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Under
\$20™

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for Porches, Patios & Yards

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Summer 2014
Vol. 21 / Issue 2



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on the cover This porch gets a style boost from clever projects and loads of fresh paint. See page 70. photograph ADAM ALBRIGHT

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get inspired!

Look to the Web for even more DIY projects, clever tips, and must-try ideas.



Makeover mission
Ready for a furniture rescue? See how we turned seven Dumpster-bound Befores into pretty-as-can-be Afters.
BHG.com/DIYBeforeAfter

Free for all
Download patterns and plans for garden projects, stenciled walls, stitched pillows, and more.
BHG.com/DIYFreePatterns

First impressions
Increase curb appeal with a front-door makeover. After taking our simple quiz, we'll give you ideas that suit your style.
BHG.com/DIYDoorQuiz

Outdoor oasis
Whether it's laying pavers or building a dining table, learn how to create a backyard patio that's perfect for summer gatherings.
BHG.com/DIYPatioPlan

Summer lovin'

What could be better than lounging on a porch swing with a glass of lemonade and a great book? I can think of only one thing: knowing you made that porch swing yourself.

My friend, designer Katie Leporte, had a vision for the dated front porch that aged her entire house ([page 70](#)). She wanted an indoor-outdoor oasis that was safe and fun for her toddler daughter, yet sophisticated enough to serve as an entry point to her home.

But tackling a porch makeover seemed daunting and expensive. So Katie got creative. Rather than replacing the entire floor, for example, she tore out only the worn sections along the perimeter and replaced them with composite decking, then painted and stenciled the existing floorboards for a look that's fresh and unique. She screwed two (free!) pallets together and attached casters for a coffee table that offers more storage than store-bought versions. Flora from her backyard served as templates for inexpensive sun-print wall art. And the dreamy porch swing? Made from a single sheet of plywood and a bit of trim. (You can make it, too! Check out [page 74](#).)

Now Katie has a porch that provides a fitting welcome for guests, and more importantly, a happy place for her family.

Bethany

Bethany Kohoutek,
Do It Yourself™ editor



Blame it on dreams of summer road-tripping or, more likely, the fab map-theme art and decor that flooded our offices for our Best of Etsy feature on [page 112](#). Either way, Team DIY got inspired. We started with old road maps, then added paint, glitter, and more to craft one-of-a-kind wall art.

editor's letter



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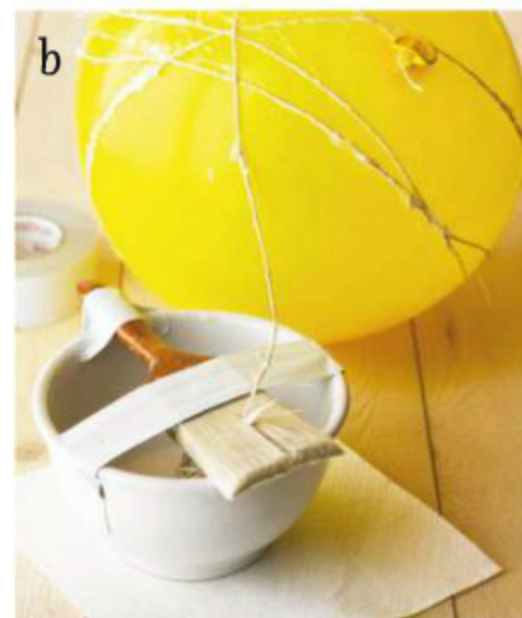
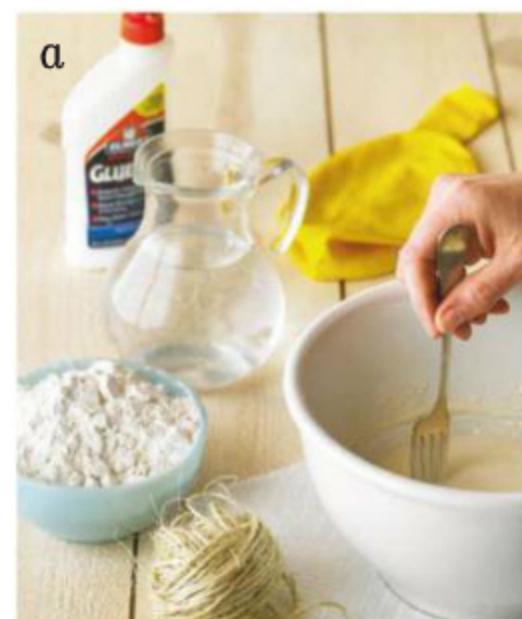


what to do with twine

learn the ropes

We lassoed five ways you can turn twine, polypropylene, and other braided fibers into pretty home accents.

projects JODI MENSING HARRIS | photographs STEVEN MCDONALD



Let there be light

RIGHT: Add soft light to your living space with a round pendant. In a bowl, mix 1½ cups warm water, 1 cup flour, 1 cup cornstarch, 1 cup crafts glue (we used Elmer's Glue-All), and 1 teaspoon salt. Stir until the mixture resembles runny pancake batter (a). Drop a roll of twine into the bowl, leaving one end out. Tape a paintbrush securely across the bowl, and pull the twine through the bristles, removing much of the gooey adhesive (b). As you pull the twine through, wrap it around a round balloon, rotating it as you go and leaving a small opening for inserting the lightbulb. Once the balloon is mostly covered, knot the twine ends and let dry for 24 hours. Make sure the twine has hardened before popping the balloon. Insert the lightbulb and cord kit through the opening. **TIP:** We tied the cord to the pendant with a few pieces of twine so the lightbulb would hang at the pendant's center. A low-wattage lightbulb should be used for safety reasons.



what to do with twine



The writing's on the wall

OPPOSITE: Express your inner lovebird with easy-to-make wall art. Drop thick natural-fiber rope into a mixture of 1½ cups warm water, 1 cup flour, 1 cup cornstarch, 1 cup crafts glue, and 1 teaspoon salt. Shape the rope into a word and a frame, laying the design on a piece of plastic wrap (a). Use light-gauge wire to add stability and form tight letter shapes. **TIP:** Write your word on the plastic wrap using a permanent marker first as a guide for the design. The letters should harden within about 24 hours. When dry, tack the lettering on the wall, attaching decorative birds or other embellishments.



Coiling point

LEFT: Say good-bye to a cold, wet floor and hello to a new, vibrant rug. Working on a hard surface, begin coiling braided polypropylene rope as tightly as possible. (We used a two-tone option, available at home improvement stores, for a fun patterned effect.) As you go, attach heavy-duty white duct tape to hold the coil securely in place (a). Once you've coiled the entire rope to the desired rug size (our ¾-inch-diameter rope was 90 feet long, and our finished rug is 3 feet wide), add an extra layer of duct tape all in the same direction, trimming any untidy tape ends. Turn over, so tape is on the back. **TIP:** Place a nonslip rug pad underneath to prevent the rug from sliding.

what to do with twine



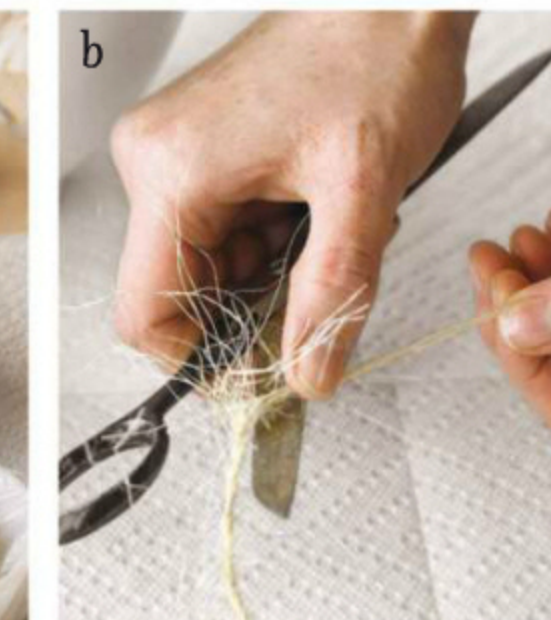
Get the memo

OPPOSITE: Make an old picture frame into a keepsake board. Measure increments along the back of the frame, marking where each string will be. Cut lengths of twine that will reach across the back of the frame. At each mark, place a dot of hot glue on the frame, then push the twine into the glue with a metal awl (a). Hold for a few seconds until the glue dries. Directly across the frame, place a dot of glue and attach the opposite end of twine, making sure it is taut. Hang the frame on your wall. Use clothespins (b) to display photos and ephemera.

Bird is the word

BOTTOM: Feather your nest with this accessory inspired by nature. Soak twine in a mixture of glue with about 2 tablespoons each of flour and water. Form the nest by coiling and shaping wet twine into a smaller, plastic-lined bowl (a). To create a layer of frayed twine, run the blade of a scissors against sections of dry twine (b). Add the frayed pieces to the nest with hot glue. Place two small faux eggs in the nest.

For Resources see [page 108](#).



try it

weather worthy

Enjoy the outdoors under a canvas canopy you build and waterproof yourself. Equip it with stylish accessories treated to withstand the elements.

projects + words **KATE CARTER FREDERICK** | photographs **KARLA CONRAD**



What we did...

OPPOSITE: We tested a variety of weatherproofing products on a collection of outdoor projects. The portable canvas canopy (see how to build and weatherize it on [page 20](#)) received a 50:50 blend of melted beeswax and paraffin. **ABOVE LEFT:** Even fabrics specially made for the outdoors can benefit from additional weatherproofing. The pillows were sewn with outdoor fabric and given extra protection with water repellents and UV (ultraviolet) blockers (we like Trek 7 brand; see below). **LEFT:** We treated the chair canvas with a UV protectant to prevent fading. Spraying the solution onto the fabric and lightly wiping it with a damp sponge ensures even coverage. When the canvas feels dry, spray it with a waterproofing product, wipe lightly, and let dry. **ABOVE:** We rubbed Otter brand fabric wax onto the stool canvas. **TIP:** Use a blow dryer to soften and spread the wax evenly into the fabric, forming a waterproof seal.



ready-made solutions

For convenience. Waterproofing products make it easy to extend the resilience of outdoor fabrics and reapply protection as needed. A bar of plant-based Otter wax ([otterwax.com](#)) rubs onto canvas, denim, and other fabrics in quick swipes. The wax may darken the fabric color slightly. Water-base fabric protectants from Trek 7 ([trek7.com](#)), including Ray Bloc and Aqua Armor, are made without harsh chemicals and help prevent fading and stains. **For Resources see page 108.**



how to make a waxed-canvas canopy

What you'll need:

- Duck canvas tarp
- Textile paint (We used Jacquard Textile Color.)
- Transparent base extender
- Brushes
- Iron
- Refined beeswax
- Paraffin
- Double boiler
- Blow dryer
- PVC pipes and fittings
- Spray paint for plastic (We used Krylon Fusion.)
- Rebar
- Hook-and-loop tape

step 1 Gather materials to paint and wax the canvas (a). Our tarp is 6x10 feet. Customize the canopy's size and color as you wish. Work on a hard surface protected with a drop cloth. Blend equal parts textile paint and extender; add water for less intense color. Paint both sides of the canvas (b). Let paint dry overnight.

step 2 Use an iron on the cotton setting to heat-set the paint (c) and ensure its colorfastness.



step 3 Safely melt equal amounts of beeswax and paraffin in a double boiler or similar water bath over low heat (d). (We used 1 pound each of beeswax and paraffin for our 6x10-foot tarp.) TIP: Natural beeswax produces a darker, more yellowish result than refined beeswax.

step 4 Brush the melted mixture lightly onto the fabric (e). Hold a blow dryer close to the fabric at medium to high heat (f), working over a small area at a time, until the wax melts into the canvas and the fabric appears dry.

step 5 Make a frame to fit your canopy, using $\frac{3}{4}$ - and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-diameter PVC pipes, $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Y fittings, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch adapters. Spray-paint pipes to cover their labels (g). Hammer rebar into the ground to anchor the frame when setting up the canopy (h). Stitch 3-inch-long hook-and-loop tape tabs to the canvas perimeter at 1-foot intervals to secure the canopy to the frame.

it all starts with one wall.

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outside forces

Trim, mow, haul, and shovel your way to the best yard on the block with these handy garden helpers.

words MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX



1 Briggs & Stratton Mow 'n' Stow Engine & Compact Lawn Mower
briggsandstratton.com
\$369

WHAT IT IS: This gas-power mower folds up in three simple steps and stores upright. A revamped engine design ensures gas and oil won't leak.
WHY WE LIKE IT: This model takes up 70 percent less floor space than traditional mowers. The fold-up design also makes the underside easily accessible for maintenance.

2 Fiskars PowerGear Bypass Pruner
fiskars.com
\$30

WHAT IT IS: Gears multiply leverage so these pruners can easily cut through branches up to 3/4-inch in diameter without a hand workout.
WHY WE LIKE IT: A contoured handle and secure-grip touch points provide ease of use.

3 Ames NeverLeak 250-Foot Hose Cart with Hose Guide
ames.com
\$55–\$60

WHAT IT IS: This cart makes it easy to haul your hose where you need it. Aluminum fittings prevent leaks.
WHY WE LIKE IT: A handy hose guide prevents tangling so the hose winds quickly and evenly, while an accessory bin provides storage for nozzles.

4 RedHed Tools The Essential Kit
redhedtools.com
\$349

WHAT IT IS: This dynamic tool set offers 32 tool combos. Four powder-coated steel heads—flat and round-point shovels, rake, and broom—screw onto four handles and a handle extension.
WHY WE LIKE IT: A large garage isn't necessary to have an extensive outdoor tool selection. Everything stores neatly in a 27½x18½x6¾-inch case.

5 Black & Decker 3-N-1 Compact Mower
blackanddecker.com

\$50 (mower deck only); \$100 (corded); \$150 (cordless)
WHAT IT IS: Perfect for small yards—and storage spaces—this all-in-one mower, string trimmer, and edger easily transitions between lawn care jobs with a simple push-pedal release.
WHY WE LIKE IT: Choose from battery- or electric-power models, or purchase the mower deck by itself if you already have a compatible trimmer/edger.

6 Ryobi 18V ONE+ Hybrid String Trimmer
ryobitools.com
\$119

WHAT IT IS: A dual power source—an 18V lithium-ion battery and an extension cord—makes this trimmer extra reliable.
WHY WE LIKE IT: Use electric mode when you want unlimited power near your house. Switch to battery power when you need temporary mobility. The battery will power any tool in the Ryobi 18V ONE+ line.

7 Craftsman 40V Lithium-Ion Blower
craftsman.com
\$170

WHAT IT IS: This battery-power blower achieves speeds up to 150 mph and offers 35 minutes of run time, making it ideal for clearing walkways.
WHY WE LIKE IT: This model has the power of gas without the heavy lifting. The battery is also compatible with other tools in the line (sold separately), including a trimmer/edger, hedge trimmer, and chain saw.

8 WORX AeroCart
worx.com
\$199

WHAT IT IS: Pull a release knob to reposition the wheels, and this versatile steel cart easily converts from a wheelbarrow into a multipurpose hand truck.
WHY WE LIKE IT: Move flowerpots, balled and burlapped trees, boulders, and more by using the included accessories. As a wheelbarrow, the placement of the cart's pivot point allows a 200-pound load to feel like 17 pounds.



a new life

Some of the best clutter tamers are those you create from unusual and sometimes discarded finds.

words + styling PAMELA PORTER



Team DIY
Pamela
Porter



Repurposing interesting finds is a fun way to add character to your home. Putting those objects to work containing clutter makes it all the more satisfying. But beware—it's hard to stop once you start rescuing cans and cartons from the recycle bin. After all, you can only store so much!

Why spend a fortune purchasing storage bins and boxes if you don't have to? Simply look at objects in a new way, and you'll discover all kinds of creative containers just waiting to organize your life. We framed this wire baking rack, *opposite*, to make a magnet board. Start your repurposing adventures today!

1. Farm fresh After cleaning and sanitizing this old galvanized chicken feeder, we let it organize stationery atop a desk. We scored our 4-foot trough feeder for \$12, then adorned it with labels made from magnetic ink-jet paper. You can find new feeders for about \$25.



2. Food for thought Rescuing food containers such as tea tins and soup cans from your recycling bin is not only a thrifty storage solution, but it's also eco-friendly. Cover them with pretty scrapbooking or gift-wrapping paper, then fill to the brim. For extra functionality, look for containers with lids.



3. Walk this way This large sheet pan comes out of the kitchen to contain shoes at the back door. The raised edges corral debris, and the metal surface is easy to wipe clean. Look for full sheet aluminum pans, which you can pick up for less than \$15; stainless steel could cost you more than twice that.

order in the house



4. On a roll Whether vintage or new, straw dispensers hold ribbon in stacks pretty enough to display. Lift the lid to pull out the stack, then unscrew the lid from the post to slide ribbon off, or simply unroll how much you need for your project.



5. Spa treatment Salvage shops often stock displaced dresser drawers, which have tons of uses. This drawer with a divider serves as a wall shelf in a bathroom. A dowel threaded through screw eyes serves as a towel bar.

