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49
PROJECTS
UNDER
\$20

UPGRADE
INDUSTRIAL
LIGHTING



MAKE ABSTRACT ART

DIY the Trends

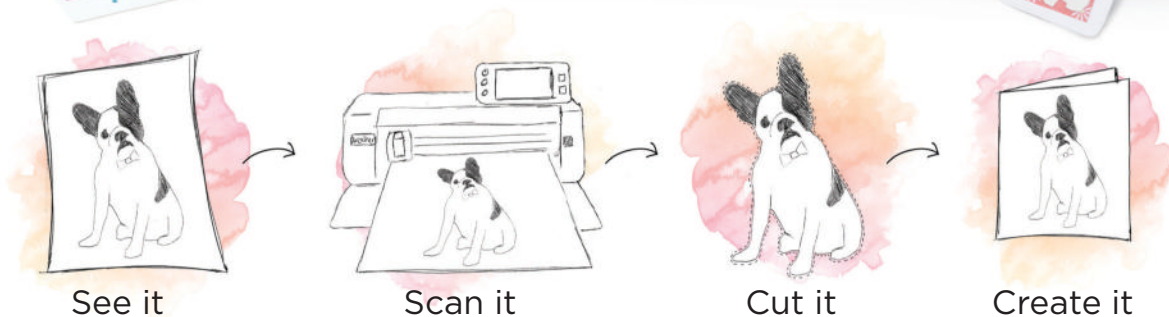
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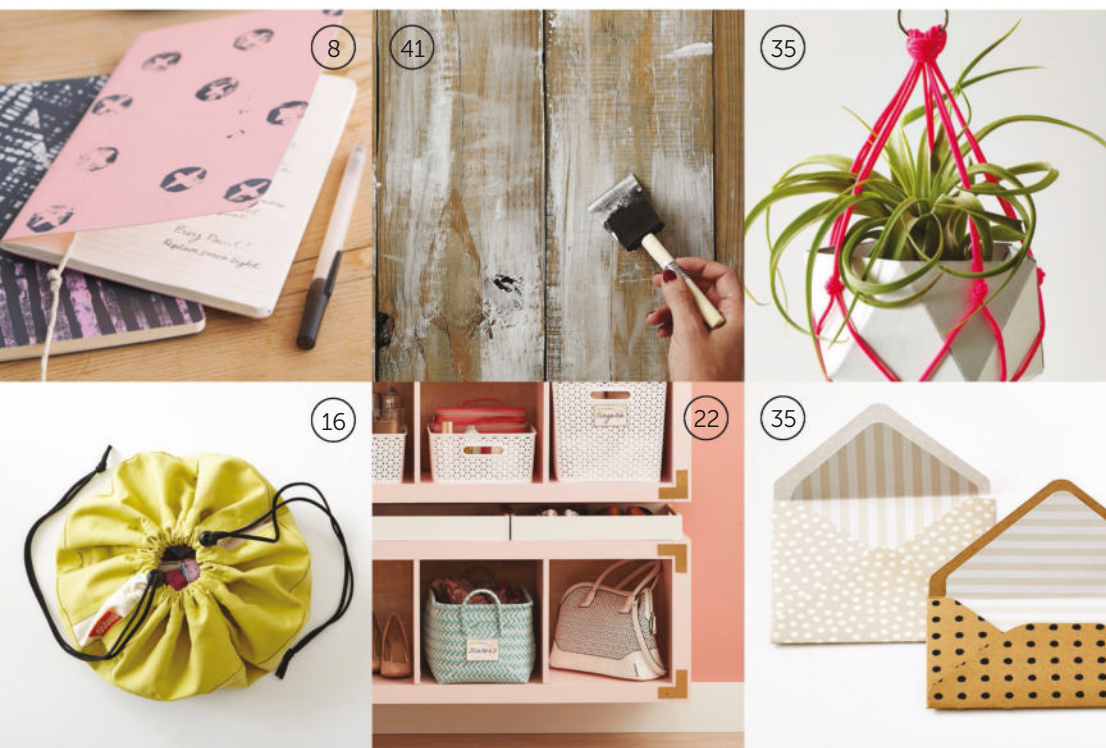
Pump up the pastels and pineapples with these Palm Beach-inspired finds.

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CHECK OUT MORE
AFFORDABLE ART IDEAS:
BHG.COM /DIYCANVAS

DARE TO GO BOLD Tired of the same old light gray, bright white, or boring beige walls? Check out our adventurous paint picks—and find out why they work.
BHG.com/ColorPlay

CUSTOMIZE A PILLOW No sewing machine? No problem. See some of our favorite ideas for no-sew pillows. You can make these easy projects in minutes.
BHG.com/PillowProjects

UPDATE OLD FURNITURE Pin these ideas for future reference. Our DIY furniture makeovers will inspire you to rehab your tired dressers, chairs, hutches, and more.
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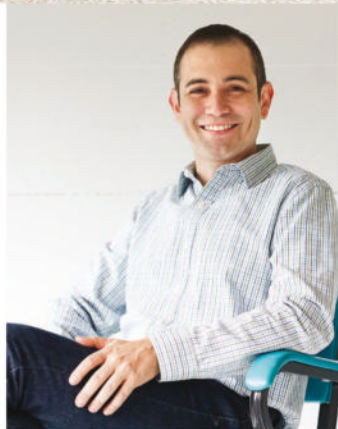
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FROM THE EDITOR

Step up your DIY game

Do It Yourself has long been your go-to source for clever projects and clear how-to, and this issue also brings sophisticated design to the mix. Walking into the dining space featured on our cover (“At Your Service,” page 62), I was blown away to see so many top trends—industrial lighting, modern farmhouse furniture, high-contrast art—mingle effortlessly in one room. Knowing that I could make all the signature pieces myself was icing on the cake.

As you peruse this issue, you’ll discover new looks, new products, new fonts, and new faces (including yours truly). You’ll encounter fresh takes on the types of stories you love, including furniture makeovers (“Roll with It,” page 72), budget projects (“Reclaimed Dreams,” page 100), and profiles of passionate DIYers (“Artistic Touch,” page 76).

You’ll also find the same helpful insights and reassuring advice you’ve come to expect from *Do It Yourself*. Here’s to making your home better, one hands-on project at a time!

Brian

Brian Kramer
Editor, *Do It Yourself*™

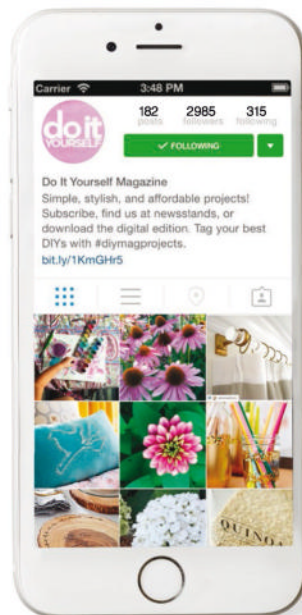
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TRY IT

BLOCK PARTY

Put your stamp on your next project by learning how to block print.

PROJECTS **JODI MENSING HARRIS**
PHOTOGRAPHS **STEVEN MCDONALD**
WORDS **BRITTANY BUNGERT**

WE USED A LINOLEUM CUTTER SET THAT INCLUDES A HANDLE AND FIVE STEEL CUTTING TIPS. \$10; DICKBLICK.COM



TAKE NOTE Customize notebook covers with stamps made from balsa foam blocks, found at art suppliers. We used a linoleum cutter to carve geometric textures into this rigid foam material (*opposite*), but a dowel with a tapered end also works as a carving tool. (We created three designs: a screwhead motif, simple straight lines, and a grid pattern.) Dab an even layer of paint onto the designs with a stenciling sponge, and then stamp it on the notebook.

A



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

PRINTMAKING
CARVING BLOCK // \$4
PILLOW // \$10
SCREEN-PRINTING
INK // \$5
TOTAL // \$19

ALLOVER PATTERN A repeating floral design makes a plain cotton pillowcase look like designer fabric. Remove the pillow form from the case, and slip a piece of cardboard inside to prevent the ink from bleeding through. Place an ink-jet-printed design facedown onto your printmaking carving block, and use an iron on a warm setting to transfer the design. Remove the negative space using a linoleum cutter; push and scoop out the linoleum, pointing the sharp end of the cutter away from you. Roll an even layer of screen-printing ink for fabric over the design with a brayer (A), then press the block evenly onto the pillowcase, starting at the center. Repeat, working your way out to the edges and reapplying ink after each print. Take time to wipe away excess paint from the block between each impression for cleaner results. After ink dries, heat-set by ironing on the reverse side of the pillowcase at the highest setting for the fabric type or placing the pillowcase in the dryer for a few minutes.



ROTATE YOUR
BLOCK AS YOU
STAMP FOR A
MORE INTERESTING
PATTERN.

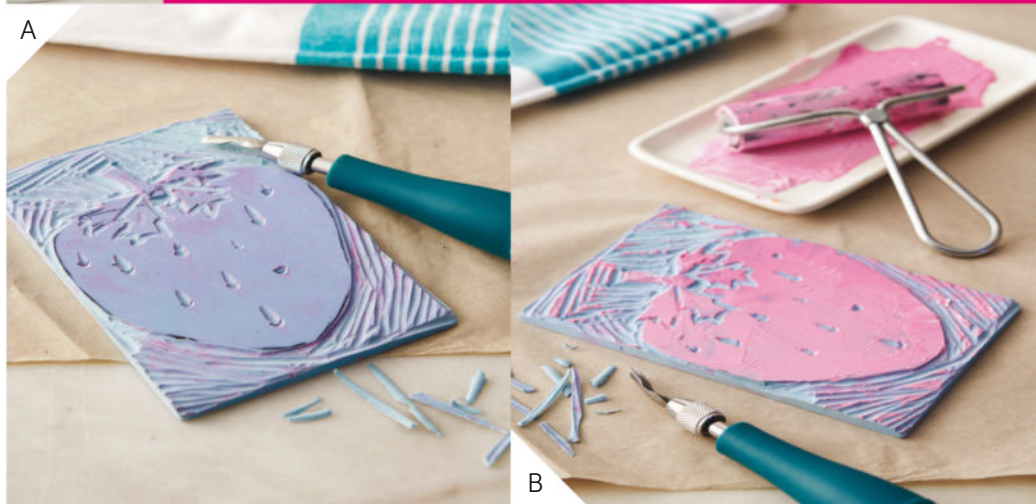


“LAY A
FOLDED
TOWEL
UNDER
YOUR
PROJECT
SO THE
STAMP
CAN SINK
IN A BIT.”

JODI MENSING HARRIS,
PROJECT DESIGNER



THROW IN THE TOWEL A cotton flour sack towel gets a strawberry-sweet makeover with a block-printed design. We freehand drew this design onto our carving block. To get a textured look similar to our motif, partially carve away sections of the space around the main design (A). Roll an even layer of screen-printing ink for fabric over the design with a brayer (B). Flip the block and press it evenly onto the fabric to transfer the image. Follow the heat-setting instructions on *page 10* so the towel will stand up to frequent washings.





FOUND THINGS Look around your house to find interesting print-worthy objects. Buttons, with their tiny details, make a big impact on cloth napkins, but you could also use paper clips, safety pins, or other small items. Hot-glue a button onto a wood block (A), and dab an even layer of fabric paint onto the button. Practice pressing the design onto a scrap piece of fabric to make sure you're happy with the results before stamping onto the napkin. If your button has a shank, carve a small space for it out of the wood block or stick the button into an eraser and stamp away. Heat-set the designs according to the paint manufacturer's instructions.



CHOOSE FABRIC
WITH A SMOOTH
TEXTURE FOR
CRISPER PRINTS.



SET THE TABLE Go big or go home with large-scale designs cut from inexpensive crafts foam. Draw your design on paper and use it as a template to trace onto sticky-backed crafts foam (A). Cut your design, peel off the backing, and adhere the pieces to a large wood block or the bottom of a cake pan (B). Roll an even layer of screen-printing ink for fabric over the design, then press it onto the fabric, applying even pressure. Hold the fabric down as you lift the stamp to prevent sticking and smudging. Rinse off the foam and let dry between impressions to ensure crisp lines.



STAMP INTRICATE DESIGNS WITH
HANDCRAFTED BLOCKS MADE
FROM SUSTAINABLE HARDWOOD.
\$5–\$24 EACH; BLOCKWALLAH.COM



USE A
SIZED-RIGHT SCRAP
OF PAPER AS A
GUIDE FOR
DETERMINING
PLACEMENT.

DESIGNER SET If you can't find (or afford) the perfect bedding, turn to woodblock stamps to pump up plain linens. Use a stenciling sponge to cover the stamp evenly with screen-printing ink, then press it onto the fabric (A). Prevent seeping ink by placing cardboard behind the fabric. Heat-set linens according to the instructions on *page 10*.



BUDGET
BREAKDOWN

SCREEN-
PRINTING INK // \$5
CARVING BLOCK
// \$4
GIFT BAG // \$1
TOTAL // \$10



IT'S A WRAP Use a linoleum cutter to carve organic lines and circles into a printmaking carving block. Control the depth of the cut by the angle you hold the tool. A steeper angle means a deeper cut. Lightly dab metallic screen-printing ink evenly over the design for a more transparent impression (A), then press it onto the bag in quadrants. For a cohesive look, stamp the same design on a gift tag.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.

“DO A TEST PRINT ON A SCRAP OF PAPER TO CHECK FOR AREAS IN YOUR DESIGN WHERE YOU MAY NEED TO CARVE MORE DEEPLY.”

JODI MENSING HARRIS,
PROJECT DESIGNER

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Before



After



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Jewelry Armoire

Before



After



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ORDER IN THE HOUSE

STORAGE AT PLAY

With oh-so-ingenuous designs, conquering kids' clutter has never been easier—or more stylish.

WORDS **PAMELA PORTER** PHOTOGRAPH (THIS PAGE) **PETER LAMASTRO**



Kids and clutter go hand-in-hand, so keep your home tidy by arming young ones with plenty of storage solutions and teaching them to be responsible for organizing their own stuff.

—Pam Porter

Using color-coding, *opposite*, to corral belongings in kids' rooms helps eliminate sibling rivalry and foster tidiness in creative young minds.

Sleeping beauty

With a built-in desk, wardrobe, and shelving, the IKEA Stuva loft bed is more than just a place to crash. The efficient design and affordable price make it a perfect solution for small spaces and small budgets. Get it in all white or with one of five accent colors. \$449; ikea.com



It's a cinch Durable and designed to last, each Swoop bag features a nylon drawstring that cinches closed to bundle up a slew of playthings. Available in an array of happy colors, the large bag doubles as a play mat while the mini travel size is perfect for taking toys on the go. \$24–\$48; swoopbags.com



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Play it safe

Fashioned from heavy-duty EVA foam (used in high-end sneakers), the Casebot Kiddie Case for Apple iPad is lightweight, offers shock protection, and withstands rigorous wear and tear. Plus the clever grip handle converts to a stand. \$37; fintie.com



Never bin better The Colorware Smart Store System features a multifunctional design, a locking lid, and vibrant transparent colors that let you see what's inside. Select a tote size, then customize the interior using inserts and trays. Starting at \$4; containerstore.com



Lap of luxury

Ideal for studying, drawing, journaling, or propping up a tablet or laptop, the PB Teen Superstorage Lapdesk 2 goes where you need it. The top surface slides open to reveal divided compartments for supplies, and a cushy base means pure comfort for your legs. \$99; personalize it for \$8.50 more; pbteen.com

Hip to be square Full of style and functionality, the Italian-designed QBO Modular Steel Cube System can be arranged and rearranged to suit kids' changing storage needs. Optional accessories—shelves, dividers, doors, casters, and feet—let you complete a custom solution. Each cube starts at \$49; containerstore.com



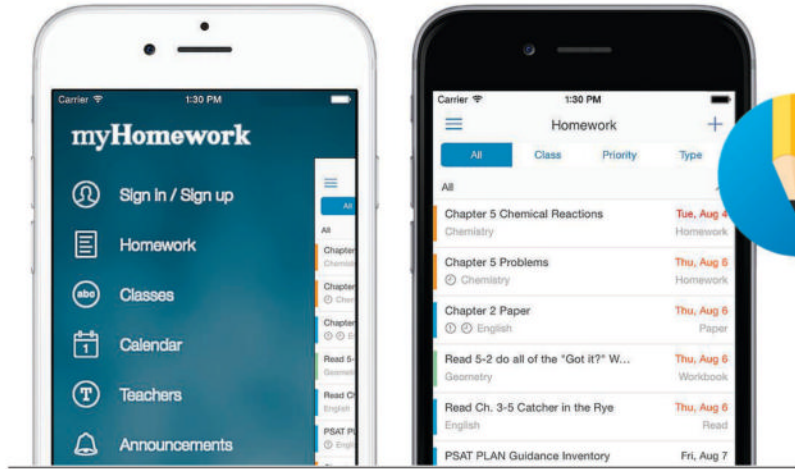
Piece by piece This award-winning design is the ultimate in storage and sorting for Lego and similar building bricks. The Box4Blox bin sorts bricks by sifting them through graduated openings in the bottom of each level. The combined trays constructed of durable plastic can hold more than 1,600 bricks and are easy for any age to use. \$45; box4blox.com





From cover to cover

This rack's clear acrylic panels put beautifully illustrated book covers on display and within reach. Boasting old-world craftsmanship and using materials from sustainable forests, the five-level shelf is a real space-saver in pint-size rooms. \$235; whitneybros.com



A quick study Time for the paper planner to step aside. This cross-platform digital student planner makes tracking classes and schoolwork a breeze. The planner syncs across devices for easy access anytime and anywhere. Quickly add and organize classes and assignments, get due-date reminders, and receive rewards when tasks are complete. Free for basic app or \$5/year for premium package; myhomeworkapp.com

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COOL TOOLS

NOW IN 3-D

We're geeking out! Learn how 3-D printing can take your DIY skills to another level.

WORDS **RHEA BORJA**

THE BASICS

WHAT IS IT? Three-dimensional printing (also known as additive manufacturing) creates a physical object from a digital 3-D model designed with modeling software such as CAD. A digital file (.STL or .OBJ) downloaded or created on your desktop computer provides the blueprint for a 3-D printer to make an object by extruding and layering material.

