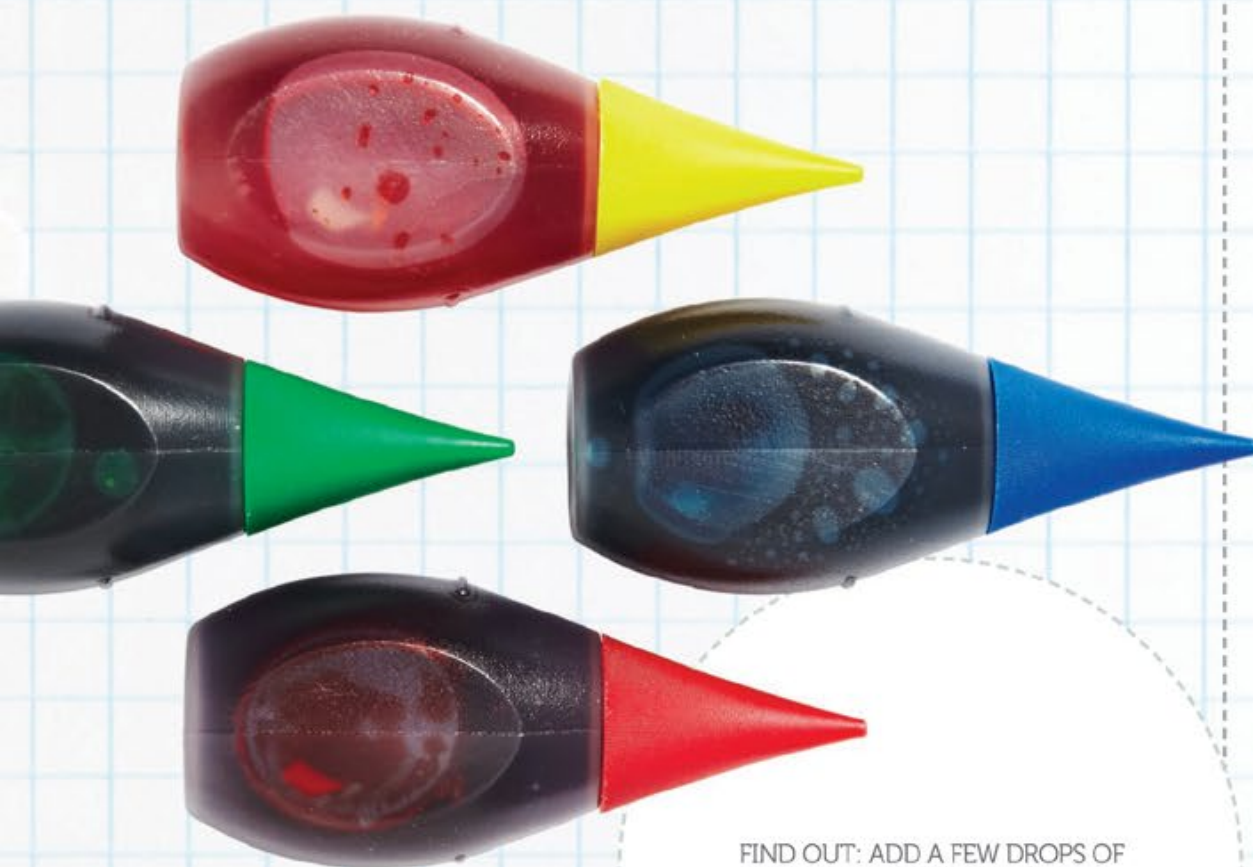
myoldmasters.com
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DIY Q&A

handy girl

Got a simple issue in the bath? Our DIY diva doles out advice on how to give it a shot yourself before calling a pro and racking up an expensive bill.

words JENNIFER WILSON



FIND OUT: ADD A FEW DROPS OF FOOD COLORING TO THE TANK OF YOUR TOILET, THEN WAIT 15 MINUTES. IF YOU SEE DYE IN THE TOILET BOWL, YOUR FLAPPER NEEDS TO BE REPLACED. (FLUSH QUICKLY TO AVOID STAINING YOUR TOILET.)



DEAR HANDY GIRL,
My toilet has been running nonstop, and I have a giant water bill to prove it. Do I have to get a plumber involved to fix it?

DEAR READER,

You're smart to address this issue quickly. The American Water Works Association says a running toilet can leak 1 gallon of water per minute—up to 1,440 gallons per day!

Most toilet leaks are caused by an old rubber flapper—the gatekeeper inside the tank that allows a certain amount of water into the bowl when you flush. It's an easy DIY fix.

Start by shutting off the water valve to the toilet and removing the tank lid. Flush, holding the lever down until all the water drains from the tank. Soak up the last of it with a towel. Remove the old flapper (most clip off) and find a replacement model at the hardware store.

Depending on the type of flapper, the valve seat (the place where the flapper sits to form a seal) may need replacement, too. Be sure the valve seat is clean and smooth—the new seal will be bad if it's uneven, *above*. Attach the new flapper to its hinge and the chain to the flush handle arm. The flapper should lift and drop into place smoothly. You may need to adjust the length of the chain connecting the flapper to the flush arm handle to be sure your flapper lifts enough to drain the tank and then seals completely when it drops.

DID YOU KNOW? AN OLD TOILET CAN USE UP TO 6 GALLONS PER FLUSH. WHEN REPLACING, LOOK FOR A WATERSENSE-CERTIFIED MODEL THAT USES 1.28 GALLONS PER FLUSH OR LESS.



DUNK IT SOAK YOUR PUMICE STONE IN WATER BEFORE SCRUBBING RUST TO AVOID SCRATCHING THE PORCELAIN.

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

So gross: With all the rust stains, my porcelain tub never looks clean. Do I have to get the whole tub resurfaced?

DEAR READER,

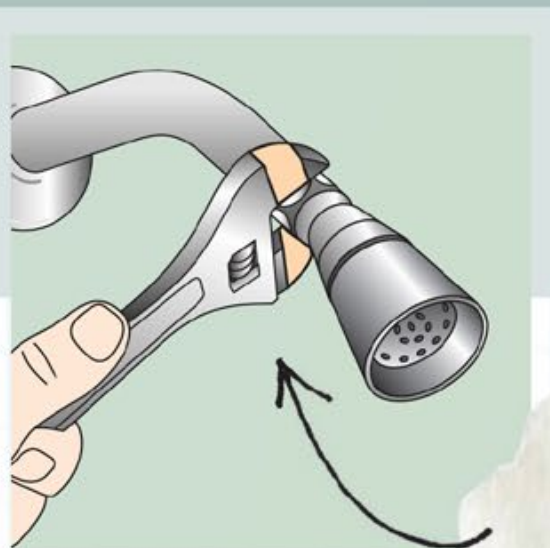
For a simple rust stain, you probably don't. Wet the stained area and then rub it with a pumice stone (yep, the same kind you use on your footies). Now, apply a thick coat of natural cleaning paste (3:1 baking soda and vinegar). Let it sit for a while, up to an hour if you have time, then scrub it with a coarse sponge. That ought to do the trick.

WATERSENSE-CERTIFIED SHOWERHEADS USE 2 GALLONS PER MINUTE OR LESS. THE CONTEMPORARY HAND SHOWER FROM DELTA HAS EIGHT SPRAY SETTINGS AND SCREWS ONTO AN EXISTING SHOWER ARM (\$99; DELTAFAUCET.COM)



DEAR HANDY GIRL,

We're trying to be more eco-friendly and wanted to change our showerhead to one of the low-flow types. Is it easy?



DEAR READER,

It might be as easy as calling your local energy provider for a home audit (see what's available in your area at energystar.gov/homeperformance). Along with great advice, they deliver free goodies, including a low-flow showerhead sometimes. In some locations, they'll even install it for you. If not, you'll need an adjustable wrench and thread-seal tape. Turn the old showerhead counterclockwise with the wrench, making sure the shower arm doesn't turn inside the wall. Next, remove the existing thread-seal tape or sealing compound and wrap new tape around the shower arm threads. Screw on the new showerhead by turning it clockwise until it's tight.

PROTECT IT APPLY MASKING TAPE TO YOUR WRENCH BEFORE INSTALLING YOUR NEW SHOWERHEAD TO PREVENT SCRATCHES.

DEAR HANDY GIRL, Ick! My grout is gross. Can I clean it, or do I need to replace that stuff? Either way: How?

DEAR READER,

You can try cleaning several methods (see “Dirty Grout?,” below), and I’ve had mixed results with all of them. It depends on how stubborn your stains are. For each method, test a spot in an inconspicuous area to ensure the mixture doesn’t damage your tile. If you have natural stone tile, such as marble, avoid acidic cleaners. For extra scrubbing power, I like using an old electric toothbrush to clean grout lines.

If one of the cleaning methods doesn’t work, take a cue from home blogger Sherry Petersik of *younghouselove.com*, who became frustrated after nothing worked on her dirty grout. Sherry used a grout refinishing product called Polyblend Grout Renew, which you simply paint onto the grout and let dry.

“I’ll just skip to the punch line: It worked amazingly well, and my grout looks brand new,” Sherry says. “I only wish I’d tried it before spending six months scrubbing my mind out.”

Of course, this all assumes your grout is worth keeping. If it’s a crumbling mess (but your tile is still in good shape), you should replace it. Here’s how:

STEP 1: Visit a tile or home store to buy or rent a tool for removing grout—options depend on

the size of your job, from power devices to an inexpensive manual tool that looks like a little trowel. Talk to the staff to figure out which is best in your situation.

STEP 2: Run the tool along the grout lines (careful with the surrounding tile), then clean out the debris with a toothbrush. Wash the surface to remove all dust. Let the surface dry completely. Note: If the grout was colored and you want to achieve a similar look, save old chips to match with grout samples at the tile dealer.

STEP 3: Mix dry grout with latex additive instead of water to make it stickier and more water resistant. Mix with a margin trowel in a plastic container.

STEP 4: Apply the grout with a rubber grout float, forcing the grout into the joints. Remove excess grout immediately by sweeping the edge of the float diagonally across the joints.

STEP 5: Let dry until the grout resists denting with your thumbnail, then scrub the tiles with a damp sponge. Wipe the remaining haze from the tile with clean, damp cotton rags.

STEP 6: Mist the grout several times a day for three days, then seal the grout with a penetrating sealer.



Visit BHG.com/CleanGrout to watch a video on various grout-cleaning tips.

**DIRTY
GROUT?
TRY ONE
OF THESE
METHODS
FOR MAKING
IT LOOK AS
GOOD AS
NEW.**



Mix a bleach solution ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup bleach to 1 gallon water) and scrub with a toothbrush.



Make a natural cleaning paste (2:1 baking soda and water). Sub vinegar for water for extra oomph, but avoid using it on natural stone.



Scrub grout with a melamine foam block. Brillo’s Erase & Wipe is nontoxic and contains a sponge on one side. \$2.29; brillo.com



Available in 12 shades, Polyblend Grout Renew is a colorant and sealer that you can apply to stained grout. \$12; homedepot.com



Dap’s Kwik Seal Grout Recolor Kit includes a pre-treater, color/sealer (in white or almond), and a brush. About \$25; dap.com

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

I love my retro pink bathroom, but some of the ceramic floor tiles are broken. Is there a way to replace them, or do I have to replace all the tile? I'd hate to lose the original vintage vibe.

IF YOU HAVE JUST ONE SMALL BROKEN TILE, NOT IN THE SHOWER OR ANOTHER VERY WET AREA, TRY THIS QUICK FIX. REMOVE THE GROUT AROUND THE TILE. CHIP AWAY AT THE TILE UNTIL IT'S REMOVED. IF NECESSARY, DRILL A HOLE WITH A MASONRY BIT TO GET IT STARTED. GLUE THE NEW TILE IN PLACE WITH HEAVY-DUTY CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE, SUCH AS LIQUID NAILS. LET DRY. APPLY NEW GROUT.



DEAR READER,

You can replace what's broken if you have matching tile. Check your basement (previous homeowners generally leave such things behind). If not, check home store websites or specialty sites such as *retrorenovation.com*.

Then follow these steps:

REMOVE the surrounding grout with a grout saw or rotary tool (a).

SCORE the tile from edge to edge with a carbide scoring tool and straightedge (b). Repeat these passes until the score is at least 1/16-inch deep. Create another score line that intersects the first one.

STRIKE the center of the tile at the intersection of the score lines with a point punch (you'll want to wear goggles).

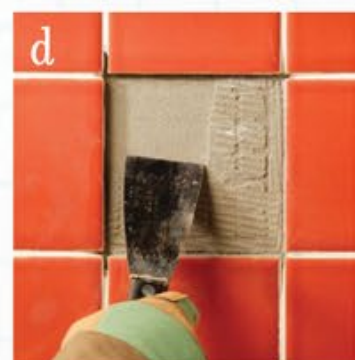
BREAK up the tile with a hammer and cold chisel (c), striking along the scored lines. With a bricklayer's chisel, remove enough old adhesive to make room for new thinset (d).

SPREAD and comb the thinset on the area. Use the minimum amount required to wet the area and comb with a 1/4x1/4-inch square-notch trowel.

BUTTER the replacement tile with the minimum amount of mortar required to wet the surface (you want the tile to lay flat).

