

100+ Fresh, Fast & Fun Home Ideas Inside!

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Inspiring Ideas | Practical Projects | Simple Solutions

# my home

my style™

SEPT/OCT 2010

## Before & After Makeovers

- > **Organize** Closets, Garages & More!
- > **Create** Curb Appeal in a Weekend
- > **Update** Your Bath on a Budget

I organized my cluttered closet for less than \$300 — you can, too! page 20



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Volume 1, No.5

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## {A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR}

Home projects don't have to be expensive to make a big impact. By combining a little creativity with the do-it-yourself spirit, you can create the home you've always wanted without high costs or cut corners. If you need proof, look through this issue to find a batch of big-impact, budget-conscious ideas.

**Beautify Your Bath.** Bathroom improvements can get costly in a hurry. But there's a lot you can do to beautify your bathroom without spending a bundle on remodeling. You'll find a bunch of great ideas on page 26. And to make your bath work even better, check out our low-cost linen closet storage system on page 20.

**Create Curb Appeal.** If you've wanted to refresh your home's facade, then you'll love the front entry face-lift that starts on page 42. Here we'll show you how to crank up curb appeal using simple add-ons and accessories, as well as how to give your porch some punch with easy-to-install porch column wraps and railings.

**Stamp It with Your Style.** You'll also find the rest of this issue packed with simple ways make your home your own. From easy art to cool clocks to simple, sophisticated shelving, there's something for every budget, every skill level, and every style.

DAVE

## Favorite Things

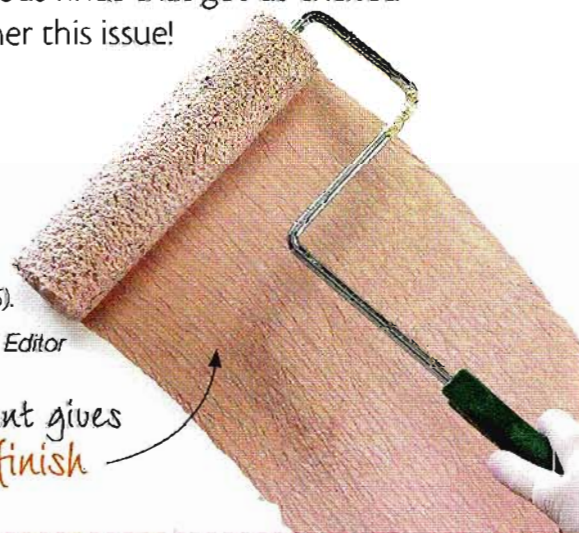
Check out the fabulous finds that got us excited while putting together this issue!

### Paint That Shines

Have you struggled when painting on faux finishes in the past? If so, you'll be surprised how quickly you can apply a beautiful finish with "quartz" paint (page 36).

Louise Ritchhart, Assistant Editor

easy-to-apply paint gives  
a quartz stone finish





## {STAFF INSIGHT}

The “new” vanity is the crowning touch to our bathroom makeover (*page 26*). But in reality, it’s not new at all. In fact, we didn’t even have to remove the vanity from the bathroom to create this look.

All we did to refresh this builder’s-grade vanity was scuff up the surface with sandpaper, prime it, and then add a couple coats of paint. To complement the new color, we added a new faucet and hardware.

No matter what kind of old vanity is in your bathroom, you can get a great new look using these same techniques. The process is a lot easier (and cheaper) than putting in a new one!

Wyatt Myers, *Senior Editor*

a coat of paint and new hardware  
give a vanity a **fresh new look!**

## Perfect Plywood

When I build plywood projects, I usually cover up the exposed plies on the edges. But the tower shelves (*page 32*) looked cooler with the edges exposed, thanks to a plywood available at our local Lowe’s store. Known as “Arauco” project plywood, it has thin plies that look great with just a little sanding.

James R. Downing,  
*Senior Project Designer*



## A Concrete Solution

A stucco siding panel used in an unusual way creates the column in our modern room (*page 14*). We flipped the panel over so the back — which looks like patterned concrete — shows instead.

Alyssa McNab, *Assistant Editor*

stucco panels  
meant for  
exterior  
walls create  
a convincing  
**concrete  
column**







create shimmering, textured  
accent walls with a simple  
paint technique!

## Departments

**06]** Readers' Tips

**08]** Questions & Answers

**60]** What's in Store

**62]** Resources

### IN EVERY ISSUE

**10]** Make It Your Own: Revamp a Lamp

Here's a clever way to create custom lighting: Cover an inexpensive lampshade with thin wood veneer for a one-of-a-kind look.

**36]** Paint Power: Luxurious Luster

An accent wall can be a defining feature for any room. We'll show you how to give that wall lustrous style using quartz paint.

**50]** Dollar-Wise Design: Wall Clock

Keep track of time creatively by turning shadow boxes, inexpensive clock parts, and a few favorite trinkets into a cool wall clock.

**54]** Gear Guide: Cool Clamps

When you need another hand to hold onto a project, a clamp can be a lifesaver. Here are our favorite clamps and 10 top uses for them.

**58]** Problem Solver: Rolling Storage

Clear the clutter in your garage with a rolling cart. Its pegboard panels offer abundant storage space in a very compact package.



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## Features

### 14] style spotlight: Marvelously Modern

Fill a room with modern decor, and you can create an atmosphere that's sleek, sophisticated, and personality-packed.

### 20] storage solutions: Refined, Redefined Linen Closet

Beautify your bath and keep your linens organized by turning an ordinary closet into a decorative storage system.

### 26] easy makeovers: Budget-Minded Bath Update

Learn how to economically transform your bath by adding a classic wall treatment and a few easy updates.

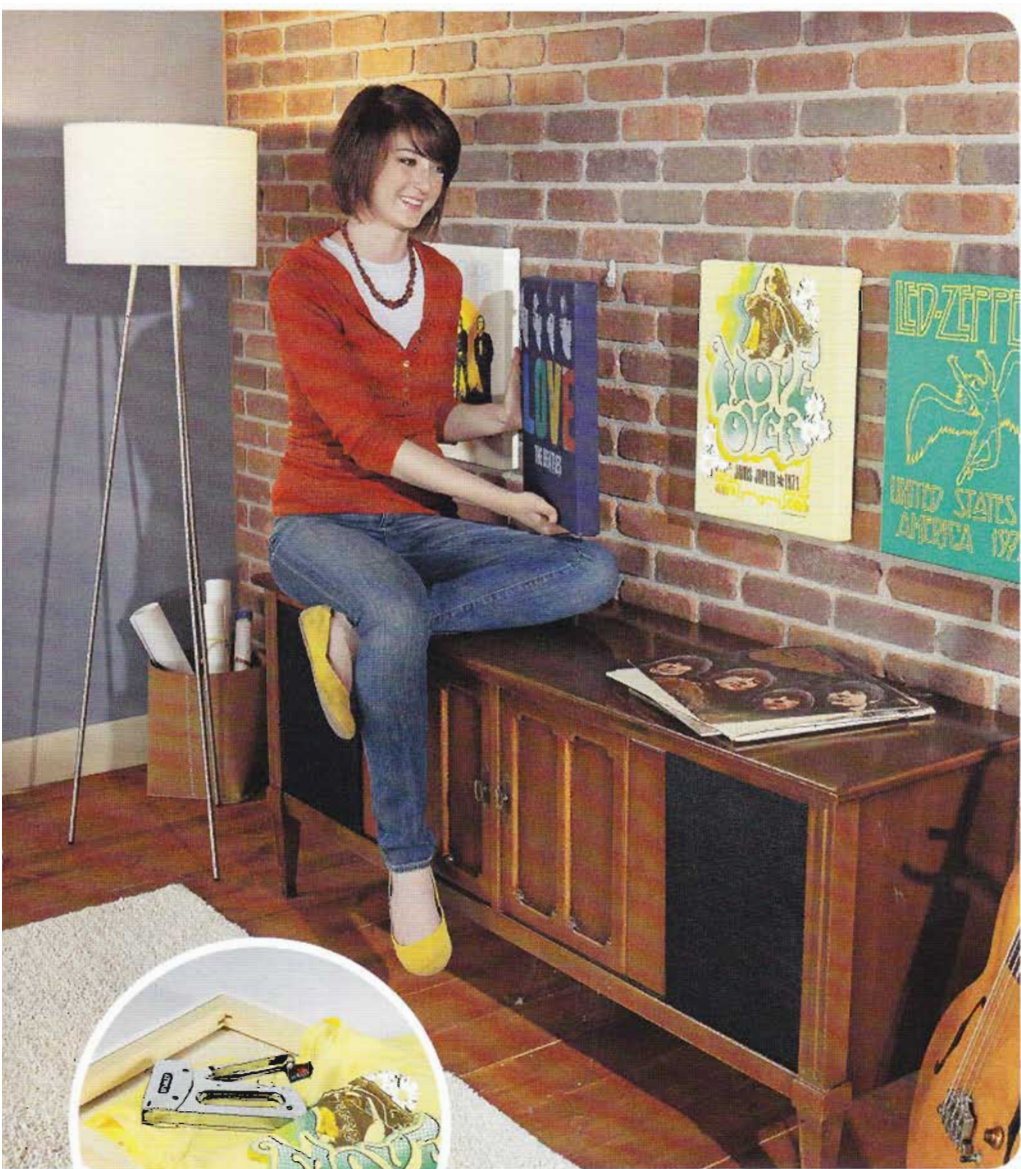
### 32] build it better: High-Style Tower Shelves

Don't pay big bucks for designer-style shelving. We'll show you how easy it is to build your own for far less.

### 42] before & after: Crank Up Your Curb Appeal

Pump up your home's personality with easy-to-install architectural upgrades, plantings, and a few accessories.





use simple supplies  
to transform old tees!

## Turn Old T-Shirts into Creative Wall Art

Whether it's a favorite sports team or a great rock band, many people like to wear their passions around in shirt form. But when you tire of wearing the T-shirt, don't throw it out! Instead, turn it into a funky piece of wall art that you can enjoy for a long time.

**T-Shirt Wall Art.** Rebecca Corningstone of Des Moines, Iowa, sent us this simple idea, and it couldn't be easier to replicate. Start by heading to the art store and purchasing a canvas that matches the size of the design on the T-shirt (our canvases measure 12" x 16").

**Cut, Staple, Trim.** Now cut the T-shirt up the back (Fig. 1). Lay it front-down, put the canvas over the T-shirt pattern, and staple one side (Fig. 2). Make sure the shirt is tight and smooth on the canvas before stapling the other corners. Finally, trim off the excess fabric (Fig. 3), and your art is complete!



1 Cutting the T-shirt up the back makes it easier to stretch the shirt tightly around the canvas in the following steps.

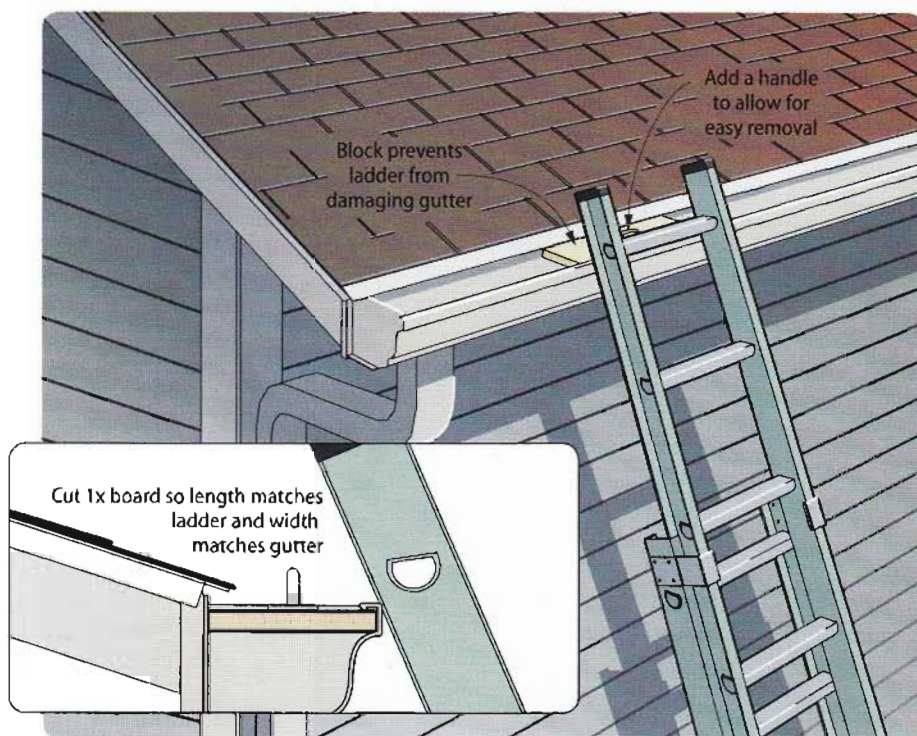


2 After centering the pattern under the canvas, pull one side tight, and staple it. Smooth the shirt, and staple the rest.