WHAT MATERIAL IS USED? Anything from metal to glass to porcelain is fair game, but for hobbyists, the most common material is PLA (polylactic acid), a malleable and easy-to-use polymer made from cornstarch and sugar cane that comes on a spool.

DIYers more experienced in 3-D printing can also use ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene), a sturdy oil-base plastic with a high melting point used more often in professional manufacturing.

WHAT CAN I MAKE WITH A 3-D PRINTER? Pretty much anything. Start by creating simple objects such as a customized picture frame, a

tea-light holder, or a napkin ring. Embellish with acrylic paint, if you wish. Go on to make smartphone cases, wall hooks, vases, jewelry, or even mechanical parts or gadgets for bicycles or cameras.

The printers can also be handy for home projects. Need to replace a hard-to-find bracket for that window shade? Make one with a 3-D printer.

WHERE DO I FIND DESIGNS? The companies that make the printers featured here offer designs online that you can download and print. You can also find downloadable designs at thingiverse.com. If you create a 3-D design that is beyond your printer's capabilities, sculpteo.com and shapeways.com can print and ship it to you.

HOW DO I DESIGN MY OWN 3-D PRODUCTS? Free online modeling software Tinkercad (tinkercad.com), SketchUp (sketchup.com), and 123D Design (123dapp.com/design) are designed for hobbyists and educators as well as professionals. The websites feature tutorials and videos to get you up and running.

3-D PRINTING TIPS

GET TO KNOW YOUR PRINTER.

Read the manual, learn about your printer's various parts, ensure it's properly calibrated, and experiment by printing small, simple items in different shapes and settings.

BE PATIENT. Printing a 3-D object is not the same as printing a photo or document from your home printer. Creating a three-dimensional product can take hours; the bigger the object, the longer it will take to print. Also, make sure the printer's build plate is level, and stick around for the first 10 to 15 minutes of a print project to ensure all goes as planned.

LEARN FROM OTHERS. You can find many online forums and sites dedicated to 3-D printing and design such as Thingiverse's Groups (thingiverse.com/groups). Ask questions and chime in!

FIND @DOITYOURSELF MAGAZINE ON INSTAGRAM TO SEE WHAT WE MADE WITH THESE PRINTERS.

3-D PRINTER PICKS

DA VINCI JR. 1.0

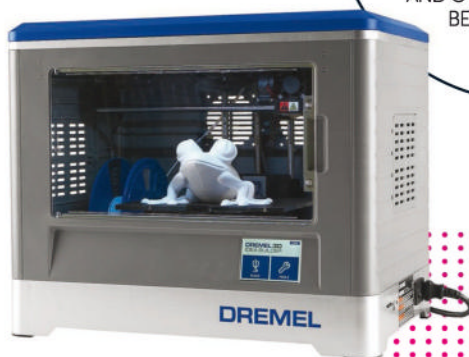
xyzprinting.com // \$350

Easy to set up, this entry-level 3-D printer requires no calibration and consumes only 75 watts of power. This printer uses a proprietary PLA filament cartridge system, so you have to buy filament spools specifically made for this printer.



TRY IT FIRST

HEAD TO HACKERSPACES.ORG FOR A LIST OF ALMOST 2,000 COMMUNITY-ORGANIZED PHYSICAL PLACES (INCLUDING LOCAL LIBRARIES) WHERE YOU CAN TINKER WITH 3-D PRINTERS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY BEFORE YOU BUY.



DREMEL 3D IDEA BUILDER

dremel.com // \$999

This high-quality UL-certified printer has a door that makes it safe for kids to use. The fully enclosed work space stabilizes the temperature and reduces noise so your models and projects build quietly in the background. It's backed by Dremel customer support.



ULTIMAKER 2 GO

ultimaker.com // \$1,450

Lightweight, compact, and powerful, the Ultimaker 2 Go features a bigger print area than some other 3-D printers and extra features such as multiple extruders (multiple colors and materials in one object) and thinner layers for smoother prints.



MOD-T 3D PRINTER

newmatter.com // \$399

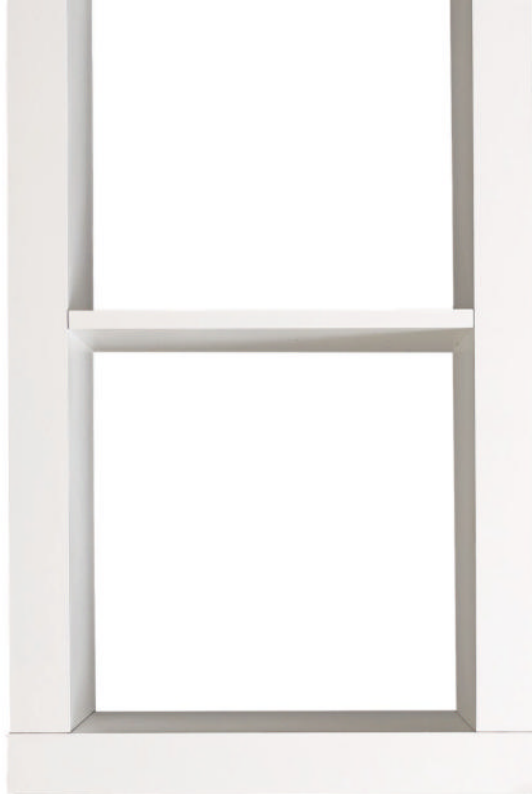
This Wi-Fi-enabled 3-D printer was designed for DIYers, educators, and others delving into 3-D printing. Engineered for reliability, the MOD-t has a "plug and play" setup and fewer moving parts than other 3-D printers. It also features a clean, minimalist design.

GET THE GOODS

BE INSPIRED BY—AND BUY 3-D-PRINTED HOME GOODS, JEWELRY, AND MORE FROM—SHAPEWAYS.COM, WHICH FEATURES PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED AND PRINTED ITEMS IN A VARIETY OF MATERIALS.

STORAGE CUBES

WHAT TO DO WITH



Straightforward shelving units adopt a medley of upgrades and accents for revamped style that's as pretty as it is practical.

PROJECTS **LESLIE POYZER** PHOTOGRAPHS **CAMERON SADEGHPOUR** WORDS **LAURA KRISTINE JOHNSON**



BEFORE

Affordable and versatile, these modular shelving units are begging for a makeover. Ours are from the Better Homes and Gardens® collection at Walmart and are available in a variety of finishes. \$49 (four-cube organizer); \$70 (eight-cube organizer); walmart.com



TOMATO
CREAM
SAUCE

2089-40,
BENJAMIN MOORE,
BENJAMINMOORE.COM

VANITY FLAIR Stash shoes, beauty supplies, and accessories into this floating shelf system for swanky bedroom storage. Prep, prime, and paint three assembled four-cube units; let paint cure for two days. Hidden braces at the top and bottom of both ends of each unit attach it to the wall (see *page 25*). We mounted the top shelf so the unit's bottom was 72 inches from the floor, the middle shelf 27 inches off the floor, and the bottom shelf 6 inches from the floor. If desired, set beveled glass on top of the middle shelf for an easy-to-clean surface.



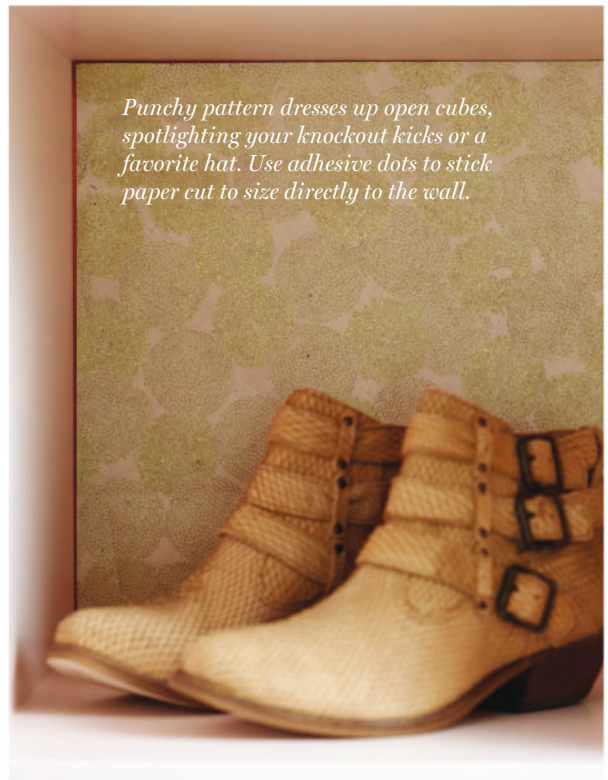
Using a saw for cutting metal, trim 8-inch flat corner braces to 3 inches. Spray-paint gold, and attach with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch screws.



PEACH KISS
2089-60,
BENJAMIN MOORE,
BENJAMINMOORE.COM



Zinc-plated corner braces attached to the wall and then the shelf allow for the floating look. Drill the braces into a stud in the wall or use wall anchors for added support.



Punchy pattern dresses up open cubes, spotlighting your knockout kicks or a favorite hat. Use adhesive dots to stick paper cut to size directly to the wall.

SLIDE-OUT SHOE TRAY OPPOSITE Stow shoes in wood trays to prevent delicate footwear from being misshapen and lost in a pile. If you can't find trays that are the right size and color, use spray paint to get the look you want. Line the inside with paper, and seal with decoupage medium to make them pretty but still functional. Slip the trays into the space between the bottom and middle units to maximize storage.



Toss bulky items into breathable baskets outfitted with labels to make dressing and sorting a cinch.



PUSHING PAPER

CUT BACKINGS FOR TWO CUBBIES FROM 20x29-INCH SHEETS OF FINE PAPER, SUCH AS THIS GOLD ON CREAM MUMS PATTERN. \$5 EACH; PAPERSOURCE.COM





ENTRYWAY DROP ZONE ABOVE Bring organizational harmony to hall spaces with this smart setup. Arrange two four-cube units into an L shape. Cut $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch plywood to back each unit. Measure the length and width of the combined arrangement, add an inch to each measurement for an overhang, and cut $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood to create a top and base. Prep, prime, and paint all the components; let paint dry. Screw on shelf backings with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch screws, then attach the base with 1-inch screws. Secure the peg feet to the base using 1-inch screws. Position the assembly in its desired location, and secure the closet rod brackets to the wall. Use wall anchors if studs are unavailable. With 1-inch screws, screw the top plywood piece onto the vertical unit as well as the brackets for optimum stability.



Organize small accessories and favorite snapshots on a magnetic shelf. Hooks place keys for grab-and-go ease.



Opt for a wood closet rod rather than a plastic or metal one to make painting a breeze and to easily customize its length.



Metal pockets keep mail on track. Label one "in" and one "out" using a Sharpie or stickers.

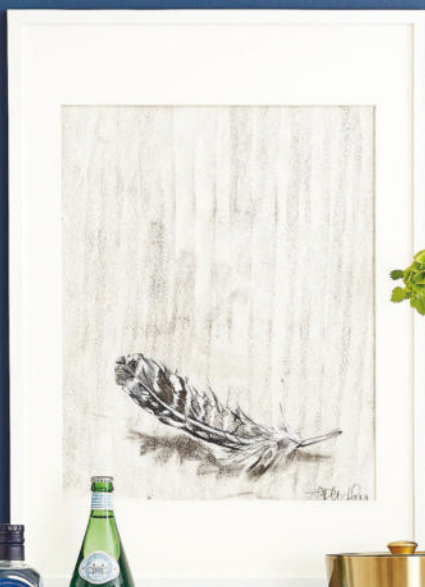


GET A LEG UP
TURNED WOOD FURNITURE
LEGS GIVE SHAPELY CURVES TO
CLEAN-LINED STORAGE CUBES.
\$16 EACH; PRETTYPEGS.COM



NEWBURYPORT
BLUE

HC-155,
BENJAMIN MOORE,
BENJAMINMOORE.COM



SERVING STATION Highlight dishware in a buffet based on an eight-cube unit. Craft a top and base from $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood: Measure the length and width of the longest sides of an eight-cube unit, add an inch to each measurement for a slight overhang, and cut using a circular saw or table saw. Sand, prime, and paint the boards to match the shelf; let dry. Center and glue the top and base to the unit using construction adhesive. Attach legs to the base plywood with 1-inch screws.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.





For a chic surface, channel a Carrara marble look with paint. Turn to page 48 for instructions. Finish with Briwax to protect the surface.

GET A MARBLE LOOK WITH DIY SOLUTIONS:
BHG.COM/DIYMARBLE



Show off glam glassware by installing gold-tone stemware racks inside one cube using $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch screws.



A dipped gold effect adds oomph to furniture legs. Use painters tape to block off the section you don't want spray-painted.



X MARKS THE SPOT

OUTFIT STORAGE CUBES WITH X DIVIDERS MADE TO FIT INSIDE. THEY'RE PERFECT FOR STORING WINE OR ROLLED TOWELS. \$13; WALMART.COM

DIY Q+A

HANDY GIRL

Refresh and renew your home with these tips and tricks from our home improvement helper.

WORDS KELLY ROBERSON

WOOD REFINISHING IS A MULTIDAY PROCESS. WE'VE GOT AN EASIER METHOD TO GET YOUR SHINE ON.

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

We refinished our floors a few years ago and they looked great—until this year. The shine has faded, but we shouldn't have to refinish them already, should we?

DEAR READER, Breathe easy. If you've taken care of your polyurethane-finished floors, they probably just need a good polish, which comes courtesy of simple-to-apply products found at home improvement stores.

Start by dusting your floors. Follow that with a product designed for cleaning wood floors, then apply a polish in either high or low gloss—one or two coats, depending on your floors and your preference. Two products we like:

BONA offers both a cleaner and a polish, as well as a mop with a cloth pad. Once applied, the polish must dry a minimum of 24 hours before you apply a second coat. \$10 (cleaner), \$22 (polish), \$40 (mop); us.bona.com



REJUVENATE makes both a cleaner and a restorer, which is similar to a polish. The Rejuvenate polish needs to dry only a few hours before a second coat can be applied. \$10 (cleaner); \$22 (polisher); rejuvenateproducts.com

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FLOOR REFINISHING PROCESS:
BHG.COM/WOODFLOORS

IS YOUR CEILING PAINTED?

If so, this water and scraper method probably won't work. Instead, think about hanging 1/2-inch-thick light drywall directly over the old ceiling (locate studs and use extra-long screws).

DEAR HANDY GIRL, *Help! We're rescuing our house from the 1970s. The shag carpet is gone, but we've still got those ghastly popcorn ceilings. What's the easiest fix?*

ALL YOU NEED TO TAKE THE POPCORN AWAY!



Plastic sheeting



Painters tape



Spray bottle with a few drops of dish soap



Dust mask



OUR MOTTO: PROTECT YOUR EYES WHEN YOU DIY. THE DEWALT CONCEALER CLEAR ANTI-FOG DUAL MOLD SAFETY GOGGLE MINIMIZES FOGGING AND OFFERS AN ADJUSTABLE FIT. \$13; DEWALT.COM FOR RETAILERS



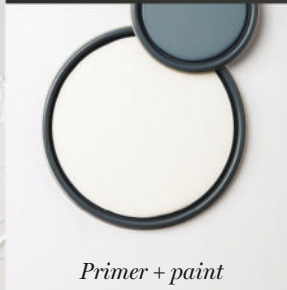
Safety glasses



Wide scraper



Drywall mud + wide putty knife



Primer + paint

DEAR READER, While the '70s might conjure waves of nostalgia for groovy disco beats, some of its design hallmarks—wood paneling, fuzzy toilet seat covers—are not so warmly recalled. That includes textured—aka popcorn or cottage cheese—ceilings. Used as a sound-softening tool, the look is off-putting to many looking for a clean-line aesthetic.

Luckily for the DIYer, removing popcorn from unpainted ceilings is one of the easier

projects you can tackle—but it is also one of the messiest. Since the Handy Girl always practices safety first, here's what to do—and what you must test for.

ONE Clear the room: Remove all furniture and decorative items. Close outlets and vents and turn off the HVAC.

TWO Use plastic sheeting and painters tape to seal the floor, walls, entrances, and any other nonremovable elements.

THREE Add a few drops of dish soap to a spray bottle of water. Liberally spray a several-foot-wide square section of the ceiling. Allow the water to absorb for about 10 minutes.

FOUR Wearing the mask, a respirator, and glasses, scrape away the popcorn texture.

FIVE Evaluate your work: Removing the texture won't give you a completely smooth ceiling. You'll want to apply a very thin skim coat of drywall mud or joint compound with the putty knife. You may need to lightly sand the ceiling after the mud dries. Then prime and paint.

ASBESTOS ALERT

Ceiling texture applied before 1980 may contain asbestos. To be safe, test yours: Wear a mask and scrape a small corner of the texture into a home test kit or send it to your state's health office for testing. If the results are positive, have an asbestos removal company fix the ceilings for you.



MAKE THE JOB EASIER—AND SPARE YOUR TRICEPS—WITH THE 12-INCH-WIDE **HOMAX CEILING TEXTURE SCRAPER**. CONNECT THE TOOL TO AN EXTENSION POLE TO REACH THE CEILING, AND ATTACH A BAG TO CAPTURE THE TEXTURE AS YOU REMOVE IT. \$22; HOMAXPRODUCTS.COM

CAN'T FIND A CARPET SCRAP?

Steal a square (or circle) from a closet or under a never-moved piece of furniture.



THE CARPET REPAIR KIT FROM ORCON INCLUDES A CUTTER AND ADHESIVE PATCHES. \$19; AMAZON.COM

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

My kids left a 2-inch-wide marker stain in the carpet, and no cleaner will remove it. What can I do?

DEAR READER, Oh kids—you've got to love them and the "memories" they leave around the house. Rest assured, you can patch your carpet.

A patch kit, which includes a cutting tool and adhesive patches, makes it easy to get good results. Place the cutter over the stain, press firmly, and twist to remove the damaged carpet (but not the carpet padding). Use the cutting tool to slice a replacement patch from a scrap piece of carpeting. Place the new patch over the hole and attach with the adhesive. If desired, roll over the patch firmly with a star-wheel roller to blend seams.