6. Dish it up Pretty dishware serves to contain jewelry, crafts supplies, or any small items. Although this bowl and compote are reproductions, you can find similar vintage tableware for a song at garage sales or thrift shops. Look for statement pieces with pleasing details or patterns.



7. Pretty little things From muffin pans to mint tins, little metal containers get a new purpose holding tidbits and treasures inside drawers. On containers with lids, use pretty labels to identify contents.



8. Make your case Turn old suitcases into underbed storage by adding a set of casters. Handles make them easy to access, and lids keep contents dust-free. A coat of paint is optional, especially on cases flaunting lots of charm.

Scan here to learn more.



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DIY Q&A

handy girl

Got an issue you think requires a repair person? Our intrepid DIY veteran can help you help yourself outdoors this summer (and save you big bucks, too).

words JENNIFER WILSON

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

Help! The moving van left a tire-width divot on my formerly perfect lawn. How do I patch it with seed so I don't feel like I've ruined the place already?



DEAR READER,

Good instincts! Not only are you protecting your home's curb appeal, you're heading off what could develop into a tripping hazard.

First, loosen the soil surface with a garden fork—insert the tines and pull back repeatedly. Next, add bagged soil to the divot to level the surface with the surrounding area. Work that dirt until it's fluffy, so when you sprinkle it with seed, the

seed makes good contact with the soil. After you've seeded, carefully press the area with the back of a garden rake, and water thoroughly. Finish by applying a starter fertilizer, following label directions, and watering it in.

Keep this patch moist until the seed germinates; times vary by seed type. You'll know it's well-rooted—and will no longer need frequent watering—when you can tug on the grass and it resists. You can mow the spot when the grass reaches 3–3½ inches tall.



KEEP YOUR PRUNERS AND LOPPERS IN TIP-TOP SHAPE WITH PROPER CARE. WATCH OUR VIDEO AT BHG.COM/DIYTOOLCARE TO FIND OUT HOW TO SHARPEN AND CLEAN THEM.

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

I have several trees and shrubs on my property but don't have the budget for landscaping service. Are there general rules of pruning so I can do it myself?

DEAR READER,

Not knowing exactly what's in your yard, I'll leave you with general guidelines that hold true whether you're pruning trees or shrubs:

Choose the right tool. Use a pruning saw on branches larger than 1½–2 inches in diameter. Use loppers on branches an inch or so in diameter. Pruners work best on the smallest branches. Whatever you use, make sure it's clean and sharp.

Select the right time. Late winter is the best time to prune many trees or shrubs because they're dormant and it's easy to see what needs to be pruned. But there are exceptions:

- Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs right after they finish flowering.
 - Remove dead branches in summer when they are easy to spot.
 - Trees and shrubs that bloom during summer and into fall are best pruned in late winter or early spring, as soon as annual growth begins.
 - Avoid fall pruning. It stimulates new growth that could be killed by winter cold.
- You can prune the following anytime: suckers (shoots from the trunk base or roots); water sprouts (multiple soft, fast-growing branches that rise from a trunk or large limbs); branches that are dead, diseased, or damaged.

Happy pruning!



A PRESSURE WASHER MAKES FOR QUICK OUTDOOR CLEANUP. THIS ELECTRIC POWERFLOW+ MODEL OFFERS HIGH PRESSURE TO LOOSEN DIRT AND HIGH FLOW TO RINSE IT AWAY. (\$229; BRIGGSANDSTRATTON.COM).

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

The concrete slab in my driveway has developed a crack. It's not long or deep and the rest of the concrete looks fine—the hard winters and hot summers where I live have probably just taken their toll. How do I fix it?

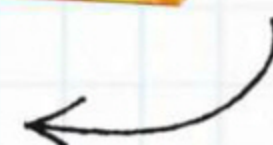
DEAR READER,

As long as the crack isn't from an extended tree root or something that will continue to cause damage, patching the concrete will solve your problem.

Start by cleaning the concrete surface using a pressure washer (you can rent them from home improvement stores) and masonry cleaning solution. If the crack is ½ inch wide or less, use a sand mix or concrete resurfacer. If the crack is more than ½ inch deep or wide, use standard concrete, which contains gravel. Mix the concrete to the consistency of cookie dough, using a mixing paddle chucked in a heavy-duty low-RPM drill (you can rent these). Pour the mixed concrete into the crack and use a flat-edge trowel, *right*, to work the mixture in, and then to smooth the surface. Dry overnight. To finish, consider applying a concrete resurfacer to the entire surface to preserve the pad even longer.



TIP SCRUB A NEW DECK BOARD WITH A SOLUTION OF 1 CUP BAKING SODA AND 1 GALLON WATER TO GIVE IT A WEATHERED LOOK.



DEAR HANDY GIRL,

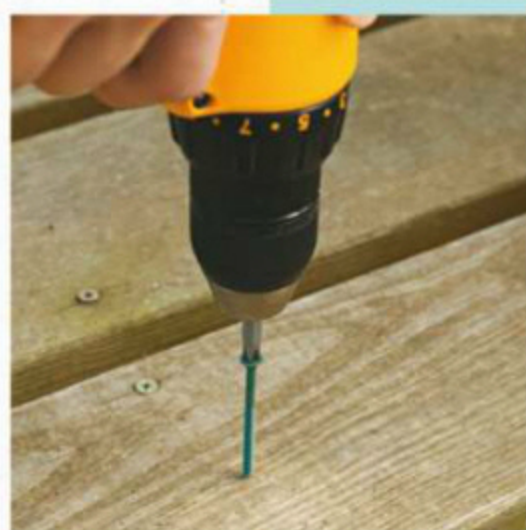
The wood deck on the back of my house is in good shape—except for a single board that's split. Can I replace just the damaged board or will that hurt the structure of the deck?

DEAR READER,

You can definitely replace a single deck board without hurting the structure, as long as you do it correctly.

Start by unscrewing the fasteners and removing the board. Cut a new board to size—if you don't have a saw, a lumber store can cut the board for you. You can either stain and seal the new board to match the rest of the decking, or scrub it with a solution of 1 cup baking

soda and 1 gallon water to give it a weathered look. (Test first on a scrap piece to make sure you like the result.) Now attach the new board, using the same type of fasteners used on the rest of the deck. Good as new.



DEAR HANDY GIRL,

When hauling my window screens up from the basement, I snagged one on a nail and now it's got a little rip. Do I need a new screen, or can I fix this on the cheap?

DEAR READER,

You can fix it by applying a screen patch, but I'm not crazy about how that looks. I'd rather replace the screen. It'll take a morning—less if you buy supplies beforehand.

Measure the screen size and hit the local hardware store, where they'll cut you a replacement screen while you shop for a small roll of vinyl screen spline and a spline roller—altogether, these purchases should cost you less than \$30. At home, remove the spline from the damaged screen. You'll probably need a screwdriver or pliers to get it started, then you

can remove it by hand. Remove the old screen and put the new one in place; it should overlap the screen frame. Use the round end of the spline roller to press the new screen into the frame grooves. Then use the grooved end to press the spline in place, beginning at a corner and keeping the screen tight as you advance. Cut off the excess screen and spline with a utility knife, and you're good as new.

By the way, an old-school hardware store will fix the screen for you for about double the supply price.



A SPLINE ROLLER PRESSES SPLINE (A FLEXIBLE CORD) INTO A FRAME TO HOLD A SCREEN IN PLACE. ONE END OF THE ROLLER STARTS THE SPLINE INTO THE GROOVE, THE OTHER END SETS IT DEEPLY TO SECURE IT. (\$5; HOMEDEPOT.COM).

Handy Girl Cleans: Windows & Screens

BOOST CURB APPEAL—AND IMPROVE YOUR VIEW—WITH THESE TIPS.

- Pick a cloudy day—glass that dries slowly streaks less. Low glare makes it easier to see.
- Vacuum sills, so you don't make mud when the wet work starts.
- Hose down the exteriors to remove that first layer of dirt. It makes the detail work easier.
- Use a sponge to hand-wash glass with a mixture of ½ cup sudsy ammonia, 1 pint rubbing alcohol, 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid, and 1 gallon water. Soak screens in the tub with warm soapy water, or hose them.
- Dry glass with a microfiber cloth, coffee filters, newspaper, or a squeegee.



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stuff we love



on our radar

New products, creative tools, and clever kits help you get in touch with your wild side this summer.

words **CHELSEA EVERS**
photographs **MARTY BALDWIN**
styling **BRIAN KRAMER**



Double draw Double-end markers, available in hundreds of colors, including 44 new hues, feature both chisel and fine tips for a variety of art projects. The nontoxic ink blends beautifully. \$3 per marker; prismacolor.com

Cuddly critters These adorable animals arrive as ready-to-stitch kits with hand-printed fabric, embroidery how-to, stuffing, and thread. Available in several styles, each creature stands about 5 inches tall. \$19 per kit; purisoho.com

1



2



3



4

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7



8



1. All in one

Eliminate the need for a bulky toolbox when you edit down to this efficient multitool. The Kelvin features 23 tools, including a mini hammer, level, flashlight, magnet, measuring tape, and a range of screwdriver heads. \$30; kelvintools.com

2. Pretty sweet

The Summer Soiree party pack from Brit + Co. bundles all the supplies you need to craft whimsical washi tape coasters, straws, drink stirrers, and cake bunting—perfect for a backyard picnic. Additional themes and seasonal sets are available. \$20; brit.co

3. Eco-clean

Ditch dangerous chemicals with this environmentally friendly alternative. A spray bottle with integrated lemon juicer, a microfiber cloth, and a recipe book make maintaining your home the natural way a cinch. \$10; crateandbarrel.com

4. Snip & season

Slicing herbs with a knife seems silly when compared to using this efficient 10-blade scissor. Garnish soups and top salads in seconds using these comfort-grip shears. A protective cover doubles as a blade cleaner. \$20; surlatable.com

5. Peel panache

Get the look of high-end tile without the hefty price or installation skills. Metal backsplash kits come in trimmable square-foot sets and stick directly to oil-base-primed walls or old glazed ceramic or porcelain tile. No grout necessary! Starting at \$16 per square foot; backsplashideas.com

6. Water saver

Stop watering the sidewalk! This smart sprinkler features 12 flexible heads that allow you to direct irrigation where it's needed. The Noodlehead attaches to standard garden hoses and comes with a spike to keep it in place. \$17; noodleheadsprinkler.com

7. Hip dip

Take dressing, dip, or salsa on the go with this clever jar insert. Inspired by Japanese bento boxes, the BNTD insert fits perfectly inside wide-mouth canning jars, keeping food below fresh. Available in five colors, the inserts are BPA-free and dishwasher-safe. \$9 per cup; cuppow.com

8. Hose hues

Brighten your yard or garden with a colorful rubber hose. Available in six smile-inducing shades, the professional-grade hoses measure 50 feet in length and feature crush-proof couplings. \$70 per hose; gardeners.com



9

10



11



14



16

12



13



15



17

18



9. Good as new

Use reclaimed wood to build tables, shelves, and more. Filled with clear how-to photos and illustrations, *Woodworking in a Weekend* shows beginners and pros how to construct long-lasting furniture and decor. \$25; chroniclebooks.com

10. Happy crafts

Whether you're looking to redecorate or craft a keepsake, *Yellow Owl's Little Prints* by Christine Schmidt shows how to combine stamping, stenciling, printing, and sewing. Includes reusable templates for invitations, gift wrap, and tags. \$22; yellowowlworkshop.com

11. Custom ink

This DIY self-inking stamp puts you in charge, making it easy to update your address, change dates, or include a custom message. Simply use the included tweezers to set the rubber type in place on up to 8 lines and then stamp away. \$30; staples.com

12. Lively letter

Available unfinished or painted, these wood monograms arrive ready for planting with PVC wire and a bag of sphagnum moss. Each planter features a removable back for replanting. Starting at \$47; rootedinsucculents.etsy.com

13. Serve in style

Create your own chic chevron tray to hold desk supplies or a few frosty beverages with this complete kit. Simply paint the wood tray inside and out, line with paper, and coat with sealant. Cheers! \$23; likehearted.etsy.com

14. Story time

This author-illustrator starter kit makes your dream of writing and illustrating your own picture books a reality. One 13-inch, three 7-inch, and five 4½-inch blank books ship together, ready for your creative plot lines and pictures. \$50; store.mcsweeneys.net

15. Brighten up

Use fabric markers or paint to color within the lines on these 20-inch square pillow covers that boast silk-screened designs. Constructed of cotton canvas, covers are appropriate for the outdoors and machine-washable. \$19 each; goodsbygirl.etsy.com

16. Flip side

Free up closet space when you choose this dual broom/dust mop. Use it like a regular broom, then flip the handle to transform it into a mop. The removable microfiber pad is good as new after a trip through the washing machine. \$30; quirky.com

17. Gifted garden

Personalize homegrown produce, flowers, and herbs with this label stamp kit, complete with a rubber stamp, green ink pad, and matching green pencil. The ink is suitable for stamping on everything from paper to fabric to pottery. \$20; yellowowlworkshop.com

18. Suck up

Eliminate pesky dust while sanding furniture or other projects with the Clean Sand System. The set includes a shapely Clean Sand block, sanding pads, 8 feet of flexible hose, and a connector that fits most standard vacuum cleaners. \$30; shop3m.com

LOOK FOR IT ON
NEWSSTANDS

**MAY
20TH**

DON'T PICK UP A PAINTBRUSH...

until you pick up the ultimate paint
guide from *Do It Yourself*™ magazine!

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instructions
to help you
paint like a pro



garden fresh

Your backyard is as local
as it gets. Use our tips and
ideas to produce your own
bumper crop of vegetables.

words MEGAN MCCONNELL HUGHES

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

A table overflowing with delicious fresh produce begins with a great growing site. Get started with these tips.

Deciding what to plant in your backyard garden is a lot like making a grocery list. What produce does your family like to eat? What is commonly in your shopping cart? Many vegetables are easy to grow in a home garden. Tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers are some of the most popular, but don't overlook beans, melons, and flavor-rich herbs.

SUNLIGHT Vegetables, fruits, and herbs require at least six hours of direct sunlight per day to produce ample fruit and foliage. The best edible garden location is bathed in eight or more hours of sunlight every day. When selecting a location, consider nearby trees and buildings. Although they may appear benign, they can shade the garden for several hours in the morning or afternoon. When faced with choosing between a spot with ample morning sun and a plot with generous afternoon exposure, choose the site with sunlight in the afternoon. The intensity of the afternoon rays will be more beneficial to fruit production.

SOIL The best garden soil is the color of chocolate and has the texture of brown sugar. It will clump together when squeezed, but clods easily break apart when you rub them between your fingers. Soil with this coloring and texture is rich in nutrients and has a structure that will nourish plant roots. If your garden site doesn't score high marks in color or texture, add compost. Boost the soil nutrients while improving structure by incorporating a 2-inch layer of well-decomposed compost to the top 12 inches of



soil. Repeat annually. If you are gardening in containers, choose a potting soil mix that is designed for vegetable gardening.

WATER Edible gardens are most productive when they receive about 1 inch of water per week. When rain doesn't fall, supplement soil moisture by watering the garden. Easy access to water makes this weekly garden chore a cinch. Choose a planting location that is near a hydrant or hose bib on the exterior of your home. You can choose from a watering can, a wand, or a hose for watering. You are most likely to keep up with watering in the dog days of summer if water is readily accessible.



SEED IT

Beans
Carrots
Corn
Cucumbers
Lettuce & greens
Melon
Squash

GO FOR TRANSPLANTS

Broccoli
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Eggplant
Onions
Peppers
Tomatoes

seed or transplant?

Some plants thrive when seeded directly in the garden. Others require a jump-start with nursery-grown transplants.



SMALL SPACE, BIG REWARDS

You don't need an extensive landscape to cultivate a bountiful garden. A few pots on a patio or a modest-size plot in the backyard will yield a lush harvest.

PLAN YOUR PATCH

Size matters when it comes to edible gardening. When in doubt, plant a small garden rather than a large one. An 8x8-foot plot is a just-right size for a first-time gardener. It is enough space to grow several tomato and pepper plants and a few rows of onions or green beans. Add early-season greens and broccoli, and you'll have months of garden-fresh produce. No space for a plot? Plant an edible garden in containers. Look for large containers with drainage holes at your local garden center. Fill the pots with quality potting soil, and plant your favorite vegetables, starting plants from seed or transplants. Container gardens dry out quickly, so plan to water pots daily.