3 Once you're happy with the look, get rid of all that excess fabric so that the canvas will sit flat against the wall.





## Save Your Roof with a Gutter Block

Extension ladders are great for getting to the roof to clean off leaves or hang holiday lights, but they can damage the home's gutters. And if you set your ladder up in the same place every time, your gutter might be looking seriously crunched by now.

**Gutter Saver.** Arthur Lee of Santa Cruz, California, came up with a simple

way to preserve his home's gutters. He just cut a few wood blocks the width of the gutter and long enough to support the ladder. Then he slipped them in place where he usually sets his ladder. An added handle makes it easy to remove the blocks from the gutters should you ever need to reach underneath them.

## Pumpkin Perfection

Instead of using a kitchen knife or carving kit to carve Halloween pumpkins, Joe Doll of Centreville, Maryland, found a better solution in his toolbox: a drywall jab saw.

**Simple Saw.** A drywall saw has a pointy end that pokes through the pumpkin's flesh easily. Then, the saw's teeth make quick work of the carving in a way that's safer and more controlled than a kitchen knife or carving kit.



PHOTO BY © PIPALOO | CREAMYSTIME.COM



## 2 clamping quick tips

**1]** If your chairs are feeling wobbly, it may be the rungs connecting the legs. Bill Wells of Olympia, Washington, suggests applying glue to the joints between the rungs and the legs. Then, pull all the joints tightly together with bungee cords while the glue dries (*Photo, above*).

**2]** Masking tape can also fill in for clamps in some instances, says Charles Mak of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For example, when applying a piece of wood edging to a shelf, just hold the edging in place with masking tape until the glue dries.



Got a great tip?

*My Home My Style* will pay you for it. Just send your ideas to: **Email:** [editor@myhomemystyle.com](mailto:editor@myhomemystyle.com)  
**Mail:** Readers' Tips, *My Home My Style Magazine*, 2200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312



## An Easy Fix for a Sticky Door

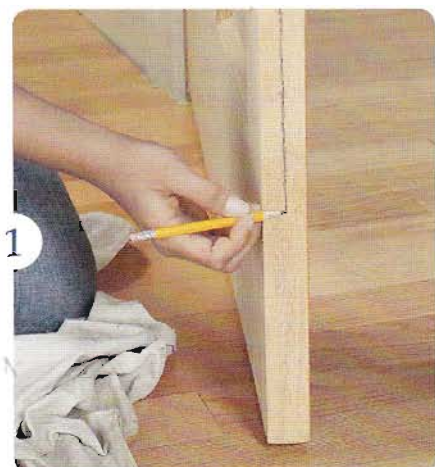
**Q:** A few doors in my home don't fit right in their jambs — they have to be forced in place and then yanked open. How can I fix the problem?

*Shelley Cronin, Holstein, IA*

**A:** If tightening the hinge screws and driving long screws into the door jamb (to draw it closer to the wall) don't make the difference, you'll have to remove material from the edge of the door.

You could use a tool called a block plane to pare away the wood. But for this simple task, we chose the SurForm Pocket Plane shown here. It works like a file, so it's easier to control and sure to provide smooth results.

Mark the problem area on the edge of the door (*Fig. 1*). Depending on where that area is, you might have to take the door off the hinges (*Fig. 2*). Then, while applying firm pressure to the tool, make smooth passes over the marked area (*Photo, right*). Put the door back in place to check if you've removed enough material.



1 Draw a pencil line along the edge of the door where it rubs against the jamb.



2 Pop the hinge pins out to take down the door and make it easier to work on.

the tool for the job  
costs less than \$10!



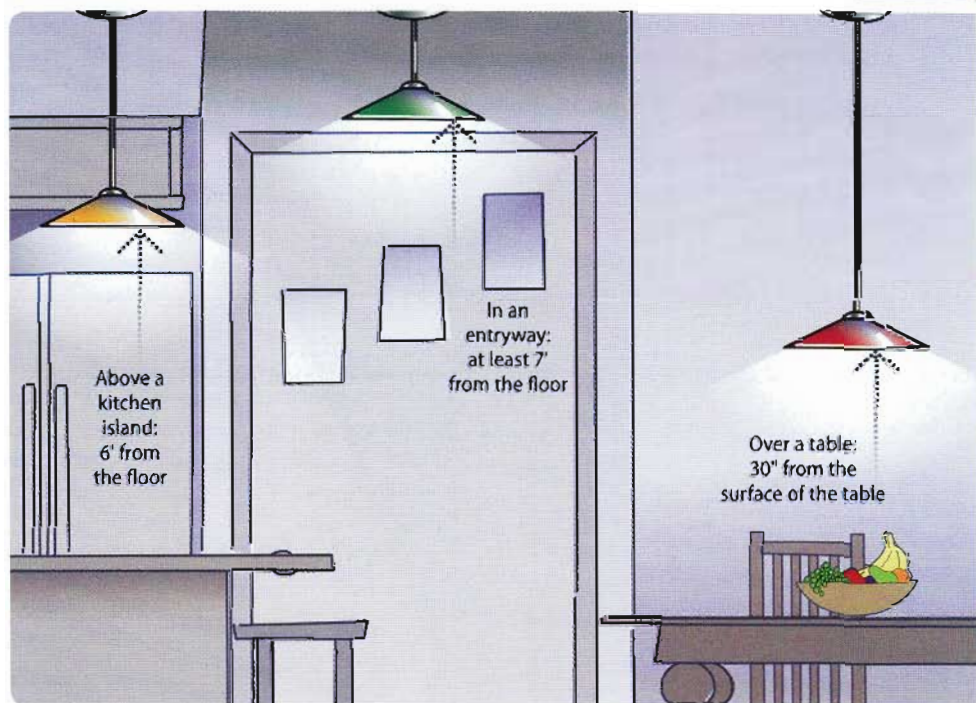


## The Right Height for Hanging Lights

**Q:** Do you have any suggestions for how high or low to hang light fixtures?

*Melissa Rodgers, Harwood Heights, IL*

**A:** Deciding how high or low a light fixture should hang isn't always easy. The *Illustration* at right shows the heights we recommend for fixtures in three of the most common settings (measured to the bottom of the fixture). If you have high ceilings, you can raise your fixtures slightly, but for the sake of clearance, you shouldn't lower them.



## Have-on-Hand Adhesives

**Q:** What are the best types of adhesive to keep on hand for projects around the house?

*Charlie Eck, Greensboro, VA*

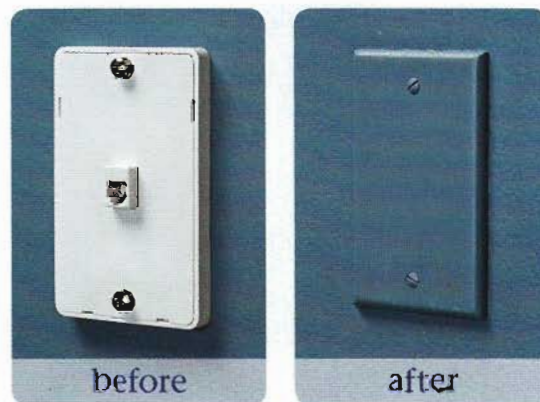


**A:** Periodically you'll come across a project that requires a specialty glue or adhesive, but most often, you can get by with these:

**Multi-purpose white glue (a)** is easy to work with and holds paper, fabric, and light-duty wood projects. **Yellow wood glue** is what you want to use if you're actually building with wood.

**Repair adhesive (b)** bonds fast and strong; it comes in handy for assembling or fixing most materials. **Construction adhesive** has similar qualities and is a better choice for large-scale projects.

**Quick-set epoxy (c)** creates an extremely strong bond when the resin and hardener, which are divided within the tube, mix. This is your best bet for holding dissimilar materials together.



## Conceal a Phone Jack

**Q:** There's an unused telephone jack in my wall that really stands out. What can I do about it?

*Andy McAllister, Flagstaff, AZ*

**A:** Removing the box and repairing the drywall would make the problem disappear. If it isn't worth the effort, do what we did: Replace the jack with a blank plate (which costs less than a dollar), and paint it to match the wall. It will blend right in!



**Need answers?**

*My Home My Style* has them! Send your questions to: **Email:** [editor@myhomemystyle.com](mailto:editor@myhomemystyle.com)  
**Mail:** Readers' Q&A, *My Home My Style* Magazine, 2200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312





## decorative wood onlays revamp a lamp

Give an unloved lampshade a fresh face with easy-to-work-with wood veneer. Light will peek between the pieces and make the veneer glow — creating an awesome aura!



Lampshades come in all shapes and sizes. Some are simple, and some are decorative — none are quite like this. It started as an ordinary shade, but a shell of wood veneer transformed it into one with unique beauty.

If you aren't familiar with veneer, it's extremely thin wood that comes in a roll. For this project, you'll want the type with adhesive backing (*Resources, page 62*).

We'll show you a template and trick for fitting sections of veneer to the cone

shape of the shade, so you'll be able to create stripes that line up perfectly. For other ideas of how you could veneer a lampshade, turn to page 12.

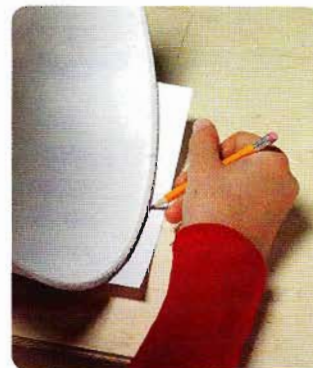
Regardless of the pattern you apply, you'll dramatically upgrade the look of the lampshade. And when the light is on, you'll see a cool effect as it seeps through the cuts in the pattern.

wood veneer is so thin that light shines through it!



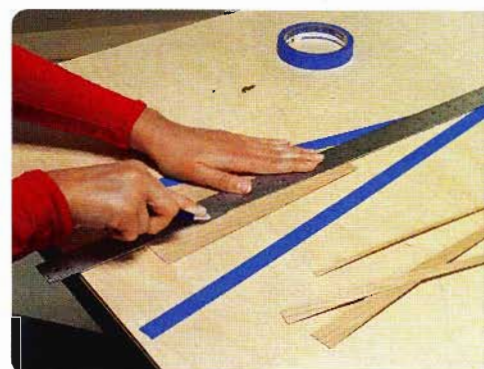
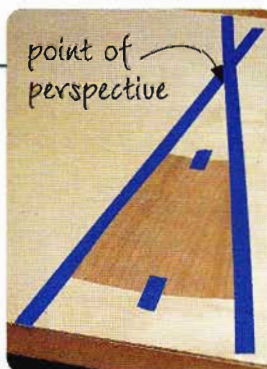
## 1 create wedge shapes

Due to the cone shape of the lampshade, you'll have to make a template to help you cut out wedge-shaped sections of veneer. Tape a piece of paper to your shade, and use a level to draw two vertical lines along the slant that are as far apart as the paper allows. Now trace the top and bottom curves. Cutting along these four lines reveals your template. Use it to cut out enough sections of veneer to cover your lampshade. We made half maple and half cherry for the shade shown here.