WHY PAINTERS TAPE VERSUS MASKING TAPE? In a pinch, you can use one for the other, but masking tape is stickier than painters tape, which means you run the risk of pulling off paint when you remove the tape. In our experience, it's worth the extra couple bucks a roll for the painters tape. And whatever you do, don't use duct tape!

DEAR HANDY GIRL, *We're finally ready to tackle the room in our house that has burgundy trim. (It's bad.) I've never painted trim before, and I'm afraid of messing it up or taking forever to finish the project. Any tips?*

A NOTE

ABOUT PAINT SPRAYERS

Paint sprayers are an option for painting trim, but the prep work is labor intensive. You need to not only tape off walls and floors, but also to cover those surfaces and the ceiling with sheeting and seal off the area from other rooms in the house.

DEAR READER, I understand: Trim is detailed, small, and seems intimidating. Here's how I like to paint it.

ONE If you don't trust yourself to have a steady hand, use painters tape to create a crisp edge around trim. You may be able to skip this step after some practice, but it's probably a good idea if you're a newbie.

TWO Choose the right tool—the brush makes all the difference. We like an angled, short-handle brush.

THREE Fill and sand any holes, nicks, dents, and scratches with wood putty.

FOUR Thoroughly clean the trim, scrubbing with a damp cloth and letting dry before proceeding.

FIVE Apply a stain-blocking primer to remove any trace of that bad burgundy. For trim at ceilings and floors, prime from the top to the bottom of the piece. For windows, prime from the interior muntins (if you have them) outward. To make sure your windows don't dry shut, move the sashes up and down several times during the drying time.

SIX After the primer dries thoroughly, apply paint in the same manner.

REMOVE THE TAPE AS SOON AS YOU ARE DONE PAINTING.



THE RUBBERIZED HANDLE OF THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PREMIUM XL POLYESTER TIGHT SPOTS BRUSH REDUCES HAND FATIGUE. \$6; SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.COM FOR RETAILERS

DO I HAVE TO BUY
A SPECIAL LIQUID
WALLPAPER REMOVER?

You can use hot water and fabric softener instead. Combine the two in a 1:1 ratio in a spray bottle. Bonus: It smells laundry fresh!

LEARN MORE TRICKS FOR WALLPAPER REMOVAL: BH.G.COM/NOWALLPAPER

DEAR HANDY GIRL,

Wallpaper: I can't stand it, but I'm terrified of removing it. Help?



DEAR HANDY GIRL,

We gave our bathroom a new (but budget-smart) look with updated brushed-nickel faucets and fixtures, but we forgot one key item: the tub drain. Any labor-easy options?

DEAR READER, You're in luck. Choose one of two options:

REMOVE AND REPLACE THE OLD DRAIN COVER WITH A NEW ONE. This is about a 10-minute job. You'll need a drain removal wrench (about \$10) and plumbers putty. Use the wrench to unscrew and remove the old drain. Clean the threads, then place a thin line of plumbers putty around the new drain. Screw in your new drain, and remove any excess putty.

PUT A REPLACEMENT DRAIN COVER OVER THE OLD DRAIN. Products such as those from Universal NuFit (left; \$19–\$71; universalfit.com) attach over or screw into an existing drain—no removal needed—and are available in multiple finishes. Options include a built-in stopper and a matching overflow cover.

DEAR READER,

Handy Girls, say it with me: Wallpaper removal isn't scary and it's totally doable. As with many home improvement projects, the right tools make all the difference. We like these steps:

ONE See if you're both a Lucky Girl and a Handy Girl: Some wallpaper will come off in big strips without water. Start at a corner and peel gently. You might be able to get big chunks off this way.

TWO If peeling doesn't work, move to scoring. As you move the scoring tool in circles, it cuts through the wallpaper, which provides a way for wallpaper remover or steam to get behind the adhesive.

THREE Next, pick one of two options.

- Using liquid wallpaper remover and a sponge, soak the scored slits. Then scrape off the wallpaper and backing. Or...
- Use a wallpaper steamer. Overall, this tool is less labor-intensive than liquid wallpaper remover. Move a steamer over the wall, and scrape off the wallpaper. You may have to repeat the process to remove the backing if it remains on the wall.

FOUR Wipe your walls thoroughly with warm, soapy water and a sponge. Let dry for at least 48 hours before refinishing.

DEAR HANDY GIRL, *I don't love the cracks in my old house's plaster. Any options, short of tearing it out and drywalling?*

DEAR READER, Plaster cracks are a natural part of the settling process of any house, but they can be distracting, particularly if pieces of the crack break off. You don't say what size the cracks are, but I'll assume they're small.

If you want to fix a small crack, you first have to make it bigger—weird, I know, but this allows you space to insert spackling compound. Using a small chisel, widen the crack to about 1/4 inch; blow out any dust, and work in vinyl spackling compound (it's OK to mound it). Once the compound is dry, sand it smooth, then prime and paint.

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“Your classes were very informative. I am currently billing...we are negotiating a coding position at this time. I have already recommended [you] to my coworkers.”
Catherine S., CO



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*<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292071.htm>, <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes433021.htm> (BLS, U.S. Dept. of Labor, March 31, 2015)

**<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-records-and-health-information-technicians.htm#tab-6> (BLS, U.S. Dept. of Labor, October 15, 2015)

STUFF WE LOVE

ON OUR RADAR

Plant, paint, craft, and create your way through the year's most refreshing season.

STYLING **BRIAN KRAMER** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON DONNELLY** WORDS **CHELSEA EVERS**



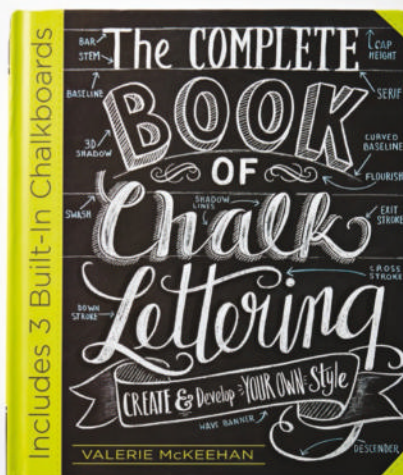
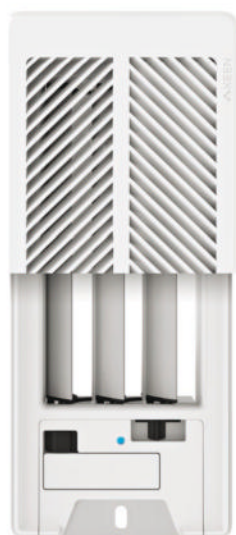
Tiny tapestry Start creating custom weaving projects in minutes with this miniature loom kit. At just over 6x8 inches, the laser-cut bamboo frame is accompanied by a comb, a needle, a ball of cotton warp, three colors of hand-dyed yarn, and a guide. \$48; theunusualpear.etsy.com



①

②

③



④

⑤



1 Dress up a doorway or dessert bar with the DIY tassel garland kit.

Choose four colors from more than 20 options, then twist and hang 20 tassels on the included twine. \$16; modparty.etsy.com

2 Keep energy costs low with the Smart Vent System, controlled through your home network and smartphone. Each vent senses heat and pressure, wirelessly regulating airflow throughout your home. Smart Bridge \$40, Vent starting at \$85; keenhome.io

3 Begin with the ABCs (literally) of hand-lettering and move on to more complex designs for signs and billboards. Three built-in chalkboards let you practice your craft. \$20; workman.com

4 Hand-sewn, plant-based, and dye-free, Twist sponges, scrubbers, and scour pads offer a natural alternative to chemical-laden cleaning products. Starting at \$2; twistclean.com

5 Start veggies and herbs indoors, then roll them out to the patio or garden with this grow-anywhere planter. Made from recycled plastic and steel, the tub is available in three sizes and features a built-in drainage system. Starting at \$99; foodmapdesign.com

6 Show off your favorite succulents or air plants in this make-it-yourself macramé planter. The kit includes a foldable cardboard container, glue, cord, a metal hanging ring, and step-by-step instructions. \$14; imakin.etsy.com



6

7 Nix a plug-in night-light in favor of a Guidelight, which features automatic sensor LED bulbs built into the outlet plate. The light costs less than 10 cents a year to power. Starting at \$15; snappower.com

7



8 Ideal for adults and older children alike, Millie Marotta's detailed *Animal Kingdom* and *Tropical World* coloring books offer intricately designed pages filled with creatures and foliage just waiting to be brought to life with color. \$15 each; barnesandnoble.com

8



9 Say good-bye to messy paint drips! The Paint Handy tray holds up to 12 ounces of latex paint securely in bristle-fiber fabric that won't spill, even when turned upside down. After painting, just use the included squeegee to transfer excess paint back to the can. \$20; thegrommet.com

9

10



10 Olympic One color-changing ceiling paint goes on pink and dries white, so you never miss a spot. \$22/gallon; olympic.com





11

12



11 With 40 percent thinner jaws than a standard wrench, the adjustable Slim Jaw wrench lets you access the tightest of work spaces. A wide jaw opening makes tackling big jobs a breeze. Starting at \$34; channellock.com

12 Turn fabric—such as a favorite T-shirt—into a drum lampshade. This kit includes rings, adhesive plastic sheeting, clips, and glue to create a custom piece. \$25; ilikethatlamp.com

13 Keep food and drinks stowed sustainably in Mason jars with iLids. Choose from regular and wide storage lids or drink lids. Starting at \$7; intelligentlids.com

14 Gardening newbies and perfectionists alike will love the Seeding Square. The planting tool offers a color-coded, gridded guide for perfectly spaced seeds. \$26; thegrommet.com

15 Stop struggling with proper seed spacing! Lay strips of biodegradable spinach seed tape, cover with a light layer of soil, water, and wait until it's time to harvest. \$5; territorialseed.com



14

15



16 Grow herbs, succulents, and seasonal plants in small spaces with this vertical wall planter. The AquaSav Smart Coco Liner promotes air circulation and moisture absorption, so plants stay healthy and hydrated. \$25 (without plants); homedepot.com



16 17

17 Create a sweet and simple heart banner with this Martha Stewart paper punch. The clever interlocking tab design lets you quickly craft a custom-length garland. \$22; amazon.com



18

18 Follow punching, scoring, and folding directions on the foldout 1-2-3 Punch Board to make boxes, bows, and envelopes from basic sheets of paper and cardstock. The included scoring tool makes folds clean and precise. \$35; wermemorykeepers.com



19 20

19 Take the guesswork out of hanging frames and canvases with the Hang-O-Matic tool. Use the sliding anchors and level bubble to measure your frame and evenly mark the wall in one pass. \$15; hangomatic.com



20 Tackle big painting projects with confidence with the Dual Roll-Off Bucket. Two interior off-loading grids allow for multiple painters, so you can finish the job faster. \$50; purdy.com





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BONUS DIY PROJECTS COLORFUL INSPIRATION BEHIND-THE-SCENES PEEKS





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specialty paints and dyes, and
watch the magic unfold.*

PROJECTS **AMBER WAGNER + LIZ LIDGETT**
PHOTOGRAPHS **MARTY BALDWIN + JACOB FOX**
ILLUSTRATIONS **ANTHONY BROKENS**
WORDS **MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX**

WE PAINTED
DASHED LINES
ON A CURTAIN
PANEL USING
THE THIN EDGE
OF A FOAM
BRUSH.

TURN A LAMP
INTO A TABLE:
BHG.COM/DIYTABLE





CURTAIN PANEL

PAINT Plaid Fabric Creations Soft Fabric Ink, \$3; plaidonline.com

POWER Painted fabric remains soft and pliable and is machine-washable.

PROCESS Spread a curtain panel over a protected surface. Squirt paint on a plastic plate, dip brush, and dab away excess. Apply, working from left to right and top to bottom of the panel. Let dry 24 hours; heat-set with a dry iron using a pressing cloth.

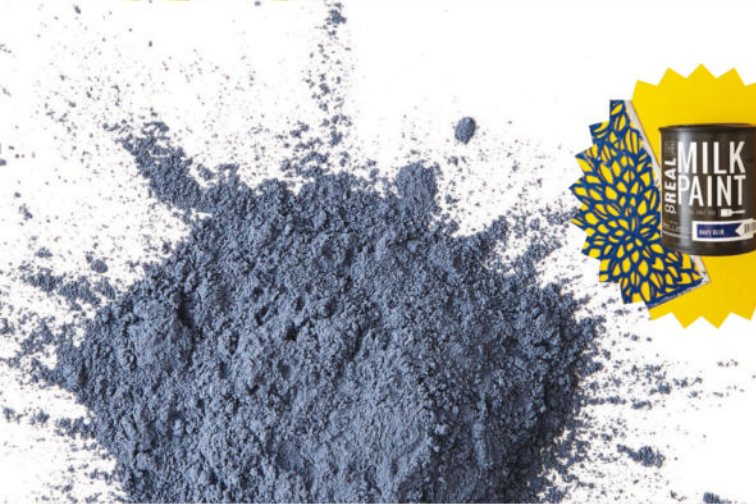


END TABLE

PAINT Amy Howard at Home High Performance Furniture Lacquer, \$20; amyhowardhome.com

POWER Get the high-gloss look of lacquer on wood, metal, resin, glass, or ceramic.

PROCESS Work in a well-ventilated area. Clean your piece with degreaser. If it contains a heavy grain, apply Furniture Lacquer Primer. Spray paint methodically, working from top to bottom. Let dry one hour. Sand surface with 400-grit sandpaper before applying a second coat. Finish with a spray sealer, such as Bright Idea. Allow to cure three days.



PATTERNED PILLOW

PAINT The Real Milk Paint Co. Real Milk Paint, \$4 (sample), \$14 (pint), \$22 (quart); realmilkpaint.com

POWER Once mixed with water, this nontoxic powdered paint has no odor and can be used on raw wood, plaster, stone, and other porous surfaces. Mix only what you need; keep mixed paint in a sealed jar up to two weeks.

PROCESS Mix 2 tablespoons powder with 4 tablespoons water; stir well. Place cardboard inside pillow cover and lay flat on protected surface. Position stencil (we used a die-cut place mat) and tape edges. Apply paint with a round stenciling brush. Remove stencil, allow to dry two hours, and heat-set with an iron and pressing cloth.

WALL ART

PAINT Krylon Looking Glass, \$14; krylon.com

POWER Turn clear glass into a highly reflective mirrorlike surface.

PROCESS Clean the flat side of vintage glass platters with glass cleaner. Working in a well-ventilated area, spray a thin, light coat of paint; let dry five minutes. Apply a second coat. Let dry 24 hours before hanging with heavy-duty adhesive strips.



DYED PILLOWS

PAINT Annie Sloan Chalk Paint, \$14 (4-ounce sample), \$37 (quart); anniesloan.com

POWER This versatile, matte liquid paint can be thinned with water to be used as a wash or dye for fabric.

PROCESS Mix one part paint with 10 parts water; stir well to combine. Accordion-fold pillow cover and secure edges with clothespins. Dip one edge into the paint mixture, and allow to drip dry over a protected surface. Once dry, unclip the edges and heat-set the pillow cover with an iron and pressing cloth.



CLEAN TILES
WITH A
WET CLOTH.
AVOID
ABRASIVE
PADS OR
CLEANSERS.

LOOK FOR ITEMS WITH
COOL SHAPES—BEADS,
SAFETY PINS, ETC.—THAT
WILL CAST SHADOWS.



PITCHER & GLASSES

PAINT Krylon Sea Glass, \$10; krylon.com

POWER When applied to clear glass, this semitranslucent spray yields a soft-looking finish that resembles tumbled sea glass.

PROCESS Clean clear glass tumblers and a pitcher with glass cleaner. Mask the top portions and insides with kraft paper and painters tape. Spray, allowing paint to dry one minute between coats. (Do not apply to areas where your lips may touch.) Let dry one hour, and then apply a matte clear coat spray. Allow to cure 24 hours before use. Hand-wash only.

PENDANT LIGHT

PAINT Folk Art Enamels, \$3; Gallery Glass Simulated Liquid Leading, \$3; plaidonline.com

POWER Enamel paint adds color to glass or ceramics. Liquid Leading mimics the look of stained-glass leading.

PROCESS Wash a shade with soapy water, and wipe with rubbing alcohol. Mark straight lines around the shade with a dry-erase marker. Trace the lines with liquid leading; let dry eight hours. Fill the spaces with enamel paint and a brush, applying several coats. Allow the shade to air-dry for 21 days to allow it to fully cure.



TILE BACKSPLASH

PAINT Pebeo Porcelaine 150 Paint and Markers, \$6–\$8; pebeo.com

POWER This product line can be applied to ceramic, porcelain, terra-cotta, glass, and more. It becomes as permanent as baked enamel when fired in your home oven.

PROCESS Clean ceramic tiles with glass cleaner. Attach a stencil sticker to a tile, and apply paint with a natural fiber brush. Fill in small details with markers. Let dry 24 hours. Bake tiles for 35 minutes at 300°F. Allow the tiles to preheat and cool in the oven to avoid cracking. Install tile backsplash, following standard tile installation guidelines.



TEA TOWEL

PAINT Lumi Inkodye in Blue, \$15; inkodye.com

POWER This photosensitive dye develops color when exposed to sunlight.

PROCESS Work in a dark, well-ventilated area. Mix equal parts dye and water, and submerge the tea towel in the solution. Wring out excess and lay the towel flat on a board. Arrange items (we used string) on the towel, and place the board outdoors in direct sunlight until full color has developed. (Expect to wait about 12–20 minutes.) Bring the board and towel indoors, remove the items, and wash the towel twice with Inkowash detergent.



WOOD BOWLS

PAINT Modern Masters Metal Effects Reactive Paint in Copper and Blue Patina Aging Solution, \$7–\$16; modernmasters.com

POWER Real metal particles in the paint oxidize when they come in contact with the activator for an aged effect.

PROCESS Tape off the top portion of a wood bowl. Apply Metal Effects Primer. Brush on two coats of paint. While paint is still wet, apply activator. We dipped an old toothbrush in the activator and, while wearing gloves, rubbed the bristles for a splattered effect. After five minutes, reapply. A patina will begin to appear after about 30 minutes.



EXPERIENCE THE
POSSIBILITIES
WHEN YOU LAYER
CHALKY AND MILK
PAINTS WITH WAX
AND GLAZES.