Line repurposed baskets with landscape fabric to prevent the soil from seeping out.



how to make a garden bed

What you'll need:

- Garden hose
- Flour or marking paint
- Sod cutter (optional)
- Sharp spade
- Garden rake
- Compost

step 1 Using a garden hose, outline the shape of your garden bed. Strive for a shape that allows easy access to plant rows. Mark the shape of the bed with flour or marking paint (a) and remove the hose.

step 2 Remove the sod with the help of a sod cutter (b) or a sharp spade. Work diligently to remove the turf's entire root zone. This will make for minimal weeding later in the season.

step 3 Loosen the soil in the garden bed with a spade (c). Sink the spade into the top 6–8 inches of soil and turn it over. Use the spade to break up clods as you go.

step 4 Spread a 2-inch layer of well-decomposed compost over the entire garden bed. Use a spade to mix the compost into the top 6 inches of garden soil. Rake the mixture smooth in preparation for planting (d).

seasonal favorites

The long, hot days of summer are just right for tomatoes, while the cool days of spring and fall are perfect for kale. Gardening is all about the timing. Expand your harvest by staggering crops throughout the growing season.



SPRING

• Beets • Broccoli • Carrots
• Cauliflower • Green onions
• Kale • Lettuces and greens
• Peas • Radishes • Spinach



SUMMER

• Beans • Corn • Eggplant • Melon
• Onions • Pepper • Squash • Tomato



FALL

• Beets • Broccoli • Carrots
• Cauliflower • Kale • Lettuces
and greens • Radishes • Spinach

MARKET FRESH GARDEN PLAN

Measuring merely 8x8 feet, this vegetable garden is just the right size for a small landscape.

When growing plants up vertical structures, place poles and trellises at planting time to avoid damage to root systems.

This easy-care garden grows up instead of out. Snap peas scramble up trellises on one side of the garden. Tomatoes grow up tall stakes; new, young branches are tied to the stakes every few days. The result of this diligent tomato staking is large, round fruit that is less likely to be plagued by pests and diseases. Finally, cucumbers are trained up a tepee to prevent sprawling across the garden.

A SNAP PEAS

'Sugar Snap'. Grow to 8 feet tall; large, juicy pods. 1 packet.

B LETTUCE

'Buttercrunch'. Classic Bibb lettuce. 1 packet.

C LETTUCE

'Red Sails'. Ruffled red leaves; tolerates warm weather well. 1 packet.

D RADISH

'Cherry Bell'. Round red classic radishes. 1 packet.

E TOMATO

'Early Girl'. Reliable red medium-size tomato with great flavor. 1 plant.

F TOMATO

'Better Boy'. Large red beefsteak type with meaty flesh. 1 plant.

G TOMATO

'Brandywine'. A large pink beefsteak heirloom famous for its flavor. 1 plant.

H CUCUMBER

'Sweet Success'. Long, straight cucumbers, never bitter. 1 plant.

I SWISS CHARD

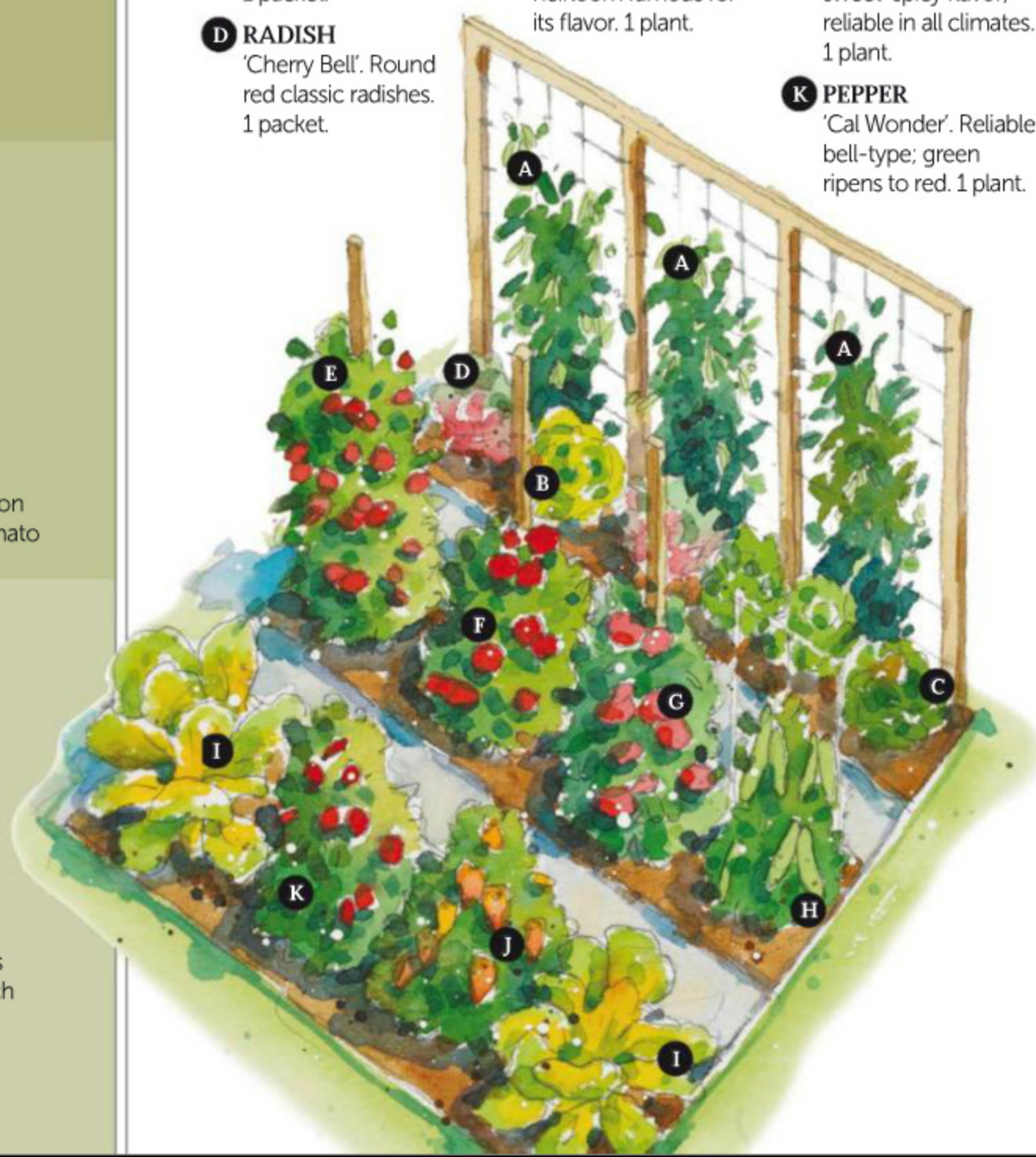
'Bright Lights'. Red, orange, yellow and pink stems. 2 plants.

J PEPPER

'Gypsy'. Yellow, sweet-spicy flavor; reliable in all climates. 1 plant.

K PEPPER

'Cal Wonder'. Reliable bell-type; green ripens to red. 1 plant.



RESOURCEFUL SOURCES

Great gardens begin with high-quality seeds and healthy transplants. Check with friends and neighbors to learn about the best sources for plant material in your area.



FLAVOR CONTAINED

Herbs are excellent plants for pots. Most varieties thrive in container gardens, producing copious quantities of sweet, spicy, or tangy leaves over a growing season. A strawberry pot, above, contains a variety of easy-to-grow herbs, including sage, thyme, and mint. Harvest foliage frequently to encourage new leaves.



how to plant seeds

What you'll need: _____ String
_____ Seeds _____ Garden marker
_____ Hoe
_____ Garden stakes

step 1 Read the planting information—recommended planting time, depth, and spacing—on the back of seed packets. Use this valuable information to lay out your garden, ensuring mature plants have adequate space.

step 2 Place a string line where you would like to make a garden row. Make a string line by tying each end of the string to a garden stake. Use the hoe to create a furrow along the line (a).

step 3 Drop seeds in the furrow, spacing them as directed on the seed packet (b). Gently cover the seeds with soil (c). Label the row with an identifying marker (d).

TIME MANAGEMENT

Plant. Water. Weed. Harvest.

After the initial prep and planting, tending an edible garden requires just a few minutes of effort a day to produce a table full of flavor-rich delights.

Stay ahead of weeds and keep tabs on plant growth by spending about five minutes in the garden every other day. Stroll around the tomatoes and peppers in the morning and pluck weeds as you go. Or visit at night, as the sun is setting, watering and weeding as needed. The plants will be healthier and more productive when you take the time to enjoy the fruit of your labor.



ADD MULCH

Organic mulch, such as shredded bark or grass clippings, is an easy way to suppress weeds. Most weed seeds need light to germinate. A 2-inch layer of mulch fights weeds by blocking light, preventing germination. Spread mulch over the garden after seedlings emerge and when planting transplants. Prevent disease by maintaining a 2- to 3-inch mulch-free ring around the base of plants. Moist mulch in contact with stems creates a portal for fungi and bacteria to enter the plant. At the end of the season, use a spade to mix mulch into the top 8 inches of soil. The mulch will decompose and add nutrients to the soil.



WATCH FOR PESTS

Good news—pest control is rarely necessary in an edible garden! Visit BHG.com/DIYPestControl for a wealth of information on identifying and controlling garden pests. Staff at your local garden center can help, too. Most often the pest will depart the garden in short order, leaving only cosmetic damage behind. If damage is ongoing and significant, control the pest with the least toxic method available.

WATER SMART

Edible plants thrive when they are provided about 1 inch of water per week. When it doesn't rain, make the most of every drop with efficient watering practices. Water deeply. Your goal is to send moisture 6–8 inches into the soil to encourage greatest root growth. Cover soil with a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch to reduce soil moisture evaporation. Be vigilant about eliminating weeds.



Send water directly to a plant's root zone. Fungal diseases develop on wet foliage.

save it!

Canning, pickling, and freezing preserve the flavors of summer for enjoyment year-round. Find out which method is best for your crops (and learn the basics) at BHG.com/DIYPreserving.

PICKLING

Pickling is a smart way to preserve small batches of vegetables. Impart unique flavors to your pickled produce by adding garlic, mustard seeds, or red pepper flakes. Visit BHG.com/DIYPickling for recipes.

FREEZING

Another fast method for preserving a small harvest is freezing. Many veggies become delicious additions to soups and pasta dishes in the winter. Go to BHG.com/DIYFreezing to learn how to freeze veggies right.

HARVEST HINTS

Capture the best flavor from your garden by recognizing the cues each crop gives when it is prime for picking. Visit the garden every couple of days to check your plants' progress.

Perfectly ripe tomatoes and crisp peppers are the reward for thoughtfully tending a garden plot. Summer is the prime harvest season for many popular garden vegetables, but the bounty can begin in spring and extend into fall with a little planning.

Silks are brown on the tips when sweet corn is ripe.



ONIONS



HARVEST SEASON

Early summer to fall.

WHEN IT'S RIPE

The green tops flop over in midsummer, signaling onions have reached full size. Harvest young scallions when shoots reach 10–12 inches.

EXPERT TIP

Cure harvested onions in a shady area or garage for a few weeks. Once skins are dry, cut off tops and store in a cool place indoors.

TOMATOES



Yield times vary, but most types are in bumper crop mode from mid-July through September.

A tomato uniformly reaches its mature color—be it red, orange, or yellow—and pulls easily from the stem.

Keep picked tomatoes at room temperature—refrigeration diminishes flavor and texture.

SWEET CORN



Successive sowing of corn in spring brings yields from mid-July through September.

The silks turn brown (but not dry), and kernels are formed and full all the way to the top. Dimpled kernels are past peak.

Traditional corn types start to mellow the moment they're picked. Sugar-enhanced (SE) hybrids, such as Peaches & Cream, stay sweeter longer.

CUCUMBERS



Cucumbers come on strong in the heat of midsummer. With regular picking, vines will continue to produce through early fall.

The spiny skin smooths out. Small cukes are crisper and less seedy than large ones. At peak when 2 inches in diameter and 5–8 inches long.

It's best to err on the immature side, as cucumbers can turn from just right to overripe overnight.

HOT PEPPERS



All peppers produce from midsummer until frost.

A fruit reaches full size and begins to color. This is when flavor and heat peak. However, most peppers are delicious at any size.

Before frost, pick all peppers, even small ones. Fresh peppers last a week or more refrigerated; excess can be frozen, dried, or canned.

frame of mind

This crafty couple took matters into their own hands to create a haven their young family enjoys every day.

words + styling **BRENDA WEGNER** | photographs **ADAM ALBRIGHT**



When Ashley and Jamin Mills purchased a little builder-grade home, they didn't plan to be there long. It wasn't their style. It wasn't their dream home.

So they left the brown and beige house in Montgomery, Alabama, as it was, until one day Ashley decided to stop pining away for the beautiful farmhouse kitchen she wanted so badly and to make this home into one she could love.

The makeover began with paint. No room was left untouched as the couple embraced their new philosophy: "Down with the brown, hello eclectic farmhouse love," Ashley says.

Ashley majored in art and is a graphic designer by trade, so it makes sense that she began to use their home as a canvas. "Color should be used or balanced like you would in a piece of art," she says.

Ashley took another natural step when she got tired of seeing frames with painfully high price tags that didn't



What they did...

OPPOSITE: Ashley and Jamin Mills customize almost every corner of their home with handmade artwork. **TOP:** Ashley sewed favorite fabrics and a vintage sugar sack into pillows for the living room. A collage of Instagram images on a hardboard panel, topped with plexiglass and framed with crown molding, becomes large-scale art. A friend welded the coffee table frame; the plank top can be changed as desired. **ABOVE:** Painted stripes punch up a handmade frame, while stenciled song lyrics spruce up a vintage trunk.

come in the colors or sizes she wanted. The couple's solution? Make their own. "Anything you see on our wall, we've done to try to bring that super personal aspect in," Ashley says.

Ashley and Jamin make it a goal to incorporate family photos into nearly every room, such as the collage of Instagram pictures in the living room.

"From spaghetti-covered hands to Lego men, merry-go-rounds, and spilled Froot Loops, all of the little photos

brought a real punch to our space with depth and warmth and fun color," Ashley says. "We catch our kids on a regular basis standing on the couch to get a better view of themselves."

Being the stars of the home's artwork isn't the only role Aiden, Emerson, and Malone play in the design process. Ashley likes to look at the space from their perspective and think about what will be fun for them.

"The kids always have a say," Ashley

says. "It's not all about me because I share that space with our family."

As Jamin and Ashley kept gaining DIY skills and crafting a home they loved, Ashley started her blog, *The Handmade Home* (thehandmadehome.net). It's so popular that Ashley now works as a full-time lifestyle blogger.

"We broke a few conventional 'rules' to live life in our home like it was our last one," Ashley says. "And it was liberating."



What they did...

LEFT: Scored for \$25 each, reclaimed planks from an old peanut barn became striking shelves in the dining room when placed on metal supports welded by a friend. Ashley used her beloved overhead projector to trace a damask pattern on a long skinny board before painting it and hanging it on the wall between two shelves. What looks like a large mirror is actually a series of small affordable glass tiles affixed to medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and framed. Another large handmade frame fills the wall opposite the windows. Cutouts in a large painted board showcase cork tiles and 8x8-inch photos mounted on MDF blocks for a dimensional display. The couple balances big projects with easy upgrades, such as the simple cloth for the table. **ABOVE LEFT:** Baskets along the bottom shelf hold china, napkins, and other entertainment supplies. **ABOVE:** Ashley and Jamin made this wood box and painted it with checks and stripes. When filled with jars of flowers, it's a high-impact centerpiece. It also holds art supplies during crafts sessions.



What they did...

OPPOSITE: Using "down with the brown" as their motto, the couple turned what was once a dark space into a light, bright kitchen with farmhouse flair. They painted the particleboard cabinets white and removed some of the doors to create display areas and a more open feel. The walls and island went light blue. Not able to find affordable letters in the right size to spell "Enjoy," Ashley used an overhead projector to trace letters onto MDF, cut them out with a jigsaw, and covered them with fabric using spray adhesive. **ABOVE:** Ashley's first sewing projects were the kitchen curtains and skirt under the sink. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The kids love to color on the refrigerator. Ashley painted it with magnetic primer and chalkboard paint. **RIGHT:** The large pin board by the kitchen table is one of the first projects Jamin and Ashley attempted. Crown molding frames cork tiles.





What they did...

ABOVE: The boys share a custom loft bed complete with rope ladder. Monograms identify each brother's side. Ashley stitched curtains and hung them from a copper pipe to hide the bed's legs and create a fun nook for the boys to play. The couple made the toy box, and Ashley painted the "mills bros." sign. OPPOSITE LEFT: A toy kitchen made from old nightstands and a dresser is the hub of activity in the playroom. Ashley created a magnetic display area for their kids' artwork by sewing together pieces of fabric and adhering them to metal. OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: In daughter Emerson's room, Ashley framed vintage paper dolls she found on eBay. She crafted the mobile by cutting felt flower shapes and hanging them from an embroidery hoop with yarn. OPPOSITE RIGHT: Ashley's childhood dresser, once dark brown, was painted green, then blue, then sanded in places to expose bits of the green paint. A mini dress form found at a flea market becomes a pretty jewelry stand with the addition of paint and a tulle tutu.





What they did...