## 2 slice strips for stripes

The stripes on the lampshade are created by cutting those sections of veneer into narrow strips while maintaining the wedge shape. To do this, tape one section of veneer to a large cutting surface, and extend the lines of the sides until they intersect (we used masking tape). You can consider the intersection to be a "point of perspective." A long straightedge crossing this point will guide your craft knife as you cut strips of various widths. The same setup can be used for each section of veneer.



## 3 cover the lampshade

Now you can stick the narrow strips of veneer onto your lampshade — alternating veneer tones as you go. Press down on the veneer from the inside of the shade to help it stick. When you're done, clean up the edges with scissors and sandpaper. Finally, spray on a coat of clear lacquer, so the wood will hold up well.





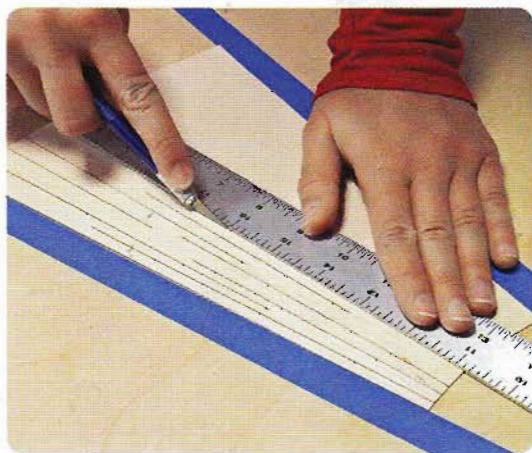
## two more simple shades you can try!

After seeing the concept of covering a plain lampshade with wood veneer, you may be imagining other ways you could apply it.

We were. As you can see, we tried out a couple of fun variations of the original design. They're made with the same adhesive-backed veneer cut into wedge shapes. Perhaps the different decorative details will better suit your style or spark your own creativity!

### Subtle Slits

This solid-tone lampshade has vertical slits rather than stripes, yet the process of making it is very similar. You'll cut out wedge-shaped sections of veneer and establish a "point of perspective" as described on the previous page. Instead of cutting the wedges into narrow strips, however, make incomplete cuts of various lengths — some from the top edge and others from the bottom edge. Then stick the wedges onto the shade right beside each other, and trim the last one to fit.



with light,  
the "subtle slits"  
stand out!



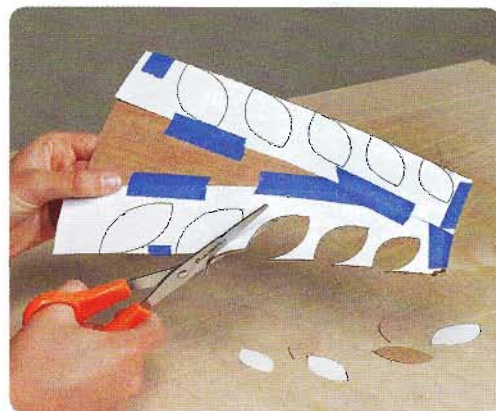


## Pretty Pattern

Creating this leaf-patterned lampshade is a bit different because it doesn't include numerous vertical cuts that make the sections of veneer blend together. That means the wedge shapes must be accurately and identically sized. To do this, you have to measure the circumference of the top or bottom edge of your lampshade, account for gaps between the wedges (we subtracted  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ), and divide by the number of sections you want (we used an even number, six, so the pattern would come full circle). Then complete Step 1 on page 11 with that measurement in mind.

The leaf pattern shown here is available on our Web site. Stagger the leaves by positioning the pattern higher on one edge of each wedge and lower on the other edge; each section of veneer will be identical. Finally, cut out the shapes, and stick the wedges to the shade with narrow ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " ) gaps between them.

the cut-out leaves "grow" out of a gap between wedges



### Online Extras!

The leaf pattern used on this design option is  
Just a Click Away!  
[MyHomeMyStyle.com](http://MyHomeMyStyle.com)











## make any space **marvelously modern**

With today's busy, complicated lifestyles, the sleek simplicity of modern decorating provides a welcome change of pace. The best part is that modern style doesn't have to be impractical or expensive. We'll show you how to create an affordable modern space with personality to spare.





# get a modern makeover with **five great** design elements!

Just one look at a modern room makes it easy to see the appeal of its clean lines and simple shapes. Well-planned modern elements can bring the sophistication of an upscale downtown loft to any room.

When you think of modern style, however, you may think that it is too difficult or expensive to pull off in your own home. Luckily, there are plenty of small DIY projects that can help you achieve the aesthetic. Plus, you don't have to spend a fortune on decor and furnishings to incorporate modern style.

Over the next few pages, we'll explain the designs and materials to look for when you're furnishing a modern space. Plus, we'll show you how to add personality through color, pattern, and even custom architectural details.

*Clean lines and design are found on many pieces of furniture and decor in modern rooms.*

*Striking industrial elements can be added to any space with a little creativity and some simple techniques.*



*Eye-catching colors used on furniture and decor stand out and demand attention.*

*Dramatic patterns really make a statement in an otherwise sleek modern space.*

*Mixed materials add interest and let you customize your room.*



## 1. Clean Lines and Design

One of the most important things to remember when creating your modern space is to keep everything simple. That means nearly every piece of furniture and decor features smooth curves and simple lines.

You can see the impact of clean design in the table and chairs, which combine large curves and straight lines. This sleek look even applies to upholstered

furniture. The white upholstered-top ottoman shown on page 15 features fabric that's pulled taut to create crisp lines.



Modern-style furniture may seem expensive, but it doesn't have to break the bank. These chairs (see page 62) have high-end designer looks without the high price.



## 2. Mixed Materials

This style allows a lot of flexibility when it comes to the materials found in the furniture and decor. You can mix and match different materials to create a look that's all your own.

Modern spaces often have furnishings with components made of plastic or wood painted with high-gloss paint. Shiny surfaces provide contrast to the rough, industrial-looking decor and architectural elements found in many modern rooms.

Metal and glass are also popular choices for furnishings and decor. These materials are sometimes paired with wood to add a bit of warmth. Metal is especially versatile because it can look sleek and polished or worn and industrial.

Add salvaged pieces, like this shelf made from a reclaimed airline cart, for an industrial touch. These objects look great when mixed in with sleek new pieces.







If you're stuck on choosing colors, pick a piece of art or decor and use it to create your color palette. The decorative bamboo branches inspired this room's colors.

### 3. Eye-Catching Colors

Contrary to what you may think when you envision modern style, you don't have to forgo color in favor of blindingly white decor and furniture. The truth is that many attractive modern rooms incorporate color.

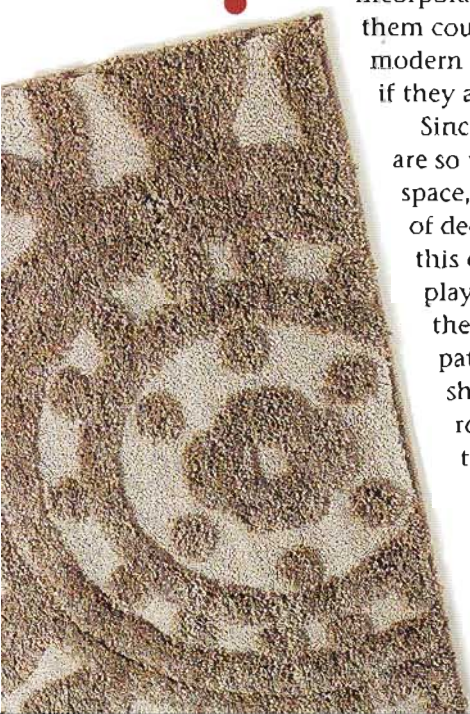
One way to add interest is to bring in accent colors that demand attention. It's not uncommon to see crisp white furnishings paired with accent pieces in eye-catching colors like lime green, yellow, or red.

The pops of red in this modern dining room add just enough color without going over the top. We found some decorative bamboo branches that provided the inspiration for this color. Then we painted the door red to match and brought in other red accents to spice up the otherwise neutral color palette.

### 4. Dramatic Patterns

One common misconception about decorating with modern style is that you have to stick with plain decor. That's not the case, but if you incorporate patterned accents, make them count. Patterns and motifs in a modern room are especially effective if they are oversized and dramatic.

Since the designs on these pieces are so impressive in a modern space, you may need just a couple of decor items to add interest. In this dining room, the area rug plays a key role both in pulling the look together and adding pattern. The oversized round shapes on the rug mimic the round glass tabletop, making the room feel cohesive.



Try painting the doors in your modern space with a bright accent color to draw attention to them. If you want to make the doors stand out even more, you can paint the trim in the room the same color as the walls.



## 5. Striking Industrial Elements

Another thing that sets modern style apart is that it embraces architectural elements that would be considered flaws in other decor styles. Clean modern style actually complements features like exposed brick walls, pipes, and ductwork.

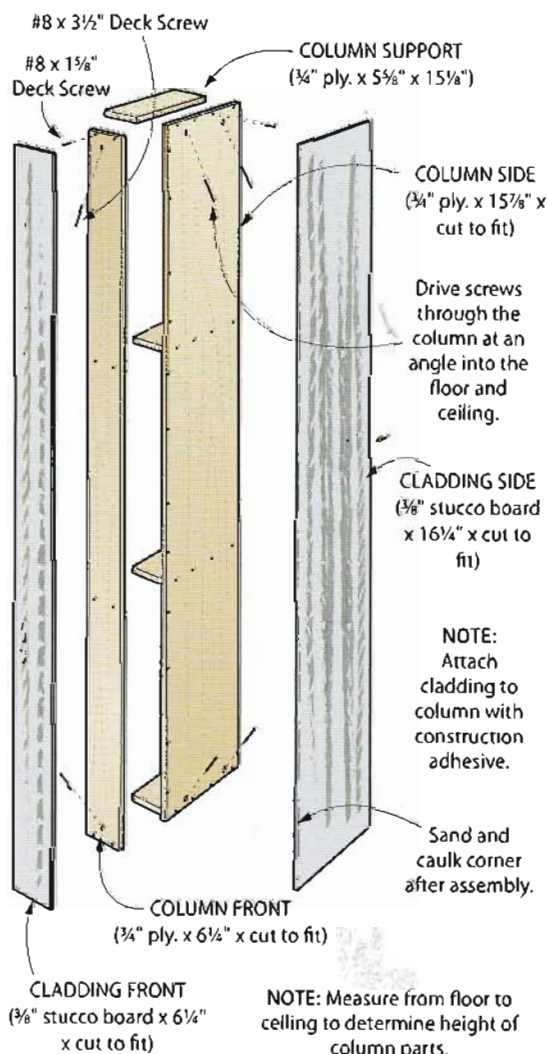
Although architectural elements have a big impact in a modern space, you don't have to live in a loft to incorporate the look into

your home. If your room doesn't have any of these elements, you can add one yourself.

We came up with a project that lets you put a loft-style faux corner column in any space. The material used to create it may surprise you: It's made from stucco siding panels (Photo, above right). The Illustration shows how you can make your own faux column.

As you can see in the Photo above, the back sides of stucco siding panels (see page 62 for Resources) each have unique, industrial-looking patterns that look great on the outside of a faux column.

do-it-yourself  
loft-style  
columns!









build an easy,  
inexpensive

# Linen Closet

*storage system!*

Can't shut the door to your linen closet fast enough? Hope that guests won't go looking for their own towels? Then you're going to love this simple system for turning overflowing shelves into clutter-busting cubbies. It's a beginner-level project that you can build in a weekend using basic materials from the home center. Your finished system will look so great that you might even want to take off the closet door!