SET the new tile and wiggle it into place. Tap it down with a flat board and mallet or hammer (e). Remove the excess thinset that squeezes into the joints.

GROUT the joints. After 15 minutes, wipe away all the cloudy residue on the tile (f). Mist the grout for three days and then apply penetrating sealer.

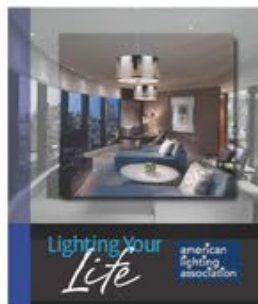


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drill team

Easy to use and simple to store, cordless drills are essential in any do-it-yourselfer's toolbox. Find the model that's right for you.

words **BRITTANY BUNGERT**



1 Ryobi 12V Compact Lithium-Ion Drill (HJP003K)
ryobitools.com
 \$69

WEIGHT: 1.5 pounds
MAX TORQUE: 110 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: LED work light, 3/8-inch keyless chuck, bit holder
COMES WITH: Two lithium-ion batteries, charger, tool bag
WHAT WE LOVE: The light weight, ergonomic grip, and budget-friendly price make this a great entry-level drill.

2 Black & Decker 20V Max Lithium 3/8" Drill Driver with Autosense (BDCDE120C)
blackanddecker.com
 \$80

WEIGHT: 2.6 pounds
MAX TORQUE: 149 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: 3/8-inch chuck, battery holds charge for up to 18 months, LED light, bit holder
COMES WITH: One lithium-ion battery, charger
WHAT WE LOVE: Autosense ensures the drill "knows" to stop driving screws when they're flush with the work surface.

3 Skil 18V Lithium-Ion Cordless Drill Driver (2898LI-02)
skiltools.com
 \$93

WEIGHT: 3 pounds

MAX TORQUE: 400 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: On-tool bit storage, side-assist handle, 1/2-inch keyless chuck
COMES WITH: Lithium-ion battery, charger, double-ended bit, carrying bag
WHAT WE LOVE: An adjustable clutch controls the drill's power, while a built-in level ensures proper handling.

4 Makita 12V Max Lithium Ion Cordless 3/8" Driver Drill Kit (FD02W)
makitatools.com
 \$99

WEIGHT: 2.2 pounds
MAX TORQUE: 200 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: LED light, ergonomic shape, 3/8-inch chuck
COMES WITH: Two lithium-ion batteries, charger, tool case, tool holster, double-ended bit
WHAT WE LOVE: The streamlined battery makes it easy to handle, and the charger is Energy Star-certified.

5 Craftsman C3 Compact 1/2" Drill Kit (17560X)
craftsman.com
 \$130

WEIGHT: 3.75 pounds
MAX TORQUE: 340 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: One hour charge time, bubble level, built-in

bit storage, 1/2-inch chuck
COMES WITH: Two lithium-ion batteries, charger, bag, drill bit
WHAT WE LOVE: The charger runs a diagnostic check that keeps batteries operating at peak performance.

6 Bosch Max EC Brushless Lithium Ion 3/8" Drill/Driver (PS32-02 12V)
boschtools.com
 \$159

WEIGHT: 2 pounds
MAX TORQUE: 265 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: 3/8-inch keyless chuck, brushless motor, bit holder
COMES WITH: Two lithium-ion batteries, charger, case
WHAT WE LOVE: The 6 1/2-inch head length fits in tight locations.

7 Rockwell 20V Brushless Drill-Driver (RK285K2)
rockwelltools.com
 \$180

WEIGHT: 3.7 pounds
MAX TORQUE: 531 inch-pound
KEY FEATURES: 1/2-inch metal chuck, brushless motor
COMES WITH: Two lithium-ion batteries, charger, double-ended bit, storage bag
WHAT WE LOVE: Rockwell offers free lifetime replacement for batteries.

drills, decoded

Before you commit to a cordless drill, take it for a test drive and consider these features to find the one that's right for you.

Size it up The size of the chuck (the place where the bit is inserted in the drill) dictates the diameter of the bits that will fit with the drill. While a 3/8-inch chuck will work just fine for most DIY projects, a drill with a 1/2-inch chuck may be better for heavy-duty drilling.

Power through Lower-voltage tools generally produce less torque than higher-voltage models, but they're often more compact. Consider the projects you may be doing to decide how much power is right for you.

Feel the charge Most cordless tools use lithium-ion battery technology. If you plan to add more power tools to your arsenal, consider sticking with one manufacturer. The battery packs often work in multiple tools from the same line.

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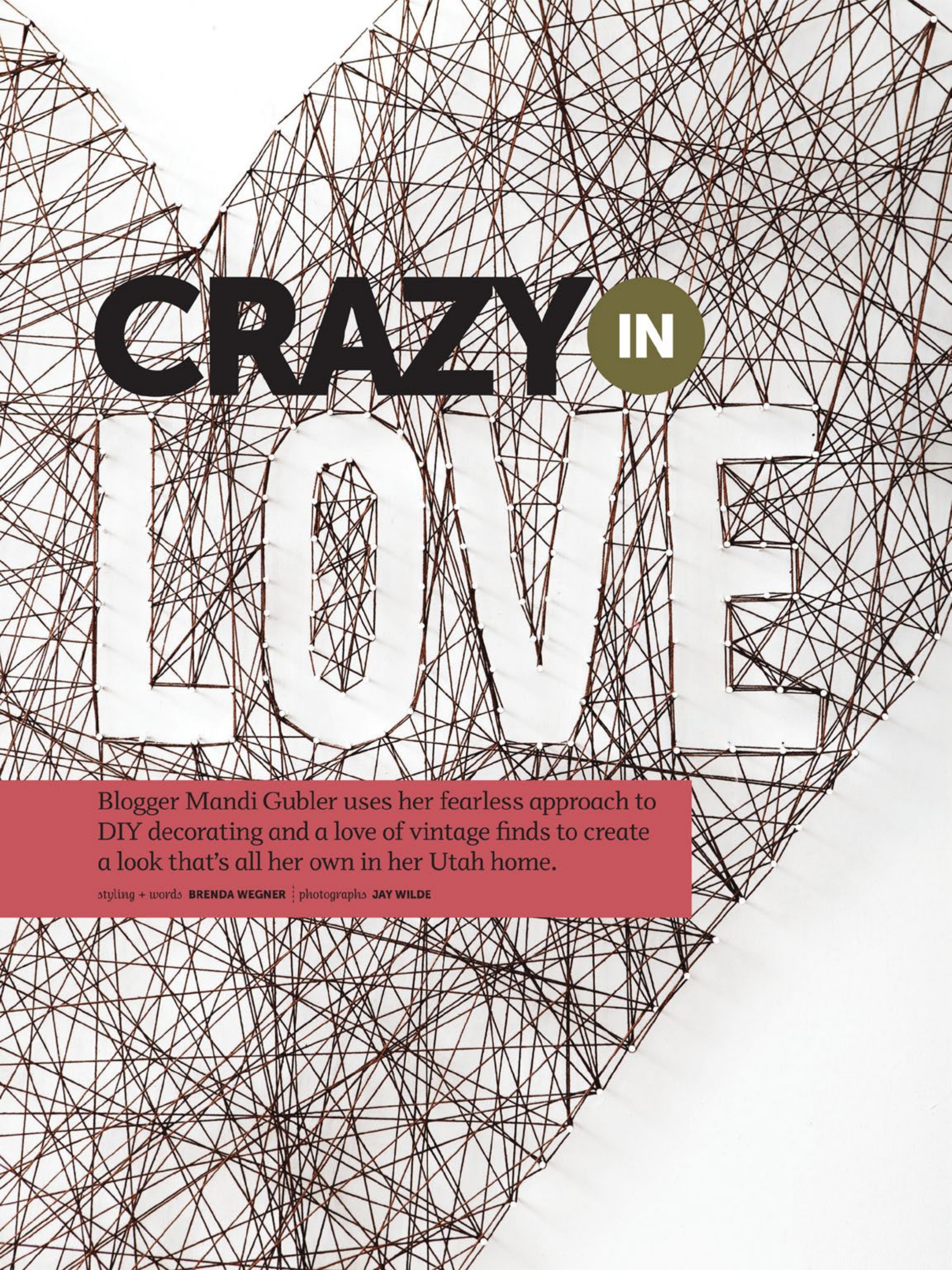
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CRAZY IN

Blogger Mandi Gubler uses her fearless approach to DIY decorating and a love of vintage finds to create a look that's all her own in her Utah home.

styling + words **BRENDA WEGNER** | photographs **JAY WILDE**



What she did...

THIS PHOTO: Homeowner Mandi Gubler's living room showcases her masterful mix of vintage finds and DIY projects. The sofa she bought from a friend is next to a wall she "wallpapered" using a marker.

OPPOSITE: Mandi's creative dexterity is on display in the string art that serves as the focal point of the gallery wall in her living room.

Four years ago, Mandi Gubler had never used a jigsaw. Or made a light fixture. And certainly not built furniture from scratch.

Jump to 2014: Mandi's blog, *Vintage Revivals* (vintagerevivals.com), which chronicles her do-it-yourself projects and flea market adventures, is awarded the Readers' Choice title in the DIY category in the *Better Homes and Gardens*® blogger awards. Fans fell for her indefatigable spirit for updating the St. George, Utah, home she shares with husband Courtney and daughters Ivie and Dylan.

"I fearlessly jumped in with both feet. I think that's one of the reasons my readers are so wonderful and responsive," she says. "They know I'm teaching them things that I'm also learning along the way."

In the early days, she often asked for Courtney's help using a saw or drill. Now she completes nearly all of the manual labor herself. Mandi has painted concrete floors, crafted furniture from copper pipe and metal conduit pipe, built a sliding door, painted artwork, sewn pillows, constructed new wood shutters for her home, stenciled walls, made an area rug, updated dressers, added pattern to her ceilings, installed board and batten. *Vintage Revivals* details (and offers tutorials for) the more than 200 DIY projects Mandi now has under her tool belt.

These days, she and Courtney still collaborate, but it is often during the design stages. Not that she struggles to come up with new ideas: "I see something that will spark an idea and it snowballs from there. I don't sit and fret and wonder. I just jump in and try it, and if it doesn't work, I try something else."

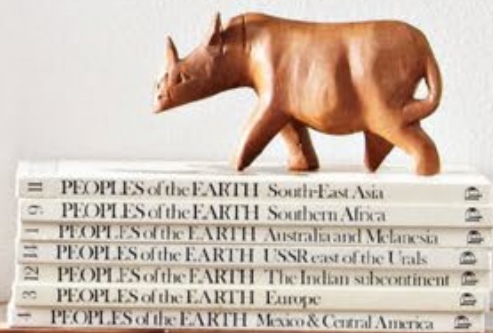
Her fearless attitude has had another positive side effect. In addition to their adorably decorated rooms, the couple's daughters are absorbing their mother's bold creativity. "One thing I didn't realize I was teaching my girls is that when they want something, they try to figure it out," Mandi says. When Ivie and Dylan recently ran out of materials in the middle of a project, they mixed clear paint with puffy paint and resumed the job. "I'm really grateful they get to see the trial and error process," Mandi says.



What she did...

Mandi's color theory in room planning meant she needed a white wall to balance the bold orange sofa in the living room. Unwilling to leave the wall completely white, however, she came up with what she calls "DIY custom wallpaper without the paper, or the cost, or the mess for that matter." She used Sharpie Paint Markers and a straightedge to create the pattern on the wall.





What she did...

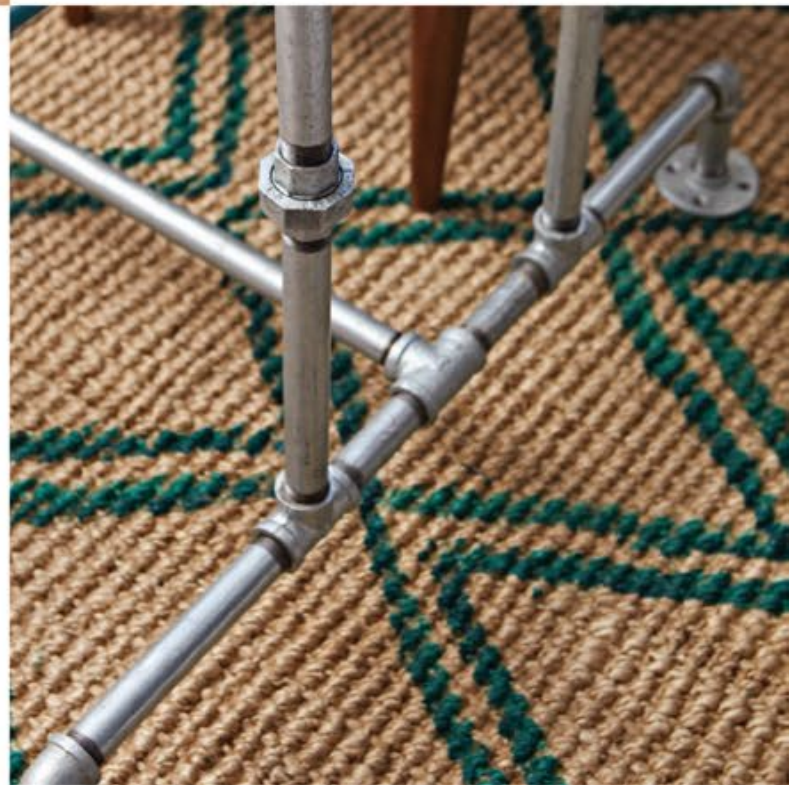
OPPOSITE: A love of built-ins but limited space was the inspiration behind the industrial modern floating shelves Mandi constructed from wood and plexiglass. **BELOW:** Most items on the shelves are thrift store finds. Mandi made the "Love Your Guts" (a term of endearment she often uses) gold leaf artwork. **RIGHT:** The trim on the window near her desk is painted black. Mandi calls it mascara for windows. **BOTTOM:** Inspired by a Restoration Hardware light fixture, Mandi made her version with wood dowels and an Edison bulb to hang in the living room.