LAYERING FINISHES

CHALKY PAINT Chalky paint is a perfect choice if you want to eliminate the sanding, prepping, and priming steps—this low-VOC paint can adhere to almost any surface, including wood, fabric, and metal. Chalky paint will dry to an ultra-matte finish, but can be waxed and buffed, varnished, or lacquered to a desired sheen. Applying a finish will protect the paint from stains and scratches

and can also lighten or darken the color. Chalky paint brands (and price points) abound—purchase premixed or powder formulas, depending on your preference. Add water to the chalk paint to create a translucent wash.

MILK PAINT Milk paint is an excellent choice for bare wood, unsealed walls, unfinished masonry, and other porous surfaces. If a surface has already been painted with latex paint or sealed, sand first and mix milk paint with a bonding agent before applying. (It does not adhere well to oil-base paint, metal, stain, or plastic.)



▲ THE REAL MILK PAINT CO. FLAG RED

▲ THE REAL MILK PAINT CO. FLAG RED + THE REAL MILK PAINT CO. FRESH LEMON + THE REAL MILK PAINT CO. CLEAR CARNAUBA WAX

▲ AMERICANA DECOR IN TREASURE + THE REAL MILK PAINT CO. MAHOGANY BURNISHED GLAZE + SOUTHERN HONEY SHIRLEY (WIPE OFF WET)

▲ ANNIE SLOAN EMPEROR'S SILK + HOWARD'S PASTE WAX NEUTRAL

▲ THE REAL MILK PAINT CO. FRESH LEMON

▲ AMERICANA DECOR CRACKLE MEDIUM + ANNIE SLOAN ENGLISH YELLOW + AMERICANA DECOR CRACKLE MEDIUM + WAVERLY INSPIRATIONS OCEAN

▲ AMERICANA DECOR HERITAGE + MAISON BLANCHE ANNIE'S RESERVE ANTIQUE GLAZE

▲ ANNIE SLOAN NAPOLEON BLUE + ANNIE SLOAN CLEAR SOFT WAX + MAISON BLANCHE ANNIE'S RESERVE ANTIQUE GLAZE

WHAT WE STARTED WITH

We tested our paints on unfinished wood trim pieces.

FOR RESOURCES
SEE PAGE 110.

Available in liquid or powder form, milk paint has a deep, rich pigment that's somewhere between a chalky paint and a wood stain. It has a matte finish but can be accented, shined, and made more durable with varnish, wax, or lacquer. Made from milk powder, water, lime, and earth pigments, milk paint is earth-friendly, containing low to no VOCs.

WAX Waxes can add sheen, protection, depth, and interest to a surface painted with chalky or milk paint. Apply clear waxes for protection, allow to dry, and buff to a satin sheen. For a distressed

finish, apply dark or white waxes, usually after a clear wax to prevent the paint from being darkened or lightened by the colored waxes. For a glossier finish, use a varnish or lacquer over the paint.

CRACKLE MEDIUM Crackle medium gives a distressed look to surfaces. Apply to bare wood, and then apply chalky, milk, or crafts paint on top to achieve a cracked, chipped finish as the paint dries.

ANTIQUING DUST OR POWDER Antiquing dust or powder softens the edges of a wax-darkened piece by "aging" the whole piece, adding depth and visual richness.

DENIM



ONE Coat your smooth surface with latex primer, such as Kilz Original. Spray quickly covers a furniture piece; stick with the roll-on version for a wall. Allow to dry for one hour.



TWO Apply a coat of light blue semigloss paint to the surface using a roller. (We used Glidden Duo color-matched to Ralph Lauren Andover Blue.) Let dry for one hour.

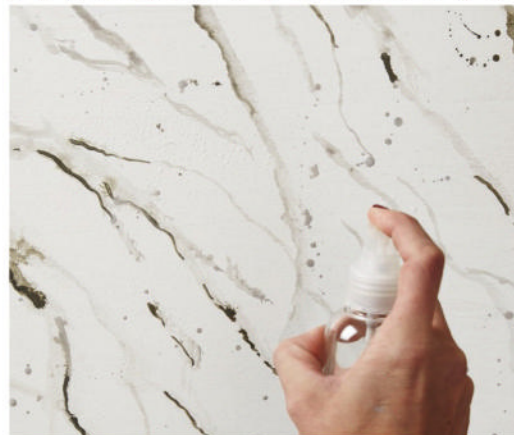
MARBLE



ONE Prime and paint surface with white satin paint; let dry. Mix a 3:1 ratio of light gray acrylic paint (Delta Ceramcoat Drizzle Grey) to water. Paint diagonal lines with a feather.



TWO Using a small artists brush, drizzle splatters of light gray paint to create flecks. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 with dark gray acrylic paint (Delta Ceramcoat Hippo Grey).

AGED
WOOD

ONE Using a brush, apply Minwax Wood Finish Penetrating Stain in Classic Gray to new, low-grade wood boards. Wait five minutes, and then wipe away the excess stain.



TWO Dip a dry sponge brush into white water-based primer, and brush onto the boards, following the grain of the wood. Allow the primer to dry one hour.

COPPER



ONE Spray a sanded wood furniture piece with Krylon Foil Metallic in Copper. Apply a second coat after a few minutes. Let dry one hour.



TWO Using a sea sponge and a gentle pouncing motion, apply dark green acrylic crafts paint (Delta Ceramcoat in Evergreen). Allow plenty of the copper to show through.



THREE Using a paintbrush, apply Ralph Lauren Faux Technique Glaze in Blue Print, brushing in the same direction across the surface. Brushstrokes are OK.



FOUR While the glaze is still wet, drag a Ralph Lauren 7-inch weaver brush across the glaze from left to right and back again without stopping or lifting. Repeat vertically.



THREE Lightly spritz the wet painted surface with water to diffuse the colors. Soak up the excess water by gently dabbing a sponge on the surface. Allow to dry completely.



FOUR Mix a 3:1 ratio of water and white latex gloss paint. Brush the watery paint mixture over the entire surface. Let dry overnight or until completely dry.



FIVE Rub on a coat of Johnson Paste Wax with a rag. Let dry for 20 minutes or until hazy. (It will have a brown tint.) Buff off the haze.



THREE Apply another coat of stain. Wait 10 minutes before wiping away the excess stain with a rag. Repeat staining process until you like the look. Seal wood if desired.



THREE Repeat Step 2 using acrylic crafts paint in a dark teal hue. (We used Delta Ceramcoat in North Sea.) Overlap the dark green, leaving some of the copper exposed.



FOUR Repeat Step 2 using acrylic crafts paint in a light teal hue. (We used Delta Ceramcoat in Seafoam.) Overlap the dark green and dark teal. Let some copper show through.





GARDEN CENTRAL

TRICKED OUT WITH SHELVES
AND LIGHTS, A LADDER
BECOMES A CONVENIENT
PLANT STAND TO RAISE
SEEDLINGS AND KEEP OTHER
PLANTS OVER THE WINTER.
LEARN HOW TO MAKE
IT ON PAGE 52.

A STEP AHEAD

*Spring comes early
for those who get a
jump start on the
gardening season by
sowing seeds indoors.*

PROJECTS + WORDS **KATE CARTER FREDERICK**
PHOTOGRAPHS **PETE KRUMHARDT**



SOW EASY! Coaxing seeds into garden-ready seedlings indoors presents you with a spectator sport for late winter or early spring—typically six to eight weeks before your region's last average frost date. By the time the soil warms outdoors, you'll have an abundance of plants at a fraction of the cost of nursery stock, as well as leftovers to share or swap.

GERMINATION STATION OPPOSITE AND PAGE 50 Here's how to turn a 6-foot wood ladder into a space-saving plant stand: Cut boards for four sets of shelves measuring 2, 3, 4, and 5 feet long, fitting the boards to the width of each ladder rung. (We used 1×8 boards.) Prepare shims for the shelves, see “Step Right Up,” *opposite*. Prime and paint the ladder, shelves, and shims, allowing each coat to dry overnight. Assemble the plant stand in front of a sunny window to give plants the benefit of natural light. Protect that pretty paint job as well as the flooring by placing waterproof trays—enamel pans or vintage glass casserole dishes also work well—under the pots to contain moisture and soil. Once set up for starting seeds, the shelving unit will be just as practical and hospitable for other plants. After moving your plants outdoors, store gardening supplies, books, and other household goods as needed on the shelves. Or fold and store the ladder for the next growing season.

FREE POTS

RECYCLE THE CARDBOARD FROM TOILET PAPER ROLLS INTO NIFTY SQUARE PLANTERS. JUST SHAPE THEM INTO SQUARE TUBES, SNIP ALONG THE SIDES, AND FOLD IN THE FLAPS; THEN FILL WITH SEED-STARTING MIX.



WHO'S WHO

WRAP WASHI TAPE AROUND THE TOP EDGE OF EACH PAPER POT FOR WRITE-ON LABELS THAT WILL HELP YOU IDENTIFY PLANTS EASILY.



STEP RIGHT UP To level the shelves, make shims that will sit on top of the crossbars and fit snugly between the ladder's uprights. Cut a 1×2 the same width as each crossbar. Before placing the shims, suspend the lights. Keep the lights within 2 inches of the seedlings' tops, raising the lights on the included chains as the plants grow, to promote lush growth.



A close-up photograph of several small green seedlings growing in biodegradable paper pots. The pots are arranged in a white tray. One pot is light blue, another is white with a colorful floral pattern, and a third is white with a blue and white striped string tied around it. A grow light fixture is visible in the upper left corner, casting a soft glow over the plants. The background is blurred, showing more plants and a pinkish hue.

BRIGHT IDEA

FOR A LESS-PRICEY ALTERNATIVE TO A GROW-LIGHT, OUTFIT A BASIC SHOP LIGHT WITH ONE 40-WATT COOL WHITE FLUORESCENT TUBE AND ONE 40-WATT WARM TUBE. THE MIX OF BULBS WILL SUPPLY A FULL SPECTRUM OF LIGHT.

A black arrow pointing from the text block towards the white tray holding the paper pots.

EARTH FRIENDLY Make as many biodegradable paper pots as you need (instructions on *page 57*), whether rolled from handmade paper, *above*, cardboard tubes, *page 52*, or newspaper. When planted along with the seedlings, the paper pots will decompose quickly and add organic matter to the garden. Also made from plant fibers, washi tape and cotton twine dependably hold and embellish rolled pots, and then decompose along with them.

“I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN A SEED.
CONVINCE ME THAT YOU HAVE A SEED THERE
AND I AM PREPARED TO EXPECT WONDERS.”

HENRY DAVID THOREAU, PHILOSOPHER/WRITER



NAME GAME

WOOD CRAFT SPOONS
PROVIDE DURABLE NAME TAGS
THAT GO WITH YOUNG PLANTS
INTO THE GARDEN. WRITE ON
THEM WITH A CHINA MARKER
FOR A LEGIBLE AND
LASTING LABEL.



MINI GREENHOUSE Seedlings thrive in the ideal conditions of light, warmth, and humidity created under a greenhouselike cover. Upcycle a clear plastic dome, such as a sundae lid or soda bottle with the bottom cut off, that fits atop a 3-inch terra-cotta pot and includes a built-in opening for just-right ventilation. Place under the lights on your plant stand or on a windowsill. Read seed packets to get seed-starting details for the plants you desire.

A close-up photograph of several young green seedlings growing in small pots made from rolled-up newspaper. The pots are arranged in a blue wooden seedling tray. A silver watering can with a long spout is positioned on the right, pouring water into the tray. The background is bright and slightly out of focus, showing more plants and light. A circular callout box with a black and blue border is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WATER RIGHT

PROMOTE HEALTHY
SEEDLINGS BY WATERING INTO
SEED-STARTING TRAYS (NOT
ONTO THE FOLIAGE) AS NEEDED
TO KEEP THE SOILLESS
POTTING MEDIUM DAMP
BUT NOT WET.

FREE FOR GROWING

OPPOSITE Roll up dozens of paper pots and have them ready when planting time arrives. Prepare newspaper or other recyclable paper by tearing or cutting it to make rectangles of desired size.

Allow for overlapping: The paper will be rolled to form a cylinder and tucked under at the bottom to complete a pot shape. Experiment to make pots 2–3 inches in diameter and 3–4 inches tall for most seedlings.

how to make paper pots and sow seeds

MATERIALS

- Newspaper (cut to size)
- Jar
- Pan
- Soilless potting medium
- Seeds
- Vermiculite
- Wood labels
- Plastic wrap
- Heating pad

Step 1 Immerse prepared paper in a pan of water (A) until moistened. Roll the softened paper around a jar of the desired pot size, extending the bottom edge enough to enfold the pot's bottom (B).

Step 2 Crimp and press the paper around the bottom of the jar (C). Reinforce the bottom by pressing it on a flat surface. Carefully slide the paper pot off the jar, and set it aside to dry overnight.

Step 3 Stand pots in a watertight pan (D). Fill them with moistened soilless seed-starting mix (found at garden centers). Plant seeds according to directions on their seed packet. Cover seeds with vermiculite; sprinkle with warm water. Label plantings (E).

Step 4 Cover pots with plastic wrap to retain moisture (F). Set the pan on a heating pad until the seeds sprout (G); then remove the plastic wrap. Place seedlings under grow lights for 14–16 hours per day.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.



SEED STARTERS

THE BEST PLANTS TO START FROM SEED INDOORS INCLUDE THOSE WITH A LONG GROWING SEASON (TOMATOES AND PEPPERS), MANY PERENNIAL AND ANNUAL FLOWERS, AND VARIETIES THAT YOU CAN'T FIND LOCALLY.

YOU
ARE
GETTING
VERY
SLEEPY

Heartfelt, handmade touches in a subdued palette create a soothing place your little one can call his own—and catch some Zs!

PROJECTS **CHRISTY BROKENS** PHOTOGRAPHS **JAY WILDE** WORDS **MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX**

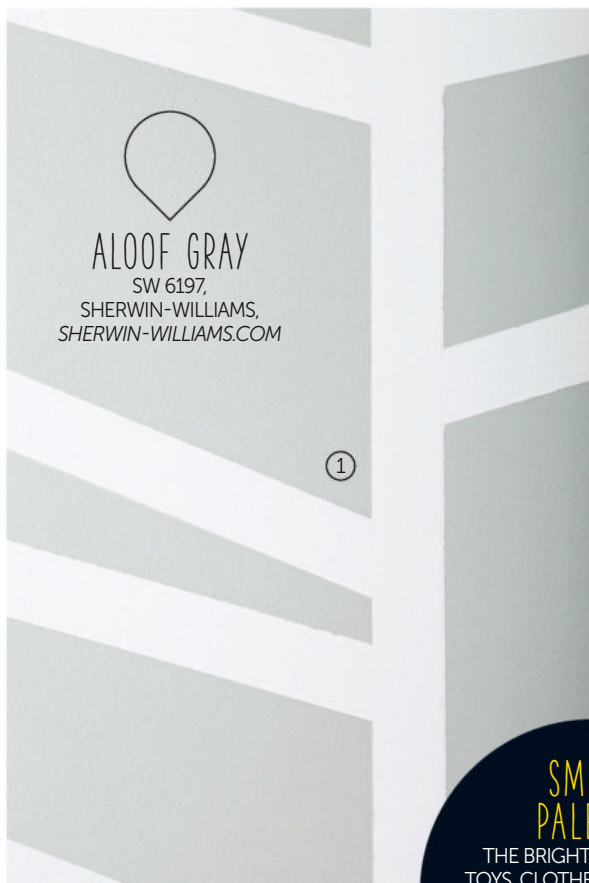
FIND US ON INSTAGRAM
(@DOITYOURSELFMAGAZINE)
TO LEARN OUR TRICK FOR
AVOIDING PAINT BLEED.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY What this nursery lacks in size, it makes up for in style. A herringbone feature wall in gray and white offers the visual impact of wallpaper without the cost or commitment. Painters tape, a level, and a tape measure are clutch when creating the design. Start by placing strips of tape vertically, using a level to ensure they're straight. Be sure to account for the tape's width when determining even spacing. Randomly position strips diagonally between the vertical lines for a modern look. Smooth tape with a credit card to ensure a tight seal before painting.

CROCHET AFGHAN

WASHABLE COTTON OR ACRYLIC YARN IS BEST FOR A BABY AFGHAN. YOU'LL NEED ABOUT FIVE SKEINS FOR A 36x48-INCH THROW. TO GET A SIMILAR LOOK, USE THE CHEVRON OR RIPPLE STITCH.

QUICK TIP: SEW A CHANGING PAD COVER FROM AN OLD SHEET!



ALOOF GRAY
SW 6197,
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS,
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.COM



SMART PALETTE

THE BRIGHT COLORS OF TOYS, CLOTHES, AND OTHER BABY ESSENTIALS CAN CAUSE VISUAL CHAOS IN A SMALL NURSERY. WORK WITH A NEUTRAL-HEAVY PALETTE TO CALM THE STORM.



VISIT BHG.COM/DIYCROCHETTIPS
TO LEARN HOW TO DO BASIC
CROCHET STITCHES.





STANDARD-SIZE
OVERLAYS IN
THIS PATTERN
COST \$13-\$19
EACH, BUT CUSTOM
ORDERING IS ALSO
AVAILABLE AT
MYOVERLAYS.COM.

1 Use painters tape made for delicate surfaces when taping a design on a freshly painted wall that hasn't yet cured. **2** A coat of metal spray primer readies a wire basket for a colorful top coat. For a super-easy label, wrap washi tape around yarn. **3** To make a lampshade cozy, single crochet a rectangle sized to the height and circumference of your lampshade. Finish edges with a slip stitch, and hand-sew shut in the back. **4** For a quick decorative bunting, trim triangles from scrap felt, and then continuously feed them through your sewing machine using short, straight stitches. **5** To make cheeky art, apply white felt letter stickers to a plain canvas. Or print a saying in a blocky font, trace the letters onto felt, and cut. **6** Add fretwork flair to a thrifted dresser with lightweight overlays made from PVC. Attach them to a painted dresser using silicone adhesive.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Pick up new DIY skills as you design a trend-forward dining space for the way you live: casual, comfortable, and authentic.