OPPOSITE: The couple hired a contractor to turn an underused back patio into a more useful enclosed space. They painted what was once exterior siding in stripes of white and one of Ashley's favorite paint colors, Benjamin Moore Robin's Nest Blue, which also appears in the playroom and on furniture pieces throughout the house. She purchased the settee and chairs on clearance and made them her own with coordinating pillow covers. **ABOVE:** In the backyard, the couple built a play structure they've dubbed "the hideaway." The slide attached to the side is a fun way to make an exit. A large arrow crafted from painted pieces of wood points the way, while pillows and cushions make it a comfortable place to hang out. The kids' artwork is framed in plexiglass and hung throughout the space. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Shelves hung between the wall supports display treasures. **RIGHT:** Ashley and Jamin created a harlequin pattern on the scored concrete patio by painting it in two shades of concrete paint. The table is an old door, topped with glass and attached to a base constructed by Jamin.



What they did...

ABOVE: Ashley sewed together bright strips of fabric to create a cover for a body pillow in the master bedroom. To achieve a mercury glass look, the couple treated large mirror tiles with acid wash before assembling them into a larger mirror. Ashley painted the "how sweet it is to be loved" piece. **LEFT:** Ashley enlarged the envelope that her great-grandparents' marriage certificate was mailed in and framed it by wrapping fabric around MDF. **BELOW:** The fab five (left to right), Aiden, Jamin, Malone, Ashley, and Emerson, hang out on the sofa.

For Resources see [page 108](#).



5 DIY Ideas to Steal

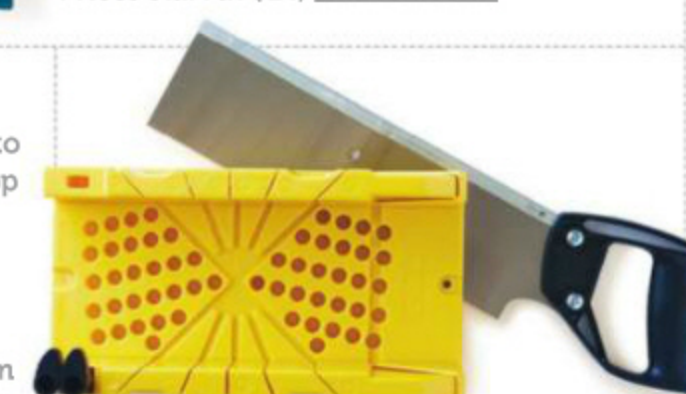
TAKE THIS HANDS-ON APPROACH TO GETTING ASHLEY AND JAMIN MILLS' LIGHT, BRIGHT, FAMILY-FRIENDLY LOOK IN YOUR HOME.



1. Get framed Learn to frame it yourself. Ashley and Jamin's book, *Handmade Walls*, takes you step-by-step through making your own custom frames. E-book: \$9.95; [thehandmadehome.net](#). Hard copy: Prices start at \$14; [amazon.com](#).

3. Photo happy

To create your own photo collage, download an app to have your Instagram photos printed directly from your phone. Have prints shipped to your home using Printstagram ([printstagram.com](#)), below. Or, send photos to your local Walgreens with Printicular ([printicular.com](#)). Both are available in the Apple and Android stores.



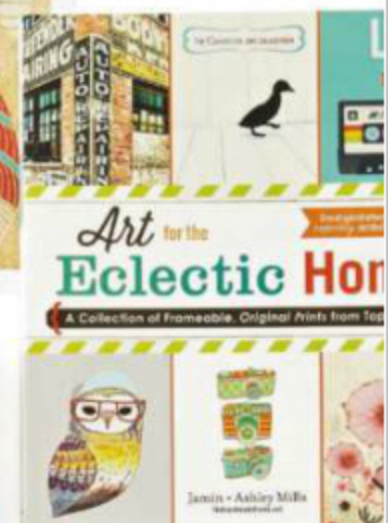
4. A cut above This easy-to-use miter box and saw is an option for even the most inexperienced DIYer. It's the key to making 45-degree cuts for your own frames. \$15.98; [lowes.com](#).



Project it Ashley uses an overhead projector to trace patterns and letters onto pieces of MDF for large-scale art. If you don't want to invest in a new model, look for used ones on websites such as eBay or Amazon, or inquire at your local school or church about purchasing old equipment. \$260; [staples.com](#).

2

Picture this Wake up your walls with artwork picked by Ashley and Jamin. No matter what your style is, you'll find the perfect print in one of three books: *Art for the Contemporary Home*, *Art for the Traditional Home*, and *Art for the Eclectic Home*. Each contains 40 easy-to-tear-out prints. Prices start at \$13; [amazon.com](#).



garden gallery

Find inspiration in nature for these easy art projects made to enhance any setting.

projects KATE CARTER FREDERICK, VAN HOLMGREN, AND ANNA FREDERICK
photographs JAY WILDE | words KATE CARTER FREDERICK



Recycled wreath

OPPOSITE: Most gardeners gather bumper crops of plastic nursery pots and cell packs each year at planting time. Here's a creative way to reuse them, no matter their shape, size, or color. The wreath is designed to tough it out in the rain or sun. To make a hanger for it, bend a 3-inch length of wire into a U shape. Dab the ends of bent wire in glue and poke them into the back of the wreath near the top center. LEFT: When attaching a flower to the wreath using a floral pin or nail, add a dot of hot glue to secure it.



how to make a nursery pot wreath

What you'll need:

- 12- or 14-inch foam wreath form
- Moss mat
- Heavy-duty glue
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Plastic nursery pots and cell packs
- Patterns from [BHG.com/DIYGardenArt](http://bhg.com/DIYGardenArt)
- Spray paint for plastic (We used Krylon Fusion.)
- Floral wire, floral pins, or nails (4D coated sinkers)
- Awl
- Crafts beads with large holes
- 28-gauge wire

heavy-duty glue (c). Use the remaining moss mat pieces to cover the entire wreath form.

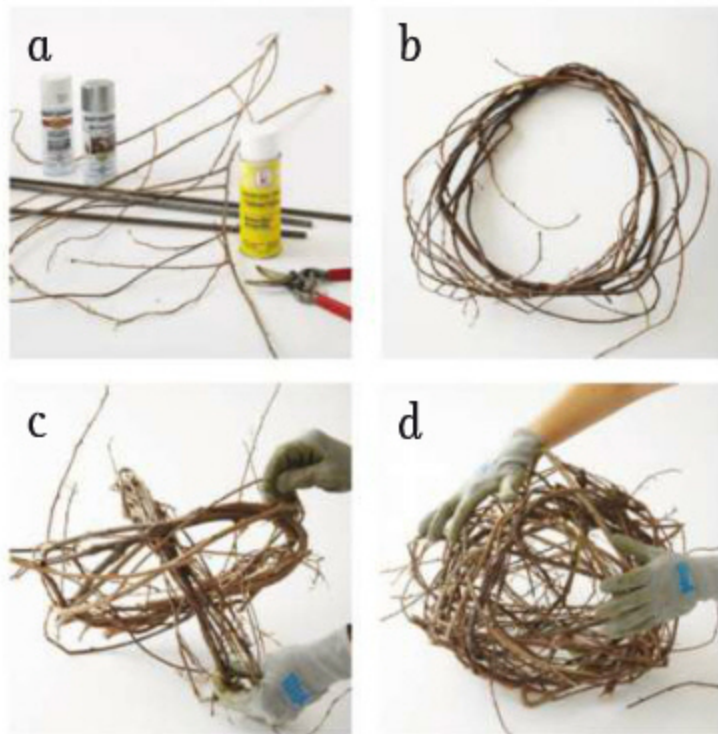
step 3 Download and print the flower and leaf patterns. Cut the nursery pots and cell packs using the patterns (d). Bend the plastic shapes for dimension.

step 4 Working outdoors, spray-paint the plastic flower and leaf shapes, using more than one color of paint, if you like. Allow the paint to dry for at least four hours or overnight.

step 1 Gather your supplies (a). Set the wreath form on the moss mat and cut around it as widely as possible (b).

step 2 Glue the moss mat to the wreath form with

step 5 Anchor each flower or leaf to the wreath using a floral pin, nail, or piece of floral wire (e). If necessary, use an awl to poke a hole in the shapes and secure with hot glue (f, g). Wire a bead in the center of some flowers (h).



how to form a sphere and pedestal

What you'll need (a):

- Three 4-foot lengths of 3/8-inch rebar
- Spray primer
- Exterior spray paint
- Pruners
- Vines (bittersweet, grapevine, or comparable)
- Floral spray paint

step 1 Carefully bend one end of each rebar, arching it to form a pedestal for the vine sphere. We used a sidewalk crack to anchor the rebar end while bending it.

step 2 Spray the rebar with primer and let dry. Apply exterior spray paint to the rebar; let dry.

step 3 Gather vine prunings; strip off any leaves. Twist a length of vine into a circle the size of your desired sphere (b). Wrap and tuck the vine ends to secure them.

step 4 Make another circle of vine and fit the two circles together to form opposite axes, twisting and tucking the vine ends to secure them (c).

step 5 Add lengths of vine to round out the sphere, filling large gaps, and tucking the ends into place (d).

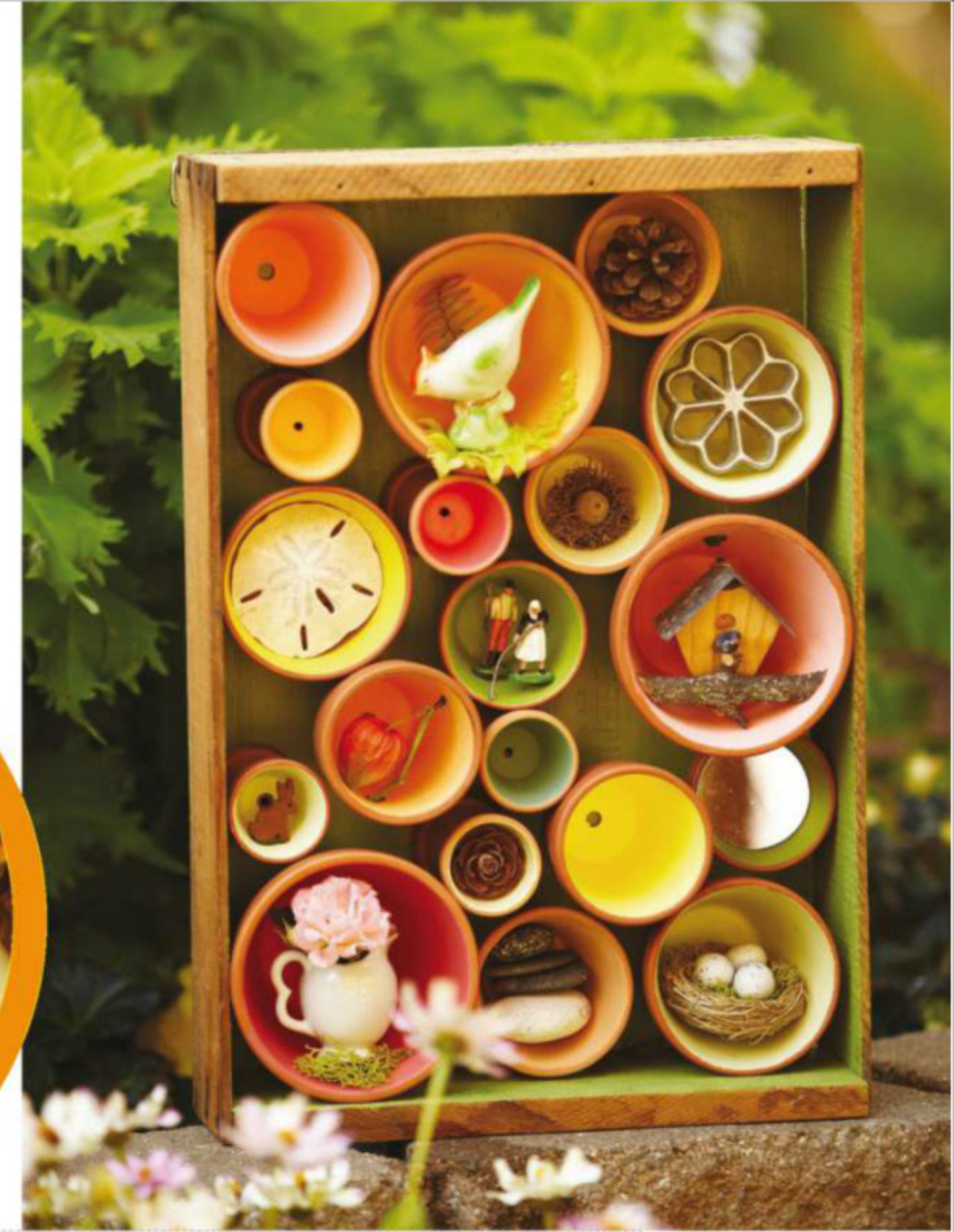
step 6 Coat the finished sphere with floral spray paint. When dry, place on the rebar base.

Outdoor orb

THIS PHOTO: Gather trimmings leftover from garden pruning and fashion them into a decorative accent. A tripod of arching rebar holds the organic sphere and adds to the sculpture's overall effect. Stand the rebar securely in the ground 6–8 inches apart and adjust to hold the sphere and appear balanced. TIP: Wear gloves and safety glasses when bending rebar.

Curios on display

RIGHT: A vintage fruit crate provides a deep frame for terra-cotta cubbies in which to display a collection of tiny treasures. We doubled up the smaller pots. BELOW: Whether hung on a wall or tucked into a sheltered garden nook, the box highlights the natural beauty of the objects.



how to build a shadow box

What you'll need:

- Wood fruit crate
- Plywood
- Construction adhesive
- Acrylic outdoor paint in several colors
- Terra-cotta pots (2-, 2½-, 3-, 3½-, and 4-inch)
- Brushes
- Assorted trinkets

step 1 Gather your materials (a). To provide an even surface for attaching pots, cut plywood to fit snugly inside the crate bottom and secure with construction adhesive. Paint the inside of the crate (b); let dry.

step 2 Paint the insides of the pots using desired colors (c). Let the paint dry.

step 3 Fit the terra-cotta pots inside the crate as snugly as possible, forming a pleasing pattern. Dab construction adhesive on the bottom of the pots to attach them to the crate (d). Turn some 2-inch pots over and use them as risers for other 2-inch pots. Glue the bottoms of the pots together, then glue the rim of one pot to the crate.

step 4 Tuck trinkets inside the terra-cotta pots.



Winged wonders

LEFT and OPPOSITE: A bundle of lath, available at a building center, yields two wood canvases to bring a bit of color to a fence or wall, inside or out. It's also a great way to screen an unattractive view. Each palletlike canvas is light-weight yet sturdy when attached to a 2x2 frame. We hung ours from a wire attached to 3/4-inch wood screws at the top corners.



how to build and stencil a lath canvas

What you'll need:

- Two 24-inch 2x2s
- Sixteen 24-inch lengths of lath
- 1-inch wire brads
- Hammer
- Latex exterior paints
- Mini paint roller
- Pattern from BHGC.com/DIYGardenArt
- Poster board
- Repositionable spray adhesive
- Crafts knife with #2 blade
- 1/2-inch flat paintbrush
- 3/4-inch wood screws
- 28-gauge wire

step 1 Place two 2x2s upright and 24 inches apart on a firm work surface. Lay the lath crosswise between the uprights; spaced at least 1/4 inch apart (b). Fasten the lath ends to the 2x2s using wire brads. Secure additional lath to the back at the top and bottom.

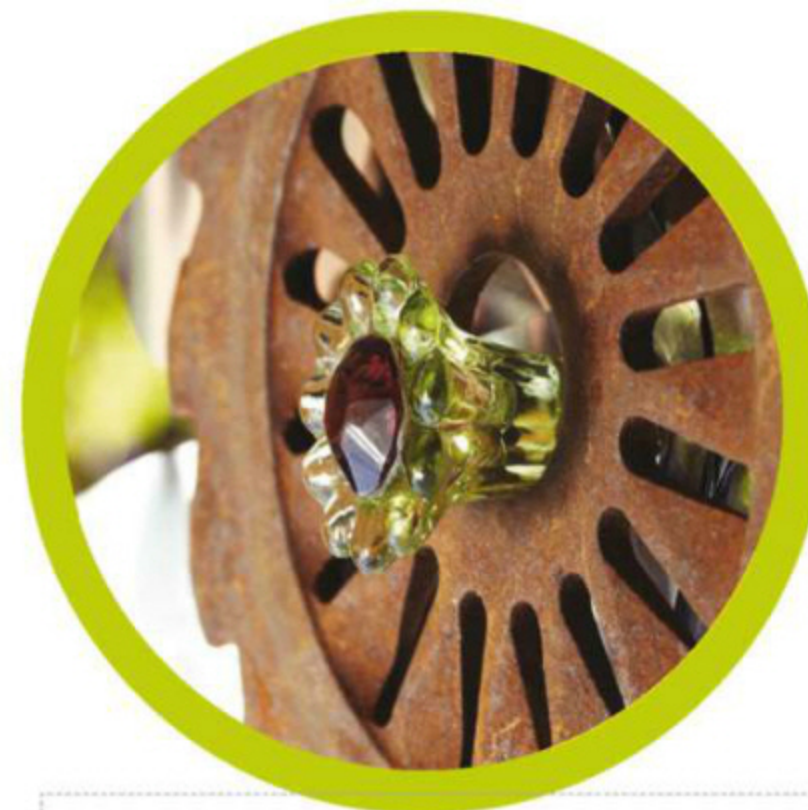
step 2 Roll outdoor acrylic paint onto the front of the lath canvas. Let the paint dry overnight.

step 3 Download and enlarge pattern to 20x20 inches (c). Spray repositionable adhesive on the back and secure it to poster board. Using a crafts knife, cut out black areas to make a stencil (d). Cut inside the lines to avoid cutting the connectors that hold the stencil together.

step 4 Brush grasslike stripes of paint onto the bottom portion of the lath canvas. Let the paint dry.

step 5 Position stencil on the lath canvas using repositionable adhesive. Paint image with a flat brush; let dry. Add a hanger to the back with screws and wire.