## Before and After

Like so many linen closets, the target of our makeover (right) had over time succumbed to the creep of clutter and misuse. The new closet storage system (left) gave it an infusion of style and greatly improved its functionality.





## divided closet storage *helps you* get organized!

Linens closets often turn into catchall spaces for various home necessities, in addition to sheets, towels, and bath products. It's little wonder that over time, nice linens get stuffed in and smaller items become hopelessly buried at the back.

This simple-to-build organizer will help restore calm to closet chaos. It features vertical dividers to keep linens neat, adjustable cubbies to prevent overcrowding, and has compartments for two large hampers. Plus, it's all made from easy-to-clean melamine.

**Ditch the Door.** This organizer can do more than improve function: When the closet is left open, it will add style to your bath's decor. If you decide to get rid of the door like we did, we'll show you how to remove the hinges and make the mortises virtually disappear (see *Photo, page 24*).





## planning your new closet space

### a) open storage

Removing the door will make it easier to access everything stored inside and allow the closet to enhance your bath's decor. You might want to relocate any hopelessly unattractive items.

### b) divided storage

Adding dividers can keep stacks of towels from toppling and keep personal care products apart from cleaning supplies. By creating multiple distinct areas, you'll even have places to display purely decorative touches.

### c) shelves

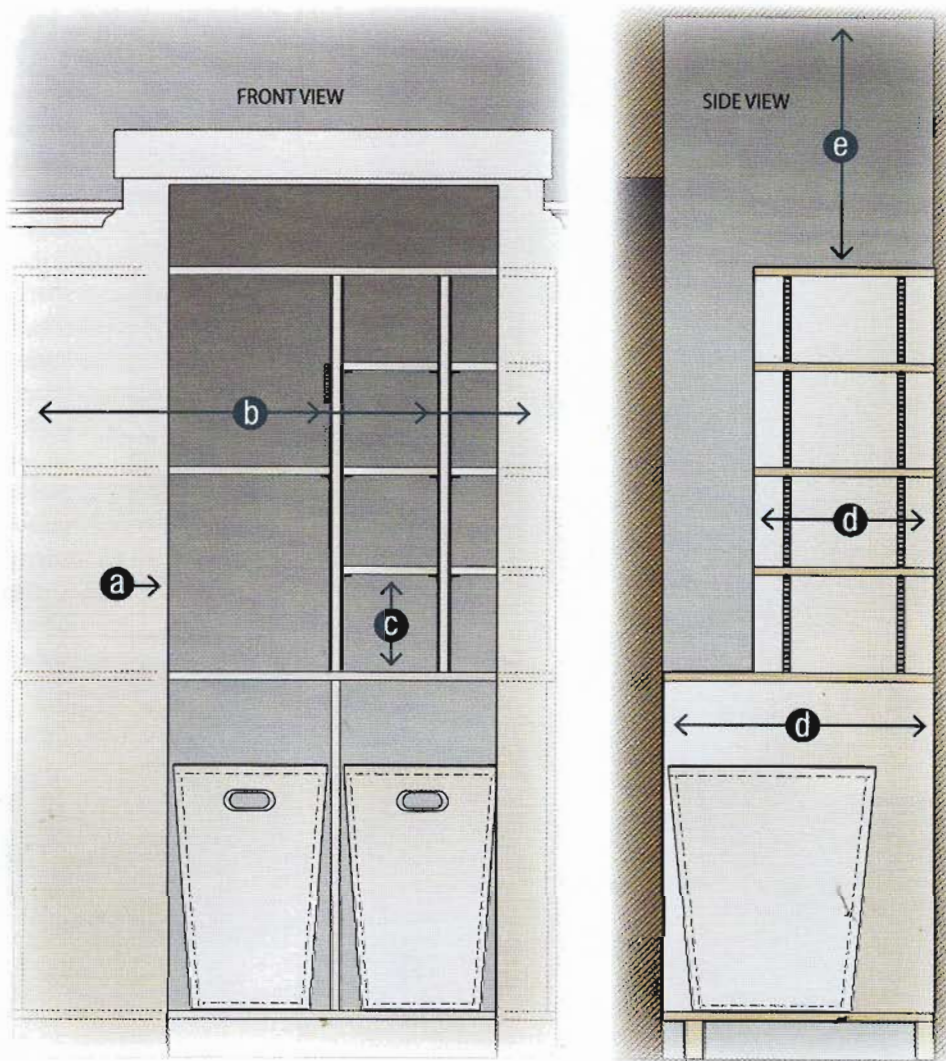
This storage system is built from melamine shelves in standard widths, so they only need to get cut to length. Shelf standards attached to the vertical dividers allow each shelf's height to be adjusted in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " increments.

### d) depth of storage

Many linen closets are 24" deep, which often creates a dead zone at the back of each shelf. The cubbies in this system manage that depth. They keep stored items visible, so nothing gets buried by items stashed in front.

### e) storage above

When you're planning where to position the top shelf of your new storage system, be sure to leave enough room to access this area. There's plenty of valuable storage space located above the top of the door frame, so you don't want to block it off.



*we painted the insert on this basket to match our wall color!*



### f) storage boxes & accessories

You'll find there's a nearly limitless selection of attractive storage containers available. It's a good idea to pick out hampers, baskets, and bins before laying out your new shelf system, so you can position the vertical dividers to accommodate these items.

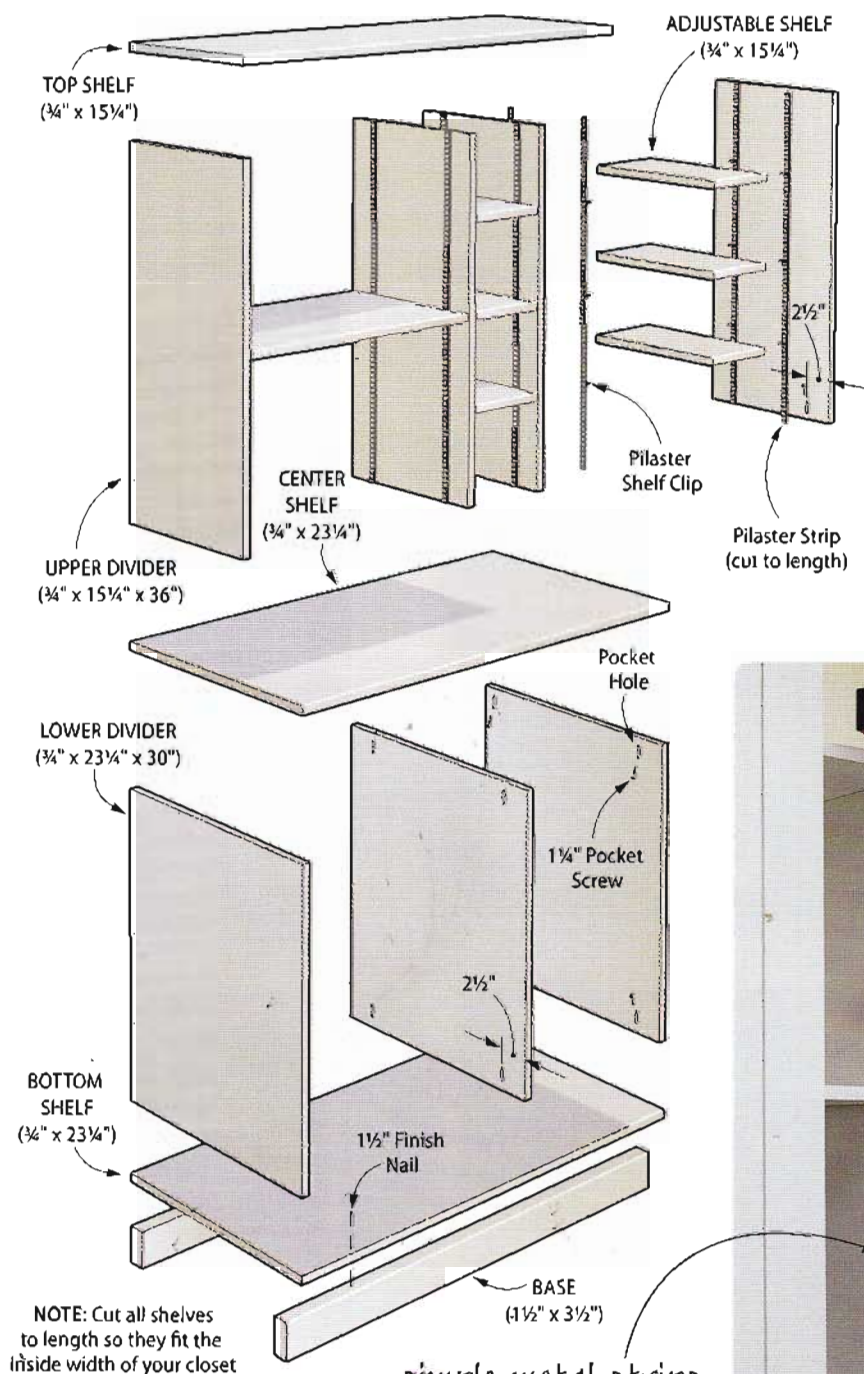


# simple to build from home center materials

If your linen closet is a different size than ours, don't worry. This system is easy to modify to fit your closet's dimensions, and you'll find all the supplies you need at the home center.

**Study Your Storage Needs.** Start by studying the diagram at left, and then take a good look at your linen closet. Would you like to create more divided spaces or more open spaces? Do you want to include storage containers? If so, measure them, and also carefully measure the closet's dimensions. Then cut your pieces to fit, and follow the construction sequence at right.

**Simple Style.** Use calming colors on walls and woodwork, plus simple accessories, to ensure your new white shelves tie in with the bath's decor.



*simple metal strips  
make adjusting  
shelves a snap!*

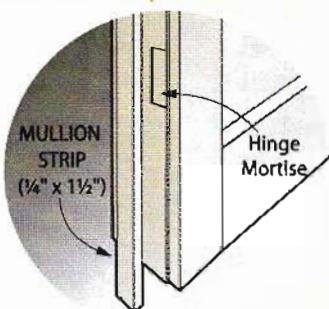




1

## remove the door

For an open closet, start by removing the door's hinges and strike plate. Then attach  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mullion strips the full length of the jamb to cover the mortises. Caulk any gaps to create a smooth surface for painting.



2

## start with a base

As you build this system, you'll work from the bottom up. Start by putting a pair of 2x4s on the floor to create a base. Use shims, if needed, to make sure they're level. Then cut the bottom shelf to fit, position it on the base, and fasten it with finish nails.

3

## install dividers & top

Next, cut three lower dividers to fit on top of the bottom shelf. Then drill pocket holes near the ends of each divider using a pocket-hole jig. Attach the outer dividers to the bottom shelf with pocket screws. Now center the middle divider in the door opening, and attach it to the bottom shelf using pocket screws. Then attach the center shelf to the dividers, making sure the divider in the middle is plumb.

4

## add shelving above

On the upper level, it's easiest to install the outer dividers first, so go ahead and pocket screw them to the center shelf. Then measure to locate the positions of the other dividers, and attach them to the center shelf with pocket screws. Next, add the top shelf. Now you can cut the shelf standards to length and install them over the pocket-screw holes. Finally, cut adjustable shelves to fit, and mount them using shelf clips.