PROJECTS **LESLIE POYZER**
PHOTOGRAPHS **ADAM ALBRIGHT**
WORDS **BETHANY KOHOUTEK**





Just because a room is comprised of DIY elements doesn't mean it can't be sophisticated. A build-it-yourself hickory tabletop is the star of this light-filled multipurpose dining room. (Find out how to make it on *page 66*.) White walls are a blank canvas to let modern elements shine: punchy emerald thrifted chairs, gold-embellished factory-style pendants, and on-trend black grout in the fireplace surround.

THIS PHOTO Here's a bright idea. Spray-paint factory-style pendant lights (we scored two at a flea market for \$60 each) for an updated look. The outside is fashion-forward matte black, and the inside shimmers with metallic gold spray paint. Use painters tape to achieve a crisp edge. Add an Edison-style lightbulb, and you have lighting that mimics designer pieces that cost more than \$400 each.





USE SEMIGLOSS
PAINT ON CHAIRS
IN A DINING SPACE
FOR EASIER CLEANING.

ABOVE These chairs had seen better decades—think dated oak frames and worn seat cushions—when we found them on Craigslist. A couple of coats of green latex paint (we're in love with Benjamin Moore's 2038-20 Irish Clover) on the frames and fresh fabric on the seats brings them up to date. To redo a seat cover, unscrew the seat and carefully remove the old fabric; save it to use as a template. Remove old batting as well. Using the old fabric as a guide, cut new fabric. Cut $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick batting to the size of the seat, then wrap the seat and the batting in the new fabric. Staple it to the underside of the seat, alternating sides as you stretch and staple. Screw the finished seat onto the chair frame. BELOW LEFT New white tile installed in a cool pattern and finished with black grout makes the fireplace a focal point. Expect a tiling project like this to take four days. We used inexpensive 3×6-inch subway and 6-inch-square glazed ceramic tiles—each costing less than \$2 a square foot. BELOW RIGHT We constructed a shelving unit from medium-density fiberboard (MDF) to create storage in a room that functions as dining room, entertaining space, and cozy lounge area.



DOWNLOAD THIS TILE
PATTERN AND OTHER OPTIONS:
BHG.COM/TRENDYTILE



TIP WE USED 60 BOARD FEET OF ROUGH-CUT PREMIUM HICKORY IN LENGTHS APPROXIMATELY 8 FEET. THIS AMOUNT WAS ENOUGH TO BUILD THE TABLETOP AND APRON, PLUS 10 PERCENT, ALLOWING US TO DISCARD ANY TWISTED OR KNOTTED SPOTS IN THE WOOD. TOTAL WOOD COST: \$137.



A



B



C



D



E



F

how to build and finish a dining table

MATERIALS

- 60 board feet of hickory wood
- Sawhorses
- Level
- Biscuit joiner
- Wood glue
- Biscuits
- Bar clamps
- Rags
- Palm grip sander or handheld belt sander with 60-grit sandpaper
- Table saw or circular saw
- Wood filler (We used Elmer's brand in Walnut finish.)
- Putty knife
- Random orbital sander with 100-grit sandpaper
- Compound miter saw
- Speed square
- Nail gun and finish nails
- ¾-inch plywood, about 4x8 feet
- 1-inch wood screws
- Drill with screwdriver bit
- 120-grit sandpaper
- Tack cloth
- Gloves
- Lint-free rag
- Oil-base stain (We used Old Masters brand in Provincial finish.)
- Clear polyurethane (We used General Finishes High Performance Water-Based brand in a flat finish.)
- 400-grit sandpaper
- Table legs (Ours came from thelegshoppe.etsy.com and cost \$225.)
- Spray primer (We used Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch Ultra Cover 2X Flat White Primer.)
- Spray paint (We used Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch Ultra Cover 2X in Semigloss White.)
- 1¼-inch wood screws
- No. 10 12x1 pan sheet metal screws

Step 1 Gather materials (A), including eye protection. To make a 72x37½-inch tabletop, arrange hickory boards in desired order on sawhorses (B). Discard any pieces with large holes, knots, or twists, or place these imperfections on the sides and ends of the design so you can cut them away later.

Step 2 Use the level to draw lines along both long sides of each board every 16–18 inches. You will use the lines as guides to drill the biscuit holes in the next step.

Step 3 Line up the biscuit joiner to your marks and cut holes (C). Do not cut holes on the outer edges of the two outermost pieces. Spread wood glue on each strip of wood that abuts another strip and to the biscuits (D). Insert biscuits (E). Use bar clamps to pull all the wood strips securely together (F). Clean up excess glue with a damp rag (G). Allow the glue to dry.

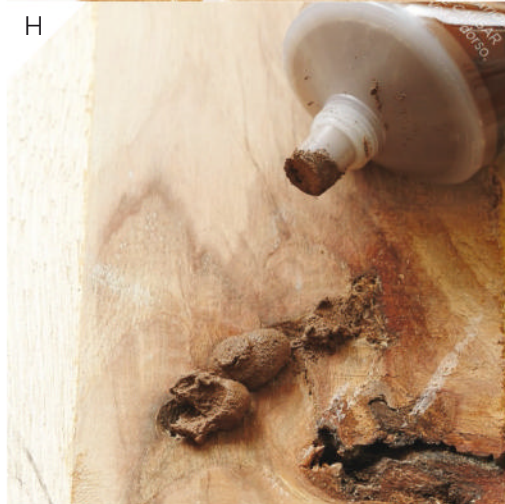
Step 4 Sand the tabletop. If you don't have access to a wide belt sander, use a palm grip sander or a handheld belt sander and gently sand the tabletop in small sections until smooth.

Step 5 Use a table saw or circular saw to cut the tabletop to size.

Step 6 Fill knots and cracks with wood filler and a putty knife. This is especially important for a table that will come into contact with food, as bacteria can grow in crevices. Choose a wood filler the color of the darkest spot of the knot (H). Squeeze a small amount into the area and fill and spread with a putty knife (I). Allow it to dry at least 12 hours. Sand smooth with a random orbital sander (J).

Step 7 Make the apron for the table, which gives the project a professional look and hides the area where the legs attach. Our finished apron measures 4x31½x66 inches. Using leftover wood from the tabletop, cut two 4x31½-inch pieces and two 4x66-inch pieces. Using a compound miter saw, cut the apron corners at a 45-degree angle (K).

Step 8 Apply wood glue to the mitered corners of the apron and



TIP THE ROUGH-CUT LUMBER WE USED WAS NOT A UNIFORM THICKNESS AND REQUIRED PLANING AND THOROUGH SANDING. MANY LOCAL CABINETMAKERS OR WOOD SHOPS HAVE WIDE BELT SANDING MACHINES THAT WILL SAND AND SMOOTH THE ENTIRE TABLETOP. THIS IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR THE EASIEST AND SMOOTHTEST FINISH. IF THAT'S NOT AN OPTION, SEE STEP 4. WHEN YOU SAND IT, BE SURE TO KEEP THE TABLETOP AT LEAST ¾ INCH THICK.

press together using a speed square to be sure it's square (L). Clamp the corners (M). Use a nail gun and finish nails to further secure the corners (N). Wipe away excess glue with a damp rag. Allow the glue to dry overnight.

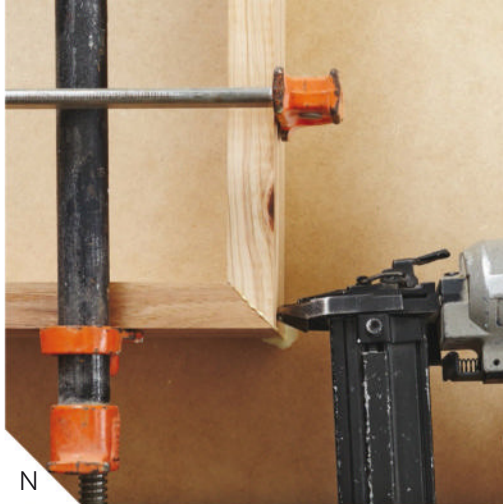
Step 9 Remove the clamps. To build brackets to reinforce the apron, use a miter saw to cut two strips of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood to $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 28$ inches and two additional strips to $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 63$ inches. Place the tabletop facedown on your work surface; measure and mark the apron's placement on the underside of the table. Use a drill and 1-inch screws to secure the brackets to the apron and tabletop. Cut four pieces of plywood to measure $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and screw them into each corner (O) for extra support.

Step 10 Apply finish to the tabletop and apron. Test various oil-base stains on scrap wood to choose your finish. In a well-ventilated space, prep the wood by roughing it up with 120-grit sandpaper (P). Clean away dust with a tack cloth. Wearing gloves and using a lint-free rag, apply stain following the manufacturer's instructions (Q). Wipe away excess with a clean rag.

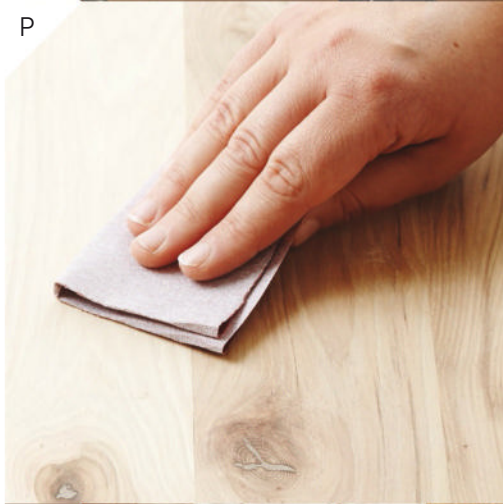
Step 11 Apply water-base polyurethane with a lint-free rag following the manufacturer's instructions (R). Allow to dry 2 hours, then sand the tabletop with 400-grit sandpaper, and apply a second coat of polyurethane. Repeat the process to apply a third coat.

Step 12 Apply one coat of spray primer to the purchased table legs. Allow 12 hours of drying time, then apply an even coat of spray paint. Allow the paint to dry 12 hours, then apply a second coat. Apply a third coat, if needed.

Step 13 Use a table or circular saw to cut two pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood to 12×26 inches. Place the tabletop facedown on your work surface. Position the plywood inside the apron along each short side of the tabletop. Use a drill and $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch screws to attach the plywood to the underside of the tabletop (S). Place the legs on the plywood, making sure they are positioned the same on each end. Drive No. 10 12×1 pan sheet metal screws through the table legs' predrilled holes to secure the legs to the plywood (T).



N



P



O



Q



R



TIP THE POLYURETHANE WE USED TO PROTECT OUR TABLETOP CONTAINS A UV-STABILIZER THAT PREVENTS THE FINISH FROM BREAKING DOWN IN SUNLIGHT. IT TAKES 2 HOURS TO DRY, SO YOU CAN APPLY MULTIPLE COATS IN A DAY. ALLOW THE FINISH TO CURE FOR 21 DAYS BEFORE HEAVY USE.



S



T

WE PULLED WOVEN
GRASS RUGS OFF THE
FLOOR AND NAILED
THEM TO THE WALL
AS NATURAL, NEUTRAL
ART STATEMENTS.



“I TAKE A TRIAL-AND-ERROR APPROACH TO ABSTRACT ARTWORK. BECAUSE YOU DON'T SPEND MUCH ON MATERIALS, YOU CAN PLAY AROUND UNTIL YOU GET ART YOU ADORE.”

LESLIE POYZER, PROJECT DESIGNER/STYLIST





BONUS PROJECT!

SEE AN ALTERNATE VIEW OF THIS DINING ROOM—AND LEARN A FUN TECHNIQUE FOR MARBLED CANDLESTICKS—ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: [FACEBOOK.COM/DIYIDEAS](https://www.facebook.com/diyyideas)

GET SOCIAL

FOR BEHIND-THE-SCENES PHOTOS FROM THIS SHOOT, FOLLOW *DO IT YOURSELF* ON INSTAGRAM. **@DOITYOURSELFMAGAZINE**

OPPOSITE To make gradient abstract art, set a box on a drop cloth. Lean the top portion of a large, thick piece of white art paper against the box. Using graffiti-style spray paint in black, lightly cover the bottom portion of the paper, allowing overspray on the top portion. Decrease the intensity of the black paint as you reach the middle of the paper. Allow it to dry one hour, then frame. **ABOVE** To make these minimalist (and cheap!) wall pegs, cut and sand pieces of 1-inch dowel to 3 inches, then drill a hole in one end of each peg. Thread in $\frac{1}{4}$ ×2-inch dowel screws, then stain the dowels. Drill a pilot hole in the wall, then simply screw in the peg. **BELOW** Raid your utensil drawer to make this kitchen-theme wall art. Spread a drop cloth, then place plastic spoons facedown onto a large, thick piece of black art paper. Apply white spray paint. It's OK to be messy! The art actually looks better when the paint coverage is a bit uneven. We like graffiti-style spray paint with a wide nozzle, as it allows some of the black paper to show through and creates a splattered pattern. Let the piece dry for an hour, then remove the spoons and frame.





GO ECLECTIC!

A TRADITIONAL QUEEN ANNE-STYLE WRITING DESK AND A MODERN OFFICE CHAIR DON'T HAVE MUCH IN COMMON—UNTIL YOU UNITE THEM WITH A COMMON COLOR SCHEME.



ROLL WITH IT

*Simple paint and fabric projects add up to one boho office space.
Bonus: The easy-on-the-eyes setup may make you more productive.*

PROJECTS **LESLIE POYZER** PHOTOGRAPHS **JACOB FOX** WORDS **AMY PALANJIAN**



A PATTERNED PAINT ROLLER CREATES ALLOVER FLAIR ON FLAT SURFACES, SUCH AS DRAWER FRONTS. PATTERNED ROLLER, \$24; APPLICATOR, \$19; PATTERNEDPAINTROLLER.ETSY.COM

1 Turn a plain desk into a style statement with the help of a cool patterned roller. Remove the drawers from the desk and the hardware from the drawers. Sand the surfaces that will be painted and dust well. Tape and cover the areas that won't be painted, such as our desktop. Paint the fronts of the drawers with matte-finish paint; let dry for at least 24 hours. Brush high-gloss paint in the same hue on the body of the desk. Use the patterned roller to create the design on the drawer fronts: Squeeze gold metallic crafts paint onto kraft paper and load the roller. (Practice the technique on paper first.) Let dry completely, then add a layer of clear finish spray. When dry, add new hardware. **2** A quick dip in gold crafts paint adds an extra special touch to the legs of the desk.



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

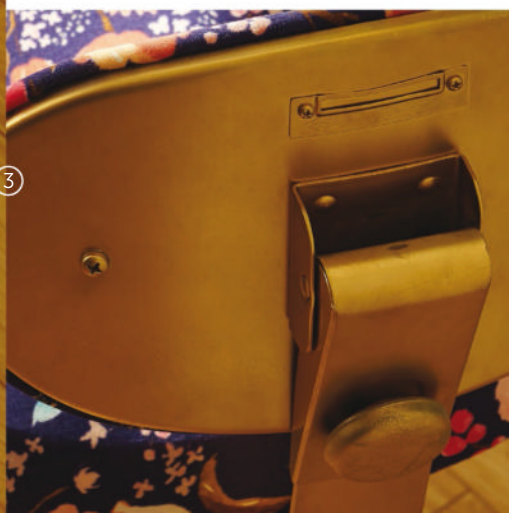
THRIFTED CHAIR // \$10
 SPRAY PAINT // \$4
 SEALER // \$6
 FABRIC // \$38
 BATTING // \$17
 SPRAY ADHESIVE // \$13
TOTAL // \$88

BEFORE



3 A yard of fabric and a can of gold spray paint go a long way toward creating a swoon-worthy seat. To start, disassemble the backrest and the seat and remove the old coverings. Cover and tape off the wheels and any parts of the chair that won't be painted. Spray-paint the frame with gold metallic paint, let dry, and then apply a clear finish. Cut batting and fabric large enough to cover the front and sides of the seat plus 2–3 inches. (Double up the batting if you want a more plush seat.) Using upholstery spray adhesive, secure the batting to the seat, smoothing and stretching to eliminate wrinkles. Staple the edges neatly on the bottom of the seat. Repeat with the fabric, wrapping the corners neatly and pulling tightly. Use the same technique to upholster the backrest, then reassemble the chair.

3



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

THRIFTED FRAME // \$2
 SPRAY PAINT // \$4
 SPRAY ADHESIVE // \$13
 BATTING // \$5
 FABRIC // \$19
TOTAL // \$43

PRO TIP!

PAINT THE HEADS
 OF YOUR SCREWS
 AS WELL SO THEY
 BLEND IN WITH
 THE BRACKETS.



MAKEOVER MADNESS

YOU'LL NEVER LOOK
 AT A THRIFT STORE OR
 CRAIGSLIST FIND THE
 SAME WAY AGAIN AFTER
 YOU SEE 150+ *QUICK
 & EASY FURNITURE
 PROJECTS*, THE LATEST
 BOOK FROM BETTER
 HOMES AND GARDENS®.
 \$22; HMHCO.COM

4 Keep important notes organized in plain sight with this pretty pin board. Remove the glass and backing from a thrifted frame, and spray-paint it your chosen color. Cut two pieces of corrugated cardboard to fit inside the frame, and use spray adhesive to secure them together. (The double thickness will accommodate pushpins.) Cut a piece of batting 1½ inches larger on each side than the frame opening, and glue it to the cardboard with spray adhesive. Fold the extra batting to the back, wrapping the corners neatly like a present and taping in place. Repeat with fabric, pulling tightly as you tape. Insert the fabric-covered cardboard into the frame. **5** Gold spray paint with a highly reflective finish makes hardware-store brackets look like high-end display pieces. Apply several coats, allowing drying time between.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.



ARTISTIC TOUCH

STYLING **JESSICA MILLER**
PHOTOGRAPHS **BRIE WILLIAMS**
WORDS **BECKY MOLLENKAMP**
SCOUTING **LISA MOWRY**

*Never one to
shy away from
a challenge, artist
Angela Blehm turned
a house of horrors into a
light and bright cottage.*





MEET THE HOMEOWNER

Raising sons Ashton and Callan and daughter Juliet keeps artist Angela Blehm on her toes.

①

The forlorn house in the mountains outside Asheville, North Carolina, had been unoccupied for about a year. Animals were clearly living inside. “It looked like a horror movie,” homeowner Angela Blehm says.