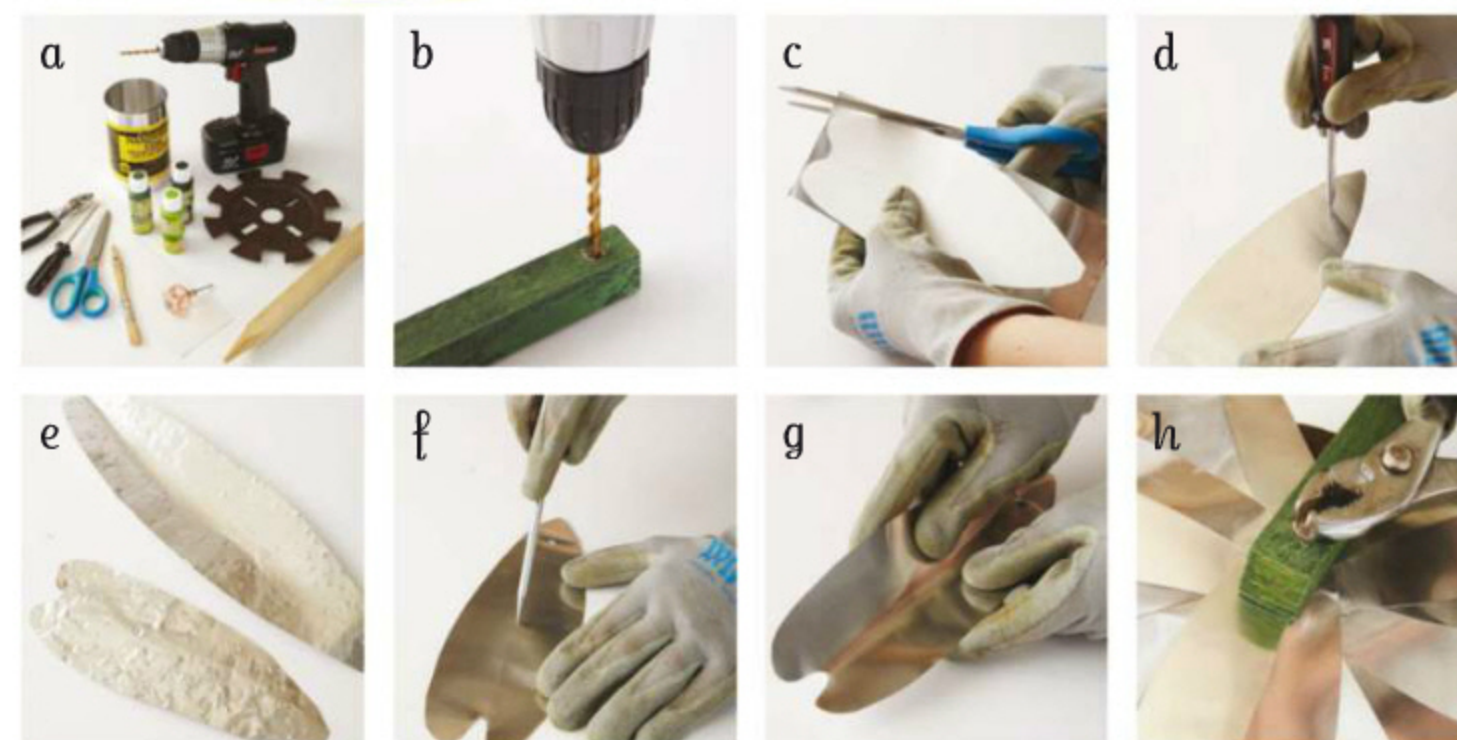




Flower power

OPPOSITE: These larger-than-life flowers can bloom year-round in any garden. Use the templates available at BHG.com/DIYGardenArt as a guide to cutting petals out of aluminum flashing. LEFT: A decorative knob serves as a colorful center for the flower and helps hold the parts together.

For Resources see [page 108](#).



how to make a flower stake

What you'll need:

- 4-foot wood garden stake
- Acrylic exterior paint or stain
- Drill and 3/16-inch drill bit
- Patterns from BHG.com/DIYGardenArt
- Poster board
- Aluminum flashing
- Awl
- Scrap metal machinery part
- Decorative knob
- Washer and nut

step 1 Paint or stain the wood stake. Drill a hole about 1 inch from the top of the stake.

step 2 Download the flower petal pattern. Cut a flower petal template from poster board and use it to cut desired

number of petals out of aluminum flashing (c). Wear gloves and safety goggles when working with flashing.

step 3 Use the awl to poke a hole near the bottom of each petal, approximately 1 inch from the end (d).

step 4 If desired, distress the petals by laying them on a rough surface and rubbing them with a wood block (e). Score the center of each petal using the awl tip (f). Bend each petal along the scoring to add dimension (g).

step 5 Poke the threaded end of the decorative knob through the hole of the machinery part and each petal, then through the hole in the stake. Add a washer and nut to secure (h).



off the wall

Use wallpaper to create colorful accessories and give new purpose to a decorating favorite.

photographs **ANDRE MARTIN** words **HEIDI PALKOVIC**

First appeared in *Better Homes and Gardens Australia*.



What we did...

We used wallpaper samples, available for a small fee from online wallpaper suppliers, to create the projects featured here. **OPPOSITE:** Covering the sides and lids of storage tins with wallpaper gives them pattern and personality. Use decoupage medium, such as Mod Podge Paper Matte, to adhere the paper. **ABOVE:** A smooth tabletop is the perfect spot for a colorful wallpaper makeover. Just cut the paper to fit, then adhere it with decoupage medium. To protect the surface, brush with decoupage medium or spray with clear acrylic sealer.



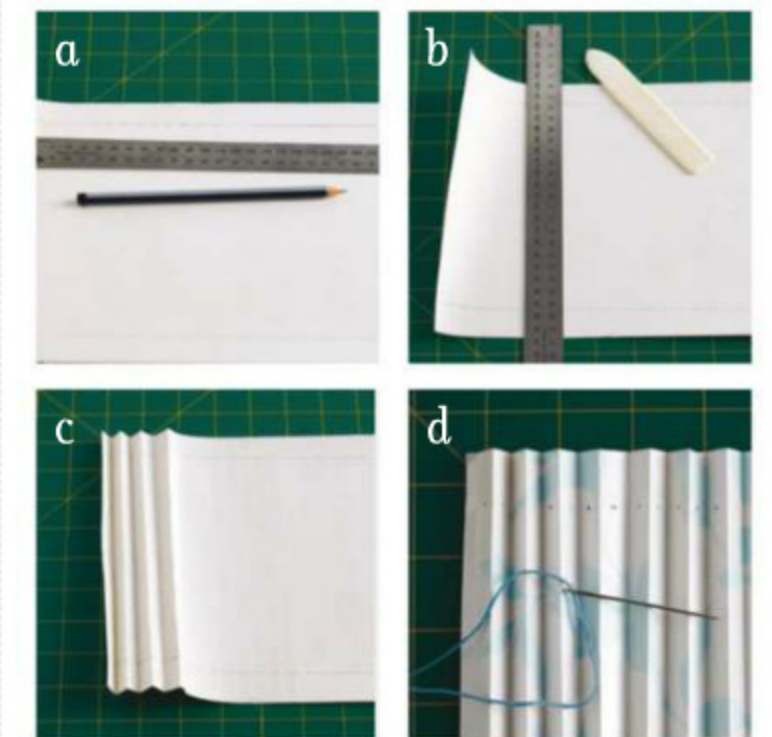
What we did...

ABOVE: A plain round serving tray is anything but ordinary when it gets a makeover with wallpaper. We measured the diameter of the tray interior, then used a circle cutter to cut the paper to fit. We painted decoupage medium onto the tray surface, laid the wallpaper circle on top, then smoothed any wrinkles or air bubbles with a rubber brayer.



What we did...

LEFT: A piece of wallpaper, folded accordion style, can turn a basic lampshade into a cleverly coordinated room accessory that easily slips into place.



how to cover a lampshade

What you'll need:

- Lampshade
- Wallpaper
- Straightedge
- Bone folder
- Embroidery needle
- Embroidery floss
- Double-sided tape

step 1 Measure around widest part of lampshade; multiply by 4.5. Measure height of shade; add $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Cut wallpaper to these dimensions.

step 2 Working on wrong side of wallpaper, mark a parallel line $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from each long edge. Mark $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch increments along each line (a).

step 3 Use a straightedge and bone folder to score folding lines along length of paper at $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch increments (b).

step 4 Fold paper accordion style along scored lines, turning paper over for each fold (c).

step 5 Use embroidery needle to pierce a hole between each fold, along marked lines (d). Stitch through holes along top with embroidery floss, leaving a 4-inch tail at each end. Repeat along bottom.

step 6 Secure short ends of shade together with double-sided tape. Slip over lampshade. Pull thread ends to gather shade at top and bottom; tie to secure.



What we did...

ABOVE: The intersecting surfaces and colorful wallpaper backgrounds of this DIY shadow box make a nifty way to display a collection of curios. We cut and assembled the pieces for the frame from 1x4 pine. Decoupage medium attaches wallpaper to the hardboard backing and shelf surfaces. For instructions and a building diagram, visit BHG.com/DIYPaperProjects.

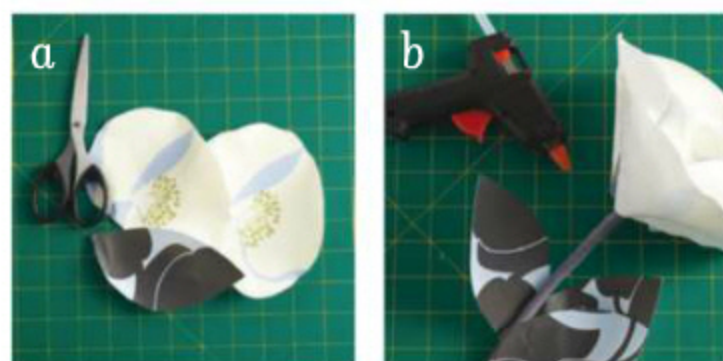


What we did...

THIS PHOTO: Combining the aesthetics of colorful, patterned wallpapers with the functionality of a magnetic board makes wall art that's both pretty and practical. Use the pattern at BHG.com/DIYPaperProjects to cut out the tree shapes and adhere them to the wallpaper-covered magnet board. The tree trunk is cut from embossed wallpaper that was painted with a dark gray acrylic paint, giving the trunk a realistic texture.

What we did...

RIGHT: There's no need to water this oversize bloom thanks to pretty patterned wallpaper petals and leaves. The petals and leaves are attached to a silk flower stem. Find the patterns at BHG.com/DIYPaperProjects.



how to make a paper flower

What you'll need:

- Silk flower stem
- Double-sided tape
- 3/4-inch gray bias binding
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Patterns from BHG.com/DIYPaperProjects
- Wallpaper
- Green bead

step 1 Remove silk flower head from stem. Wrap stem with double-sided tape. Wind bias binding around the stem and secure the end with hot glue.

step 2 Print the downloaded petal patterns. Trace each shape five times on wrong side of wallpaper. Cut out the shapes (a).

step 3 Print the leaf pattern and trace three times on wrong side of wallpaper. Cut out the shapes.

step 4 Beginning with smallest petals, wrap one petal around the end of the stem, securing with hot glue. Continue layering and gluing petals, trimming if needed, and overlapping petals as you work outward. Use largest petals on outside of flower.

step 5 Hot-glue three leaves along stem (b). Hot-glue green bead to center of flower.



What we did...

ABOVE: Priceless collections aren't the only thing worthy of displaying under glass. Colorful patterned wallpaper strips, trimmed to varying lengths and arranged in an offset brick pattern, are an inexpensive way to add color and pattern to a room. We used decoupage medium to attach the pieces, smoothed out any air bubbles, and covered the dry paper with glass.

For Resources see page 108.



in full swing

Swept up in the nostalgia of front porches, designer Katie Leporte created a sunny living space.

projects **KATIE LEPORTE**
words **KATIE LEPORTE AND HEIDI PALKOVIC**
photographs **ADAM ALBRIGHT**
before photographs **JAY WILDE**



Before...



What she did...

ABOVE: Our front porch was once a lifeless and gray place that served as merely a pass-through to the front door, but you wouldn't know it now. A striking bright yellow porch swing is the standout of our newly refurbished space. Light-filtering outdoor curtains frame the perimeter and can be tied back to let in the sun or closed when we want privacy. A rolling coffee table made from salvaged shipping pallets is handy for keeping refreshments and reading materials close at hand. **OPPOSITE:** Inspired by the porch-swing supports, I coiled thick rope around an inexpensive hurricane vase.

I always wanted a front porch reminiscent of neighborhoods past. I longed for a place where warm summer breezes and tinkling wind chimes prevail, a spot where my husband, Mike, and I could swing and sip lemonade, watch our daughter play, and simply relax.

With dreams of a sun-filled outdoor space filling my head, I turned my attention to the front of our 1940s-era home. Our existing porch had potential, but it was gray and weathered and in desperate need of repair and personality. I was ready to take on the transformation, beginning with the floor.

With a carpenter's help, we cut out the deteriorated wood on the perimeter of the porch and replaced it with durable

gray-brown composite decking. Because the rest of the boards were in good shape, I painted them blue. The new composite boards run perpendicular to the originals, framing the painted portion to create a ruglike effect for the seating area.

Although the beaded-board ceiling was peeling, I knew it could be fixed with sanding and a fresh coat of paint. I brushed on the same cool blue paint as I'd used on the floor for a cohesive look.

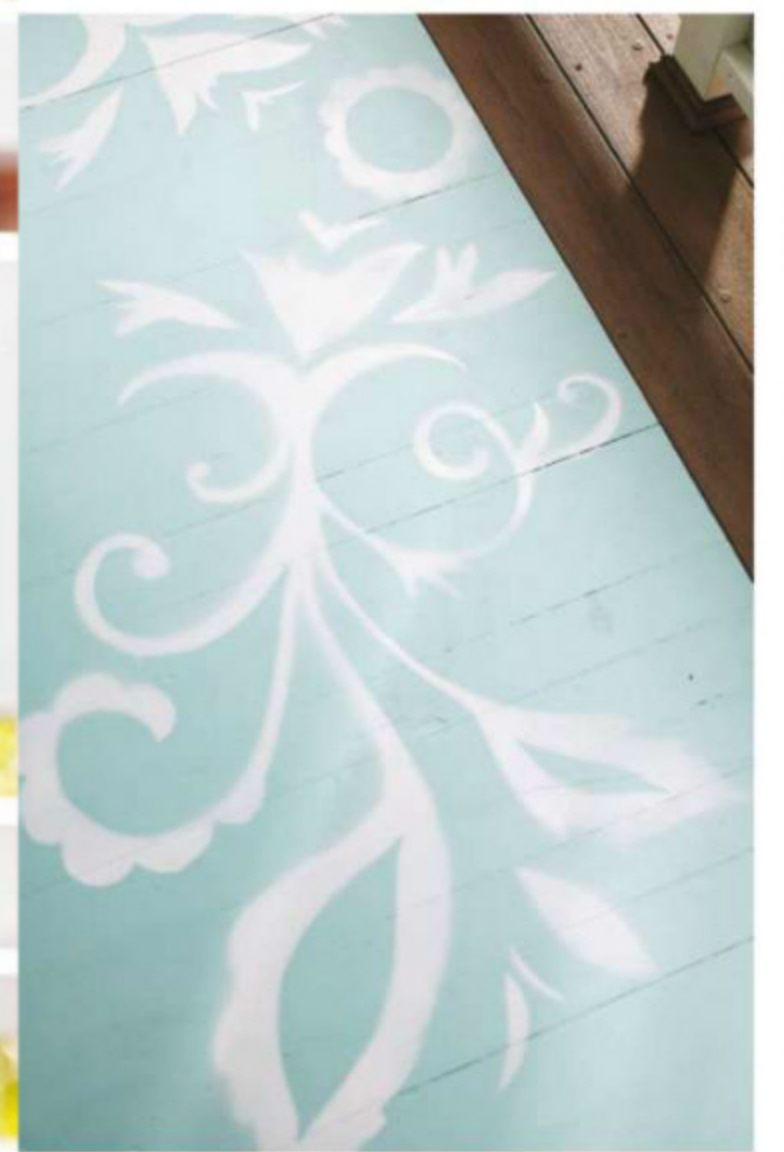
And what is a porch without a swing? One sheet of plywood, high-gloss yellow paint, and strong rope came together into my long-awaited swing, which I designed to be deep enough for cozy afternoon lounging amid lots of pillows. Handmade furniture and accessories affordably add more style to the space.