ONE: Measure inside width of closet to determine length of base and all fixed shelves

Closet Door Opening

TWO: Install 2x4 boards on floor to create a base

$1\frac{1}{2}$ " Finish Nail

THREE: Cut bottom shelf to fit, and nail onto base

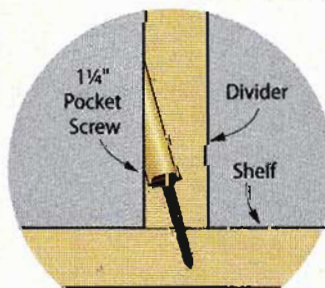
FIVE: Install center shelf on top of lower dividers

FOUR: Cut lower dividers to length, and install using pocket screws

SIX: Cut upper dividers to length, and install using pocket screws

SEVEN: Cut top shelf to length, and install using pocket screws

EIGHT: Cut pilaster strips (shelf standards) to length, and install over pocket holes



NINE: Cut adjustable shelves to fit, and mount using shelf clips









# create a bold Bathroom Makeover —without remodeling!

You don't have to hire a pro to fix your boring builder's-grade bathroom. These simple do-it-yourself updates will turn that "blah" bath into a relaxing retreat.

**F**ew home spaces are as utilitarian as the bathroom.

As such, the room often gets the short end of the style stick in newly constructed houses.

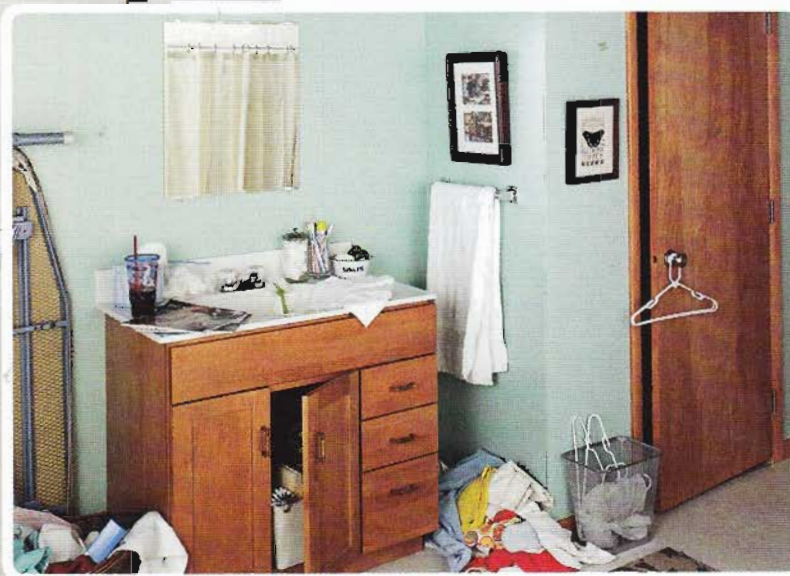
This bathroom was the perfect example of "builder's grade" (*Before Photo, below*). With its bland 36" vanity, average faucet and hardware, and ho-hum

lighting, it's what you'd expect to find in a lot of new homes.

## A Makeover You Can Do!

Many homeowners would put up with their bathroom like this, thinking a drastic change would be too difficult or expensive. Here's a surprise: You can make your bathroom look like the cozy retreat in the *After Photo* all by yourself.

The most striking element of the transformed bathroom is the wall treatment. We'll show you how to make it with off-the-shelf lumber and a few simple tips. As for the "new" vanity, it's nothing more than a clever application of paint and hardware. See how we did it over the next few pages.



**BEFORE:** The perfect term for this home's humble bathroom was "builder's grade." With its boring vanity, plain mirror, dated hardware, and drab paint color, it was in need of a serious makeover.



# transform your bathroom with walls that wow!

Most bathroom walls are anything but memorable. With this “board and batten” wall treatment, you’ll get a look for your bathroom that’s hard to forget.

## Make Walls Wonderful.

The wall treatment consists of boards and molding that get applied with construction adhesive and finish nails. Most of the pieces can just be cut to fit with a miter saw. But to create some depth, we opted to use ½"-thick boards from a local lumberyard for the vertical “battens.”

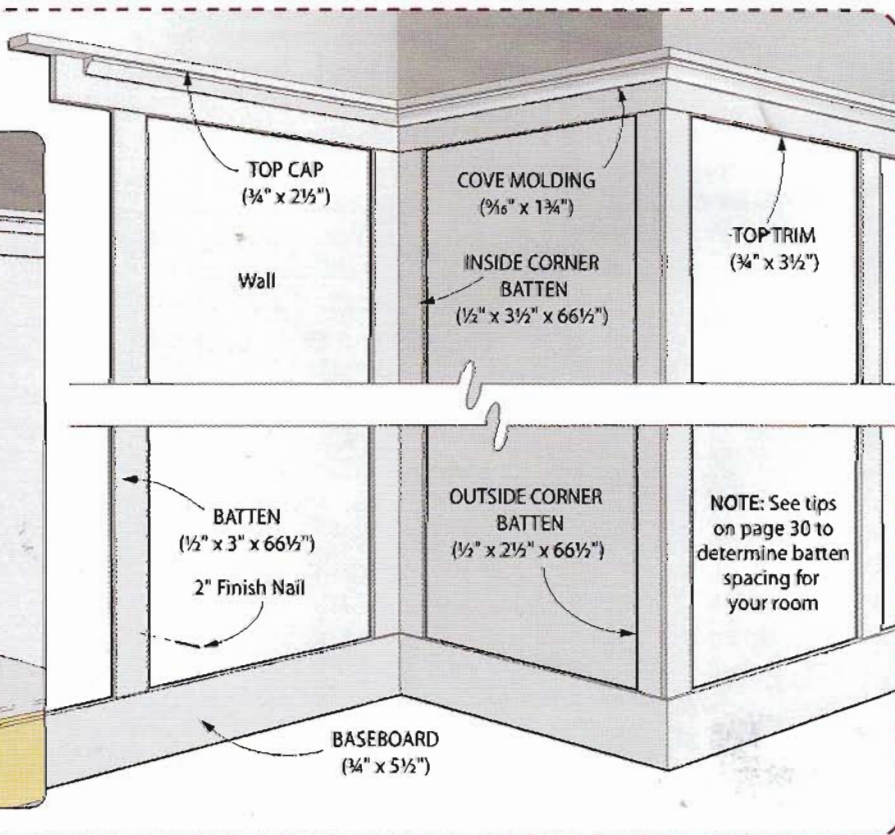
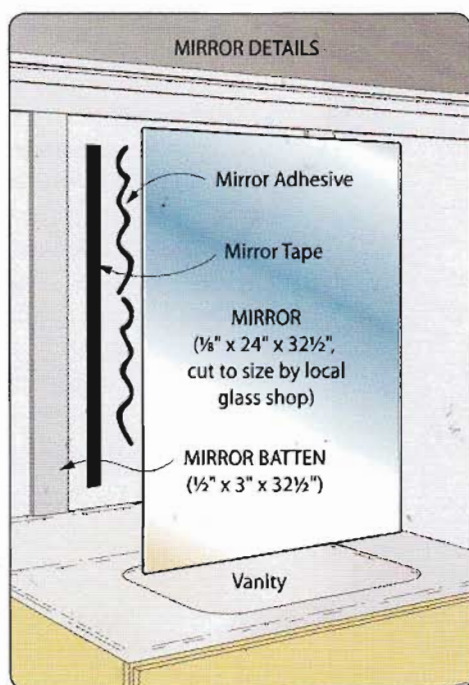
You’ll need to make these by

performing a rip cut on a table saw, but not to worry—we’ll show you a simple technique for this on page 30.

**Measure and Mark.** Before you get started, it’s a good idea to measure your space, and lay out the locations of all the components on the walls with a pencil. The dimensions of our wall treatment are shown below.

The spacing of the battens will be dependent on your own bathroom walls, but we offer some tips for spacing these boards out properly on page 30. The rest of the steps begin at right.

## Wall Assembly

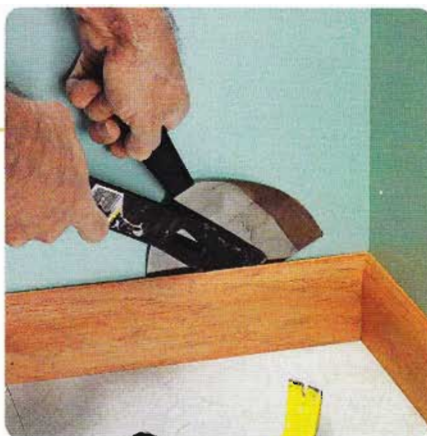




1

## out with the old

Before mounting the new wall treatment, you need to remove the existing molding and door trim. This is nailed in place, so use a pry bar to pull it free. Prevent damage by placing a putty knife between the pry bar and the wall.



protect walls  
with a putty knife  
and pry bar!



### Shopping List

- ☐ poplar 1x6 boards \*
- ☐ poplar 1x4 boards \*
- ☐ poplar 1x3 boards \*
- ☐ 1/2"-thick poplar boards \*
- ☐ 3/8" x 1 1/2" cove molding \*
- ☐ 2" finish nails
- ☐ wood glue
- ☐ construction adhesive
- ☐ painter's caulk
- ☐ paint
- ☐ new hardware and fixtures

\* Lumber needs will vary based on the size of your bathroom.

2

## add baseboards

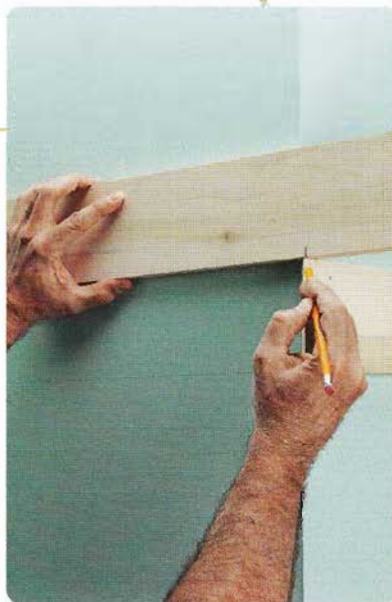
Now you can add the new baseboards. These are just poplar 1x6 boards that get cut to length. You can attach them to the wall with finish nails (Photo, right). You'll need to cut a miter on these boards where they meet at the corners. Also, we applied a little wood glue to each joint before putting it together to make sure that the miter wouldn't pull apart later on.



3

## attach the top

The wall treatment gets "crowned" with a top made up of three distinct parts. First, the top trim pieces (made from 1x4 boards) go in place. Here again, mark and miter the pieces where they meet at the corners. (Photo, near right). Next up are the top cap pieces, made from 1x3s. They get nailed in place above the top trim (Top Photo, far right). Finally, cove molding slips in place underneath this top cap and gets nailed on (Bottom Photo, far right).





4

add the **mirror trim**

Now you're ready to add the vertical "batten" boards, which need to be ripped to width on the table saw (Box, below) and cut to length. Start by adding the two boards that will flank the mirror. The mirror is the last item to put in place, so just lay out its location for now. Then apply construction adhesive to the boards, align them carefully, and press them into place.



5

bring on the **batten boards**

The trickiest part of adding batten boards is spacing them apart. Try laying them out on a short wall first. Then, create spacing on longer walls to match the short wall as closely as possible, but with equal space between each board. Lay it out with painter's tape to make sure it looks good (*near right*), and then add the boards. Finally, where the battens meet at the corners, rip  $\frac{1}{2}$ " off the edge of one board, and butt them together (*far right*).



*quick tip! apply latex caulk to cover up imperfections before you paint*



## Woodworking 101

table saw rip cuts  
in **2 easy steps**

A rip cut is made by guiding a board past the blade along the saw's rip fence. Before you cut, make sure to have a push stick handy and outfeed support set up to catch the end of the board.

Set the fence at your desired width of cut (*Inset Photo*). Then lock the fence down.

Now start the saw. With your hands well away from the blade, use one hand to keep the edge of the board pressed flat against the fence and the other to push it past the blade (*Fig. 1*). As you near the end of the cut, use a push stick to guide the board safely past the blade and onto the outfeed support (*Fig. 2*).





# 4 great ways to revamp your old bath vanity

The other part of this bathroom makeover that made a big impact is the “new” vanity—which isn’t new at all. It just feels new thanks to four compelling additions—paint, hardware, a new faucet, and lighting.