Rather than running scared, she and husband Clayton saw a bargain and potentially the cottage of their dreams. The views were astounding, and although nothing had been updated since the home was built, the bones were good. “It had so many things that wouldn’t have been in our budget if we had to add them to another house,” Angela says.

The Blehms had done minor makeovers in previous residences and felt ready to tackle a whole-house renovation. They hired a contractor who took most of the home down to the studs, then spent 10 months adding a wall of windows along the back of the house to capture the view, refinishing the pine floors and ceilings, and upgrading the dated decor.

① **KEEP IT SIMPLE** Angela and Clayton Blehm wanted their getaway home to serve as a calm retreat from their hectic lives, so they took a minimalist approach, eschewing lots of color and accessories. The focus in the great-room, *left*, is on the beautiful views outside the windows. “It’s like being in a tree house,” Angela says. “I didn’t want to put anything on the windows to distract from the view.”

Angela, an artist by trade, wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty to save money. She painted the existing kitchen cabinets, stained the concrete floors on the lower level, and refinished salvaged furniture. "I like to save money because then you can buy more," she says. "I needed to furnish the house on a budget, so I did as much as I could myself."

Thanks to their hard work, the home has gone from horror to haven. "I call it my piece of heaven because I feel so connected with nature here," Angela says. "It's incredibly peaceful."

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.

② SECONDHAND PRO

Inexpensive doesn't need to mean cheap. Angela found the living room sofa at a thrift store 10 years ago, but the slipcover still looks new. "I got a few swatches and did test runs with different stains to see what performed best," she says. "Then I made a washable slipcover from the winner—white microsuede. Buying secondhand and re-covering costs a couple hundred dollars versus thousands. You get more mileage out of your dollars by thrift shopping."



③ **PAGING POLLOCK** As a nod to her artistic side, Angela and her children made painted slipcovers to add interest in the streamlined dining room. They splattered blue and white latex paint over a canvas drop cloth, then Angela hired an upholsterer to turn the fabric into simple, washable slipcovers.



④ **AROUND THE BLEND** Angela loves to mix modern and traditional elements for an eclectic look. Modern touches, including a sunburst mirror and streamlined sconces, contrast with the great-room's old-fashioned timber and paneling.



⑤ **NATURAL ELEMENTS** Although the home was dark and dated when she first toured it, Angela saw the beautiful bones beneath the tacky '80s decor. One of her favorite features was the substantial stone fireplace, which she learned was the work of a well-known mason in the area. She cleaned the rocks but decided not to spend several thousand dollars to get the chimney working. Instead, she placed candles in the firebox and hung an old tobacco drying basket in place of a mantel.

OUT OF THE WOODS

Angela and Clayton Blehm pinpointed essential changes to quickly refresh their 1983 mountain cottage.



Oak kitchen cabinets were smartly arranged, but the orange stain and arched-panel uppers had to go.



Though the great-room ceiling was gorgeous, traditional casement windows limited mountain views.



New chest-height wainscoting in the master bath gave the room a style and function upgrade.



⑥ TASTEFUL LEFTOVERS Angela's glass-half-full attitude is evident in the kitchen; she saw potential where many would have pursued a total gut job. She salvaged the orange-tone oak cabinets by removing the uppers, painting the bases sage green, and adding details like furniture-look legs and a refrigerator surround.

⑦ MATERIAL GIRL Saving big dollars by painting the kitchen's existing cabinets allowed Angela to splurge on durable quartz-surfacing countertops, which she paired with a white subway tile backsplash. "The countertop has a natural stone look, but it's still very light," she says.

⑧ SIZED TO SUIT After a futile search for the perfect kitchen island, Angela commissioned a cabinetmaker to create a simple birch base. She topped the piece with an inexpensive stainless-steel top from IKEA.



SVELTE SAGE

SW6164, SHERWIN-WILLIAMS,
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.COM



⑨ SIDE JOB Forgoing upper cabinets left a storage shortage. One of Angela's creative solutions was painting small store-bought shelves and attaching them to the side of the refrigerator surround. "It makes it more convenient to grab a glass when you're thirsty," she says.

⑩ FOUND OBJECTS When Angela spotted this perfectly aged cabinet at an antiques store, she knew it needed to live in her vacation home. Unable to resist putting a personal touch on the piece, she painted the interior the same green as the nearby kitchen cabinets. Above, she hung deer antlers gifted by her father-in-law, an avid hunter in Texas. "I liked them, but something was missing," she says. So she added the thrifted gold frame to create dimensional wall art.

⑪ SMALLER BUT MIGHTY Wanting to maximize mountain views from the great-room, the Blehms sacrificed a large portion of the screen porch off the nearby kitchen. They reframed the scaled-back space, preserving its vaulted ceiling and filling it with bargain furniture. Angela found a black outdoor table at a home improvement store, painted it white, and surrounded it with classic wicker chairs and molded-plastic bucket seats from a thrift store.



12 UNDER FOOT

The children, including son Callan, share a large basement bedroom, which includes two sets of bunk beds. Rather than replace the grungy carpet, Angela removed it and sealed the underlying concrete. She tinted separate containers of clear-coat sealer with brown and aqua, then rolled on patches of each color. After blending the colors with a paintbrush for a mottled look, she went over it with a crumpled plastic grocery bag to eliminate brushstrokes.

13 **TREASURE HUNT** Maps and surveys of the property were left behind by the previous owners. The walls of the house are now dotted with Angela's original artwork that combines new and vintage paper elements. This piece shows all the landmarks that surround the property, including a creek and a cemetery.

14 **EXPERT ADVICE** A mismatched dresser and mirror, both discards, look like a cohesive unit in the guest room after Angela gave the pieces a two-tone paint job. Before making over furniture, she recommends cleaning it well and testing that the existing finish is lead-free. Then sand away chipped paint, use quality primer, and apply paint with a high-density foam roller for a smoother finish.



15 SUBTERRANEAN BLUES The home's lower level features saturated versions of the blues, greens, and yellows used on the main level, plus a punch of red. In addition to one of Angela's large-scale oil paintings, the downstairs living room also features the same wainscot used elsewhere in the home, but this time it runs horizontally for a different look. "I like to repeat one material but get creative and switch it up," Angela says. "This room doesn't get a lot of natural light so we left the lightness of the drywall on top."

16 MODERN VINTAGE

After a search for a vintage iron bed for the master bedroom didn't go Angela's way on Craigslist, she ordered a new one online and personalized it with a metal spray primer and blue spray paint. "I don't get too worried about paint because it can always be painted over if it's not good," she says. The bed is dressed in mix-and-match linens from a variety of discount stores and pillows made from one of her grandmother's old tablecloths.

17 LIKE NEW Angela worked her magic in the master bathroom, ripping out linoleum flooring and a baby blue fiberglass shower-tub combo. She replaced them with sophisticated travertine floors, a 1920s refinished claw-foot tub, and wainscoting that abuts a large plate-glass mirror. Angela's original oil painting is not typical of her representational abstract works. "I saw a cloud painting above a bathtub in a magazine and decided that's what this space needed," she says.

18 SMALL DETAILS Despite her profession, Angela isn't a fan of large artwork over beds. "I like the punctuation of just having a small, little piece," she says. She topped the guest room bed with a simple heart cut from a paper bag and framed in refinished wood.



5 DIY IDEAS TO STEAL

Take a page from Angela Blehm's decorating playbook with these DIY-friendly products.

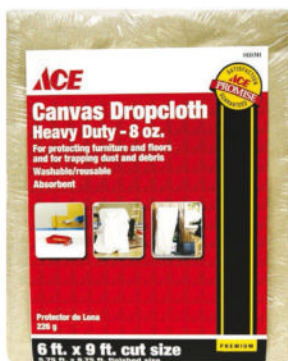
WORDS **BECKY MOLLENKAMP**



1. GET FLOORED Take concrete floors from dingy to designer with stain. Valspar Etching Concrete Stain (\$74/gallon) is for interior or exterior use and available in premixed hues of Tan, Coffee, and Cayenne Red. Solid Color Concrete Stain (\$27/gallon) is for exterior use and available in 24 custom tints. lowes.com



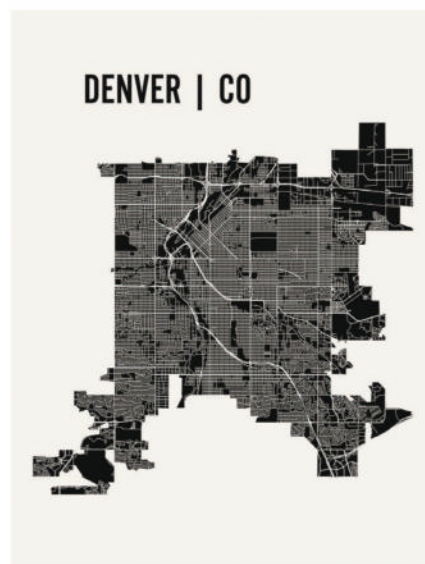
2. ANIMAL ATTRACTION You don't have to be a big-game hunter to dress your walls with trophies. Re-create Angela's antler artwork by hanging a lightweight metallic bronze resin replica inside a frame. \$40; whitefauxtaxidermy.com



3. FABRIC SAVVY For yardage that's durable, texture-rich, and penny-wise, take a cue from Angela and shop the painting supply aisle at your local hardware store. You'll find that canvas dropcloths come in a range of sizes. \$14 for 6×9-foot cloth; acehardware.com



4. LITTLE LEDGES Lack cabinet or countertop space? Follow Angela's lead and install a Bekvam Spice Rack on the wall or cabinet side. Paint the birch rack to match its surroundings for a built-in look and fill with everyday glassware. \$4; ikea-usa.com



5. LAY OF THE LAND We're not all lucky enough to find vintage maps of our properties in the attic. For the rest of us, there are graphic city maps by Mr. City Printing. Select from 51 featured cities (\$40 for an 18×24-inch print; art.com) or choose other cities, colors, and sizes at mrcityprinting.com.



TAKE A STAND

Hairpin legs are adaptable, affordable, and require only a drill to install. Find out how to add style to modern-day projects with these midcentury staples (and where to buy them).

PROJECTS **CATHY KRAMER** PHOTOGRAPHS **JAY WILDE** WORDS **KELLY ROBERSON**





HISTORY LESSON! CONFRONTED WITH A LACK OF MATERIALS DURING THE 1940S, DESIGNER HENRY P. GLASS TOOK A HUNDREDS-YEAR-OLD BEAUTY IMPLEMENT—THE HAIRPIN—AND TRANSFORMED IT INTO A MINIMALIST SUPPORT FOR TABLES AND CHAIRS.



PINNED PERFECTION

The sleek style of hairpin legs is a diversion from the engineering artistry that enables them to bear heavy loads. This weighty wine storage unit—a reclaimed mail sorting station refreshed with spray paint—perches atop four slender supports.

For a pop of color, paint hairpin legs in a bold accent—here, an arresting turquoise. Finish with clear polyurethane.

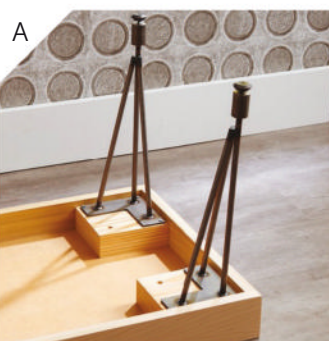
Cost: Four 12-inch legs, \$16 each; hairpinlegs.com

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT B-12 Hairpin Leg, starting at \$27–\$49; hairpinlegsforless.com. Hairpin Leg, \$14–\$18 (raw steel), \$20–\$30 (stainless); hairpinlegs.com. Solid Copper Hairpin Legs (set of four), \$156–\$315; railis.etsy.com. Galaxy Hairpin Leg, starting at \$25–\$40; hairpinlegsforless.com. Paperclip Hairpin Leg, starting at \$99–\$150; hairpinlegsforless.com. Four Quarter Leg, \$28–\$29; hairpinlegs.com. Venus Hairpin Leg, starting at \$17–\$24; hairpinlegsforless.com. Three Rod Hairpin Leg, \$21–\$28 (raw steel), \$30–\$35 (stainless); hairpinlegs.com. 24 Karat Gold Hairpin Legs, starting at \$250–\$275; hairpinlegsforless.com.



FINISH STRONG

RAW STEEL LEGS WILL RUST IF LEFT UNTREATED. PAINT THE LEGS, OR SEAL THEM WITH CLEAR POLYURETHANE OR WAX TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE STEEL. STAINLESS-STEEL LEGS WON'T RUST, BUT COST MORE.



STYLE CRED

There's no bulk to hairpin legs—that's part of their cleverness—and the supports can be even slimmer when the column numbers increase. These three-rod legs also feature leveling feet that compensate for any unevenness in the floor. For this bench, cut a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-thick piece of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) to 18×48 inches for the seat. Also from $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-thick MDF, cut the side aprons—two at $2\frac{1}{4}$ ×49 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches and two at $2\frac{1}{4}$ ×16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Screw the aprons to the seat. Cut maple veneer to cover each of the sides and the seat; adhere using wood glue and apply a coat of clear polyurethane. To attach legs, install 5×5×2-inch wood blocks on the underside corners of the bench. Screw the legs to the blocks (A).
Cost: Four 16-inch-long legs with leveling foot, \$28.50 each; hairpinlegs.com

WHAT'S YOUR TYPE? HAIRPIN LEGS
COME IN A VARIETY OF SHAPES (CIRCULAR, FLATTENED),
CONSTRUCTIONS (SOME WITH MORE THAN TWO RODS),
AS WELL AS A RANGE OF LENGTHS AND WIDTHS.



LIFT OFF

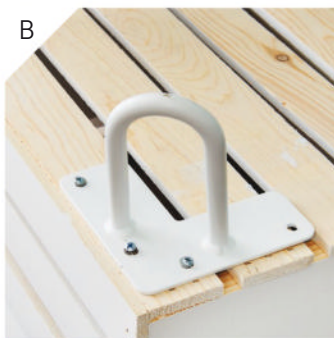
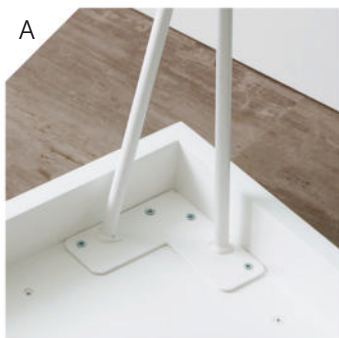
Hairpin legs elevate the ordinary when attached to purchased crates and a DIY tabletop. To build the table, cut 18×48-inch and 14½×44½-inch pieces from ¾-inch-thick MDF. Cut four more pieces from the MDF—two 14½×3 inches, two 46×3 inches—for an apron. Secure

the apron pieces to the smaller rectangle, butting the edges. The base should measure 46×16 inches once assembled. Center and attach the tabletop by screwing up from the bottom. Attach the hairpin legs to the inside corners of the apron (A). Prime and spray-paint the entire piece; let dry and seal with clear polyurethane.

To make the storage pieces, simply spray-paint purchased crates and legs, let dry, seal with clear polyurethane, and attach the legs (B).

Cost: Four 28-inch-long, ½-inch-wide twisted hairpin legs, \$21 each (table). Eight 4-inch-long, ½-inch-wide hairpin legs, \$14 each (crate);

modernlegs.com



WEIGHTY MATTER

IF HAIRPIN LEGS ARE GOING TO SUPPORT SOMETHING THAT'S TALL OR HEAVY, THEY NEED TO BE AT LEAST ½ INCH THICK. CONSULT MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.



UP, UP, UP & AWAY

With a narrow profile and varying heights, hairpin legs make stacked shelves a time-smart way to boost storage. This unit relies on only eight legs, thanks to a cantilevered structure that's secured to the wall with slim L brackets.

To create the bottom shelves, join two 48×6×1-inch cedar planks with mending plates.

The third shelf is a single 48×6×1-inch plank, and the top one is a 36×6×1-inch plank. Stain shelves to desired color; let dry. Fasten a leg to the front corner of each shelf. Attach the bottom shelf to the wall first, driving L brackets into studs. Stack and repeat with remaining shelves.

Cost: Two 16-inch-tall square bar legs, \$18 each; six 10-inch-tall square bar legs, \$16.50 each; modernlegs.com





RETRO REDO

A staple of midcentury modern design—think Case Study furniture—the hairpin leg hasn't been immune to reinvention. The essential hairpin has been recast, with flat columns or inventive curves and angles. Three such legs—with tips bent to an interesting 90 degrees—turn a shapely cross section of a tree trunk into a live-edge table that looks like it was purchased from a high-end retailer. (If you don't have access to a fallen tree and a chain saw, search eBay or Craigslist for live-edge tree slices.) Apply a coat of clear polyurethane to the wood slice and the legs; let dry. Space the legs equidistant from each other on the underside of the tabletop when installing. Cost: Three 14-inch-long, ½-inch-wide legs, \$18.50 each; modernlegs.com

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.

GREAT LEGS!

Check out some of our favorite hairpin options and where to get them.

①

HAIRPINLEGS.COM

Find a great selection of classic shapes in a variety of sizes made from both raw and stainless steel.

②

MODERNLEGS.COM

Handmade from steel upon your order, these legs come in unique shapes, including a twist and flattened tip style.

③

HAIRPINLEGSFORLESS.COM

This is the go-to source for legs in punchy colors, 24 karat gold, and brass. They also offer hairpin-style pedestal bases for dining and accent tables.

④

RAILIS.ETSY.COM

We dig copper, and this shop has it! Choose from a variety of sizes.

TIME HOP

With a minimal budget and a can-do approach, two fresh-faced DIYers infuse new life into a midcentury kitchen.

STYLING **LESLIE POYZER** PHOTOGRAPHS **ADAM ALBRIGHT**

HOW-TO PHOTOGRAPHS **MARTY BALDWIN & JACOB FOX** WORDS **KELLY ROBERSON**



HOW TO
TILE + GROUT!
SEE PAGE 95



SPECIAL THANKS TO
SHAW FLOORS

As a reflection of the 1960s in America, the swanky *Mad Men* made for a successful TV series. But as a practical approach to modern-day decor, the knotty pine

and dated laminate featured in the show signal a time-stuck aesthetic.