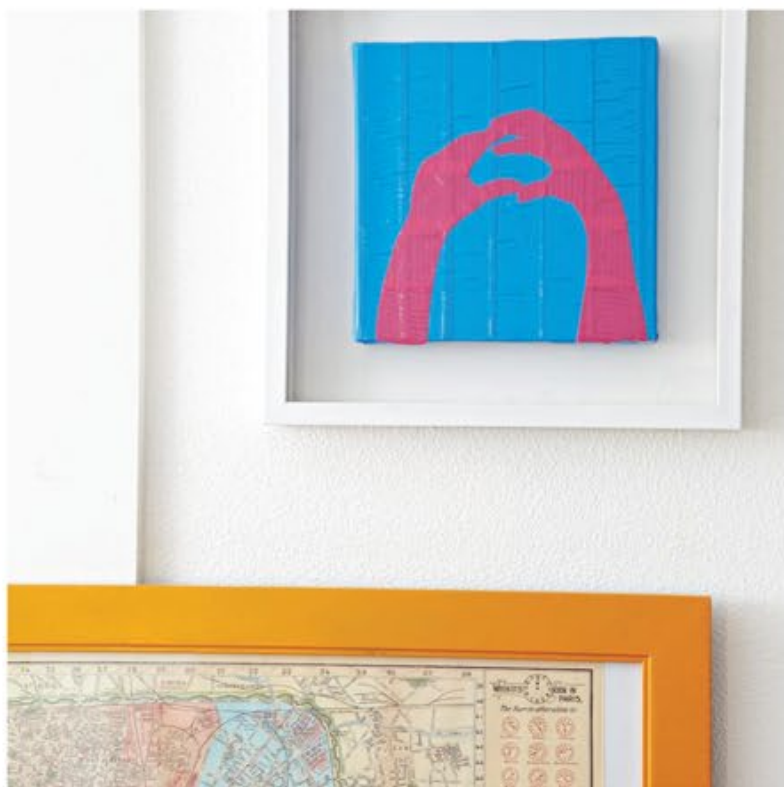
What she did...

THIS PHOTO: In the entry, a purple spray-painted chandelier hangs from the herringbone-pattern ceiling. Mandi designed the bicycle image and had a friend paint it onto five pieces of plywood that hang above a vintage cabinet. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The perfect mix of retro and industrial elements yields a DIY pipe sconce and floating shelf. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT:** Mandi created this terrarium with concrete in the bottom and paint marker embellishments. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT:** A handmade table sits atop a jute rug Mandi painted to mimic more expensive versions she'd seen in catalogs. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** For the table, Mandi scored a glass top on Craigslist. She had the pipe for the base cut and threaded at a home improvement store. Against the glass-and-metal table, midcentury chairs offer color and warmth.









What she did...

OPPOSITE: To add architectural interest, Mandi paneled and painted accent walls in the master bedroom. The headboard for the king-size bed is made from two twin-size wicker headboards joined with clear fishing line. **LEFT:** Mandi made silhouettes of each family member's hands with colored masking tape. Daughter Dylan's is her favorite because Dylan was trying to make a heart. **BELOW:** The coffee table in the bedroom lounge area is a plant stand Mandi found at a yard sale topped with a cutting board. **BELOW LEFT:** A painted pink stripe on the center of a midcentury dresser updates the piece with minimal cost and effort.





What she did...

OPPOSITE: In Ivie's room, the faux-bois painted concrete floors, orange triangle stencil on the wall, and yellow cuckoo clock added enough color that Mandi embraced her love of wood and left the dresser unpainted. **BELOW:** Mandi turned a lantern into a ceiling light fixture with a little "surgery" and spray paint. **RIGHT:** Ivie loves her colorful room, including the headboard Mandi made from vintage fabric. Stain and tape created the desk's faux butcher-block top. **BOTTOM:** "As a parent, all I want is for my girls to be happy. Not the kind of immediate fleeting happiness that we seem to chase after, but happiness in your core," Mandi says of her inspiration for the artwork made from plexiglass and frosted-glass spray paint.

For Resources see page 110.





Start collecting!

For natural dyeing, round up everything you need from the garden, farmer's market, and pantry plus a crafts or fabrics store. Common fruits, flowers, leaves, and other botanicals yield vibrant colors for dyeing materials such as wood beads, paper cups, fabrics, and other fibers.



it's only natural

Use nature's amazing color palette to create beautiful dyes from plants.

words + projects **KATE CARTER FREDERICK** | photographs **JAY WILDE**

Natural dyeing is an adventure in alchemy that takes you from gathering garden plants to crafting finished projects. Botanical dyes work on natural materials—paper, wood, and fibers galore, including cotton, linen, wool, silk, and hemp fabrics, yarns,

and trims. We've simplified a few dyeing methods—cold dye baths, hot dye baths, and hammering. Before you begin, read “Dyeing 1, 2, 3” on page 55 for helpful tips.



Pink flowers & leaves = Pink

Blackberries = Purple

Turmeric = Yellow



METHOD: COOL DYE

PROJECT: MULTICOLOR WOOD BEADS

What you'll need:

- Wood beads
- Alum
- 1- or 2-quart pan
- Enamelware or glass bowls
- Turmeric powder
- Blackberries
- Pink flowers and leaves
- Fine-mesh strainer

PREP We soaked the beads overnight in a solution of 1 teaspoon alum dissolved in 2 cups water; let them dry before dyeing. For yellow dye, we dissolved 3 tablespoons turmeric powder in 1 cup water. For purple dye, we stirred 1 cup water into $\frac{1}{2}$ cup crushed blackberries. For pink dye, we simmered 1 cup of chopped pink flowers and leaves (such as rose,

begonia, cosmos, coleus) in 2 cups water for 30–45 minutes, strained the solution, and let it cool. Strong dye baths yield the best results when cool-bath dyeing.

PROCESS The wood beads soaked in each dye bath overnight. (Dyeing the beads for two days intensified their color.) We stirred the dye bath occasionally to ensure even dyeing. The dyed beads were placed in a strainer, rinsed under the faucet, and set aside to dry. Use the beads to string a colorful necklace.

TIP Cool-bath dyeing also works well for wool and silk. Some plants produce good results with a cool-dye bath; others work best as hot dye.

DYEING 1, 2, 3

Prepare for your projects by taking the following steps. Experiment! Remember that every color bath yields unique results.

Before you begin, acquire basic kitchen equipment inexpensively from a flea market or dollar store and reserve it for dyeing only. You'll need steel and enamelware pots and pans (aluminum, copper, and iron can affect the dye color) as well as glass bowls of several sizes, a large metal spoon, mesh strainers, and measuring cups and spoons. Wear an apron and waterproof gloves; cover counters and flooring with drop cloths.

ONE Prepare fibers: Wrap yarn, cord, twine, lace, or other trims into loose skeins. Prewash and rinse fabric and other fibers by hand to remove any residue. To wash, cover the material with water; for each gallon of water, add 1 teaspoon of pH-neutral soap and 1 tablespoon of washing soda (also known as laundry detergent booster; widely available at grocery stores). Rinse.

TWO Simmer and soak fibers in a mordant (fixative) solution to enhance the color's brightness, evenness, and light- and wash-fastness. Here's how: In a large pot, dissolve $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of alum (aluminum sulfate from a garden center) plus 1 tablespoon of cream of tartar in 4 gallons of water per 1 pound of fibers. Add fibers to pot. Heat to simmer for 1 hour and then let cool; rinse.

THREE Make dye: Simmer—never boil—1 cup chopped plant material in 2 cups water 20–45 minutes; multiply quantities to get the dye color you desire. The longer the material is simmered, the more the dye color intensifies. Strain, then allow to cool for cool-dye method or continue simmering for hot-dye method. The color of a dyed material lightens as it dries.

Gradually move fibers from one bath to another—wash, mordant, dye, and rinse—cool to warm and warm to cool. An extreme temperature change such as from hot to cold can cause fibers to shrink or dye unevenly.



Black
beans =
Blue

Yellow and orange
flowers = Light yellow



METHOD: HOT DYE PROJECT: COLORFUL YARN

What you'll need:

- Orange and yellow flowers
- Large stockpot
- Skeins of cotton yarn
- Spoon
- Metal tongs
- Fine-mesh strainer

PREP We pretreated the cotton yarn skeins by washing and then mordanting them. (See "Dyeing 1, 2, 3" on page 55 to learn how.) Rinse the skeins in warm then cool water. We gathered yellow and orange flowers to make yellow dye, simmering 2 cups of flowers in 4 cups of water for 45 minutes. Then we strained the plant material and returned the dye to the dye pot.

PROCESS We placed mordanted and still-wet cotton yarn in the pot of warm dye and heated it to simmer

for 20 minutes to reach a light yellow. Using tongs, we lifted the skein from the dye bath, placed it in a strainer, rinsed the yarn in warm then cool water, and hung it outdoors out of the sun to dry. Repeat the process for other skeins.

TIP To maximize time, pretreat various types of skeins (up to 1 pound in the mordant solution) at once. Wool, hemp, or bamboo yarn; twine; and cord are all suitable fibers. Label the dried mordanted skeins and store for future dyeing. Save and use dye baths again and again. Store strained liquid in a labeled container with a tight lid in the refrigerator for up to a month.





METHOD: HAMMER PRESS PROJECT: LEAF-PRINT TOWELS AND NAPKINS

What you'll need:

- 4 cotton dish towels
- 6 linen napkins
- Washing soda
- pH-neutral soap
- Alum
- Cream of tartar
- Large stockpot or canner
- 4 sheets poster board
- Leaves
- Hammer

PREP We washed, mordanted, and dried the napkins and dish towels. (See "Dyeing 1, 2, 3" on page 55.) We prepared a clean, firm work surface

(a concrete patio) by laying down four sheets of white poster board. The garden provided colorful leaves, including caladium, begonia, heuchera, parsley, and violet. Experimenting with leaves and flowers of different plants creates unique transfers of their pigments.

PROCESS We spread out a dish towel on the work surface, placed a leaf on the right-hand side of the fabric, and folded over the left half to sandwich

the leaf between the layers of fabric. We used the hammer to tap firmly all over the leaf gradually making twin impressions on both layers of cloth. Once the leaf images were complete, we unfolded the cloth and peeled off the spent leaf. We repeated the process, adding random impressions using different leaves to create pleasing effects, leaf by leaf. We used only green leaves to make impressions on the napkins.