**Dramatic Difference with Paint.** You can paint any old vanity without even moving it. Start by scuffing up the existing finish with 180-grit sandpaper to improve adhesion. Then remove the dust, and prime and paint it. It may take a couple of coats to get complete coverage.

**Stylish New Additions.** To update the dated chrome faucet and brass hardware, we chose popular brushed-nickel options. The last change was to replace the existing light bar with a pair of great-looking wall sconces. We saved so much money on the rest of our bathroom makeover that we decided to splurge on an electrician to help with this step! You’ll find specific information for all the items we used for this makeover on page 62.



## 1) Lighting

Brushed-nickel wall sconces on either side of the mirror lend a touch of elegance to the new bathroom. We hired an electrician to install these.

## 2) New Faucet

Replacing a faucet is a simple weekend project most homeowners can handle. We liked the clean style of this one.

## 3) Painted Vanity

You can get a “new” vanity without even removing your old one! Scuff up the surface with sandpaper, then prime and paint.

## 4) Hardware

Clean, modern knobs and pulls with a brushed-nickel finish complement the other fixtures and round out this bathroom makeover in style.







# turn basic boards into high-style shelves



These contemporary "tower" shelving units cost big bucks in high-end furniture stores, but you can make your own in a few hours with just \$60 worth of materials.

Storage doesn't have to be boring. Several contemporary furniture and department stores have made that abundantly clear with the cool shelving units they are selling these days. With their open shelves and sleek styling, these units just might be more interesting than the items you want to display on them.

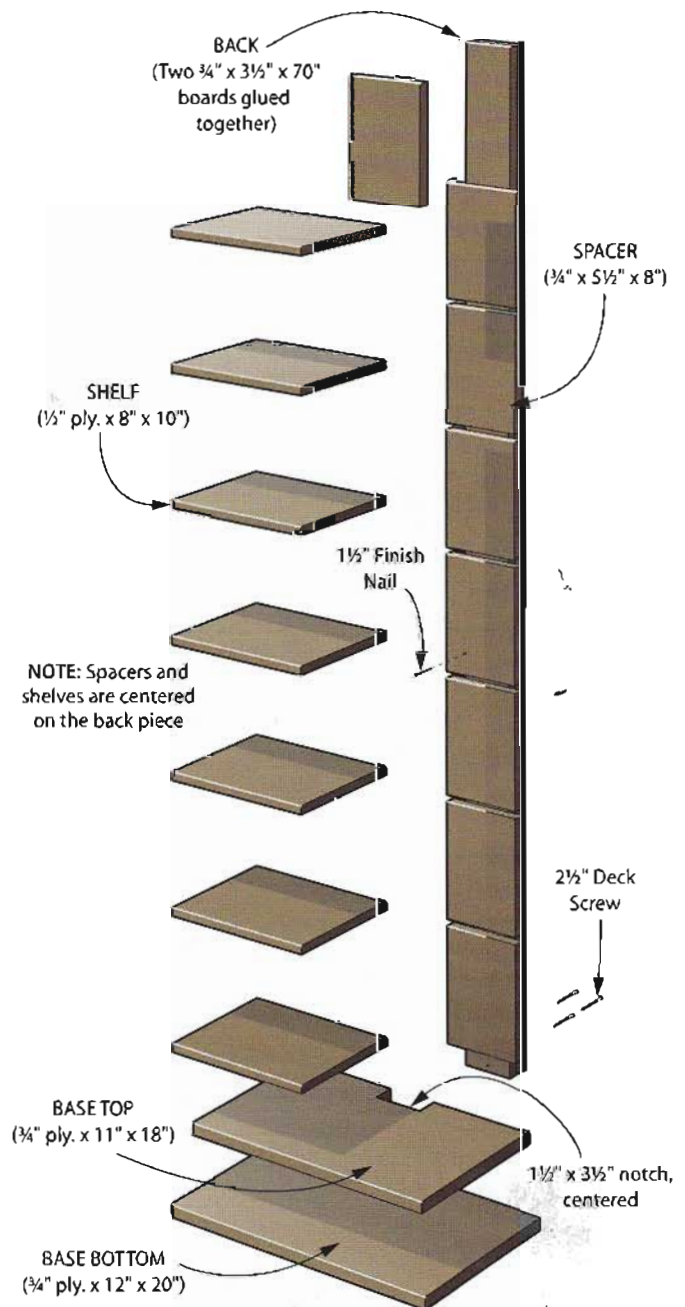
Of course, all this high style comes at a price. If you want to buy one of these shelving units at a store, it will likely cost you \$200 or more.

**Big Style, Low Cost.** We figured that there had to be a more economical way to create a similar style of display. Our unique "tower" shelving unit delivers on that concept in a big way. Its slim profile and unique open storage would be a welcome addition to almost any room. No matter what you decide to store on the unit, it's sure to be a conversation-starter.

**Easy on the Eyes, Easier to Build.** This shelving unit has another ace up its sleeve—it goes together in no time at all with glue, a handful of nails, and just three screws.

Other than that, you need three poplar boards to form the back and support the shelves, and two pieces of plywood to make the base and shelves. To get nice, clean edges, we used "Arauco" project plywood (see *Resources*, page 62). The back gets connected to the base with screws, and the shelves just slip in place between "spacer" boards.

To build the unit, start by cutting all the parts to size as shown in the *Illustration* at right. Then turn the page for the three simple steps to put it all together.





## 3 simple steps to a terrific tower

You'll be hard-pressed to find a storage project simpler than this one. Starting with three boards, two pieces of plywood, and a handful of hardware, you can create this shelving unit in just a couple of hours, even with minimal woodworking skills or tools. Here are the three easy steps to put it all together.

1

### glue, then **cut a notch**

After cutting the parts to size, project assembly begins with two glue-ups. First, glue and clamp two poplar 1x4s face-to-face to create the back (Illustration, page 33). Then, do the same with the two base pieces, leaving a 1" reveal around the front and sides of the upper piece (Photo, above right). When the glue dries, lay out a notch, drill holes in the corners, and cut it with a jigsaw (Photo, right).



2

### add the **back and spacers**

Next, drill three pilot holes near the bottom end of the back piece. Set the back into the notch, make sure it's square with the base, and attach it with glue and screws (Photo, inset). Now begin adding the spacers. To do this, just use a combination square to position the first spacer correctly on the back, and attach it with glue and nails. Then use one of the shelves to position the next spacer, and attach it (Photo, far right). Continue adding all the spacers this way.



3

### slide in **the shelves**

With the spacers nailed on, all that's left is to add the shelves. These just slip into place between the spacers, as you can see at right. Before adding them, apply glue to the gap between each spacer to hold the shelf in place. Then use a combination square to align each shelf with the one below it. When the glue dries, stain or paint the unit as desired. You also may want to secure it to the wall for safety's sake.





## go light & lively with paint

The “Espresso” stain that we used (see page 32) gives the shelving unit a sleek, sophisticated look. But you can make it fun and funky just by choosing a vibrant paint color instead.

On this version of the unit, for example, we pulled a bright blue out of the nearby painting and used it as the inspiration for the color of the shelving unit. The paint gives the unit a lighter feel, and it ties two of the design elements of the room together nicely.

Another way to personalize your shelves, of course, is with the items you decide to store on them. This unit houses some favorite DVDs, making it a perfect companion for a nearby entertainment center.

### Shopping List

- ☐ (2) poplar 1x4s, 6 feet long
- ☐ (1) poplar 1x6, 6 feet long
- ☐ ½" Arauco plywood
- ☐ ¾" Arauco plywood
- ☐ (3) 2½" deck screws
- ☐ 1½" finish nails
- ☐ wood glue
- ☐ paint or stain and finish





get a customized look  
with paint!

## *lustrous,* **textured walls** from quartz paint

For a whole new look in accent walls, try this fresh faux finish that softly shimmers like semi-precious stones. Three application techniques let you achieve the exact effect you desire.

**S**ome fascinating specialty paint arrived on the scene this summer: Quartz Stone Impressions by Sherwin-Williams. We tested the three application methods used to replicate the look of brushed, striae, and smooth quartz and found the system to be very user-friendly. You might find that narrowing down the broad range of color options is the hardest part of the project!

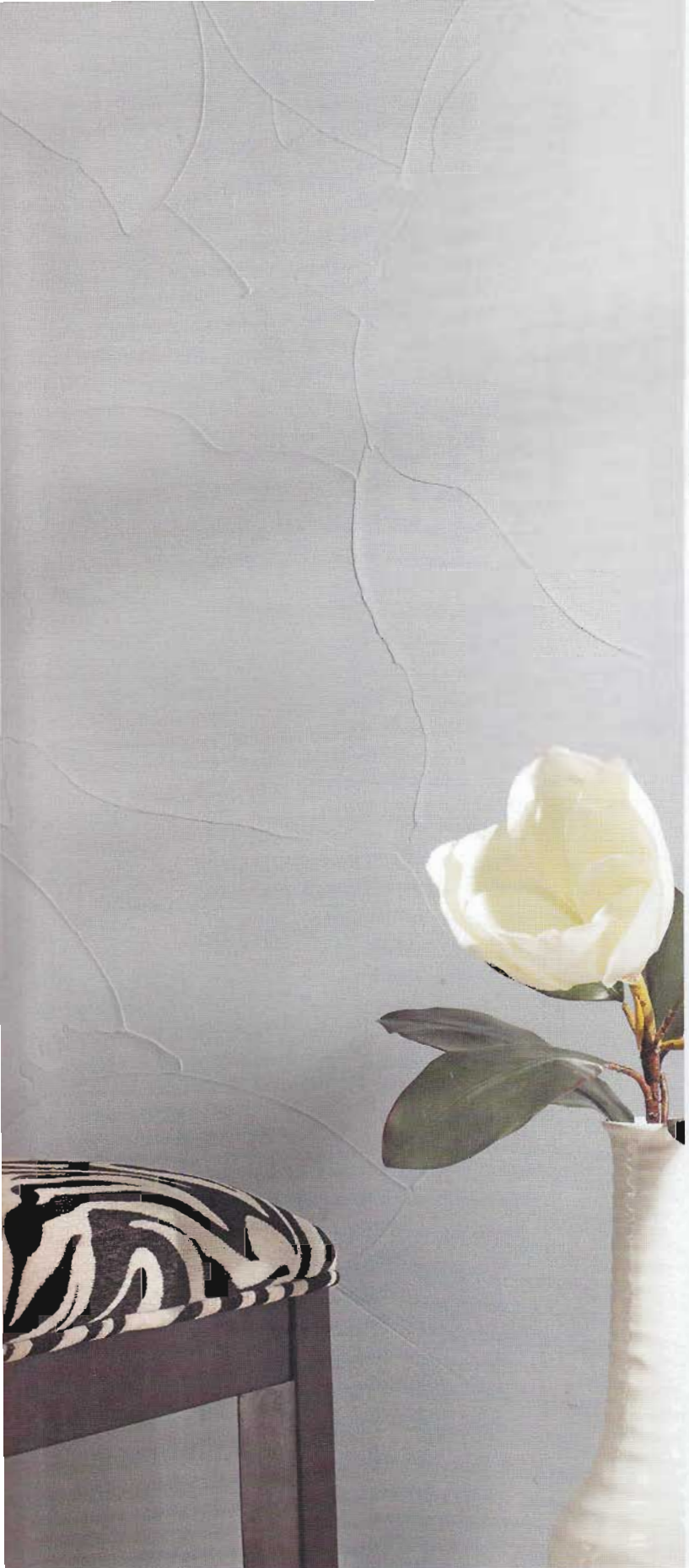
The process varies slightly depending on which color you choose (some shades require an additional coat of metallic glaze). But essentially, you just roll on a flat base coat, and when it's dry, roll on the thick Quartz Stone product. Then while it's still wet, use either a wallpaper brush or trowel to create the textured effect you selected.