Yes, porch days are back in full swing at our house. If you're looking for me this summer, you'll know where to find me.

What she did...

THIS PHOTO: To ensure many afternoons of comfy lounging on the swing, pillows were a priority. I watered down fabric paint and lightly brushed flowers and ocean waves on blank white outdoor pillows. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** A white oil-base Sharpie marker was all I needed to draw a stylized fishnet pattern on the side of a metal table, giving it a nautical vibe. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** A salvaged drawer, painted with light gray paint and then dry-brushed with teal paint to bring out the carved details, became a planter box for summertime blooms.





What she did...

OPPOSITE: A sheet of marine-grade plywood was crafted into our cheery lemon yellow swing that offers ample space for lounging. A Moroccan-inspired patterned cushion, made with outdoor fabric and accented with teal piping, adds comfort.

LEFT: Instead of a typical hanging chain, heavy-duty rope was used to suspend the swing from ceiling-mounted eyebolts. Two S hooks per eyebolt safely support up to 700 pounds. **BELOW LEFT:** Taking inspiration from suzani textiles, I created a stencil and painted the pattern on the floorboards with high-gloss white spray paint. **BELOW:** When I saw two discarded shipping pallets beside the road, I envisioned them stacked to make a coffee table. With a thorough sanding, a coat of glossy white paint, casters, and a plexiglass top, the table became a reality.



To learn how to make the swing and porch railing, visit BHG.com/DIYPorchPlans.



What she did...

LEFT: Framed photographic prints made using plant specimens from my backyard and cyanotype paper (also known as sun-printing paper) are secured to the outside wall. **BOTTOM:** Instead of a traditional porch rail, I opted for one that spoke to our home's architectural style. The open square design allows for little faces (like my 2-year-old's) to peek out, but also provides privacy. Bonus: The design creates lovely shadows on sunny afternoons and could serve as a trellis. Visit BHG.com/DIYPorchPlans to get the building plans. **OPPOSITE:** Easy-to-sew ruffles add dimension to a pillow. I gathered 2-inch-wide strips cut from cream-color linen and stitched them to the pillow front in overlapping rows before sewing and stuffing the pillow.

For Resources see page 108.



Visit BHG.com/DIYPorch to see video of this space.

10 DIY Ideas to Steal

DESIGNER KATIE LEPORTE TURNED A TIRED PORCH INTO HER HAPPY PLACE WITH A MIX OF LARGE AND SMALL PROJECTS. FOLLOW HER LEAD TO CREATE YOUR OWN OUTDOOR OASIS.

words **MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX**

2. Pillow party

Pump up the comfort with a collection of outdoor pillows. Copy Katie by painting your own designs on blank outdoor pillows, or collect an assortment of easy-to-update outdoor pillow covers made from trendy fabrics. \$15–\$30; mypillowstudio.etsy.com



3

Completely floored Formulated for concrete and wood, Behr Premium Porch & Patio Floor Paint is ideal for high-traffic indoor and outdoor surfaces and can be tinted in a rainbow of colors. \$28–\$30; behr.com

4. Peppy paint

Katie searched for the perfect shade of yellow for her porch swing, and she found it in Lemon Twist (#SW6909). Even if your swing won't be directly exposed to the elements, it's wise to use an exterior paint for the most durable finish. sherwin-williams.com



1. Sun prints

Collect specimens from your backyard to create stunning wall art with this sun-printing kit that includes 15 sheets of 8x12-inch print-ready paper, an acrylic overlay, and complete instructions. \$16; sunprints.org



5

Light the way

Take a cue from the rope details on Katie's porch, and set the mood with these Hyannis lanterns made from glass and stainless steel. Fill them with citronella candles to keep insects at bay. \$25–\$69; potterybarn.com

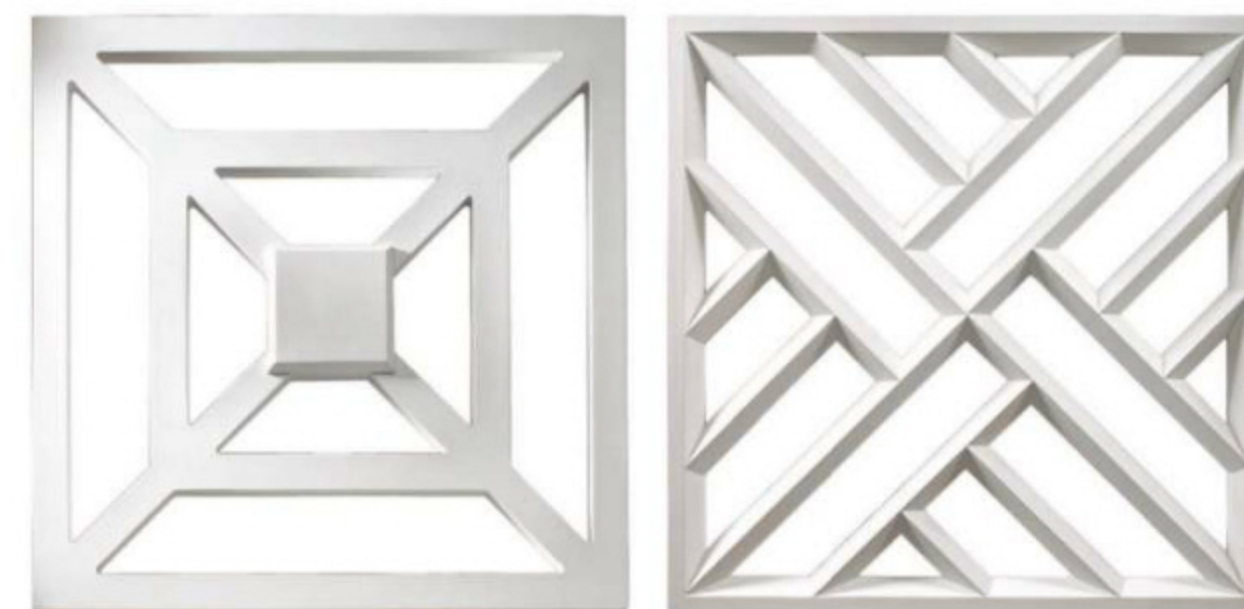


6

Swing, swing If you're not up to the challenge of building your own porch swing, consider this cheerful Adirondack swing made from weather-resistant recycled plastic and available in a variety of colors. \$441–\$466; theporchswingcompany.com

7. Workin' on the rail

Katie added architectural interest to her porch with an intricate custom railing. Get a similar look by adding these decorative inserts made of rot- and warp-resistant polyurethane to a structural railing system. \$104 each; fypon.com for dealers and details



8

Through the vine

Katie made her own stencil to add artistic flair to her painted porch floor. If you don't want to create your own, look for an organic vine or branch design for a similar look. This Lemon Tree Branch Stencil measures 19x43 inches. \$40; oliveleafstencils.etsy.com



9. Heavy-duty rope For her porch swing, Katie and her carpenter friend selected a ¾-inch twisted manila rope made by Lehigh (MR345) that knots well, has little stretch, and can support almost 700 pounds. Consider these qualities when shopping for rope at your local hardware store or materials supplier.

10. Wheel and deal Katie gave her pallet coffee table a spin with a hot set of wheels. The cast-iron and zinc finish of these 3-inch, light-duty casters (508-4) gives any furniture piece an industrial look. \$22 each; 800/728-3866 to order



fast forward

A first-time homeowner with an eye for style brought a 1980s kitchen into the 21st century on a shoestring budget and in less than a month.

styling MIKHAEL ROMAIN | photographs JEN SISK | words PAULA MARSHALL

Most anyone who has remodeled a kitchen realizes that a sense of humor eases the process. Fortunately, blogger Holly Burns' instinct is to see the light side. Her response to the dated kitchen of the San Francisco house she and husband Sean bought: "Hey, the '80s called—and they don't want any of this stuff back!"

She's also blessed with a good design eye. Looking past flowery wallpaper, dark cabinets, aging appliances, and dated tile, she saw a modern kitchen with a dining area for entertaining.

Budget and deadline for the remodel were tight. The couple tackled most of the work themselves, finishing in just under a month. Even that brief time frame seemed too long to Holly. "Those were the four longest weeks of my life," she says. The hurry-up schedule also meant major disruption: They were without a functioning kitchen—no sink or working appliances—and the floor was torn up for almost two weeks. "I think of this as my Bleak Period," Holly says with a laugh.



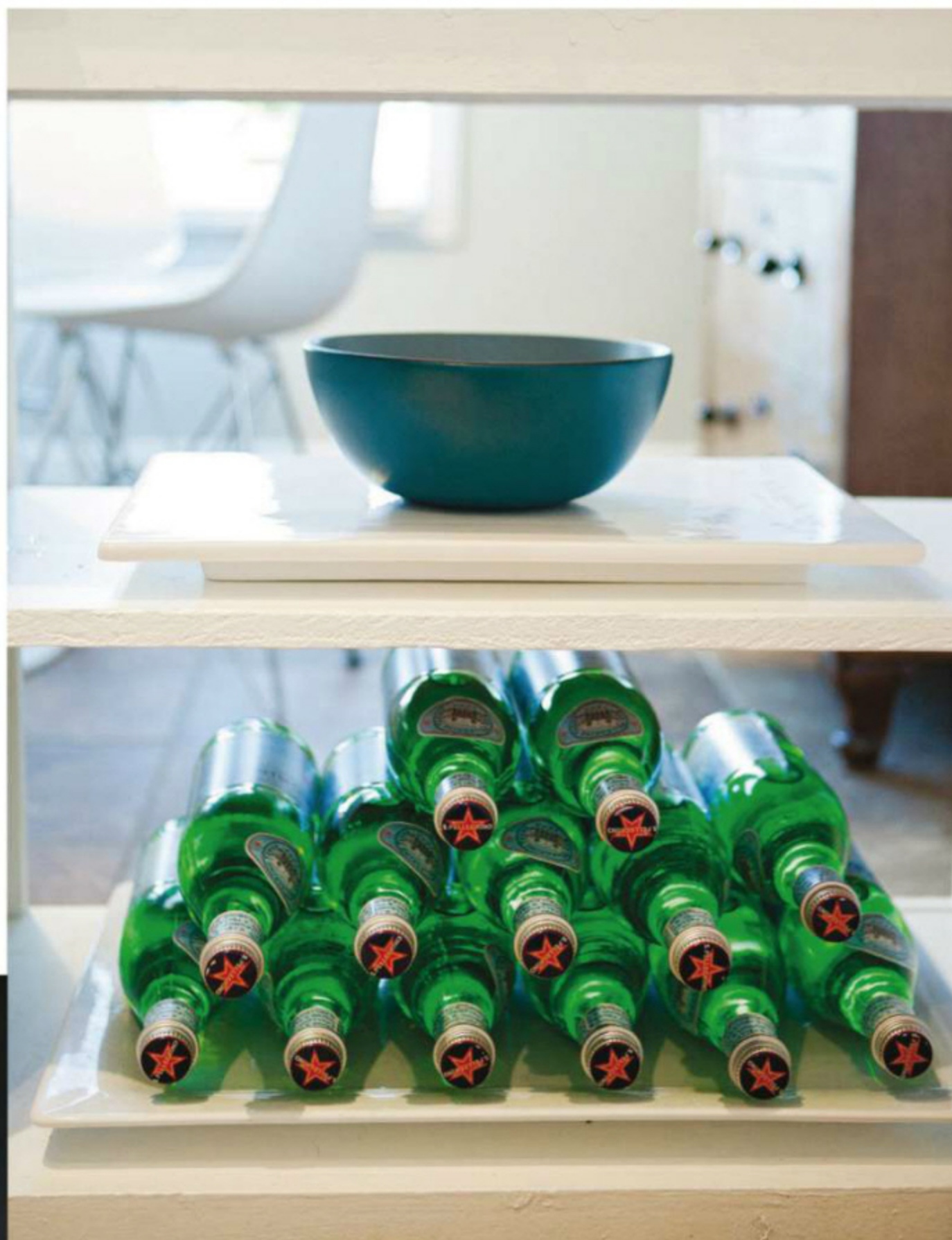
What she did...

OPPOSITE: The large-scale world map in the dining room reminds Holly and Sean Burns of their many travels and inspires future vacation plans. Below the map rests a family heirloom: a well-traveled chest passed down from Holly's German grandmother. Holly found the table, chairs, and light fixture online. All are budget-savvy takes on modern classics. **ABOVE:** The IKEA apron-front sink and pullout faucet were affordable choices and easy to install. Holly chose a ceiling-mount pot rack to show off new cookware and free up cabinet storage space. Choosing a clay-color porcelain tile for the floor was one decision that the couple lingered over; they're happy with the warmth it adds. **LEFT:** Though the how-to of plumbing, electrical, and tiling was new to Holly, the remodel went smoothly. Now she regularly entertains family and friends in the refreshed space.

Most design decisions were made early, and much of the work went smoothly. They stripped the wallpaper and painted the dining room a cool gray and the kitchen's dark wood cabinets a bright white. The new brushed-nickel cabinet hardware they installed complements new stainless-steel appliances. Doing the work themselves left money in the budget for quartz-surfacing countertops, the only aspect they had professionally done.

White subway tile for the backsplash was a smart style and budget choice, even if grouting is now Holly's least favorite home improvement project. "I love the way the wall looks, but I'll be happy if I never hear the word *grout* again," she says.

Some decisions pushed the couple's limits: Deciding on the clay color for the floor tile was as tough as tearing out layers of linoleum and installing the new floor. But removing the backsplash and countertops with a sledgehammer allowed Sean to express his inner Hulk. Holly's release through the process was posting updates on her blog, *Nothing But Bonfires*. "Detailing our progress on my blog kept me sane," she says.



What she did...

ABOVE: Removing the doors and back of the peninsula cabinet and painting the newly exposed space white brought more light to the interior kitchen without reducing storage space. **OPPOSITE:** Laughing has always come easily to Holly, as has making lists. So painting the narrow wall next to the refrigerator in chalkboard paint, floor to ceiling, was a natural choice. She uses the main section for grocery lists, and the frame above is reserved for dinner-party menus and to-do lists. Next up: remodeling the bathroom. "But only after a 300-year nap!" Holly says.

For Resources see [page 108](#).



sweet soiree

ONE tabletop THREE WAYS

See how one easy-to-build table takes on different looks—champagne with the girls, a casual family gathering, and an evening event—when topped with clever DIY projects.

projects + words **BRENDA WEGNER** | photographs **KRITSADA + JAY WILDE**

sweet soiree



family brunch



sophisticated sips



What we did...

THIS PHOTO: Why wait for a special occasion to pamper your friends? We went all-out girlie with our palette of pinks and oranges, covering the table with flowers and take-home treats. We spruced up a plain linen table runner with ribbon attached with fabric glue. Painted wood blocks cut to different heights elevate arrangements without blocking the view.





how to make a dessert stand

What you'll need:

- Glass jars about 2–4 inches in diameter and height
- Clear glass saucers about 6 inches in diameter
- Frosted-glass spray paint
- Spray paint
- Adhesive for ceramic or glass (We used Elmer's ceramic and glass cement.)

step 1 Gather materials (a). Apply a coat of frosted-glass spray paint to the outside and inside of each jar and the bottom of each saucer. Let dry. Spray the outside and inside of each jar and the bottom of each saucer with spray paint (b). Note: Do NOT paint the top of the saucer, as it will come in contact with food. Most spray paints are not food-safe.

step 2 Apply a thin bead of adhesive to the top of one jar and the bottom of one saucer (c). Attach the plate to the jar and allow to seal and dry (d). Repeat with remaining jars and saucers. TIP: Although many glues are dishwasher-safe once fully cured, it is best to hand-wash to protect the painted surface.

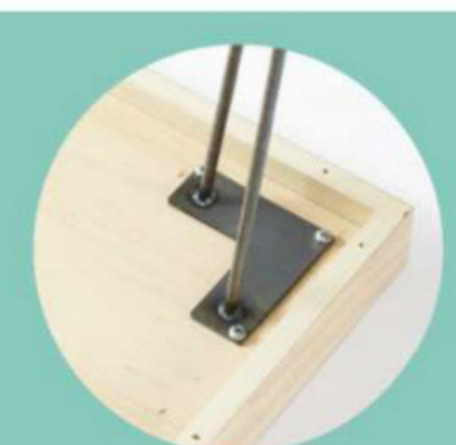
What we did...