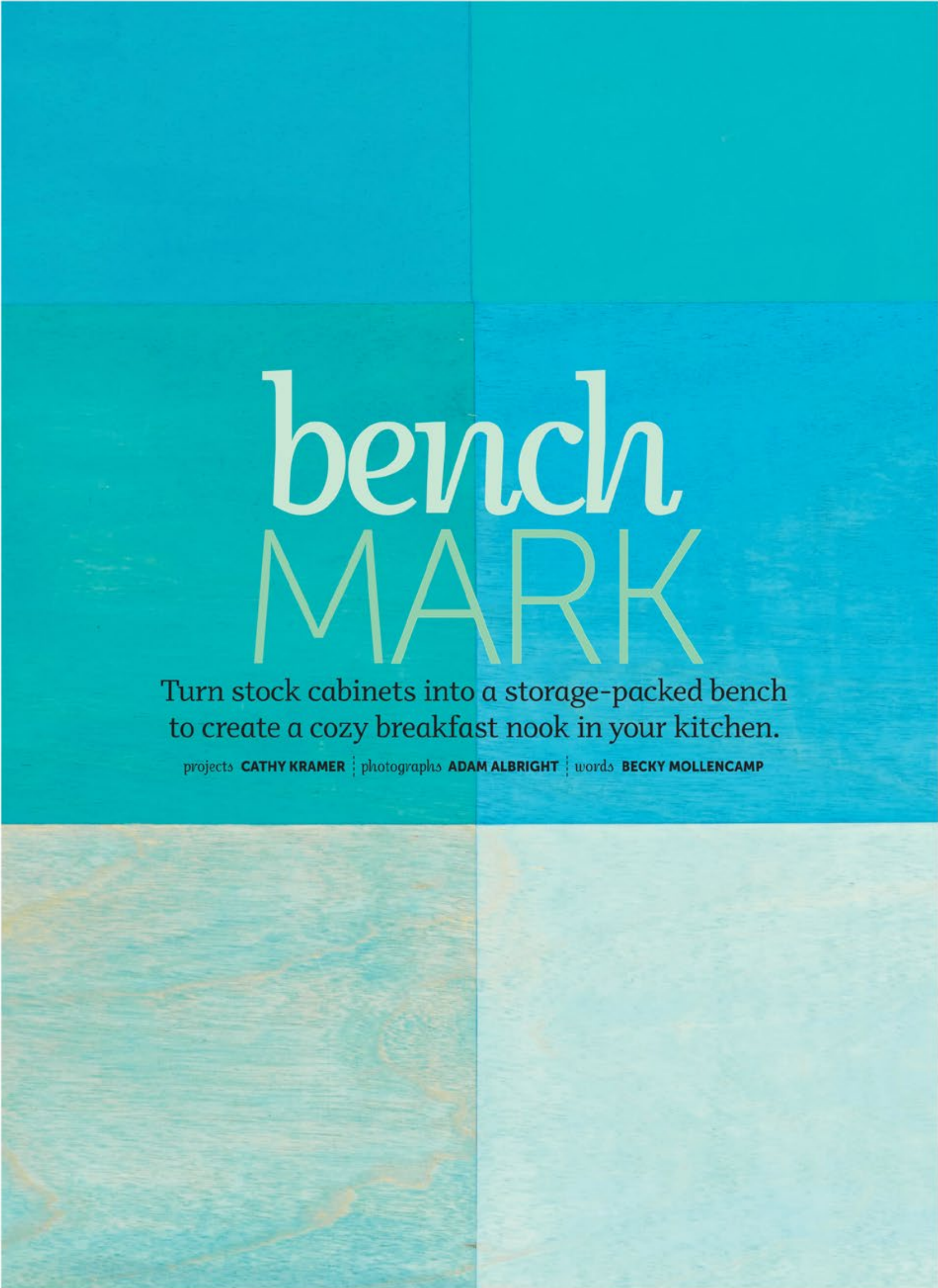
TIP Use an iron set on low to press the images and minimize their fading. Dry cleaning preserves the images best. If the fabrics must be washed, first enhance the images using fabric paint.



What we did...

THIS PHOTO: Looks can be deceiving. While it may appear to be pricey built-in carpentry, this corner unit is actually four upper kitchen cabinets reimagined into a storage-filled bench. The unfinished pieces were screwed together, raised on a poplar platform, topped with medium-density fiberboard (MDF), and painted white to unify the look. A clever wall cleat keeps the unit in place, and a thick seat cushion and plenty of back pillows add comfort. Other handmade touches—pillows, artwork, colorful chairs—add personality to the space.





bench MARK

Turn stock cabinets into a storage-packed bench to create a cozy breakfast nook in your kitchen.

projects **CATHY KRAMER** | photographs **ADAM ALBRIGHT** | words **BECKY MOLLENCAMP**

"Even novice DIYers can create this bench.
You'll save hundreds—maybe more—
compared to custom built-ins.

CATHY KRAMER PROJECT DESIGNER



Special thanks to:

Pergo, pergo.com; Simonton Windows, simonton.com; Surya, surya.com; Whittier Wood Furniture, whittierwood.com



What we did...

ABOVE: A 2-inch frame of poplar boards, similar to a toe-kick, raises the cabinets to the right height. The frame is easy to construct: a basic rectangle with additional perpendicular pieces creating a ladder look. Each stretch of cabinets sits atop a frame; make sure to account for any filler pieces between the banks. See "Construction Tips," page 65, for more tips. **TOP RIGHT:** Avoid scraping your legs on hardware by cutting the MDF top at least an inch wider than the cabinets, creating a slight overhang. Install the pulls horizontally across the top of each cabinet door, under the overhang. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Baskets inside the cabinets make it easy to transport stored items to the table when needed. **RIGHT:** Pillows are a great way to express your personality in an otherwise utilitarian space. These groovy tie-dyed designs are just white cotton that's been dipped in fabric dye. For the pink design, fold the fabric in quarters, twist it, and leave it in pink dye for about five minutes. For the blue design, fold the fabric in half, dip the folded half (the center) for two seconds, then lay the other sides in the dye for 10 to 15 minutes. **OPPOSITE:** Dress up a basic glass vase with grosgrain ribbon. Wrap it around the vessel several times and then fold over and hot-glue the end in place. The ribbon adds color and texture, while also hiding some of the dark stems.





What we did...

LEFT: Create large, custom artwork on the cheap using a simple plywood or MDF panel and crafts paint. Avoid problems with scale by following the two-thirds rule: Make sure your artwork takes up about two-thirds the width of the piece of furniture it hangs above. Sand and clean the wood panel, then use a pencil to mark off a grid of same-size squares. Arrange crafts paint in the same color palette from light to dark. Assign a color to each square, lightest at the bottom up to darkest at the top. Tape off and paint the squares, letting each dry before starting the next. To make some squares less opaque, add water to the paint for a watercolor effect. **ABOVE, FAR LEFT:** Get two looks for the price of one pillow when you pair different fabrics for the front and back, like these houndstooth patterns. **ABOVE LEFT:** Stencil a pillow for your backrest. Spray adhesive lightly to the back of the stencil, place it on a pillowcase, and use a small artist's brush to apply one coat of paint. Zippered pillowcases allow you to remove the cushion before painting, and are a smart pick in a room where you want everything to be washable. **ABOVE:** Bring the two-tone paint trend to your kitchen with this easy treatment for dining chairs. Use interior latex paint in gloss or semigloss (it wipes clean more easily than other finishes) to coat the entire chair in the color of your choice. After it dries, use painter's tape to create a line at the bottom of each leg and apply paint two shades lighter than the base coat.

For Resources see page 110.



Build a Better Nook

Get creative when you carve out a cozy space for dining! Be inspired by these fun spaces.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: No need to break out the power tools. If you have an awkward space, fill it with an appropriately sized table and chairs. Nestle comfy upholstered benches into a kitchen corner. Top a row of deep drawers with a cushion, then add pillows to create an inviting space to sort mail, do homework, or enjoy a meal.



construction tips

Take kitchen cupboards from the wall to the floor, turning them into a functional and stylish bench. This creative makeover project is suitable for most novice do-it-yourselfers, but before you begin, read our helpful tips that can save you money, time, and headaches.

Buy smart: Solid-wood cabinets are the safest bet for stable seating that can support weight. Choose stock units made of wood and particleboard, not veneer-wrapped cardboard. Paint will give unfinished cabinets a seamless look when assembled and can also hide minor workmanship flaws if you caulk seams first with paintable caulk.

Measure twice: When planning a corner bench, the number of cabinets you will need depends on available wall space, the number of people you want to seat (plan 2 feet per person), and the size of your table. Typical bench seating height is about 18 inches; remember to add the toe-kick, top, and cushion to your measurements.

Lay it out: Before assembling your bench, set the pieces in place to check for potential problems. Our doors wouldn't open fully in the corner where the two banks of cabinets meet. Solving the problem was as simple as adding a filler piece to the end of each bank.

Mind the gap: It may be impossible to find cabinets of the correct depth for seating (18 inches is standard). While the added top will cover empty inches between the wall and the back of the cabinet, you'll need to attach filler boards on the sides to hide the gaps and provide stability.

Top it off: We chose $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-thick medium-density fiberboard for the top and attached a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch trim piece to the front for a more substantial look. Allow for a slight overhang to keep your legs away from the door hardware. Make the seat comfy with a thick cushion, like our 2-inch piece of solid foam with a removable cover.

Paint perfectly: For the most professional look, remove the cabinet doors and hardware to paint the pieces. Sand the unit, cover it with a good primer, and finish it with two coats of gloss or semigloss paint. While you can use a roller and brushes, a paint sprayer will give you the highest-quality finish.





SEA & DO

A compact bath gets the spa treatment with pretty ocean-inspired paint, creative repurposing of new and old, and a hands-on approach.

styling **SUSAN FOX** | photographs **GUSTAV SCHMIEGE** | words **SARA R. PEREZ**



What they did...

OPPOSITE: Homeowner Christie Chase combined a sink base and a wall cabinet to make a custom vanity that fits the tight space at the door to her home's bath. Birch plywood cut with a jigsaw connects the two cabinet pieces and allows space for the bathroom door to swing open. **ABOVE:** The wall cabinets are designed to be hung vertically, but Christie painted them blue, hung them horizontally, and added ring pulls so they open from the top.

A dated bathroom bedecked in wood paneling and pink floral fabric sent Tyler and Christie Chase into triage mode when they moved into their 1919 Houston bungalow.

With a whole house of projects to tackle, the do-it-yourselfers prioritized. They installed a new shower, toilet, and wallboard to make the bathroom more pleasant and then moved on to more pressing issues in the home.

Fast-forward a few years, and it was time to add some polish to the bare-bones bath. Christie—an artist and home-stager who blogs about her projects at *christiechase.blogspot.com*—decided to make the room a spa-like retreat with a few beachy touches.

With the help of her father, Christie constructed a custom vanity from stock pieces. Ocean-blue lacquer paint and a curved countertop cut from plywood unite the disparate elements. A marble vessel sink—a clearance purchase Christie made years ago—finally got the chance to shine as the organic accompaniment to the sleek and simple faucet.

Several quick projects gave the room personality on a budget. The mirror, another discount find, was taped and spray-painted, while hand-painted tiles were interspersed with plain white ceramic tiles in the shower. A shower curtain and window treatment sewed by Christie add softness to the space. Total cost of the entire makeover: \$2,133.

Careful planning helped Christie make the most of the space, but it was an unintentional project—the painting above the wall cabinet on page 66—that has become one of her favorite elements. “It started out as a canvas that I cleaned my brushes on when I was working on other canvases,” she says. “At some point, I liked how it looked and stuck it in the bath!”

While Christie and Tyler love their finished bath, they already have their sights set on another project. “We are thinking of doing an addition to our house,” Christie says. “We could really use a bathroom with enough space for two sinks!”



What they did...

OPPOSITE: Christie fashioned a shower curtain from 6 yards of fabric in a soft geometric pattern. Floating glass shelves provide added storage in a small space without the visual heft of wood shelving. When installing shelves, it's best to secure to wall studs, but if that's not possible, use hollow wall anchors for plaster and butterfly or toggle anchors for drywall. **RIGHT:** To perk up a clearance-find mirror, Christie masked off stripes using thin artist's tape and parchment paper and spray-painted them white. Christie suggests removing the tape before the paint is completely dry to avoid peeling paint. **BELOW:** Hand-painted 4x4-inch ceramic tiles bring a beachy vibe to the shower. To make them, Christie used carbon paper to transfer an image of a crab from a vintage book of animal anatomy illustrations. She went over the design with ceramics paint and fired the tiles in a kiln at a pottery studio.

For Resources see page 110.



"You'll eventually forget about
the challenges of a remodel
and be so happy you did it."

CHRISTIE CHASE HOMEOWNER

MAKE YOUR BED

Your bedroom should be all about you. Personalize your private retreat with a DIY headboard that fits your style.

projects **LESLIE POYZER**
photographs **JAY WILDE**
how-to photographs **DEAN SCHOEPPNER**
words **AMY PALANJIAN**





Two in one

Take bedside storage options up a few notches with a built-in combination headboard and nightstand, *left*. Download the plans at BHG.com/BuildHeadboard. Measure and mark the headboard, shelves, and nightstand boxes on medium-density fiberboard (MDF). Cut using a table saw (or have pieces cut at a home improvement store). Sand all pieces and wipe clean with a cloth. Prime and paint all wood with a durable latex paint; let dry. Assemble headboard pieces according to the plan, and hang using French-cleat-style brackets.



"Headboard in an afternoon? Yes, please!"

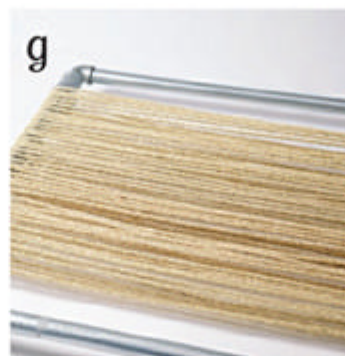
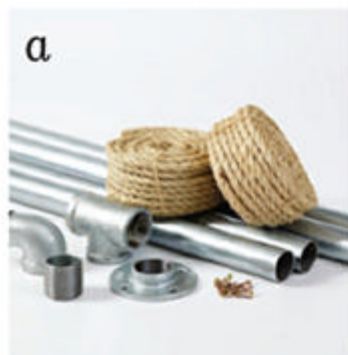
LESLIE POYZER PROJECT DESIGNER





Learn the ropes

Industrial metal piping and rustic rope pair in this wonderfully woven headboard, *opposite*. It's natural yet modern, intricate yet totally doable. And when combined with bed linens in subtle tones and just-bright-enough accents—channeling the vibe of a relaxed beach house—it's a refreshing look.



how to build a woven-rope headboard

What you'll need (a):

- 1½-inch-diameter steel electrical conduit (available at home centers or plumbing supply shops)
- Four 90-degree street elbows
- Four tees
- Four nipples
- Four floor flanges
- Rubber mallet
- Construction adhesive
- About 1,000 feet of ¾-inch manila rope
- Scrap wood about as long as the width of your headboard
- Drywall molly bolts
- Screws

step 1 Cut the pipes to size using a handheld pipe cutter. Cut two pieces to fit the width of the bed and two pieces to the headboard's desired height. (Ours is 50 inches wide and 30 inches tall.)

step 2 Assemble the flanges, nipples, tees, and elbows, (b and c), then join them with the cut pipes to create the headboard frame (d and e), using construction adhesive and a mallet to tap them into place.

step 3 Tie a clove hitch knot onto the bottom of the

right-hand vertical pipe (f). Wrap the rope from one side of the frame to the other to create the base of your weave. When you get to the end of a roll of rope, tie it with a clove hitch to the side closest to you. Continue until you've filled the frame with an even number (g), noting how many you have. (Ours has 70.)

step 4 Divide the number of ropes so there is an equal amount in each weave. Weave the scrap wood through to create the pattern as shown (h). Start weaving the second layer of rope through the pattern until you have the same number of rope strands as in the base pattern. (Ours has five.)

step 5 Switch the wood to the opposite weave and repeat Step 4. Continue weaving and alternating the pattern until the frame is filled. Tie off the rope and start a new roll whenever necessary.

step 6 Install the headboard using the appropriate screws and bolts for the elbows and your walls. Screw into studs for stability.