No matter, decided Nick Sellers and Joseph Wanek: The pair were smitten with the midcentury bones of their first home in Des Moines, including the outmoded cooking space. “The only thing the kitchen had going for it was that it was large and square,” Nick says. “Everything was shellacked.”

On weekends and in the evening, the pair—with minimal DIY experience—

refreshed every surface and fixture in the room. They began with the wood cabinets—deglossing with liquid sander, filling holes, sanding. The cabinetry got paint and new hardware, and the couple revived the backsplash and floor with tile. Concrete veneer countertops saved on both demolition and cost.

The revamped space is urbane and very much of this decade. “We didn’t know too much going in, but we’re happy with the results,” Nick says.



ABOVE Without proper prep, the knots in pine can bleed through a painted finish. To avoid this, homeowners Nick Sellers and Joseph Wanek applied two coats of stain-blocking, shellac-base primer before topping with latex paint. OPPOSITE The couple swapped the existing warm palette for a cool combination of blue and gray, including a large-format 12×24-inch porcelain floor tile that gives the look of stone. See how to install it on *page 95*.



SEE MORE DIY
CONCRETE PROJECTS:
BH.G.COM/CONCRETELOOK



TOP LEFT A cement-base veneer updated the existing laminate countertops in a long weekend. Following several tutorials they found online, Nick and Joseph roughed the laminate with a sanding block. They troweled a thin layer of the coating on the surface with putty knives. After it was dry, they sanded with 60-grit sandpaper and vacuumed away the dust. They applied two more coats in the same way, sanding the final coat with 220-grit sandpaper. Several coats of food-safe sealer ready the counters for use. ABOVE LEFT Light-bouncing glass tile came in sheets in a running bond pattern, which the couple took apart and stacked for a more modern look. A thinset mortar made for glass tile ensures a consistent white behind the tiles. ABOVE RIGHT A copper bowl offers the look of a designer pendant for less. Drill a hole in the bowl's bottom using a hole saw the same size as your light kit; sand rough spots. Attach the kit's lightbulb ring; install and cover wiring with a ceiling canopy.

how to tile and grout a floor

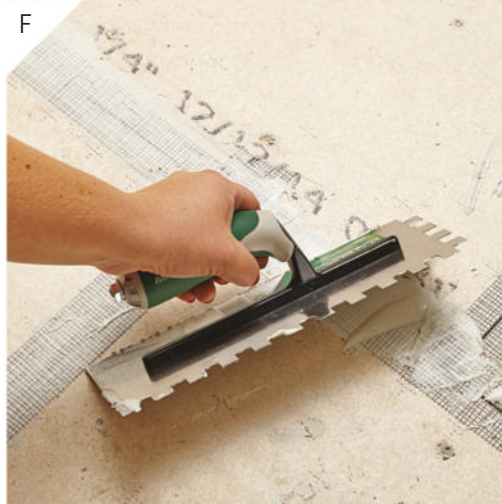
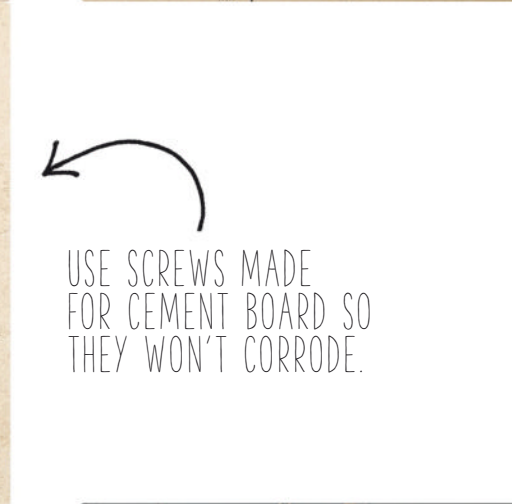
MATERIALS

- 1/4-inch cement board
- Circular saw
- Utility knife
- Square
- Handsaw
- Latex-modified thinset mortar
- Notched trowel (Follow the tile manufacturer's recommendation. We used a 1/2-inch square trowel.)
- 1 1/4-inch cement board screws
- Drill
- Fiberglass mesh seam tape
- Chalk line
- Tile (Measure, then add 10 percent. We used a 12x24-inch porcelain tile.)
- Tile spacers
- Wet saw
- Sponges
- 5-gallon mixing bucket
- Mixer attachment
- Rubber gloves
- Joint scraper
- Sanded grout
- Rubber float
- Floor transition strips
- Grout sealer
- Sponge paintbrush

Step 1 Gather materials. Remove the existing flooring to reveal the plywood subfloor using a crowbar and scraper if necessary. If you suspect existing flooring may contain asbestos, have it tested first. It can be left in place, or you will need to have it professionally removed.

Step 2 Make sure the floor is level, and shim if necessary. Measure cement board pieces to fit around cabinetry, using a square to mark straight lines (A). To cut cement board, wear eye protection and use a circular saw, or score along the lines with a utility knife and snap along the scored line (B). Cut out notches to accommodate pipes or other obstructions using a small handsaw (C). Arrange the cement board pieces on the floor for a dry fit, staggering seams (D).

Step 3 To secure the cement board pieces in place, mix thinset according to package directions.



USE SCREWS MADE FOR CEMENT BOARD SO THEY WON'T CORRODE.

Using a notched trowel, apply a thin coat of thinset to the floor, then place the cement board. (Skip the thinset if you left an asbestos floor in place.) Drill 1¼-inch cement board screws spaced every 4 inches into the boards (E). Check again that the floor is level.

Step 4 Cover cement board seams with fiberglass mesh seam tape. Using the flat side of a trowel, spread thinset mortar over the tape, smoothing ridges or high spots (F). Allow thinset to dry.

Step 5 Establish reference lines for the tile layout. Find and mark the center of the floor with intersecting chalk lines. Measure from the lines to the nearest cabinet to establish layout lines. Snap new chalk lines (G). Because our 12x24-inch tiles needed to be offset 33 percent, we snapped additional chalk lines as reference (H).

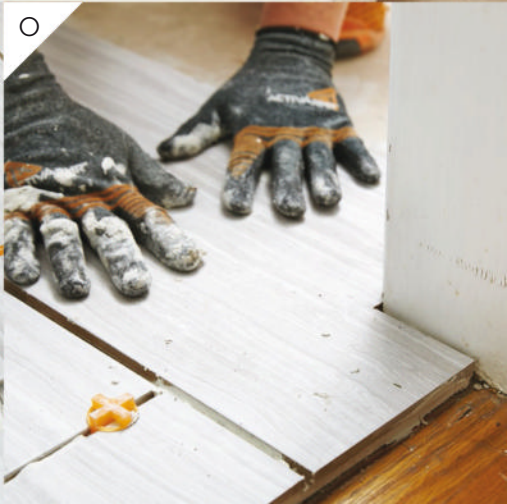
Step 6 Begin placing tile for a dry fit using spacers (I). Using a wet saw and eye protection, cut partial tiles along wall edges (J). Pull tiles from alternating boxes to get a good mix of pattern and color. Once pieces fit, remove and number to aid in placement after you lay thinset.

Step 7 Wet the cement board with a sponge to clean and moisten, which helps create a stronger bond.

Step 8 Mix a new batch of thinset according to package directions in a 5-gallon bucket. Stir thinset with the drill and mixer attachment until the consistency resembles peanut butter (K). (Mix the thinset a little thicker at first; you can always add more water, but you shouldn't add more mix.) Let rest for 15 minutes.

Step 9 Plan so you back out of the room as you lay the tile. Working quickly from your starting point, apply a thin coat of thinset to a small area of the cement board. Use the notched side of the trowel and wear gloves (L).

Step 10 Use the smooth side of the trowel to apply a smooth coat of thinset to the back of a tile (M). Place the piece firmly atop the



cement board (N). Repeat with another tile, using tile spacers to ensure uniform placement. Clean any excess thinset with a sponge.

Step 11 Once the section is filled with tile, move to an adjacent section, repeating thinset application on the cement board and individual tiles. Cut tiles to fit around obstructions such as doorways (O). Allow thinset to set for the recommended time to ensure a strong bond before walking on it.

Step 12 After the thinset dries, clean the tiles with a wet sponge (P). If any thinset oozed up between the tiles, use a joint scraper to remove the dried thinset (Q).

Step 13 Using a 5-gallon bucket, drill, and mixer attachment, mix the grout (R), following package directions and adding water a little at a time for a consistency similar to very thick peanut butter. Allow the grout to rest as directed.

Step 14 Scoop out a chunk of grout. Using a rubber float and gloves, push the grout in a back and forth pattern across a section until the joints are evenly filled to at least level between the tiles (S).

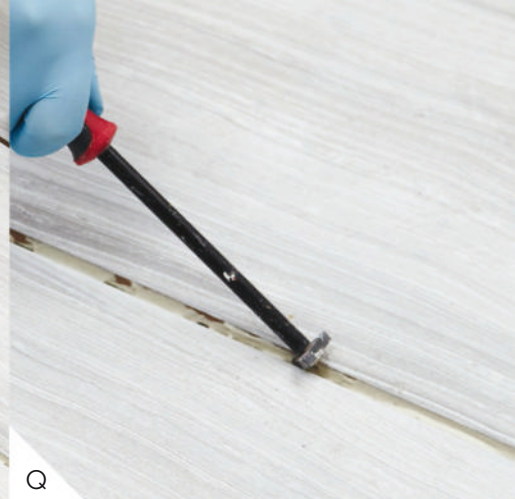
Step 15 After you have grouted a section of tile, use a slightly damp sponge to remove the first layer of grout haze, taking care not to disrupt the joint line (T).

Step 16 Continue to grout the floor, moving from small section to small section and removing the first layer of haze as you go.

Step 17 Allow the grout to dry the recommended time, typically 24 hours. Using a damp sponge and clean water, remove the grout haze, using as many passes as needed (U).

Step 18 Apply transition strips where the tile floor ends and another flooring surface begins (V).

Step 19 After the recommended curing time (ours was 28 days), apply a grout sealer to joints using a sponge paintbrush (W).





With the exception of tiling the floor and installing the dishwasher, Nick and Joseph did every project themselves, including installing the new ceiling fan and concrete veneer countertops. The concrete veneer was applied directly to the old countertops; the couple shaped the lip and edges by hand using a small trowel.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.



BLIND DATE

AR1328,
ALLEN + ROTH
VALSPAR PAINT,
LOWES.COM

5 DIY IDEAS TO STEAL

The kitchen of your dreams is just a few simple updates away.

WORDS **MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX**



1. HANG IN THERE Keep herbs close for cooking with these handmade ceramic space-savers. Leather straps make the most of vertical space. These 4½-inch-tall planters don't contain drainage holes so water won't leak; add rocks at the bottom to keep roots from drowning. \$135/set of three; lightandladder.etsy.com



2. COUNTERTOP COVER-UP Update existing laminate, tile, and other hard surface countertops with Encore's Complete Countertop Refinishing System. Available in five colors (including concrete), this three-day refinishing system is resistant to scratches and stains. \$269; encorecountertop.com for retailers



3. LOOK BELOW Natural stone tile is beautiful but pricey. The digital imaging used to print the detail on Rockwood glazed porcelain tile in Glacier achieves a similar look for less. The 12×24-inch format covers a lot of square footage quickly and gives a room a modern vibe. \$6–\$8/square foot (uninstalled); shawfloors.com for retailers



4. COPPER FORMULA

Select coordinating components for your DIY light fixture, and you'll be rewarded with a piece that looks like it cost way more than you spent. Here's the recipe for this one: Copper ceiling canopy: \$25; colorcord.com. Metallic cord set: \$49; westelm.com. (Note: This is a plug-in version converted for hardwiring. If you're uncomfortable with this process, call an electrician.) Copper bowl: \$33; allmodern.com



5. HEFTY HARDWARE

Go big with easy-to-handle, brushed stainless-steel pulls. The 8¼-inch chunky pulls make a statement on slab doors. \$7 each; coolknobsandpulls.com

RECLAIMED DREAMS

*Take back your bedroom with
an easy-build headboard and
personalized projects made from
discount store and thrifted finds.*

PROJECTS **KATIE LEPORTE**
PHOTOGRAPHS **ADAM ALBRIGHT**
WORDS **OLIVIA ALBERS**



WATCH A SERIES OF VIDEOS ON
THE PROJECTS IN THIS BEDROOM.
BHG.COM/DIYBEDROOM



UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD

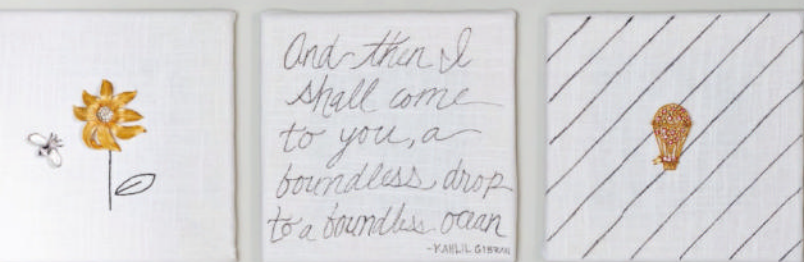
ABOVE Create a sleek upholstered headboard for less than \$85. To determine the size of your headboard, add 10 inches to the width of your mattress and at least 24 inches to the height of the bed. Cut $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and 2-inch foam to size, and attach the foam to the MDF with spray adhesive. Lay batting on the floor and place the headboard, foam down, on top; trim batting so a few inches will wrap to the back of the headboard. Begin wrapping and stapling the batting, starting at the center of one side and pulling it taut on the other side. Continue stapling in the same manner. Cut notches at each corner to remove excess bulk, and wrap batting around the corners neatly like a present. Repeat the process with your selected fabric (A). Secure the headboard to the wall with a French cleat.

A





WE WRAPPED FABRIC AROUND STRETCHER BARS TO MAKE THESE THREE ART PIECES, BUT YOU CAN ALSO FIND MINI CANVASES AT CRAFTS STORES.



UNDERBED STORAGE

TOP Turn an old dresser drawer into a storage solution that maximizes untapped space under the bed. Prime and paint the inside and outside of the drawer. Casters installed at each corner make the bin easier to access. We labeled the existing wood handle with a Sharpie.

VINTAGE BROOCH ART

ABOVE Personalize boring walls with small fabric canvases. Create the canvases by assembling stretcher bars—wood pieces with notched ends that are available at crafts stores and used to make frames without glue. Wrap and staple felt and fabric around the frame. Embellish with vintage pins and a favorite quote or a design penned with a black Sharpie. Group several inside a large vintage frame so the collection has bigger visual impact on the wall.

PAINTED UPHOLSTERY

ABOVE Forgo new upholstery, and paint the old! Tape off the chair's wood trim, and spray the existing upholstery with water. Paint the damp fabric with several coats of white chalk paint. After paint dries, use painters tape to create stripes down the center, and lightly brush on chalk paint in an accent color for a dyed linen look. When dry, coat with clear finishing wax.



CURTAIN PANEL EXTENDER

BELOW Lengthen purchased curtain panels with this clever trick. Fuse a fabric band to the bottom of each panel using wide iron-on adhesive tape. Hem edges by folding extra fabric to the back and securing with fabric glue. Cover the transition between fabrics with glued-on trim.

NAILHEAD ACCENTS

BELOW Give a discount store footstool custom flair with nailhead accents. Using a rubber mallet, tap nailheads into the frame an inch apart.

REVAMPED TRAY

ABOVE Blue and gold spray paint and a stencil give a thrifted tray a refreshed look. Spray-paint the tray blue; let dry. Affix the stencil with stenciling adhesive, and protect the areas you don't want to paint before spraying the gold.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.



SPEED UP THE MEASURING PROCESS WITH A TACK SPACER—WE FOUND OURS FOR \$14 AT VANDYKES.COM.



It's a
Date!

*Ditch your staid
flip calendar for these
fresh takes to keep your
household schedule on track.
They're pretty enough to be front
and center in a mudroom or office.*

PROJECTS + WORDS **LIZ LIDGETT**
CALLIGRAPHY **ANNA FREDERICK**
PHOTOGRAPHS **ADAM ALBRIGHT**

WRITING ON THE WALL

Manage a hectic week with a clip-and-see system that allows you to assign important reminders, shopping lists, and bills to the relevant day. Find seven clear clipboards—they will allow the wall color to show—with classic clips. (We found ours for \$7 each at an office supply store.) Using a Sharpie oil-base paint marker and your best penmanship, write the days of the week at the top of each plastic board.

Decide on an arrangement, and hang from the back of the clips using screws or nails.



CORK COMMAND STATION

Keep your family organized in a can't-miss-it way. We attached 20 cork squares to the wall using heavy-duty foam mounting squares. (Plan to spend about \$12 for each set of four cork squares.) We used $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide white artist tape from an art supply store to define the grid, and wrote on metal-rim gift tags (found at crafts stores) to identify the dates, days, and months. Thumbtacks make the setup adjustable for each new month.





A CLEAN SLATE

Start each month fresh by simply wiping away your past engagements from a calendar made from chalkboard contact paper. Create a cardboard template, trace, and cut 35 hexagons for five full weeks. (Our hexagons measure 2 inches on each side.) We also cut seven strips for the days of the week and a larger rectangle for the month. Remove the backing from each shape and apply directly to a clean wall.

For a dust-free solution, try colorful Chalk Ink Wet Wipe Markers (\$36 for set of eight; chalkink.com); they keep your calendar fun and can be erased with a damp cloth.

ON THE LINE

Put your stack of paint chips to work marking the dates on a clothesline-style calendar. Start fresh with a new color scheme every month if you want, or use sticky notes to mark events so you can rearrange the dates.