As the paint dries, the sparkling flecks and earthy texture become more apparent. When used on an accent wall, Quartz Stone will create an eye-catching focal point, but it's also simple enough to apply to an entire room. You'll find easy-to-follow photos, tips, and instructions on the following pages.



*Brushed:* Create sweeping arches.





*Smooth:* Lay down a subtle surface.



*Striae:* Brush on vertical ridges.



# 1 dazzling brushed quartz wall

The graceful undulations of the brushed Quartz Stone finish would look terrific on an accent wall in a bedroom, powder room, or den. Its irregular tactile effect is inspired by the parallel layers found in sedimentary rocks. The texture is created when wet Quartz Stone paint is “swept” in subtle, overlapping arcs with a wallpaper brush.

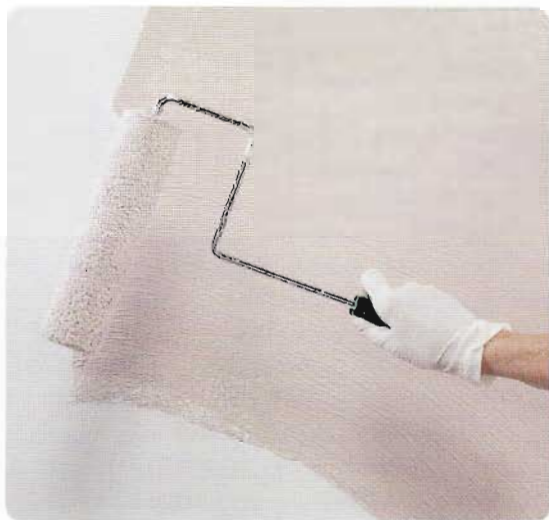
This product has the consistency of thick cake batter, but it’s lightweight and flows on smoothly with a roller. Just bear in mind that the slightly rough surface it produces when dry will show through if you decide to re-paint the wall in the future.

**Faux That’s Truly Fun.** Have you ever tried a faux finish that turned out to be way too hard? If so, you’ll be surprised by how quickly you can apply a beautiful, brushed quartz finish to an accent wall. It’s a forgiving technique even for beginners since you’re simply making random, curving strokes.

Once Quartz Stone is applied to the wall, you’ll have about 15 minutes to work before it starts to set up. Apply the product in approximately 5-foot sections, so you can maintain a wet edge.

it’s hard to believe that such a simple technique can produce this sophisticated pattern of overlapping layers and textures!





### Roll on the base coat

Start by covering the wall with one even coat of Quartz Stone Basecoat, mimicking the curves of the finished arches. Allow it to dry for four hours.



### Apply the Quartz Stone

Using a microfiber roller with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " nap, apply a thick, consistent coat of the product. Cover only as large an area as you can comfortably reach.

### Brush the Quartz Stone

Lightly drag a wallpaper brush over the section in a random, arching motion. Use a rag to wipe excess paint from the bristles as you work.





## 2 *soft and subtle* smooth finish

The smooth Quartz Stone finish features the subtle charm of troweled plaster, and its velvety finish highlights its shimmering, crystalline quality. Since it doesn't have pronounced ridges, you might prefer it in higher traffic areas like an entry hall or family room.

**Try Out a Trowel.** Another thing that sets this finish apart is its application tool: a finishing trowel. Be sure to practice this technique on a large piece of drywall or heavy cardboard before moving to the wall. It's not at all difficult, but you'll want to master the troweling technique first, so your finished wall will have a consistent overall appearance.

**Light as a Feather.** The secret to achieving a smooth, professional-looking finish is simple: Use a light, gentle touch. This prevents large ridges from developing as you overlap strokes and feather the edges of completed sections into adjacent areas. Another tip: Apply the Quartz Stone heavily (about 1/4" thick), so you'll have more time to work before it starts to set up.



### **Roll on the** Quartz Stone

when the base coat feels dry and has a uniform sheen. Apply it randomly over a 5-foot wide area. Use a small roller or brush to cut into corners and around trim.



### **Smooth** the surface

with a trowel, using a random, curving motion. Hold the trowel nearly parallel to the wall, and apply even pressure. Wipe off the trowel if excess paint starts to build up on it.

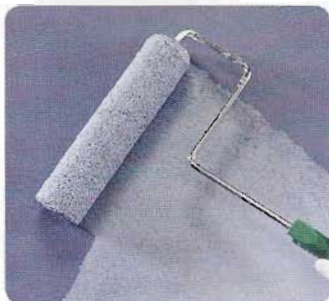


# 3 striking *metallic* striae finish

For an extra dose of drama, the striae finish adds a metallic undercoat that glimmers through the texture. Try it in a master suite, guest room, or any space you'd like to give some pizzazz. By drawing the eyes up and down, striae can make a small room look larger.

**Think Vertically.** The Quartz Stone striae finish is applied with the traditional ceiling-to-floor strokes long used by painting artisans. But the beauty of the finished wall belies the simplicity of the technique. Like the brushed finish, it's done by simply stroking the wet Quartz Stone with a wallpaper brush.

**Keep It Moving.** It works best to briskly apply the Quartz Stone in a strip about 3 feet wide from the ceiling to the floor. Next, lightly brush downward in long, even strokes, overlapping the edges of each adjacent area.



**Apply** the glaze in a random, overlapping pattern after the base coat has thoroughly dried.



**Rolling** vertically, apply a thick, even coat of Quartz Stone in narrow sections from the floor to the ceiling.



**Create** the striae texture by lightly dragging the wallpaper brush in vertical, top-to-bottom swipes. Near the floor, back-brush upward to blend the stroke into the texture above.





# boost curb appeal *in just a weekend:* Front Entry Face-lift

It's time to kick your front entry's bland look to the curb. If the front of your home lacks personality, we'll show you some simple architectural upgrades, hardware, and accessories that make a previously boring area pop.

**C**urb appeal upgrades are at the top of many homeowners' wish lists, but they can seem so overwhelming that they get put off for years. The truth is that you don't have to make a huge investment in time or money to make your front entry inviting.

**Simple Upgrades.** The typical suburban home in the *Photos* shows how some easy projects can pump up a bland front entry. It was a nice house

to begin with, but these projects help it stand out from others in the neighborhood.

**Pick Your Projects.** To transform the home, we upgraded the spindly columns with column wraps and railing kits. Then we added new door hardware, plants, and accessories.

Of course, it's up to you to decide which projects will work for your home. Even one or two of these ideas can instantly provide a welcome change.



*before the makeover!*

## Dramatic Details.

When you break down the features that transformed the front of this home, you see what a difference a few small projects can make!



Column Wraps and Rails



Colorful Plants



Hardware and Decor









## *transform a bland porch with easy-to-install* Wraps and Railings

We started the front entry makeover by addressing one of this home's biggest curb appeal problems: the skinny columns near the front door. The homeowners hated how spindly they looked and wanted to give them more visual weight.

**That's a Wrap.** In addition to wanting a more substantial look, we needed to find an easy solution that anyone could complete in a weekend. That's where a pair of PVC column wraps from Fypon came in.

These non-structural column wraps get installed around your existing columns to completely transform them. The wraps come in kits with just about everything you'll need, and they're available in a number of sizes and styles. (See the box below for details.)

You can even install the column wraps close to the edge of your porch since they offer flexible positioning. This means that the existing column doesn't have to be perfectly centered inside the wrap. Just make sure the column wrap you choose offers adequate space to enclose the existing column.

**Missing Links.** The upgraded columns made a huge difference, but something was still missing: The sides of the porch needed to be enclosed with railings to give it a finished look. We fixed this with another PVC product: QuickRail railing kits.

Take a look at the opposite page for an overview of how we installed the column wraps and railing systems. Then see page 62 for the specific kits we used in this makeover.

### Column Wrap Basics

Fypon's column wrap kits come with most of the supplies you'll need to complete the project: two L-shaped pieces that cover the column, two cap halves, two base halves, installation cleats, caulk, and detailed instructions.

**Select Your Style.** The wraps are available in several styles, including plain (shown above), recessed panel, raised panel, and fluted. To see how another column style changes the look of this porch, turn to page 48.

**Add Railing.** We used Fypon's QuickRail system with the column wraps. The railing system comes with your choice of square or Colonial-style spindles.





1

## attach the **column wrap**

First, test-fit the column wrap. You may need to cut it to length. Then attach the squaring blocks to the wrap (Photo, near right).

Apply caulk to the edges of the wrap pieces, and position them around the post (Photo, far right). Drive in 1½" rust-resistant screws to close the seams. Then attach the wrap's base to the floor with masonry screws.



2

## add the **base & cap**

Next, make sure both sides of the column wrap are plumb, and lock it into position by securing squaring blocks to the ceiling.

Now you're ready to add the base and cap. Position the halves against the squaring blocks, and attach them (Photo, right). Caulk any gaps between the base and cap and the shaft. Then fill all of the fastener holes, and paint the column wrap.



3

## install the **rail system**

To add the railing, start by cutting the top and bottom rails to length. Slide brackets onto the bottom rail, and screw the rail to the mounting surfaces.

Now place the spindles in the pre-cut holes in the bottom rail. Put bracket covers and brackets on the top rail, and guide the spindles into the holes (Photo, right). Level the top rail (Photo, below left), and then secure each end (Photo, below right). Finally, slide the bracket covers in place.





# 5 easy upgrades make your front entry Come To Life!



When it comes to curb appeal, small upgrades can really add up. Even if your home doesn't need a total cosmetic overhaul, you can give it an extra dose of personality just by adding and replacing accessories.

On our first visit (*Before Photo*, page 42), we noticed that this home's door hardware didn't match the exterior light fixtures. Since the satin nickel knob looked out of place, we replaced it with an elegant bronze handleset.

Another item on the agenda was adding some interest with plants. We brought in even more color with some eye-catching outdoor accessories that make a welcoming first impression.

You can add these elements and others to help make your front entry inviting. See the photos for more information about high-impact, low-stress upgrades, and then turn to page 62 for *Resources*.

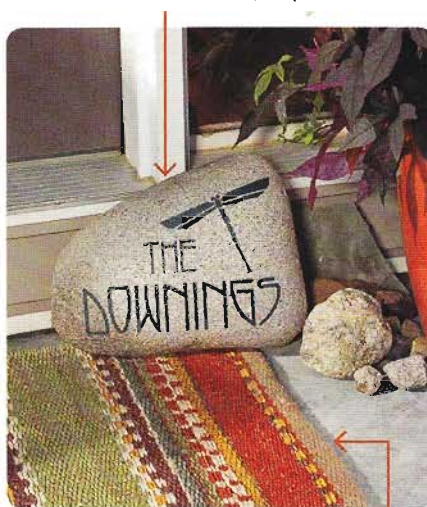
**1 Install a Handleset.** Swap out boring door hardware for a more substantial handleset. You can find many attractive options for less than \$150.

**2 Personalize Your Porch.** Give your home a custom touch by bringing in a personalized sign. There are plenty of resources for engraved stones and made-to-order address plaques.

**3 Make Your Own Accessories.** Add some accents like the wreath shown here. If you can't find one that you like in stores, make your own by gluing faux flowers to a plain one.



don't forget to upgrade the often-overlooked doorbell



**4 Bring in a Better Doormat.** Since your doormat is such a visible part of your entry, use it as an opportunity to add color and pattern without spending a lot of money.



a pretty floral pillow adds style





**5 Brighten It Up with Plants.** Spruce up a bland entry by surrounding it with beds full of your favorite plants. A bold container with a large plant can also boost the front entry's appeal.

#### Online Extras!

To see more photos from this home's dramatic curb appeal transformation, check out our online slide show.