To find 32 more cheap and chic DIY headboard ideas, visit BHG.com/DIYHeadboards.

Ruffles and flourishes

Embrace your girly side with a ruffled headboard, *opposite*. Go as bright, bold, or sweet as you like with the fabric—and whip up a matching bed skirt to complete the look.

For Resources see page 110.



how to make a ruffled headboard

What you'll need (a):

- 1/4-inch plywood cut to desired size of headboard (Ours is 54x40 inches.)
- 1x4s cut to create a frame for the plywood
- Screws
- Drill
- 6 yards 44–45-inch fabric (for ruffles)
- Spray adhesive suitable for upholstery
- Quilt batting cut to the size of your plywood, plus 6 inches on all sides
- 3 yards 44–45-inch fabric or 2 yards 54-inch fabric (to cover headboard)
- Staple gun
- Straight pins
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- French cleats

step 1 Secure the plywood to the 1x4 frame using screws so a 1-inch edge of each board touches the plywood.

step 2 Tear the fabric for ruffles into nine 6x108-inch strips and one 4x108-inch strip (b). (Cut about an inch for each strip, then rip the fabric the rest of the way.)

step 3 Spray the front of the plywood with spray adhesive and secure the batting in place, wrapping it around the sides. Staple it to the back of the frame (c).

step 4 Cover the batting with the headboard fabric. Wrap it around the sides, pulling tightly and stapling in place on the back of the frame (d). If you use 44–45-inch fabric as we did, you may have to cut and join two pieces to make the fabric wide enough.

step 5 Lay one strip of fabric along the bottom of the headboard and fold one ruffle about 3 inches wide. We made 18 ruffles to cover our headboard, pinning in place (e and f). When satisfied with the fit, staple along the top edge and remove pins.

step 6 Place subsequent rows of ruffles to cover about 2 inches of the top of the previous row to hide the staples. Repeat Step 5 with the remaining eight 6-inch strips. Fray the exposed edges of the ruffles if desired.

step 7 Use the 4-inch strip for the final ruffle row. Fold the top raw edge under for a finished look (g) and repeat Step 5 to make the ruffles, except use hot glue under the top edge of each ruffle fold for a clean edge (h).

step 8 To hang, use French-cleat-style brackets and appropriate screws for your walls. Optional: To make the bed skirt, use the same ruffling method as for the headboard, only pin and sew each strip of ruffles in place onto a straight-sided purchased skirt.



Special thanks to:
FLOR, flor.com; Shades of Light,
shadesoflight.com; York
Wallcoverings, yorkwall.com





A FRESH TAKE ON vintage

Thrifty projects and a few modern touches take this charming style to a whole new level that's in vogue, fun, and easy to love.

projects + words **PAMELA PORTER**
photographs **KATHRYN GAMBLE**

What we did...

LEFT: Nothing fussy here! To achieve this airy style, we made the space all about casual comfort yet with refined lines. We kept the color palette light—gray-blues, soft pinks, and soothing neutrals. For texture on one accent wall, we installed wood planks over drywall and painted them creamy white. Vintage style can easily take the distressed and shabby route; instead, to keep things fresh and current, we chose modern and industrial furnishings, softened with pillows and other sweet accessories. Elements of nature—branches, botanicals, wood finishes—keep things interesting and down-to-earth.



What we did...

OPPOSITE: Here's a fun approach to botanical artwork. Find free botanical images online and print them on old book pages (or purchase printed pages from Etsy). For the mat, cut linen a little larger than your page, and machine-stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from all edges. Fray the edges by pulling out threads down to your stitched line. Machine-stitch the page to the linen mat, then hang using bulldog clips. Total spent: \$6 per piece. **ABOVE LEFT:** For these \$22 curtains, we fashioned panels from a drop cloth. Wash and dry the drop cloth. Cut to desired size. Hem the panels to fit your windows (we added a small ruffle at the bottom), then dye the panels your desired hue. Follow the manufacturer's directions, and test the dye on practice strips until you find the perfect color. **ABOVE:** Transform strapping from the hardware store into a pretty pillow. Determine the number and length of vertical and horizontal straps needed for your pillow size. Pin the top of the vertical straps to a base fabric, and machine-stitch to secure. Repeat with horizontal straps, pinning and stitching the left side of the straps to the base fabric. Weave the straps together, pinning occasionally to secure. When done, machine-stitch the bottom and right sides to the base fabric and trim any excess strapping. Sew your pillow top into a pillow. Similar pillows found online cost more than \$100. Our materials totaled \$32. **LEFT:** We cut a writing desk to coffee-table height then covered the dark finish with a tailored slipcover sewn from a drop cloth.



What we did...

ABOVE: Make easy artwork from fabric remnants. We hand-stitched along the flower motif using embroidery floss. Each piece cost about \$6. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Delightful yet durable, this headboard is constructed of plywood and vinyl ceiling panels. Cut plywood to the desired size, and use construction adhesive to secure 2-foot-square ceiling panels to the entire surface. Use a jigsaw to cut the top of the board to your desired shape, then finish in semigloss latex paint. When dry, prop the headboard on the floor behind your bed or hang using a wooden cleat. **RIGHT:** We used vintage-looking wood crates to form a storage-savvy bedside table. Screw four crates together, then cut a top and base from plywood. Seal the plywood with polyurethane and let dry. Attach casters to the base, then attach the base and top to the crates. **OPPOSITE:** It's easy to give a plain glass lamp mercury-glass glamour for less. Choose a base that's open at the bottom. To create the effect of mercury glass, spray the inside of the base with water. Some of the water will bead, and some will run down the inside of the base. While the base's interior is still wet, spray it with a coat of Krylon Looking Glass Mirror-Like Paint. Let it dry, then spray another coat. We spent \$38 to create it, while similar lamps go for twice that in retail stores. Pairing our headboard with a modern platform bed and bedding balances the rustic side table and other vintage elements. The result is a bedroom that's dreamy but not dated.

For Resources see page 110.





instant architecture

Give depth and dimension to an accent wall with a rustic, industrial, or textured covering made of laminate, plexiglass, metal, or wood.

designs **CATHY KRAMER** | photographs **ADAM ALBRIGHT**
how-to photographs **DEAN SCHOEPPNER** | words **HEIDI PALKOVIC**



OSB panels A modern take on traditional wainscoting, this treatment contrasts refined details with the rustic appeal of raw materials. To make the 36-inch-tall covering, *this photo*, we framed same-size panels cut from 1/4-inch-thick OSB (a type of engineered-wood particleboard; find it at lumberyards and home improvement stores) with crisp, painted 1x4 boards. To start, nail a 1x6 board along the base of the wall, then add a vertical 1x4, the same height as the panels, above the base at the corner. Use construction adhesive to add an OSB panel next to the 1x4, and secure it with pin nails. Nail a 1x4 next to the panel. Repeat the process along the length of the wall, finishing the top with long 1x4 trim. Fill nail holes and paint. The recessed panels give the wall dimension and interest. Avoid sanding OSB because of the adhesives that hold it together, but seal with clear polyurethane if desired.

Laminate adhesive can be very unforgiving; once it comes in contact with the backing board, the laminate is stuck. To make it manageable, we used dowels as spacers between the adhesive-covered laminate and medium-density fiberboard (MDF) base. Once we had the laminate positioned correctly, we removed the dowels one at a time, while carefully lowering the laminate onto the board. Visit BHG.com/Laminate for more info.



Laminate sheets + MDF Reimagine countertop laminate as a modern wall treatment of patterned blocks, *this photo*. We began with two 4x8-foot sheets of white laminates: one with a pebblelike design and the other with a striated pattern. Using a table saw we cut 12-inch-wide rectangles in lengths ranging from 2 to 6 feet. After planning the wall arrangement, we adhered the laminate to pieces of ½-inch MDF, then secured the arrangement to the wall using construction-grade double-sided tape, beginning at the bottom of the wall and working up to the top, staggering the seams.

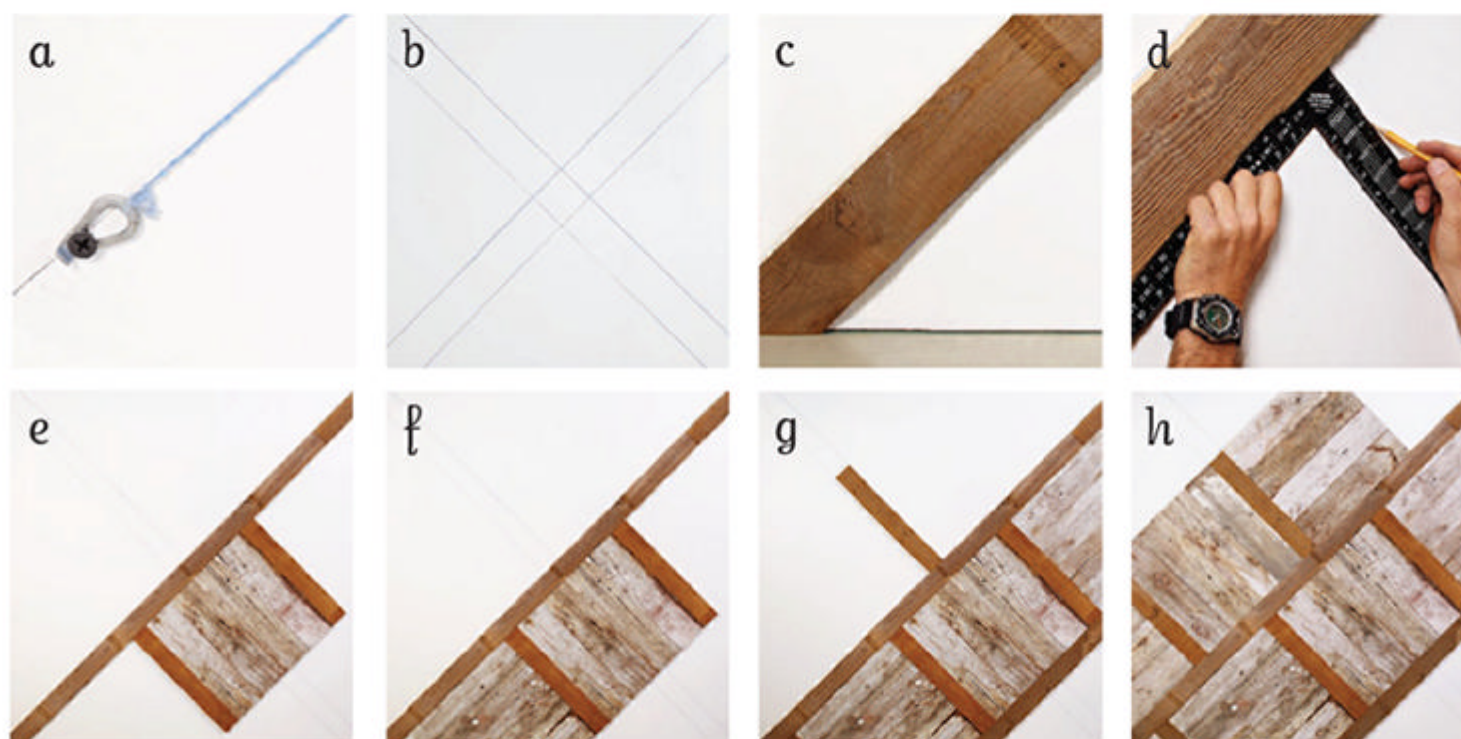


Knots, nail holes, and warps can make barn boards difficult to work with. We planned our lengths to avoid cutting through bad areas. We left some knot holes visible, allowing the wall color to show through in those areas.