Create your calendar frame and twine lines (see “How to Make a Memo Frame,” *opposite*). Write the days of the week on the paint chips, and use mini clothespins to attach each chip to the line. Get creative with ombré-style placement or by marking holidays, birthdays, and other special days with certain colors.



how to make a memo frame

MATERIALS

- Two 8-foot door casings
- Miter box, saw
- Tape measure
- Wood glue
- Clamps
- Spray paint
- Staple gun
- Jute twine
- Sawtooth hook
- Hammer

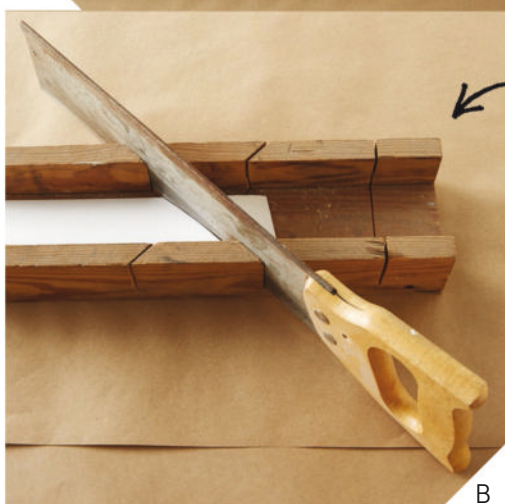
Step 1 Gather materials (A). To save time, look for primed door casings at your local home improvement center. Cut the door casings into four 48-inch pieces. Use a miter box and saw to cut the ends of each piece at opposite 45-degree angles (B).

Step 2 Join the ends using wood glue to create a frame that measures approximately 48 inches square (C). Use clamps to hold the corners together while the glue dries. Spray-paint the frame in your desired color (D).

Step 3 Staple the jute twine to the back of the frame. Attach one end at the top left-hand corner, stretch the twine taut to the opposite side, and staple. Measure down about 6 inches, and staple the twine again to start a new row (E). Continue snaking the twine back and forth across the frame until you have seven rows.

Step 4 Add a sawtooth hook at the top of the frame (F), and hang.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 110.



USE A MITER BOX AND HANDSAW TO CUT TRIM AT A 45-DEGREE ANGLE.



RESOURCES

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.

[T] To the Trade Contact a design professional to find more information about this product or service.

amazon.com, search: Cargo Cool. **Yellow throw** Karma Living Pom Pom Throw—Saplings, Montclair, New Jersey; 973/337-6652. **Round green-and-white flower pillow** Blossom Round Pillow, **square blue-and-white dog pillow** Bruiser the Pup Pillow—Erin Flett; *erinflett.com*. **Bin with elephant** Blue Elephant Organic Storage Bin—Amazon; *amazon.com*, search: 3 Sprouts. **Rug**—Frog indoor/outdoor 4x6-foot rug—Dash & Albert; *dashandalbert.com*.

WHAT TO DO WITH PAGES 22–29

Pages 23–25 **Flooring** COREtek Plus in Ivory Coast Oak 7-inch-wide plank 50VLP705—US Floors; *usfloorsllc.com*. **White trays for shoe storage** handles painted after purchase, **white storage baskets, hats, light teal purse**—Target; *target.com*. **Wall sconces flanking mirror** 1-Light Wall Sconce by George Kovacs—All Modern; *allmodern.com*. **Mirror** Beveled Round Frameless French Wall Mirror by Allen + Roth—Lowe's; *lowes.com*. **White metal stool** Hand-Forged Craton Contemporary Metal Stool, legs painted after purchase—Overstock.com; *overstock.com*. **Planter** Domesticated Trinket Dish—Anthropologie; *anthropologie.com*. **Area rug, teal baskets, hand lotion, acrylic brush boxes, marble tray**—HomeGoods; *homegoods.com*. **Gold hairbrush, makeup brushes, pink makeup bag, white purse, light pink purse**—T.J. Maxx; *tjmaxx.com*. **Jewelry tree**—World Market; *worldmarket.com*. **Pages 26–27** **Entryway organizer** paint Lagoon—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; *sherwin-williams.com* [P]. **Organizer**

legs Siri 160, painted after purchase—Prettypegs; *prettypegs.com*. Get a 15 percent discount with code PrettyDiyMag. **White metal mail pockets** Revere Wall Mounted Storage—CB2; *cb2.com*. **White magnetic shelf** discontinued, similar items available, **drapery** Ikot Ogee Linen Window Curtain in Ivory and Platinum—West Elm; *westelm.com*. **Bracket for shelf support and rod installation** Shelf and Rod Bracket HD-0045-WT, painted after purchase—The Home Depot; *homedepot.com*. **Flooring** COREtek Plus in Ivory Coast Oak 7-inch-wide plank 50VLP705—US Floors; *usfloorsllc.com*. **Rug**—Tuesday Morning; *tuesdaysmorning.com*. **Fabric for cushion** Indre Lynwood Dove Grey from the Nate Berkus Home Decor Print Fabric collection—Jo-Ann Stores; *joann.com*. **Baskets on top shelf**—World Market; *worldmarket.com*. **Gray leather bag, coffee mug, headphones**—Target; *target.com*. **Hat**—Anthropologie; *anthropologie.com*. **Phone dock, pencil cube**—HomeGoods; *homegoods.com*. **Pages 28–29** **Flooring** COREtek Plus in St. Andrews Oak 7-inch-wide plank 50VLP209—US Floors; *usfloorsllc.com*. **Rug** Multi Pixel Woven Rug—West Elm; *westelm.com*. **Serving station** legs Hillevi 170 in white, gold paint added after purchase—Prettypegs; *prettypegs.com*. Get a 15 percent discount with code PrettyDiyMag. **Hanging glass racks** 10-inch Anodized Over the Bar Stemware Rack, in gold GR10—Amazon; *amazon.com*; search: Alegacy. **Rose footed drinking glasses, gilded-rim clear glasses** similar items available, **pink cereal bowls in top left cubby**—Anthropologie; *anthropologie.com*. **Pink-and-white ceramic bowls**

behind glasses—CB2; 800/606-6252; *cb2.com*. **Framed artwork** by Heidi Hafner, similar items available—The Leo Shop; *leoshop.etsy.com*. **Ice bin**—Target; *target.com*. **Vases on bottom left shelf** similar items available—CB2; *cb2.com*. **Lidded box on bottom right shelf**—HomeGoods; *homegoods.com*.

SUPER PAINT POWERS PAGES 41–49

Page 42 **Glasses** Tall and Short Glasses from the Threshold collection—Target; *target.com*. **Glass pitcher**—Libbey, Inc.; *libbey.com*. **Wood bowls**—Marshalls; *marshallsonline.com*. **Glass light shade** Schoolhouse Glass Light Shade by Litex—Lowe's; *lowes.com*. **Antique pendant light socket cord**—1000 Bulbs; *1000bulbs.com*. **Shade fitter for UNO socket**—Snake Head Vintage; *snakeheadvintage.etsy.com*. **Tile for backsplash**—contact local home improvement stores.

Pages 46–47 **Alphabetical listing of product brands** Annie Sloan; *anniesloan.com*. **Americana Décor** by Decoart; *decoart.com*.

Folk Art Home Décor by Plaid Enterprises, Inc.; *plaidonline.com*. **Howard's Paste Wax** by Southern Honey Workshop; *southernhoneyworkshop.com*. **Maison Blanche Paint Co.**; *maisonblanchepaint.com*. **Southern Honey Workshop**; *southernhoneyworkshop.com*. **The Real Milk Paint Co.**; *realmilkpaint.com*. **Waverly Inspirations** by Plaid Enterprises, Inc.; *plaidonline.com*.

**A STEP AHEAD
PAGES 50–57** **Ladder** *craigslist.org* find, **vintage**

TRY IT

PAGES 8–15

Screen-printing ink Versatex, **carving block** Speedy Cut Easy by Speedball, **carving tools, brayer**—Blick Art Materials; *dickblick.com*. **Notebooks** Moleskine, **white bed linens**—Target; *target.com*. **Buttons, wood blocks for buttons, foam spongers**—Jo-Ann Stores; *joann.com*. **White table runner, white pillow**—HomeGoods; *homegoods.com*. **Balsa foam** Balsa-Foam—American Foam Technologies; *americanfoamtech.com*.

ORDER IN THE HOUSE PAGES 16–19

Beds Malrn Bed Frame in white, **shelves** Expedit Shelving Unit, **white duvet covers** Ofelia Vass—IKEA; *ikea-usa.com*. **Yellow board with containers** I Could've Bin a Wall Organizer, **blue framed memo board** I Could've Bin a Memo Board, **yellow magazine rack on shelf**—The Land of Nod; *landofnod.com*. **Green suitcases** Cargo Cool Euro Suitcases—Amazon;

Comingware serving pieces local flea markets, antiques stores, and resale markets—check local suppliers.

Ladder paint Candid Blue SW6953—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Galvanized shelf liners** 39-297—Gardener's Supply Co.; gardeners.com. **Galvanized pots** 4-inch and 6-inch Socker—IKEA; ikea.com. **Tree-free papers** Paisley and Fandango gift wraps and handmade specialty sheets in Denim 142000, Lavender 180909, Speckled Blue 116073, and Oceana—Green Field Paper Co.; greenfieldpaper.com. **Seeds of heirloom and gourmet plants**—Renee's Garden Seeds; reneesgarden.com. **Houseplants** including begonia, dracaena, English ivy, and spider plant—Costa Farms; costafarms.com. **Amaryllis bulbs**—Longfield Gardens; longfield-gardens.com. **Wood craft spoons**—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Plantable pots** Fiber Grow coconut coir 3¼-, 4-, and 6-inch—Menards; menards.com. **Biodegradable seed-starting pots** Cow Pots, **power strip with timer** 38-972—Gardener's Supply Co.; gardeners.com. **Washi tape**—Cute Tape; cutetape.com. **Heating pad** Sunbeam King Size—Amazon; amazon.com, search: Sunbeam Health at Home. **Watering can** 2023 Secrets du Potager Esschert Design—Amazon; amazon.com, search: Esschert Design. **10½-inch brooder lamp**, 120W grow-light bulb, **48-inch fluorescent light fixture**, Gro Lux bulbs T8 32W, 24-inch bulbs T8 17W—Menards; menards.com. **24-inch fluorescent grow-light fixture** Hydro Farm Horticultural Products—amazon.com. **Jute rug** Surya (IS 2-58)—Overstock.com; overstock.com.

YOU ARE GETTING VERY SLEEPY

PAGES 58–61

Crib—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com. **Crib blanket** Yellow Chick, skirt Orange Stripe from the Not a Peep crib bedding collection—The Land of Nod; 800/933-9904; landofnod.com. **Crib sheet** Skyline Square Fitted Crib Sheet—DwellStudio; dwellstudio.com. **White baskets in crib** Y-Weave Large Black Bin from the Room Essentials collection, **rug** from the Threshold collection, similar items available, **pillowcase for changing table cover** similar items available—Target; target.com. **Felt stickers for artwork** White Felt Letter and Numbers—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Ceramic lion on dresser**, small container with elephant—Jonathan Adler; 800/963-0891; jonathanadler.com. **Yarn used for blanket and lampshade** Vanna's Choice White—Lion Brand; 800/258-9276; lionbrand.com.

AT YOUR SERVICE

PAGES 62–71

Flooring Barrington Nutmeg Chestnut—Mohawk Industries, Inc.;

mohawkind.com. **Rug** Temple Taupe Wool Micro Hooked Rug—Dash & Albert; dashedalbert.com. **Gel stain for tabletop** Provincial—Old Masters; myoldmasters.com. **Tabletop sealant** High Performance water-base top coat in Flat—General Finishes; generalfinishes.com. **Filler** Wood Filler in Walnut—Elmer's Glue; elmers.com. **Legs for table** X-style metal table legs in brushed steel—TheLegShoppe; thelegshoppe.etsy.com. **Paint for table legs** Painter's Touch 2X Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Flat White—Rust-Oleum; rustoleum.com. **Paint for dining room chairs** Irish Clover—Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Fabric for chair seats** Nate Berkus Indre Lynwood in Dove Gray—Jo-Ann Stores; joann.com. **Chairs** vintage Dearborn Furniture—craigslist.org. **Grass rug for large circle decoration** on wall—World Market; worldmarket.com. **Tile for wall** 6×6-inch white tile and 3×6-inch subway tile—Daltile; daltile.com.

ROLL WITH IT

PAGES 72–75

Pages 72–74

Desk paint Twilight Blue, in high gloss for body and flat for drawers—Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Gold paint** Martha Stewart Metallic acrylic paint in Gold—Jo-Ann Stores; joann.com. **Clear finish spray for desk and chair** Crystal Interior/Exterior—Krylon; krylon.com. **Gold cabinet knobs**—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Fabric for chair** Nani Iro double gauze fabric, Fucca Rakuen in Aegean, Deep Navy—Red Beauty Textiles; redbeautytextiles.etsy.com. **Gold spray paint for chair** Specialty Metallic Gold spray paint—Rust-Oleum; rustoleum.com.

Page 75

Brackets with mounting hardware, **white shelves**—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Spray paint for brackets and memo board frame** Specialty Metallic Gold—Rust-Oleum; rustoleum.com.

ARTISTIC TOUCH

PAGES 76–85

Visit Angela's blog *The Painted House*; tphblog.com.

Pages 76–77

Vases—HomeGoods; homegoods.com. **Rug**—Target; target.com. **Parsons chairs** purchased without slipcovers—Pottery Barn; potterybarn.com. **Wood chairs** Michael Thonet, painted after purchase, **table** painted after purchase—thrift store finds.

Pages 78–79

Pillows—Blissliving Home; blisslivinghome.com. **Planter globes on coffee table**—World Market; worldmarket.com. **Vase on dresser**—HomeGoods; homegoods.com. **Sunburst mirror**—Pottery Barn; potterybarn.com. **Slipper chairs** purchased without slipcovers, **coffee table** painted after purchase—thrift store finds. **Candles in fireplace**—Pier 1 Imports; pier1.com.

Pages 80–81

Pitcher, napkins, rug runner—Target; target.com. **Island stools** similar available as Bernhard, **cabinet shelves holding glasses**—IKEA; ikea-usa.com. **White bowls**—World Market; worldmarket.com. **Table and chairs on porch**—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Hutch** inside painted after purchase, **blue chairs** at porch table—thrift store finds.

Pages 82–83

Plaid pillow on bed, **red pillow**, **denim pillow**, **notebook and pen on sofa**—Target; target.com. **Train at bed**, **orange pouf at sofa**, **globe on side table**—World Market; worldmarket.com. **Carpet tiles at bed**—Flor; flor.com. **Basket used for yellow scone cage at bed**—Hobby Lobby; hobbylobby.com. **Crewel and faux bois pillows on sofa**—Pottery Barn; potterybarn.com. **Red bamboo side table** painted after purchase, **lamp** painted after purchase, **lamp on dresser**—thrift store finds. **Oil painting at sofa** by Angela Blehm—The Painted House; tphblog.com. **Mirror at dresser** DIY project, **yellow chair at dresser**—homeowners' collection.

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Blue metal-frame bed painted after purchase—Wayfair; wayfair.com. **Blue-and-tan pillows**, **rug and white towels in bath**—Target; target.com. **Small blue-and-white pillow**, **coral pillows on wood-frame bed**—Pier 1 Imports; pier1.com. **Cream-and-tan pillows**—T.J. Maxx; tjmaxx.com. **Blue throw**, **yellow striped pillows on wood bed**—Marshalls; marshallsonline.com. **Stool**, **chevron towels in bath**, **cream-and-white graphic duvet**—HomeGoods; homegoods.com. **Diamond-pattern rug**—West Elm; westelm.com. **Blue wood bed**—Pottery Barn; potterybarn.com. **Floral pillow**—World Market; 877/967-5362; worldmarket.com. **Oil painting at bath** by Angela Blehm—The Painted House; tphblog.com.

TAKE A STAND

PAGES 86–91

Page 87

Cubbies postal holder—thrift store find. **Paint for legs** Exotic Sea spray paint in gloss—The Valspar Corp.; valspar.com [P]. **Flooring** French Oak wide-plank laminate in Caraway 28021—Mannington; mannington.com.

Page 88

Wallpaper Concrete Circles in Gray/ Gris 34271957—Anthropologie; anthropologie.com. **Flooring** COREtek Plus in Weathered Concrete 50LVT1803—US Floors; usfloorsllc.com.

Page 89

Flooring COREtek Plus in Weathered Concrete 50LVT1803—US Floors; usfloorsllc.com.

Page 90

Wall paint Mother Earth—Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Flooring** French Oak wide-plank laminate in Caraway 28021—Mannington; mannington.com.

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Slab of wood for table Highland Craftsmen's Bark House; barkhouse.com. **Wallcovering** Natural Leaves SX7728 from the Designer Resource Grasscloth and Natural Wallpaper collection—York Wallcoverings; yorkwall.com. **Flooring** French Oak wide-plank laminate in Caraway 28021—Mannington; mannington.com.

TIME HOP

PAGES 92–99

Rug Flora Rug 37178407 (vintage)—Urban Outfitters; urbanoutfitters.com. **Cabinet paint** Seashell Gray 4003-1A—The Valspar Corp.; valspar.com [P]. **Hinges** 3/8-inch Inset Hinges—Rocker; rocker.com. **Backsplash tile** Glass subway tile in Ice White from the Troy collection—Discount Glass Tile Store; discountglasstilestore.com. **Fabric for valance** Ikat Bands in Indigo—Robert Allen; robertallendesign.com [T]. **Cutting board** Beck Serving Board—Crate & Barrel; crateandbarrel.com.

RECLAIMED DREAMS

PAGES 100–103

Duvet, shams, accent pillows—John Robshaw textiles, johnrobshawtextiles.com. **Standard-size pillow shams**—Urban Outfitters; urbanoutfitters.com. **Fabric for headboard**, **nailedhead trim on benches** Dritz Upholstery Nailhead Trim—Jo-Ann Stores; joann.com. **Wall paint** Snowfall SW6000—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Two benches at foot of bed** purchased without nailedhead trim, **side table**, **box on side table**—Target; target.com. **Rug, quilt, curtain**, **white shag pillow on chair**—Anthropologie; anthropologie.com. **Chair base paint** Old White, **chair stripe paint** Emile—Annie Sloan; anniesloan.com. **Flooring** Historic Oak laminate flooring in Ash 22100—Mannington; mannington.com.

IT'S A DATE

PAGES 104–109

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Corkboard squares, **metal-rim tags**, **white electrical tape**—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Flooring**—Flooring Historic Oak laminate flooring in Ash 22100—Mannington; mannington.com.

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Chalkboard contact paper Kittrich—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com. **Flooring** Weathered Ridge laminate flooring—Mannington; mannington.com.



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WORDS **OLIVIA ALBERS** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON DONNELLY**

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