OPPOSITE TOP: Individual cake stands at each place setting encourage friends to indulge in a treat or two. **OPPOSITE MIDDLE:** Handmade tissue-paper flowers decorate the backs of chairs and hang from the window. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** We gathered supplies, like pink leather cord and silver rings, from the jewelry-supplies section of the crafts store to create these napkin rings that double as bracelets your guests can wear home. **BELOW:** Make a sweet centerpiece for a few dollars with lumberyard leftovers and crafts materials. Cut a 4x4-inch wood beam into lengths ranging from 2 to 6 inches. Coat the pieces in latex paint (we used shades of pink and orange). Fill spray-painted glass jars with flowers and set them atop the wood pieces. **RIGHT:** Spray-paint the handles only (most spray paint is not food safe) to create these fancy forks from thrift-store scores. **BELOW RIGHT:** Use a butterfly punch (available at crafts stores) and scrapbook paper to fashion butterfly name cards that perch atop champagne flutes.



make this table!

This table's simple yet sturdy do-it-yourself design—inexpensive hairpin legs topped by an affordable maple surface—makes it versatile enough to let food and decoration take center stage when entertaining. Find easy step-by-step instructions to build it at BHG.com/DIYHairpinTable.



family brunch



how to make decorative tiles

What you'll need:

- Scrapbook paper (We used 12 patterns in shades of blue.)
- Twelve 6x6-inch white ceramic tiles
- Foam paintbrush
- Matte decoupage medium (We used Mod Podge.)
- Small rubber roller
- Clear acrylic sealer spray

step 1 Gather materials (a). Cut scrapbook paper so you have 12 pieces measuring 6x6 inches each.

step 2 Use the foam brush to apply a light coat of decoupage medium to the top of one tile (b). Place one paper square on top of the tile. Gently run the roller over the paper to smooth it.

step 3 Apply three thin coats of decoupage medium to the top of the paper (c), allowing 15 minutes of drying time between coats. Allow final coat to dry one hour before spraying on one coat of clear acrylic sealer (d). Let dry one hour. Repeat these steps for remaining tiles.



What we did...

OPPOSITE and TOP: We arranged paper-covered tiles in a 25x37-inch wood frame to create a trivet that runs the length of the table. Alternatively, set tiles directly on the table in any pattern you like. Details such as mismatched tableware in blue hues add to the comfy and casual vibe. **ABOVE:** Wood finials for curtain rods are painted and repurposed to hold cards designed to prompt engaging dinner conversation. **TOP RIGHT:** Patterned washi tape wrapped around clear glassware gives it a custom look.

sophisticated sips



What we did...

THIS PHOTO: As the sun sets, bring shimmer to the table by adding copper details to vases and votive holders. To add dimension to the centerpiece, we placed a maple board atop ¾-inch copper adapter fittings from the hardware store. Dime-store vases filled with herbs smell as good as they look. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Bend malleable copper wire around a glass jar to create a votive holder. Copper slip cap fittings typically used for plumbing are the perfect size for votive candles. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT:** Cut and twist flat copper wires to hold labels identifying cheese. **OPPOSITE MIDDLE:** Dip the handles of disposable bamboo flatware in metallic acrylic paint. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** We attached adhesive copper sheets to the underside of clear glass plates. Layer a smaller plate on top for a dimensional charger effect. Copper plumbing fittings work as napkin rings.



how to paint copper-look stemware

What you'll need:

- Glass stemware
- Painter's tape
- Kraft paper
- Frosted-glass spray paint
- Metallic spray paint in copper

step 1 Gather materials (a). Use painter's tape and kraft paper to cover all but the bottom half of the stem and all of the base (b).

step 2 Spray the exposed portion of the stem and base with frosted-glass spray paint. Allow 15 minutes of drying time. Apply a coat of metallic spray paint (c). When completely dry (at least 30 minutes), carefully remove the tape and kraft paper (d). **TIP:** Painted stemware should be washed by hand.

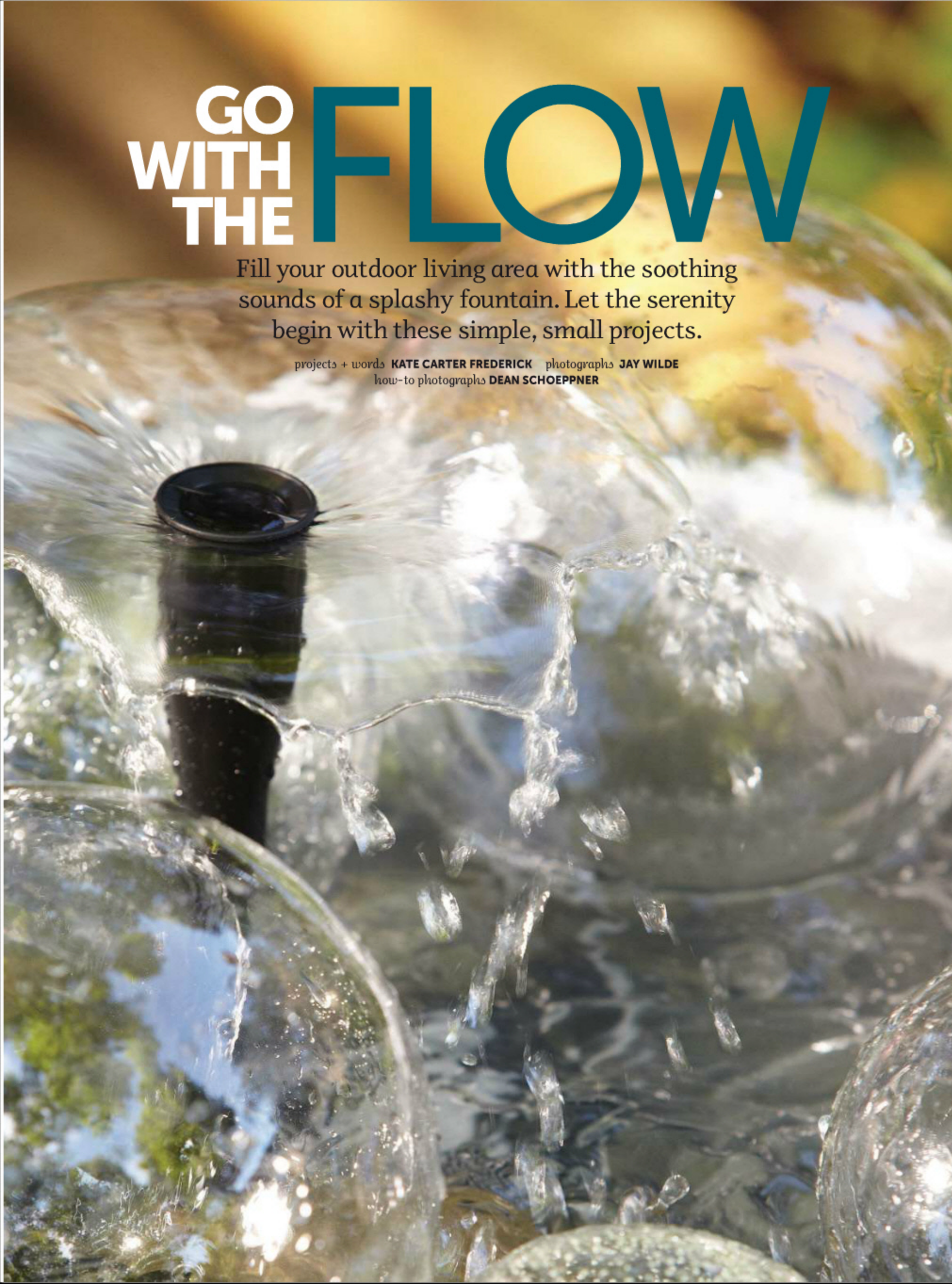
For Resources see [page 108](#).



GO WITH THE FLOW

Fill your outdoor living area with the soothing sounds of a splashy fountain. Let the serenity begin with these simple, small projects.

projects + words **KATE CARTER FREDERICK** photographs **JAY WILDE**
how-to photographs **DEAN SCHOEPPNER**



Bubble up

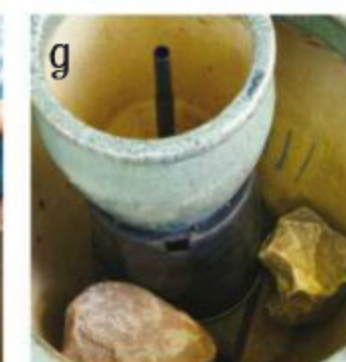
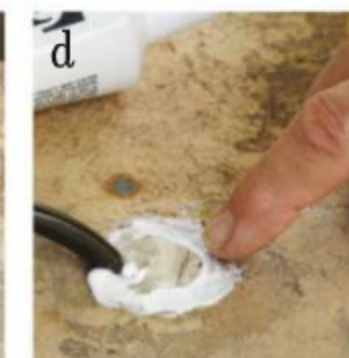
ABOVE: A small metal table (this one cost \$40 at IKEA) becomes a fountain by swapping the glass top for a plastic planter bowl and dressing up both pieces with spray paint. A submersible pump and attached fountain bring the waterworks to life. **OPPOSITE:** Glass balls glisten under the water and conceal the pump. **TIP:** Replenish water as it evaporates, keeping the pump submerged to ensure it works properly. All pumps and fountains in these projects are available at home improvement centers.



Double decker

OPPOSITE: Situated at the edge of a patio, this trickling double-decker fountain turns a small space into an exotic outdoor room. The larger pot sits on pot feet (painted to match), raising it enough for the pump's electrical cord to move freely from the bottom of the container.

LEFT: The smaller pot fits easily inside the bigger one, allowing water to flow over its rim and recirculate. High-fired glazed pottery such as this proves ideal for a fountain because it is more durable than terra-cotta or glazed ceramic.



how to make a double-decker fountain

What you'll need (a):

- Glazed pots in two sizes (Ours are 18 and 8 inches in diameter.)
- 170 gph pump and fountain kit
- Power drill and masonry bit
- Plumber's putty
- Clear silicone
- Bricks
- Plastic nursery pot
- Fieldstones
- River rock
- Terra-cotta pot feet

step 1 Fit the pump cord through the drainage hole of the larger pot (b).

If needed, enlarge the hole using a power drill and masonry bit.

step 2 Leave 12 inches of cord inside the pot. Plug the drainage hole with plumber's putty, sealing the cord in place. After the putty dries, reinforce the seal with silicone applied inside and outside the pot (c), smoothing with a fingertip (d).

step 3 Set the pump on two bricks inside the large pot (e). Cover the pump with a sturdy, overturned plastic nursery pot. Fit the fountain tubing through the drainage hole in the bottom of the nursery pot (f).

step 4 Set the small pot on the nursery pot and extend the fountain tubing through the pot's drainage hole. Hold the pump in place with a few fieldstones (g).

step 5 Fill both pots with clean river rock and water (h). **TIP:** Rinsing the rocks thoroughly before adding them to the fountain will help prevent soil and other debris from clogging the pump. Place the fountain on pot feet painted to match the glazed pots. Plug the pump into a ground fault circuit interrupter outlet to prevent potential shocks.

"The gentle sound of water splashing in a fountain inspires a sense of contentment. Enjoy!"

KATE CARTER FREDERICK PROJECT DESIGNER



Flora and fountain

OPPOSITE: A wavy watertight planter reflects the feel of the ocean when you paint the inside with acrylic outdoor paint in metallic blue, pink and green. Set the basin on an overturned nursery pot (see inset), which hides the pump. A 17-inch-diameter plastic pot saucer holds the assembly and a collection of plantings. ABOVE: Small houseplants—begonia, dracena, peperomia, fern, and polka dot plant—hide the nursery pot and make an instant garden. Preserved green moss neatly holds the exposed soil.

For Resources see [page 108](#).



picnic party

Stake out a shady spot, fill it with sweet handmade projects, invite a few friends, and enjoy lunch alfresco.

projects KAREN BRADY + ARIN HUMMEL/EPHEMERA DESIGN
photographs ADAM ALBRIGHT words AMY PALANJIAN

What we did...

THIS PHOTO: A fold-and-go table, embellished rug, and other DIY touches make this picnic in the park a delight. Add a touch of fancy by hanging dressed-up paper lanterns from the trees. Paint paper lanterns with watercolors and metallic gold spray paint as desired. Accordion-fold at least eight layers of tissue paper, tie in the center, trim the edges with pinking shears, and fluff to create paper pom-poms, *opposite*. Tie your finished bundle with ribbon and fishing line and secure from a branch. Keep reading to find instructions for the other projects featured here.





"The beauty of a flower press is that it's this perfect little object that hints at the delight of slowing down the pace of things a bit (and later, provides you with little petaled souvenirs of that moment).

KAREN BRADY AND ARIN HUMMEL
PROJECT DESIGNERS

What we did...

OPPOSITE: A great party starts with a fitting invitation. Download our invites at BHG.com/DIYPicnic, print, and use spray adhesive or double-sided tape to secure them to cardstock. Fold the cardstock to enclose the invite, and tie each with cotton twine. **ABOVE:** Preserve a moment of your picnic for posterity with a simple flower press. Cut two pieces of 1/4-inch plywood to 6x9 inches. Spray-paint the plywood, let dry, and use a hot-glue gun to embellish with fabric, ribbon, and trim. Cut cardboard into 10 rectangles of 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. Sandwich the cardboard between the two pieces of plywood. Mark a hole 1 inch from each corner of the plywood, and using a 3/8-inch drill bit, drill through all layers. Secure each corner with a 3-inch set screw with a wing nut on either end. To press flowers, place petals between two pieces of parchment paper and sandwich between the cardboard layers. Tighten the wing nuts, and press for about two weeks or until petals are dry. **RIGHT:** Guide your guests to your picnic spot with a printable sign. Cover a 10x12 1/2-inch piece of foam-core board in patterned paper. Download and print the artwork from BHG.com/DIYPicnic, cut it out, and use spray adhesive to attach it to the paper-covered board. Cut a length of ribbon and glue the ends to the back for a hanger.





What we did...

OPPOSITE: Trick out two store-bought trays by adding foldable legs and hinges to have a picnic-perfect table at the ready. The legs attach to the inside of each tray. When the legs are folded, hinges allow the table to fold in half for easier portability. When the legs are extended, the underside of the trays becomes the tabletop. **RIGHT:** Turn a plain tablecloth into a custom picnic blanket by masking off lines for stripes with painter's tape. Use a foam paintbrush and exterior latex paint to color the stripes. **FAR RIGHT:** Wildflower bouquets in rustic Mason jars invite nature to the table.



how to build a picnic tray table

What you'll need:

- Two large rectangular trays (Ours, from westelm.com, measure 18x28 inches.)
- Painter's tape
- Spray paint (We used Aubergine by Rust-Oleum.)
- 1½-inch square poplar dowels (We used six 36-inch pieces.)
- Sandpaper
- Wood glue
- 1¾-inch wood screws
- Drill and corresponding drill bits
- ¼-20x2-inch elevator bolts
- ¼x1-inch nylon washers
- ¼-inch flat washers
- ¼-inch wing nuts
- 2½-inch hinges

step 1 Protect the edges of each tray with painter's tape and spray-paint the bottoms.

step 2 To make four sets of legs (two sets per tray), cut the dowels into eight 13-inch pieces and four 14¾-inch pieces. Sand the ends of each 13-inch piece. Paint the dowels.

step 3 Using wood glue and a 1¾-inch screw, attach a 14¾-inch dowel 2 inches from the bottom of two 13-inch



legs to form a crosspiece. Repeat for each set of legs. On the other end of each 13-inch piece, measure in ¾ inch and drill a hole using a bit large enough to accommodate an elevator bolt.

step 4 Place trays facedown on work surface. On the long sides of the trays, mark a spot 1 inch from both ends and 1¼ inches from the edge. Drill a hole using a bit large enough to accommodate an elevator bolt.

step 5 Working from the outside of the tray, insert an elevator bolt through the hole, add a nylon washer, push through the hole in a leg, and then add a flat washer and a wing nut. Tighten the wing nut until the leg is tight, but still rotates and isn't wobbly. Repeat for each leg.

step 6 Hinge the two trays together on the long sides so that the legs will be inside the table when closed (a). Carry by the built-in handles (b).



What we did...

OPPOSITE: Packing food in pretty tins instantly upgrades your alfresco dining aesthetic. Simply spray-paint the exterior of the tins and let dry. Download the "Enjoy" label at BHG.com/DIYPicnic and print it on sticker paper or secure with spray adhesive or double-sided tape to the top of each tin. Fashion simple and eco-friendly bamboo utensils (available at thinkgarnish.com) into designer dinnerware. Simply use a metallic paint pen (we like Krylon's Leafing Pens) to doodle on the handles to your hearts desire. **LEFT:** These custom cushions are comfy, plus they're stackable for easy stash-and-go access. To make one, place an 18x18-inch napkin or piece of fabric right side down on a work surface. Center a piece of 14x14-inch upholstery foam on top. Then center a piece of 12x12-inch plywood (we used 3/8-inch-thick plywood) on top of the foam. Starting at the center on opposite sides, fold the fabric and foam over the plywood. Using 1/4-inch staples, staple around the perimeter of the board, stretching the fabric tightly. To finish the piece, center an 11x11-inch piece of 1/4-inch-thick plywood on the bottom of the seat and staple the corners using 1/2-inch staples. (This hides the folded corners of fabric and stabilizes the seat.) **BELOW:** When stacked between two boards and held together with 1 1/2-inch nylon webbing from the hardware store, the filled tins are fit to be tied and transported.