Salvaged barn boards

Attach these weathered wood beauties to the wall in a diagonal grid to give an entryway or hallway rustic charm, *opposite*. We used a combination of dark and light barn boards to complete this design. To find barn boards in your area, search for salvaged wood on Craigslist or ask someone at your local lumberyard, wood specialty store, or architectural salvage yard if they have stock or a salvaged-wood source. Visit iowabarnboards.com to learn about the types of lumber a barn may yield.



how to construct a barn-board wall

What you'll need:

- Chalk line
- Four 4x72-inch barn boards
- Miter saw
- Contact adhesive
- 2-inch nails
- Carpenter's square
- Thirty-six to thirty-eight 8x32-inch barn boards
- Eight 4x32-inch barn boards
- 384 inches of 3-inch barn boards

step 1 Determine an 8x8-foot area you wish to cover with barn boards. Draw two diagonal lines that extend from corner to corner of the area to make an X. Measure 2 inches above and 2 inches below each line at each corner of the square and mark. Connect opposite marks with a chalk line and snap the line (a). Repeat to snap two sets of two chalk lines that form an X (b).

step 2 To install the first grid board, measure 2 inches from one end of one 4x72-inch barn board; mark on each edge. Also mark the center of the board at the end. Make a 45-degree cut from one edge mark to the center mark. Make a second 45-degree cut from the other edge mark to the center to make a pointed end. Apply contact adhesive to the back of the board, and press the board in place between the lines, placing the pointed end of the board at the bottom left-hand corner of the wall section. Cut a second 4x72-inch board to make a pointed end for the opposite corner and cut it to length to complete the diagonal line (c). Nail the boards, hitting studs as much as possible.

step 3 Using a carpenter's square, make marks 14 inches away from each diagonal line that intersects with the first grid board (d). Spread contact adhesive on the backs of four 8x32-inch barn boards and adhere the boards to the wall inside the marks so they are perpendicular to the first grid board and make a 32-inch square. Spread contact adhesive on the backs of two 4x32-inch barn boards and adhere one board to each side of the 32-inch square (e).

step 4 Adhere and nail four more 8x32-inch barn boards parallel to the first grid board for the next grid square (f). Cut the ends of the boards at a 45-degree angle to fit along the floor. Continue adding squares of barn boards and grid boards, alternating the direction of the boards with each adjacent square.

step 5 Center a 4x32-inch barn board inside the center diagonal lines and perpendicular to the first barn board square; adhere and nail (g). Add four 8x32-inch barn boards to one side of the grid board and add a second 4x32-inch barn board to the opposite side. Trim ends of boards at a 45-degree angle as needed to fit.

step 6 Continue the grid pattern, using remaining 4x72, 4x32, and 8x32 boards (h). Add 3-inch trim boards at the bottom, top, and sides of the area. If there's a small gap between the trim boards and the wall, fill with clear silicone caulk if desired.

Corrugated sheet metal Utilitarian and sleek, this traditionally exterior building material makes an easy transition to the indoors. We love how quickly it changes the look of a room, *this photo*. We constructed this stair-step covering by using tin snips to cut two sheets to 5 feet tall and two sheets to 6 feet tall, then we overlapped the ridges to fit the panels together.

Because the valleys on our corrugated panel may not align with wall studs, we attached three 1x4 mounting boards to studs across the width of the wall: one near the top of the area to be covered, at the middle, and at the base. We then screwed $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch #8 pan-head screws in a recessed area of the panels to fasten them to each board. A painted 2x2 trim board caps the top.



Finish it

Since the bottom is flush with the floor, no bottom trim is needed. Using 3-inch nails, we capped the top and sides of our corrugated metal with 2x2 trim boards to mask the gap between the wall and metal.

To attach the plexiglass to the wall, we inserted a large screw with an oversize washer 2 inches from each corner and along the center of each side through holes drilled slightly larger than the screws. We inserted a ½-inch-long rubber spacer on the back at each screw, creating a gap between the wall and the plexiglass to create a “floating” effect.



Frosted plexiglass An industrial chic look is just a layer of plexiglass away, *this photo*. We bolted two 48x65x½-inch panels of plexiglass to the upper two-thirds of a painted wall, using heavy-duty screws and drywall anchors to fasten each piece to the wall. A painted 1x4 trim board mounted to the wall just below the plexiglass serves as a transition between the frosted and the painted portions.

For Resources see page 110.



Special thanks to
Formica, formica.com; Lowe's lowes.com

full house

A century-old fixer-upper gets a rejuvenated spirit from repurposed pieces that keep a big family on budget.

styling **ANDREA CAUGHEY** | photographs **BRIE WILLIAMS** | words **JENNIFER WILSON**



What they did...

OPPOSITE: Rie Sterling educates four of her children at home, and she wanted a map on the office wall for reference. She loves the vintage colors of this 4x2½-foot design from Rand McNally, and the additional chalkboard welcomes teachable moments. **BELOW and RIGHT:** David Sterling incorporated the map into an educational triptych. Spray adhesive secured the map to a sheet of inexpensive hardboard; chalkboard paint covers the right-hand side of the board and burlap the left. David made a simple frame using cheap 1x2 pine and attached the board to the frame from the back using wood screws. Rie mixed her own stain to age the frame's new wood by steeping steel wool in apple cider vinegar for a day or two. The color gets deeper with each additional coat.



Over a century of wear and bad patch jobs had the farmhouse near Raleigh in a sad state.

The structure was gutted of character and burdened with unlevel floors. Even the main staircase turned its back when Rie and David Sterling moved in with their six kids.

"We thought most of the work would be cosmetic, but it ended up being much more," says Rie, a blogger and home-schooling mom.

Over three years, the couple tackled projects inspired by repurposed original pieces and Rie's great eye for secondhand scores. "We work together," Rie says. "I come up with ideas and find things, and David and my sons implement it all."

Only the thick, high baseboards (newly painted) remain where they originally started. The home's tongue-in-groove wall boards now cover the ceilings. Lumber from former floor joists serves as shelving.

The renovation went deep. Every time David opened a wall, the Microsoft engineer with an exacting eye fixed every fault from previous generations of work. He returned the house to a solid foundation—at times the family balanced on floor joists to get to the bathroom.

Rie hunted and gathered used gems to mix and shape into her vision of simple and clean design with a heart. Her biggest score was brand-new kitchen cabinetry from British maker Smallbone of Devizes found on Craigslist. Smallbone's look leans toward individual pieces rather than banks



of cabinetry, so the antique buffet (a separate Craigslist steal) she revamped blended right in to this now-favorite gathering spot.

Rie's skill at blending all the bargains she finds benefits from her use of neutral colors and spare decor, while pretty details and hints of color layer in depth: distressed paint on an inexpensive desk in the entry, painted stripes on the rebuilt staircase, a sweet chalkboard "guest book" repurposed from a wall mirror.

The work of the Sterlings' hands gave this bustling home soul—though their sons may have learned an unintended lesson from it.

"Both of them swear they're going to buy brand-new houses when they get married," Rie says.



What they did...

OPPOSITE TOP: Rie loved the pretty shape of this discount-store desk that serves as a drop zone by the front door. Inexpensive knobs and a coat of Annie Sloan Chalk Paint coaxed out its delicate lines. "There's a grittiness to that paint," she says, "We gave it a wax finish that gives it an authentic old feel." OPPOSITE BOTTOM: The mirror over the fireplace started its life in a barbershop. What's now the mantel surround was the barber's station—sanded and painted by Rie, with a hole cut by David for the nonworking firebox. The unit's drawers add storage. BELOW: Turning the staircase access to the living room instead of the kitchen was just one of the massive changes to the old farmhouse. David and a neighbor rebuilt the stairs in a single day. Rie unearthed the music room's doors at an antiques shop years ago, knowing they'd eventually come to good use. David constructed the built-in shelving. The wood support beam—salvaged from another area of the home—now adds rustic character in the living room and makes an open floor plan possible. RIGHT: Rie measured and taped stripes with painter's tape, then painted her own runner for a dash of color on the new stairway.





What they did...

BELOW: For the dining room, the couple found a table base they loved, but the top wouldn't fit the family of eight, so David built a new one. Chairs were a serious Craigslist snag: Rachel Ashwell (of Shabby Chic fame) designs. Rie likes a mismatched look, so she added slipcovered Parsons chairs. Rie's love of neutrals gives the dining room and kitchen an airy vibe, and the kitchen is also the deal of a century: The Smallbone kitchen cabinets were a Craigslist miracle at \$5,000—the package may have run more than \$50,000 retail. David's efforts included moving windows, adding plumbing and electrical, plus painting and installing chrome pulls for the cabinetry. LEFT: The tabletop is constructed from 2x10 planks and 2x2 trim pieces. David routed the edge with an ogee bit on top and a roundover bit on the bottom for a professional look. OPPOSITE TOP: The family entertains often, so Rie swapped the frame from a broken mirror into a place for visitors to leave some written love. She fashioned a new backing of plywood and chalkboard paint. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: To break up a row of closets in the office, the couple removed the doors from one and added shelving. Metal bins keep school supplies out of sight.







What they did...

ABOVE: Stalking Craigslist for weeks, Rie found matching beds for her girls' room. A coat of paint brought them—and wicker side tables from a flea market—to life.

RIGHT: In the master bedroom, a bench from an antiques shop—the perfect parking spot to kick off shoes or lay out the day's wardrobe—had such a nice wood patina that Rie couldn't bear to paint it. "I paint so many wooden pieces, but if it's a really cool color or grain, I keep it," she says.

OPPOSITE: The master bedroom was added to the house in the 1950s, with a vaulted ceiling and a slightly more modern spirit. The couple installed wainscoting purchased at a local home store over the drywall to give the room a more historic vibe.



"I've always liked a simple bedroom. When I go to bed at night, I like a sparseness in the room."

RIE STERLING HOMEOWNER





What they did...

LEFT: The front door—a \$100 antique from Craigslist—was the couple's first big project. They had new glass installed, then repainted the door and added new hardware. **BELOW:** The Sterling family (minus one) cozies up on the rebuilt staircase. **OPPOSITE:** Another Craigslist find, the porch swing gets a twist of interest hanging from rope instead of chain. The frayed ends at the top keep it casual. An olive bucket from a flea market tops a nearby trunk that held Rie's toys when she was a kid.

For Resources see page 110.

Clever tips for Craigslist

Rie Sterling's home is packed with savvy scores from her favorite online bargain destination—Craigslist. Here are her secrets for finding a deal.

Get creative with search terms.

When she was searching for a kitchen island, she used those terms—but also expanded her search to include "old buffet," "antique buffet," and "sideboard."

Expect misspelled listings. If there's a common misspelling, search for that, too.

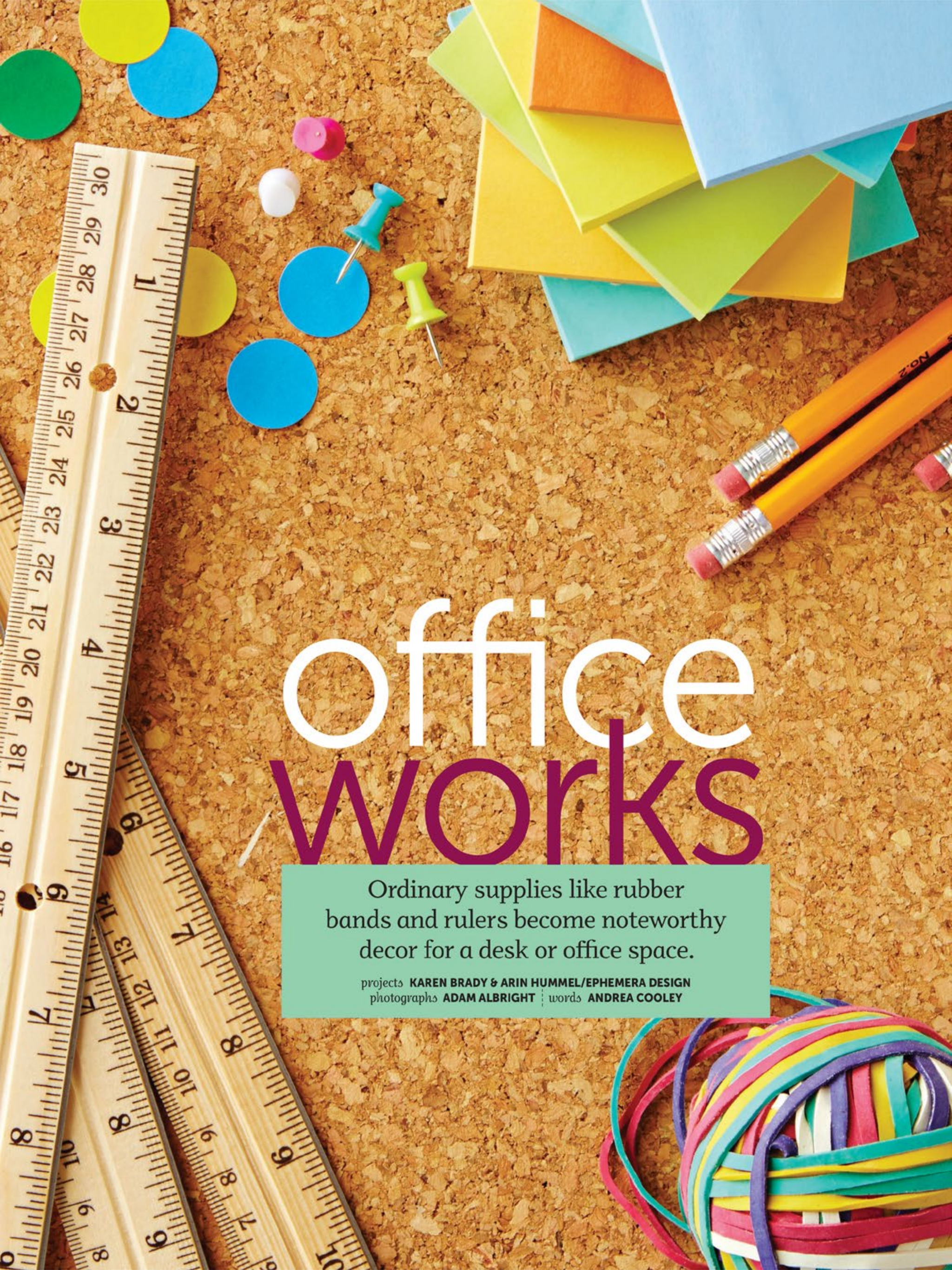
Be diligent. If you want the best deals and greatest steals, search multiple times a day, for weeks, to fill specific needs for a project. Fire up the Craigslist app on your smartphone to track searches.

Be ready to move. If you e-mail someone about a piece, be prepared to pick it up immediately. People list because they want to sell and purge. Often, it's first come, first served.

Avoid the transaction if a seller asks for payment ahead of delivery. Reputable sellers won't do that.







office works

Ordinary supplies like rubber bands and rulers become noteworthy decor for a desk or office space.

projects **KAREN BRADY & ARIN HUMMEL/EPHEMERA DESIGN**
photographs **ADAM ALBRIGHT** | words **ANDREA COOLEY**



What we did...

LEFT and BELOW: Sharpen the style of a lamp base with the glimmer of pencil ferrules. Use a saw to cut pencils into 2-inch pieces. Hot-glue the pencils in a staggered design to a thin ribbon. Either hot-glue the ribbon around the lamp, or use repositionable adhesive dots to affix the ribbon temporarily to the base. **BELOW LEFT:** Make hardworking coasters out of cork, pushpins, and plexiglass. Cut cork and plexiglass into 3½-inch squares. You will need two pieces of cork and one piece of plexiglass for each coaster. Glue two pieces of cork together with Diamond Glaze glue. Stick colorful pushpins into the cork. Put a drop of Diamond Glaze glue on each of the corner pushpins and press a piece of plexiglass on top.





What we did...

THIS PHOTO: Make cheerful art for your work space by creating a colorful gradient pattern with sticky notes. Remove the glass from a frame and apply sticky notes directly to the mat. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: We started in the corners and worked our way toward the center, leaving an opening. We let the square shape of the sticky notes dictate our design, and cut the innermost layer to fit the art.



What we did...

ABOVE LEFT: Elevate a lampshade into something to celebrate with a paper banner. All you need are index cards in different styles, glue, and ribbon in a complementary color. Measure the circumference of the lampshade and cut a ribbon to size. Round one end of the index cards, and adhere a single layer of cards along the edge of the ribbon with hot glue. Continue to lay trimmed cards in an overlapping pattern, attaching each layer behind the one above with hot glue. When you reach your desired width, hot-glue the ribbon around the lampshade. **OPPOSITE and ABOVE RIGHT:** Stretch your style! Add colorful rubber bands to a stool or chair. Simply loop bands into a chain and wrap tightly around the stretchers, knotting at the end. Loop rubber bands together to create chains (we made six) that are slightly shorter than the circumference of the seat. Stretch them around the outside of the stool.



What we did...

OPPOSITE: This shelving unit is packed with storage. Customize a store-bought unit by covering the shelves with cork. ABOVE: Inspired by the iconic blue-and-white pattern found inside security envelopes, we turned it into wallpaper. We scanned the design, enlarged it, and customized it. It's easy to create your own wallpaper at spoonflower.com. At \$60 for 12 feet, the 24-inch-wide rolls are priced right for a statement wall. ABOVE RIGHT: To create a too-cool-for-school look, glue rulers to a piece of foam-core board cut to fit the back of the shelf and simply press it into place. RIGHT: Enhance a plain picture frame with multicolor labels. The instant polka dots come in a variety of colors and sizes. Overlap the dots and wrap them around the edges of the frame to create a custom look. Display precut stencils and fabric for instant art.







What we did...

ABOVE: Craft a custom, stamped envelope from linen. We unfolded a paper envelope for a template and used fusible webbing to hold the linen envelope together. Stitch a button onto the flap and another one on the opposite side and wrap a string around them to close. We stamped kites on the linen and added strings and knots with embroidery floss.

For Resources see page 110.



how to make a rubber stamp

What you'll need (a):

- Eraser
- Permanent marker
- Carving tool
- Ink pad

step 1 Draw your design on the eraser with a permanent marker (b). Sketch the negative part of the design—the part you don't want to have ink on it. If you are making a letter or word, it will need to be in reverse.

step 2 Remove the negative part of the design with a carving tool (c). It should be roughly a quarter-inch deep.

step 3 Firmly press the stamp onto an ink pad and apply to your surface (d).



1. Pencil it in Make note-taking interesting with engraved pencils. Choose from sets of clever sayings, funny movie quotes, or days of the week in a variety of colors. Custom orders are also available. \$8 for six regular pencils (as shown); thecarboncrusader.etsy.com



3. Worth pinning Hand-assembled pushpins in pretty floral designs add punch to a plain-Jane bulletin board. \$10 for set of eight; fromtheheartbyamber.etsy.com



2

Print center Select a design, and have it made into fabric, wallpaper, decals, or gift wrap. Get the security envelope pattern by Ephemera used on *page 103*, or try (left to right) Everyday Teal Blue Graph by Miss Tiina, Hands Off My Crayons by Bojudesigns, or Writing Paper Gray by Emily Oinen. \$17.50–\$38 per yard (fabric); \$60 per roll (wallpaper); \$5–\$30 per decal; \$15 per roll (gift wrap); spoonflower.com

5 DIY Ideas to Steal

THESE HARDWORKING SUPPLIES MEAN (NOT SO) SERIOUS BUSINESS. BRING THE LOOK HOME LIKE A BOSS FROM 8 TO 5 AND BEYOND.

words **MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX**



4. Roll with it How many ways can you use washi tape? Find out in Jenny Doh's inspiring new book, *Washi Wonderful*, which shows how to customize cards, gift wrapping, home decor, and more with this useful material. \$20; larkcrafts.com



5

Get the message

Turn any surface—walls, doors, desktops, or more—into a dry-erase board with Krylon's Dry Erase clear finish. The spray goes on as a durable clear gloss that wipes clean when dry. \$9–\$13; krylon.com



GOING GREEN

Easy to grow and maintain, moss is tops for a miniature landscape that lasts year-round.

projects **TARA HEIBEL & HELEN YOEST**

styling **KARIN LIDBECK-BRENT**

photographs **MICHAEL PARTENIO & MARTY BALDWIN**

words **CHRISTA MARTIN & HELEN YOEST**

1

2

CONTAIN IT

Any shallow bowl can be the foundation for a mini moss garden. Look for a low-profile vessel at a flea market or antiques store. (Avoid metal containers as mosses are sensitive to metals and chemicals.)

3

FIND IT

Check local garden centers, floral shops, and online stores for live moss. Ask permission if collecting moss from private property. It's illegal to remove moss from protected areas, such as state and national parks. Find dried moss online or in crafts stores.



What we did...

Moss is perfect for creating low-maintenance indoor container gardens. These simple projects bring a dose of green to any space. 1. See how to make this free-form hanging *kokedama* (an ancient Japanese art that uses moss as a vessel to hold the roots of a plant) at BHG.com/DIYMoss. 2. Club moss, which is actually a fern relative, makes a pretty container garden. 3. Get details on the dish garden on page 108. 4. This clump of preserved moss pulls off the enchanting look of a moss-covered stone. 5. Preserved reindeer moss is a perfect soil topper for almost any potted plant, including this staghorn fern. 6. A framed collage elevates a bevy of soft green ingredients to art status. Get instructions on page 108. 7. A handful of cushion moss balances atop a stick and lends a bonsai look to this terrarium. Check out page 108 for details on which species work best here.





CARE FOR IT

Mist moss gardens daily to keep them moist. Watch moss for dark patches, as that could indicate too much moisture. There's no need to add fertilizer. Place moss gardens indoors in indirect sunlight. Outdoors, they prefer cool, shady areas.



What we did...

ABOVE LEFT: Create an eye-catching textural wall display. Simply glue dried mosses and lichens (available online, in floral shops, or in crafts stores) and a sponge mushroom onto thin plywood, then pop it into a frame. Tuck air plants into pockets created by the preserved material so they can be removed for easy soaking. Watch the video showing how to make it at BHG.com/MossFrame.

ABOVE: To plant a moss dish garden, use soil for the top inch of filler. Unless you are coplanting with vascular plants, the area under the first inch can be another type of filler. You can use many different moss types—mixing acrocarps and pleurocarps is fine (visit BHG.com/MossGuide for more information)—and accents such as twigs, stones, or bark add interest to the scene. When your dish garden is complete, water thoroughly and press the mosses down to make good contact with one another. Water deeply every week for two months, misting between waterings, until the moss is established. **LEFT:** To get moss to cover a stick, mist dried cushion moss with water until it is wet. Let it sit a few moments, then gently squeeze out excess water. Press and shape the moist moss over your stick or rock.

For Resources see page 110.

H P E



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shopping guide

Find clickable links
to all these sources
in the digital edition
of this issue.
BHGSpecials.zinio.com

Here's where to find building materials, furnishings, and accessories shown in *Do It Yourself*™ magazine. We cannot guarantee the availability of items or services.

[P] Paint Color

Because of the magazine printing process, paint colors depicted on our pages might vary slightly from manufacturers' colors. Use paint color names or numbers, when provided, as a starting point. To get a color as it appears in the magazine, take the page to a paint retailer for matching.

SHAPE SHIFTERS

PAGES 8-15

Three millimeter felt—The Felt Pod; thefeltpod.com. All other felt—National Nonwovens; 800/333-3469; nationalnonwovens.com.

PIPE DREAMS

PAGES 26-31

Throughout

PVC dye Rekhaoil—Narad Marketing; naraddyes.com. Pipes, cleaners, adhesive, paint Sherwin-Williams in Ebbtide SW6493, Parakeet SW6711, Uncertain Gray SW6234, Foggy Day SW6235—through Lowe's; lowes.com.

Pages 20-21

Kitchen utensils—Pier 1 Imports; 800/245-4595; pier1.com.

Pages 22-23

Bench Mason Dining Bench in ivory 2686950—Pier 1 Imports; 800/245-4595; pier1.com. Rug Trimaran Stripe in Fieldstone and Ivory—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; 800/658-5035; dashandalbert.com.

Pages 24-25

Fabric: laundry sorter Bermuda in Curacao, ironing board cover Ornament in Lime from the Better Homes and Gardens® Home Decor Fabrics Collection—Jo-Ann Stores nationwide; 888/739-4120; joann.com. Rug Trimaran Stripe in Sprout and Ivory—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; 800/658-5035; dashandalbert.com.

CRAZY IN LOVE

PAGES 40-51

Visit Mandi Gubler's blog, vintagerevivals.com. Mandi's favorite do-it-yourself design stores include:

HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com. Not Just Antiques, Las Vegas; 702/384-4922; notjustantiquesmart.com.

ReStore; habitatforhumanity.org/restore.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL

PAGES 52-59

Leaf trays, repurposed wood boxes—VerTerra, New York City; 212/760-1200; verterra.com. Glass storage jars, wood beads—Hobby Lobby; 800/323-9204; hobbylobby.com. Small glass bowls, small white ceramic and porcelain bowls—Pier 1 Imports; 800/245-4595; pier1.com. Bamboo knitting needles, bamboo and hemp yarns, burlap, cotton cord, cotton lace, cotton twine, cotton yarn, hemp twine, linen, muslin, twill tape—Jo-Ann Stores; 888/739-4120; joann.com. Cooking utensils,

cotton clothesline, large storage jars, steel pot—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com. Dyeing supplies—Dharma Trading Co.; 800/542-5227; dharmaTrading.com. Summer-flowering bulbs and perennials—Longfield Gardens; 855/534-2733; longfield-gardens.com. Annual plants—Suntory collection; suntorycollection.com/gardeners.

For more information about natural dyes made from plant material, read:

Harvesting Color by Rebecca Burgess; Artisan; workman.com/artisanbooks; 2011.

The Art and Craft of Pounding Flowers by Laura C. Martin; Rodale, Inc.; 800/848-4735; rodaleinc.com; 2003.

The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes by Sasha Duerr; Timber Press; 800/327-5680; timberpress.com; 2011.