For Resources see page 108.



7 DIY Ideas to Steal

INSPIRED BY THE OUTDOORS, THESE CLEVER FINDS WILL MAKE YOUR PICNIC MORE MEMORABLE.

words **HEIDI PALKOVIC**



2. Take note Flowers are always a favorite for expressing well wishes, and this set of printed cards, featuring reproductions of original pressed flower motifs from designer Ellie Roden, offer beautiful ways to say "thanks" or "thinking of you." Set of six 4¼x5½-inch cards feature two each of three different flowers. \$10; vtpressedflowers.etsy.com



3. Grab and go Gather farmer's market finds inside a removable handlebar basket you've sewn yourself. The PDF pattern has directions for constructing the basket with or without straps, and for making a drawstring liner. \$12.95; hemmadesignpatterns.etsy.com

1. Wrap up Simple enough for beginning seamstresses, this picnic wrap combines utensil storage and placemat into one tote-ally adorable piece. The downloadable pattern features step-by-step photos and instructions. The finished piece is equally suited for a picnic in the park or lunch at your desk. \$4; alicecantrell.etsy.com



4

Zip locked Say bye-bye to plastic baggies and hello to style with Planet Wise's reusable sandwich bags. If their fun patterns and waterproof construction aren't enough, consider that 20 million plastic bags are tossed into U.S. landfills every day. This eco-friendly solution is easy on your wallet and on Mother Earth. \$8.95 for one bag; reuseit.com



5. Blanket statement

Set the stage for a blissful afternoon of picnicking and cloud gazing with a mod blanket underneath. This 54x72-inch blanket has indoor/outdoor fabric on one side, waterproof material on the underside, and padding in between. Mildew-, stain-, and water-resistant. Includes grommets and golf tees. \$100; angelstreetmarket.etsy.com



6

Blot test

Made from organic cotton flannel, these 10x12-inch napkins are ultra-absorbent and ultra easy on the environment, too. \$10 for a set of six; qnomeclothes.etsy.com

7. Neatly pressed

Spend minutes, rather than days, pressing flowers using your microwave oven. Place fresh flowers between the layers of this 9-inch-square press, and after a few short intervals, you'll have beautiful and vibrant flattened flowers. \$50; microfleur.com



DIY HOME CENTER

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Eldorado Stone

Create an alluring outdoor retreat with the warmth and ambiance of an Eldorado Artisan Fire Bowl. Each is a one-of-a-kind creation handcrafted with subtle variations in color and texture. Available in contemporary and traditional styles, perfect for keeping friends and family cozy on cool nights.

To discover more, visit EldoradoOutdoor.com.



30 Most Innovative Products

Looking for products that showcase contemporary design and smart features? Thinking about a kitchen and/or bath remodel or refresh? The '30 Most Innovative Products' showcases the top picks of the 30 most innovative kitchen and bath products of the year.

To learn more about these products, go to www.BHG.com/CoolProducts

shopping guide

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.

LEARN THE ROPES

PAGES 8-13
Pillows on brown sofa discontinued, similar available, bedside clock—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; [target.com](#) (product line varies). **Drapery** discontinued, similar available—West Elm; 866/428-6468; [westelm.com](#) (product line varies). **Clear glass lamp, white frame**—HomeGoods; 800/614-4663; [homegoods.com](#). **Yellow bench** discontinued, similar available—CB2; 800/606-6252; [cb2.com](#). **Brown sofa, marble tabletop, white vase, bedding, white lamp with yellow shade, white desk**—homeowners' collection.

WEATHER WORTHY

PAGES 14-16
Deck chair Cocktail, folding footstool Biron—Quel Objet; 877/762-4499; [quelobjet.com](#). Fabric for canopy natural cotton duck canvas—MyTarp.com, Marietta, Georgia; 404/551-4347; [mytarp.com](#). Textile paint, acrylic base extender—Jacquard; 800/442-0455; [jacquardproducts.com](#). PVC pipes and fittings—visit local home building supplies stores. **Beeswax**—Dadant & Sons Beekeeping Supplies and Candles; 888/922-1293; [dadant.com](#). **Weatherproofing wax** Heavy Duty Fabric Wax—Otter Wax, LLC; [otterwax.com](#).

Waterproofing spray Aqua Armor Advanced Waterproofing Spray for patio and awning, UV light blocker Ray Bloc UV Fabric Protector—Trek 7; 888/558-7357; [trek7.com](#). **Floral fabric for pillow** Cavatina Printed Poly Outdoor Fabric in Kaleidoscope by Richloom—through Fabric Guru; 877/722-4878; [fabricguru.com](#). **Fabric for solid orange pillow** Dupione Outdoor Fabric in Nectarine by Sunbrella—through Calico; 800/213-6366; [calicocorners.com](#). **Striped fabric for chair** Kaleidoscope Outdoor Fabric in Multi and Tango Lime by Orien Textiles—similar available through Barras Fabrics; [barrasfabrics.com](#). **Bottle net** Bella Vita BN Yellow Flower Felt Bottle Net—Amazon.com; [amazon.com](#), search: Bella Vita Bags.

FRAME OF MIND

PAGES 42-53
Pages 42-43
Sofa—Andella Home; 800/260-0534; [andellahome.com](#). **Chairs** reupholstered after purchase—JCPenney; 800/222-6161; [jcpenney.com](#). **Seagrass rug**—Pottery Barn; 800/922-5507; [potterybarn.com](#) (product line varies). **Pages 44-45**
Dining table, chairs reupholstered after purchase—Broyhill Furniture Industries, Inc.; 800/327-6944; [broyhillfurn.com](#). **Fabric for dining chairs**—through [Fabric.com](#); 888/455-2940; [fabric.com](#). **Pages 46-47**
Fabrics for window curtains and sink skirt—through [Fabric.com](#); 888/455-2940; [fabric.com](#). Sink, faucet—IKEA, United States; 888/434-4532; Canada: 866/866-4532; [ikea.com](#). **Chandelier at table**—Pottery Barn; 800/922-5507; [potterybarn.com](#) (product line varies). **Refrigerator** painted with chalkboard paint after purchase—GE Appliances; 800/626-2000; [geappliances.com](#). **Pages 48-49**
Fabrics for curtains at bed—through [Fabric.com](#); 888/455-2940; [fabric.com](#). **Red bedding**

with stars, yellow pendant and chairs at small table—Pottery Barn Kids; 800/430-7373; [potterybarnkids.com](#). **Pastel blue quilt on bed**—West Elm; 866/428-6468; [westelm.com](#) (product line varies).

Page 50
Chairs and love seat Smith & Hawken discontinued, end of season—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; [target.com](#) (product line varies). **Rug**—West Elm; 866/428-6468; [westelm.com](#) (product line varies). **Fabrics for pillows** discontinued—through [Fabric.com](#); 888/455-2940; [fabric.com](#). **Page 51**
Chairs discontinued—World Market; 800/267-8758; [worldmarket.com](#) (product line varies). **Outdoor fabrics for pillows and playhouse drape**—through [Fabric.com](#); 888/455-2940; [fabric.com](#).

GARDEN GALLERY

PAGES 54-61
Paints Krylon Outdoor and Fusion paints—Krylon; 800/457-9566; [krylon.com](#). For other items used in this story, visit your local crafts and home building supplies stores.

OFF THE WALL

PAGES 62-69
Yellow wallpaper used on walls and in tree art project Grace in yellow, yellow wallpaper used in projects for tins, shadow box, coffee table Stella in yellow by Marcel Wanders—through Wall Candy Wallpaper; [wallcandywallpaper.com.au](#). **Patterned fabric for draperies at shadow box and coffee table, wallpaper used in other projects** Passion Lily in Ocean, wallpaper for side table and paper flower projects Field Poppies in Stone, wallpaper for tray and other projects Lacework in Blue, wallpaper for tins and coffee table projects Temple Tulips in Ocean, wallpapers for tins, magnetic board, and other projects Fountain in Moss and Ocean, wallpaper for coffee table and shadow box projects Field Poppies

Find clickable links to all these sources in the digital edition of this issue.
[BHGSpecials.zinio.com](#)

in Midnight—Amy Butler Design, Granville, Ohio; 740/587-2841; [amybutlerdesign.com](#). **Wallpaper for tins and shadow box projects** Mystique in Avocado, wallpaper for lampshade, background of magnetic board, and other projects Midsummer in blue—Graham & Brown; 800/554-0887; [grahambrown.com](#). **Wallpaper for magnetic board project** Pressed Tin by Paintable Solutions—available through Home Depot USA, Inc.; [homedepot.com](#). **Glue, sealer, matte finish solution for all projects** Mod Podge Paper in Matte—Plaid; 800/842-4197; [plaidonline.com](#). **Nightingale pillow, blue throw, assorted decorative pillows, lampshade at magnetic board Ali, lamp base Renee**—Laura Ashley; 855/396-6100; [lauraashleyusa.com](#). **Birdcage at sofa**—My Island Home; [myislandhome.com.au](#). **Tray for project Scala, side table for project Lack, magnetic board for project Spontan, coffee table Expedit, rug at sofa Hampen, sofa Ektorp, sofa cover Svanby**—IKEA, United States; 888/434-4532; Canada: 866/866-4532; [ikea.com](#). **Yellow glasses on tray**—T2; [t2tea.com](#). **Vases at paper flower** similar available—Have You Met Miss Jones; [haveyoumetmissjones.com.au](#).

IN FULL SWING

PAGES 70-79
Green throw Meadow Alpaca Throw—Asher Market; [ashermarket.com](#). **Vase, wood tray, swirl planter**—Terrain; 877/583-7724; [shopterrain.com](#). **White pillows, curtain panels**—West Elm; 866/428-6468; [westelm.com](#) (product line varies). **Blue side table**—World Market; 800/267-8758; [worldmarket.com](#) (product line varies). **Fabric for swing cushion** P. Kaufmann Conservatory in Aquamarine, **fabric for welting** Amy Butler Lotus Full Moon Polka Dot in Slate, **fabric for ruffled pillow** Amy Butler Midwest Modern Optic Blossom, **fabric for white pillow with yellow flowers** Premier Prints Dandelion Slub in yellow and white—through [Fabric.com](#); 888/455-2940; [fabric.com](#). **Green ikat pillow**—One Kings Lane; 855/746-7655; [onekingslane.com](#). **Fabric-covered books on blue table** similar available—Paper Source; 888/727-3711; [paper-source.com](#). **Floor and ceiling paint** Raindrop #SW6485, **swing paint** Lemon Twist #SW6909—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; [sherwin-williams.com](#) [P]. **Perimeter flooring**—TimberTech; 800/307-7780; [timbertech.com](#). **Casters on table**—Dunn & Co.; 800/728-3866; [dunncoasters.com](#).

FAST FORWARD

PAGES 80-83
Pendant lamp above table, map on wood-framed canvas Premiär, pot rack, wall frame on chalkboard Ung Drill, purchased unpainted—IKEA, United States; 888/434-4532; Canada: 866/866-4532; [ikea.com](#). **Table** Odyssey White Dining Table—CB2; 800/606-6252; [cb2.com](#). **Chairs** Ronnie Wire-Base White Chair—Overstock.com; 800/843-2446; [overstock.com](#). **Wall paint** Bright White, **chalkboard paint** Valspar [P], **cabinet hardware** Laurey, **flooring** porcelain tile, **dishwasher** Bosch—through Lowe's; 800/445-6937; [lowes.com](#). **Backsplash tile**—Home Depot USA, Inc.; [homedepot.com](#) (product line varies). **Refrigerator**—LG Electronics; 800/243-0000; [lg.com](#). **Faucet**—Moen, Inc.; 800/289-6636; [moen.com](#). **Pots**—Calphalon Corp.; 800/809-7267; [calphalon.com](#). **Blender**—Oster Appliances; 800/334-0759; [oster.com](#). **Footed cutting board** End Grain Chopping Board—Crate & Barrel; 800/967-6696; [crateandbarrel.com](#) (product line varies).

ONE TABLETOP THREE WAYS

PAGES 84-91
Throughout
Wall paint Trusty Tan #SW6087, paint for chairs Dover White #SW6385—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; [sherwin-williams.com](#) [P]. **Table legs** 28-Inch Raw Steel Hairpin Legs—Hairpinlegs.com; [hairpinlegs.com](#). **Chairs** discontinued—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; [walmart.com](#). **Rug** Two-Tone Rope in Platinum and Ivory—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; 800/658-5035; [dashandalbert.com](#). **Drum pendant** linen and silk—Lowe's; 800/445-6937; [lowes.com](#). **Draperies**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; [target.com](#) (product line varies). **Pages 85-87**
Floral canvas—World Market; 800/267-8758; [worldmarket.com](#) (product line varies). **Pages 88-89**
Ferris wheel print—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; [target.com](#) (product line varies). **Blue napkin rings**—Lynsi Pasutti, Turtle Star Studios;

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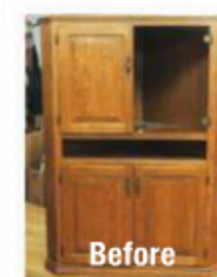
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lynsi-pasutti.com. Tablecloth—Williams-Sonoma; 800/541-2233; williams-sonoma.com. Glasses Lotta Jansdotter—Fishes Eddy; 877/347-4733; fisheseddy.com.

Pages 90-91

Decanter purchased unpainted—World Market; 800/267-8758; worldmarket.com (product line varies). Copper wire—contact local home improvement stores. Copper paint—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com.

GO WITH THE FLOW

PAGES 92-97

Fountain pump #PF50, fountain fogger #DFF, container fountain kit #DCFKL—Pond Boss; 888/755-6750; thepondboss.net. Metal table frame for planter Klingsbo—IKEA, United States; 888/434-4532; Canada: 866/866-4532; ikea.com. Glass bubble balls—CB2; 800/606-6252; cb2.com. Spotted glass ornaments—Echo Valley; 800/592-9678; echovalley.com. Plastic planter bowl for in-table planter, plastic pot saucer for planter on wood table, houseplants for fountain—Bachman's, Inc.; 866/222-4626; bachmans.com. Glazed pottery for double-decker fountain—Earl May Seed & Nursery; earlmay.com. Terra-cotta pot feet painted after purchase—Lowe's; 800/445-6937; lowes.com. Caladium elephant's ear plants—Longfield Gardens; 855/534-2733; longfield-gardens.com. Wavy concrete planter for bowl of houseplant fountain Earthen Planter—Native Cast; nativecast.com. Potting mix Black Gold—Sun Gro Horticulture Canada, Ltd.; blackgold.bz for a retailer near you. Fusion spray paint for plastic saucer Gloss in Ivy Leaf, fusion spray for inside of top wavy pot Nickel Shimmer—Krylon; 800/457-9566; krylon.com. Paint for metal table Painters' Touch Ultra Cover Enamel in Gloss Berry Pink—Rust-Oleum; 877/385-8155; rustoleum.com.

PICNIC PARTY

PAGES 98-107

Trays for table Large Silver Lacquer Trays—West Elm; 866/428-6468; westelm.com (product line varies). Spray paint for legs Aubergine—Rust-Oleum; 877/385-8155; rustoleum.com. Disposable wood cutlery—Garnish; thinkgarnish.com. Paint for cutlery metal paint pens, tin boxes purchased unpainted—Dick Blick Art Materials; 800/828-4548; dickblick.com. Label for top of tins Stickermaker—Xyron; 800/793-3523; xyron.com. Nylon webbing, buckles—Country Brook Design, Moulton, Alabama; 256/974-0700; countrybrookdesign.com. Fabric napkins for seat cushions, tablecloth for ground cloth purchased unpainted—Target Stores; 800/800-8800 for a retail store near you; target.com (product line varies). Paper lanterns purchased unpainted—Paper Lantern Store; 877/256-8578; paperlanternstore.com.

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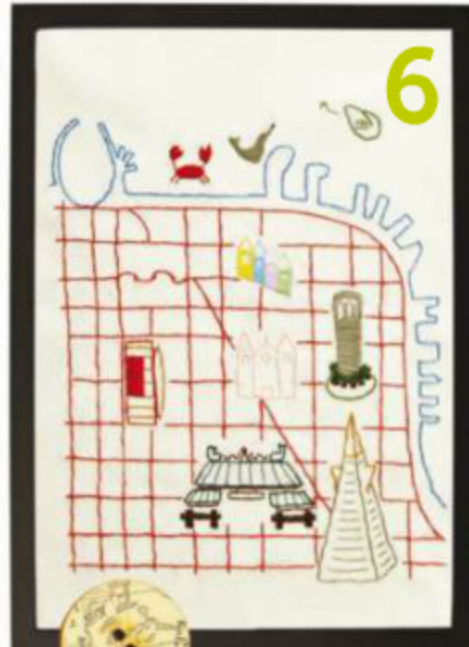
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