BENCH MARK

PAGES 60-65

Original cabinetry Project Source Unfinished Oak Cabinets 1530, bar pulls Brainerd Bar Pull P01026W-SS-C in stainless steel—through Lowe's; lowes.com. Windows Reflections White Double Hung 5050—Simonton Windows; 800/746-6686; simonton.com. Flooring Pergo Max in Emerson Maple—Pergo, Inc.; 800/337-3746; pergo.com. Table Lexington Round Dining Table in white, ivory pillow Stockinette from the Better Homes and Gardens® Collection, turquoise pillow—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com. Chairs purchased unpainted Riverside Chair 70W—Whittier Wood Products; 800/653-3336; whittierwood.com. Paint for chair body Cloudburst SW6487, paint for leg tips Raindrop SW6485—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; sherwin-williams.com [P]. White cotton muslin for tie-dyed pillows, blue dye Teal by Tulip, pink dye Fuchsia by Rit—Jo-Ann Stores; 888/739-4120; joann.com. Stencil for pillow Climbing Vines 3561E—Designer Stencils; 800/822-7836; designerstencils.com. Fabric for houndstooth pillow—Spoonflower; spoonflower.com. Rug (shown on cover) Frontier FT-428—Surya; 877/275-7847 for retailers; surya.com.

SEA & DO

PAGES 66-69

Sink cabinets Lillangen, modified after purchase, wall cabinets Bjorken Medicine Chest (discontinued, similar items available) hung horizontally—IKEA; ikea-usa.com. Paint for cabinet fronts Boucle enamel—Pratt and Lambert; 800/289-7728; prattandlambert.com [P]. Cabinet pulls—Knobs4Less; 866/482-0833; knobs4less.com. Paint for cabinet doors Sea Haze—Benjamin Moore; 855/724-6802; benjaminmoore.com [P]. Birch wood for countertop—Home Depot USA, Inc.; homedepot.com (product line varies). Fabric for shower curtain—Calico; 800/213-6366; calicocorners.com. Ceramic horse—Jonathan Adler; 800/963-0891; jonathanadler.com. Mirror purchased as clearance, painted after purchase—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com (product line varies). Vessel sink—homeowners' collection.

MAKE YOUR BED

PAGES 70-75

Pages 70-71

Fiberboard for headboard project Trupan—Arauco USA, Atlanta; 770/350-1627; trupan.com. Paint Parakeet SW6711—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; sherwin-williams.com [P]. Wallpaper Lacey Circle Geo—York Wallcoverings; 800/375-9675; yorkwall.com. Bed frame South Shore Basics Queen Platform Bed—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com. Bedding Romantic Floral Scarf Duvet Cover—Urban Outfitters; 800/282-2200; urbanoutfitters.com. Drapery Ivory Jute Striped Sahaj Curtains—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). Carpet squares for bedside runners Made You Look in Egg nog—FLOR; 866/281-3567; flor.com.

Pages 72-73

Wall paint Spearmint SW6465—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; sherwin-williams.com [P]. Duvet—Urban Outfitters; 800/282-2200; urbanoutfitters.com. Bedskirt, pillow shams—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). Decorative pillow Organic Cloud Good Night Pillow similar available—Etsy; etsy.com. Rug Awning Stripes Dhurrie Rug—Shades of Light; 800/262-6612; shadesoflight.com.

Nightstand—CB2; 800/606-6252; cb2.com.

Pages 74-75

Wall paint Amazing Gray SW7044—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; sherwin-williams.com [P]. Duvet Hexagon Duvet Cover Set from the Room Essentials collection—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). Area rug Ginkgo Blossom Hand-Hooked Rug—Shades of Light; 800/262-6612; shadesoflight.com. Nightstand Tulip Flower End/Side Table with marble top—InStyleModern, Plainfield, New Jersey; 908/279-1100; instylemodern.com. Wall art—Brenna Giessen; brenna.etsy.com.

A FRESH TAKE ON VINTAGE

PAGES 76-81

Pages 76-79

Coffee table desk, legs cut to size after purchase—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). Sofa—Lee Industries; 800/892-7150; leeindustries.com. Drop cloth used to make slipcover and drapery—Home Depot USA, Inc.; homedepot.com. Lamp—Shades of Light; 800/262-6612; shadesoflight.com. Webbing for pillow project—Twiltape.com; twiltape.com. Botanical prints—Kiintage; kiintage.etsy.com. Branches, console table, side table—Kalalou; 800/249-4229; kalalou.com. Vases—Cody Foster & Co., Valentine, Nebraska; for retailers in your area call 402/376-3369; codyfosterandco.com. Rug, striped pillow—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; 800/658-5035; dashandalbert.com. Basket, frame—Wisteria; 800/767-5490; wisteria.com.

Pages 80-81

Crates as bedside table—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Casters**—Coolcasters.com; 800/394-8502; coolcasters.com. **Bed frame**—West Elm; 866/428-6468; westelm.com (product line varies). **Tote bag**—Hable Construction, Inc.; 817/422-5304; hableconstruction.com. **Bedding, throw**—Pine Cone Hill; 877/586-4771; pineconehill.com. **Rug**—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; 800/658-5035; dashandalbert.com. **Wood bird, metal crown**—Cody Foster & Co., Valentine, Nebraska; for retailers in your area call 402/376-3369; codyfosterandco.com. **Glass hurricane for lamp base project, spray paint Looking Glass**—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Ceiling panels for headboard**—Van Dyke's Restorers; 800/787-3355; vandykes.com.

INSTANT ARCHITECTURE

PAGES 82-87

Page 82

OSB utility panels 12x20—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Metal coatrack**—CB2; 800/606-6252; cb2.com. **Scarves**—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). **Page 83**

Laminate tiles used for wall Geo-White 5270-58, Neutral White 918-SP—Formica Corp.; 800/367-6422; formica.com. **Orange pillow on sofa**—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). **Blue headphones**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Fluffy white pillow cover** Mongolian Lamb Standard White Pillow Cover 15-7578552—West Elm; 866/428-6468; westelm.com (product line varies).

Pages 84-85

Barn boards—Iowa Barn Boards, Des Moines; 515/490-6659; iowabarnboards.com. **Boots**—Zappos; 800/927-7671; zappos.com. **Page 86**

Corrugated galvanized metal panels 12x73—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Blue-and-white lollipops and ribbon candy**—Hammond's Candies, Denver; 303/333-5588; hammonds Candies.com. **Orange lollipops and jelly beans**—Candy Clubhouse, West Des Moines, Iowa; 515/224-8997.

Page 87

Clear frosted acrylic sheets—Regal Plastic; 800/867-8347; regalplastic.com. **Chairs** Jackson Metal Tub Chair, scarf—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies).

FULL HOUSE

PAGES 88-97

Enjoy Rie Sterling's blog, homeandharmony.blogspot.com.

Pages 88-89

Coat hook system—IKEA; ikea-usa.com. **Chairs**—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). **Lighting**—Restoration Hardware; 800/910-9836; restorationhardware.com.

Legs for desk—homeowners' collection.

Pages 90-91

Fireplace mantel barbershop mirror and counter—Revival Antiques, Raleigh; 919/833-3444; revival-antiques.com. **Large slipcovered sofa Camden**—ClubFurniture; 888/378-8383; clubfurniture.com. **Cane chair purchased before painting**—Wisteria; 800/767-5490; wisteria.com. **Coffee table**—Ballard Designs; 800/536-7551; ballarddesigns.com (product line varies). **Entry table painted after purchase, mirror above table, lamp on table**—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com. **Scones above bookshelves**—Pottery Barn; 800/922-5507; potterybarn.com (product line varies). **French doors**—Odd Fellows Antiques, Asheville, North Carolina;

828/350-7800; oddfellowsasheville.com. **Pink pillow**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Mats for framed images on mantel**—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Stair balusters, front door, battery crate under entry table, metal stool**—homeowners' collection.

Pages 92-93

Chandelier—Ethan Allen Home Interiors; 888/324-3571; ethanallen.com. **End chairs**—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). **Side dining chairs**—Rachel Ashwell; rachelashwellshabbychiccouture.com. **Chalkboard frame purchased with mirror**—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com. **Metal bins**—Home Depot USA, Inc.; homedepot.com (product line varies).

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Throws at end of bed purchased as shower curtains—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). **Round frame for mirror**—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com. **White quilts**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Area rug**—Pier 1 Imports; 800/245-4595; pier1.com. **Beds, wicker side table, dresser, wood bench**—homeowners' collection.

Page 95

Headboard, duvet—Pottery Barn; 800/922-5507; potterybarn.com (product line varies). **Bedside table**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Knob on bedside table**—Hobby Lobby; 800/323-9204; hobbylobby.com. **Bedside sconce**—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Pillows custom**—homeowners' collection. **Green throw**—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com.

Pages 96-97

Door mat—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). **Striped pillows**—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; homegoods.com. **Swing, trunk, olive buckets, garden boots, child's chair**—homeowners' collection.

OFFICE WORKS

PAGES 98-105

Page 99

Lamp and shade—T.J. Maxx; 800/285-6299; tjmaxx.com (product line varies).

Pages 100-101

Stool, frame for artwork—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Rug**—T.J. Maxx; 800/285-6299; tjmaxx.com (product line varies).

Pages 102-103

Design-your-own wallpaper—Spoonflower; spoonflower.com. **Blue boxes, wicker basket**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). **Clear vases**—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Whale print Moby Dick**—Litographs; litographs.com. **Unicorn print**—Hero Design Studio; herodesignstudio.etsy.com.

GOING GREEN

PAGES 106-108

Planter designer—Tara Heibel, Sprout Home, Chicago; 312/226-5950; sprouthome.com. **Most containers, plant materials**—Sprout Home, Chicago; 312/226-5950; sprouthome.com. **Table**—IKEA; ikea-usa.com.

Other sources for moss gardening plants and supplies include:

Moss Acres; 866/438-6677; mossacres.com. **Moss & Stone Gardens**, Raleigh; 919/622-4150; mossandstonegardens.com.

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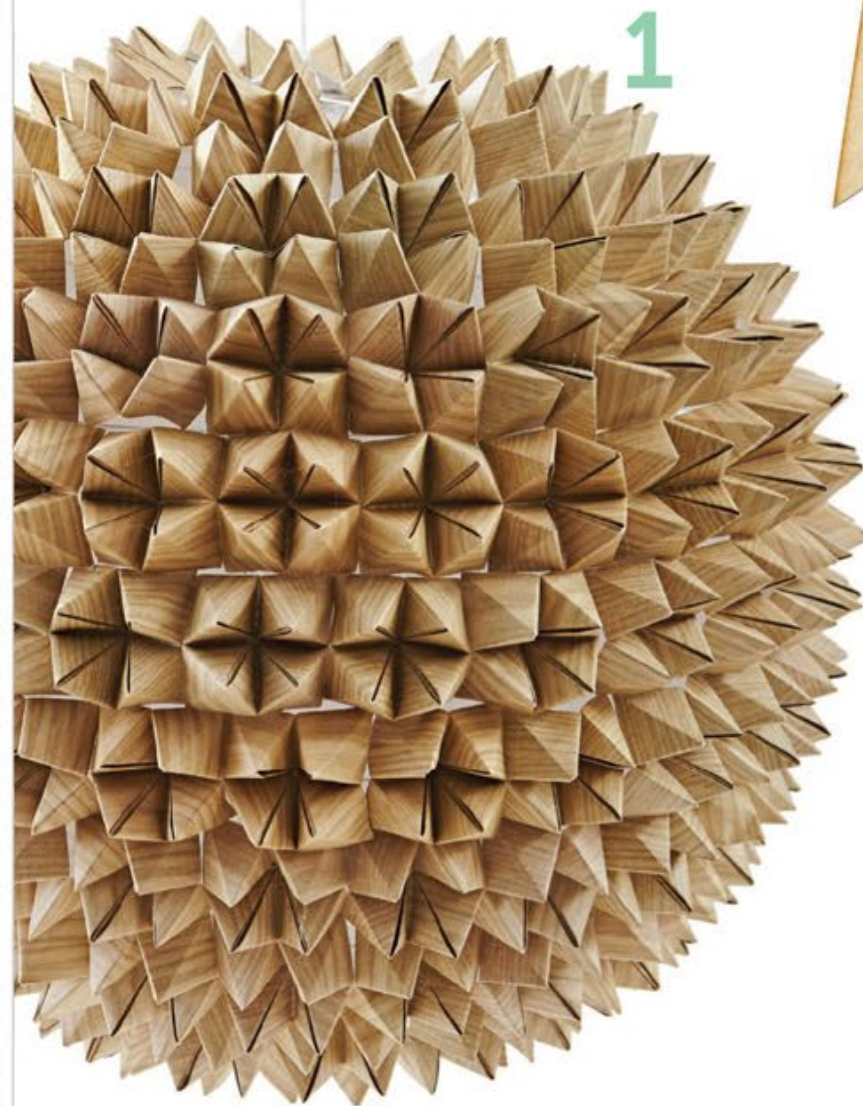


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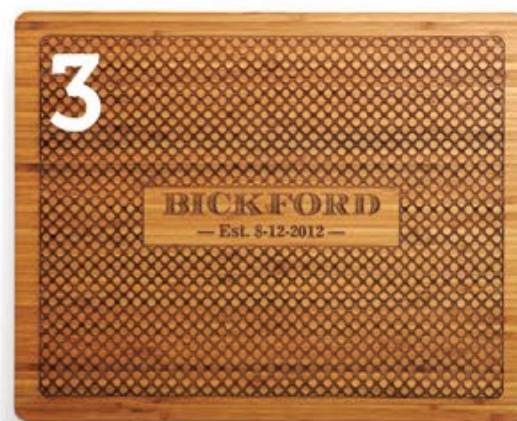
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