Just a Click Away! [MyHomeMyStyle.com](http://MyHomeMyStyle.com)





# switch your home's style with two alternate porch options

Everyone has a different opinion about what looks best for their home, and that's especially true for the front entry area. Since it's the first thing you see when you pull up to your house, you'll want to make sure it shows off your style.

Fypon makes several column wrap options, so you can choose one that suits your taste. You could also forgo the rails or use a different configuration. These illustrations show two alternate designs for the front entry.

## Tapered Columns

To get a totally different look for this front entry, all it takes is changing the style of the column wraps. You can get them in several different styles, and here we went with a tapered design.

**Stylish Switch.** The original columns looked too flimsy for the house (*Before Photo, page 42*), but these column wraps have Craftsman-inspired style that makes them look much more substantial.

**Measure Up.** Be sure to measure carefully to ensure that your application allows adequate space for the column wraps. These tapered wraps, like the other available styles, can be purchased in several different height and width options.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HARTMAN





### Enclosed Porch

This home's porch may be modest, but it still allows plenty of space to get an enclosed look. Here we show the plain column wraps with the addition of posts and extra railing around the front and along the step.

**Grand Entrance.** The design shown above helps the front entry make a big first impression. The rails wrapping around the front provide a bolder look than we achieved by just adding rails to the sides of the porch (*After Photo*, page 43). This option features straight spindles, but you could choose Colonial-style spindles for a more traditional look.

### You can buy complete post kits

from Fypon, which can be used to connect QuickRail kits. This illustration shows how post kits help enclose the porch area.







# Keepsake Wall Clock

mounting is easy:  
just snap on  
the movement



Make a super-sized wall clock to dramatically display special collections, vacation memories, or family photos. Anyone can do it with purchased shadow boxes and clock kits featuring oversized hands.

One of the hardest decorating challenges can be figuring out what to do with the “small stuff,” like tokens from a great vacation. Our stylish solution is this mega-sized wall clock made from shadow boxes. It’s a unique way to display life’s little treasures without creating a lot of clutter. This fun project invites flexibility as well as creativity, so your clock can reflect your own special interests and decorating tastes.

The most traditional design for a keepsake wall clock incorporates four large shadow boxes that represent the numbers 12, 3, 6, and 9 on a clock face. But you can also make an eye-catching wall clock using just one or as many as 12 boxes.

**Buy the Boxes.** Shadow boxes are readily available with black or white frames, and you can easily spray paint them any color that enhances your decor. Craft and hobby stores usually stock them in a wide range of sizes, so you’re sure to find something that fits your items and wall space.

Before you shop for shadow boxes, assemble the objects that you’d like to display. Then measure their widths and thicknesses, so you can get boxes that are wide and deep enough to accommodate them. Also, consider mounting smaller boxes in between the larger ones. We found some round trinket boxes that worked great for this purpose after the lids were removed (*see Photo, left*).

**Choose a Clock Kit.** The other component you’ll need is the clock movement. Battery-operated clock kits are available with hands up to 18” long (*see Resources* on page 62). The high-torque movements that come with oversized hands can handle their additional length and weight. Movements with self-contained housings that mount directly to the wall are ideal for this project.

For tips on assembling shadow boxes, check out the photos and captions below. You’ll find more clever ideas on the next two pages, so you can make a wall clock that’s truly your own.



For professional-looking shadow boxes, cover the frame’s cardboard backing with scrapbooking paper. Use spray adhesive to ensure a smooth, permanent bond.



Next, stiffen your photos by mounting them to art board with spray adhesive. Then glue small wood blocks on the back of any items you want to elevate.



If you’d like to add loose materials like shells, glue the inner frame and any other items to the backing. When the glue is dry, carefully add the shells.





1 First, trim scrapbooking paper to fit the frame's backing, and adhere it. Next, spray-mount the photos to art board for rigidity. Finally, glue wood blocks to the corners of each photo to make them stand out.

## Fabulous Floating Photos

Unlike regular frames, shadow boxes allow photos to elegantly "float" within them. And when the images are incorporated into a large-scale wall clock, you'll get to smile at favorite family photos whenever you check the time!

**Aluminum Accents.** For this clock option, we used sections of aluminum pipe instead of round wood frames for a clean, geometric look. Just pick up some 1" pipe at the home center, and use a pipe cutter or hacksaw to cut it into  $\frac{3}{4}$ " lengths. To mount the pipe sections on the wall, just slip them over small brad nails





1 Cut a piece of hardboard to fit inside the frame, then glue on the fabric using spray adhesive. Smooth out any wrinkles as you press the fabric down.



2 Center the mounting plate for the clock movement in the frame with painter's tape, and then attach it using carpet tape and short screws.

## Play the Numbers

Often, the best room designs are inspired by a single pillow, rug, or painting. A piece of fabric provided the inspiration for this wall clock, and we thought its bold colors and playful numerals made a strong enough design statement to stand alone in a single frame.

**Get a Great Green.** Finding the perfect shade of lime green to paint the wooden numbers wasn't easy, but we discovered craft stores offer brush-on acrylic paint in a broad range of hues. Check them out whenever a color match is crucial.



# Get a Grip on Your Projects with Cool Clamps

If you think clamps are only useful for woodworking projects, think again. Whether you enjoy home improvement or hobbies, clamps are sure to come in handy. Here are the ones you'll want for your collection, plus our favorite uses for them.





## buy these 3 Essential Clamps

### Spring Clamps

The most basic of clamps, you'll want to buy spring clamps in bunches. They work like clothespins on steroids, aligning the edges of pieces as you glue them together or holding one item to the face of another. The "Handi-Clamp" at near right is a slight variation on the traditional spring clamp.



### Bar Clamps

Bar clamps are the staple of any clamp collection. They have wide jaws for securing materials and come with bars of varying length. You can get traditional bar clamps that have a screw handle for tightening (*below*) or one-handed bar clamps with pump-action triggers (*above*).



### Pipe Clamps

When you need a little extra reach from your clamps, pipe clamps are the way to go. With pipe clamps, you actually just purchase the jaw parts of the clamp and then install them on an ordinary pipe. This makes pipe clamps economical and available in an infinite array of sizes. Pipe clamps are best for assembly work.



Clamps hold stuff together. That part is pretty easy to figure out. But if you open your world to all the possibilities that clamps offer, you'll find that they can do so much more. Clamps will lend a hand for everything from small crafts to serious remodeling — in ways that you probably hadn't imagined before.

#### Unconventional Clamps.

As just one example, take a look at the *Photo* at left. This clamp isn't even acting like a clamp — it's more like a super-sized wrench that's bending that deck joist into place. And this isn't the only unexpected thing that clamps can do.

**Our Favorite Uses.** To see even more great ways to make use of your clamp collection, turn to page 56. But first, check out the boxes at right and below to learn about a few of our favorite clamps.

### Buy a Better Bar Clamp

#### A Closer Look at One-Handed Clamps

All bar clamps are essentially the same, but one-handed clamps (like the Irwin Quick-Grip at right) have a distinct advantage: a pump-action trigger that allows you to tighten the clamp with one hand. In many cases, the ability to adjust pieces with one hand while you tighten the clamp with the other can make a world of difference.

**Other Clamp Features.** One-handed bar clamps also release as easily as they clamp thanks to the quick-release button right in front of the trigger. You can even rotate the jaws to turn the clamp into a spreader.





# 10 Everyday Uses for Clamps

The vision of a clamp we often have is that of a fine craftsman — usually wearing a shop apron — carefully applying yet another clamp to his meticulously crafted piece of furniture. While clamps can definitely be used that way, we often find ourselves using them for more ordinary tasks around the house and yard.

**The Third Hand.** In fact, one good way to think of clamps and how you can make the most use of them is as a “third hand.” Simply put, they’ll hold things like boards, fabric swatches, and hardware while you use your other two hands to do the actual work. Of course, clamps will also hold things much more tightly than you can, so you don’t have to worry about items shifting around or falling as you manipulate them.

**A Few of Our Favorites.** As a staff, we brainstormed ways you can use clamps as a “third hand.” Check out our top 10 shown here, and I’m sure you’ll come up with many more on your own!



## 1] Spray Paint Time-Saver

**How It Works:** Nothing’s worse than waiting for paint to dry so you can paint the other side of something. Hang it from string and a spring clamp instead, and you can paint the whole thing at once!

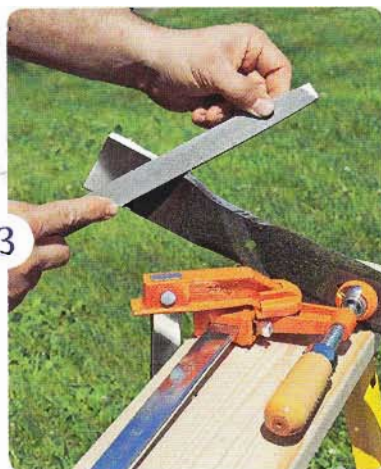


## 2] Simple Sawhorse Hold-Down

**How It Works:** For safety and accuracy, it’s essential to lock wood down tightly when sawing or sanding it. Nothing makes this task simpler than a handful of basic bar clamps.

## 3] Makeshift Vise

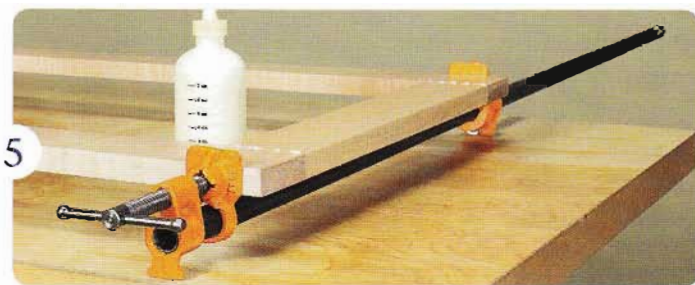
**How It Works:** If you don’t have a vise handy, a couple of bar clamps will do. Secure your item with one clamp; lock down that clamp with the other one; and you’re ready to sharpen safely.



## 4] Handy Holder

**How It Works:** Even if you’re connecting parts with screws or nails (rather than glue), clamps can still hold the parts in place while you drive the fasteners. Here, the clamp positions the deck rail perfectly while it gets screwed in place.





5

### 5] Basic Glue-Up Helper

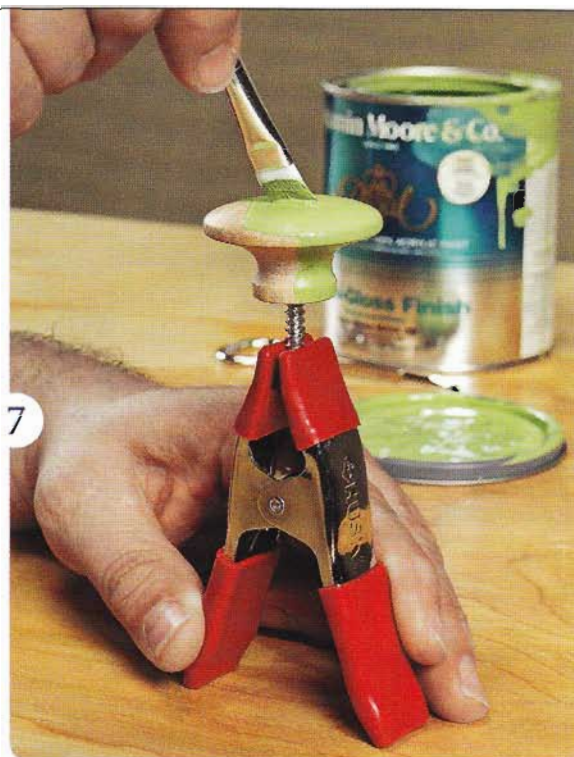
**How It Works:** The most obvious use for clamps, of course, is holding assemblies in place while the glue sets up. Pipe clamps will give you the extra reach to handle all shapes and sizes of projects.



6

### 6] Face to Face

**How It Works:** Spring clamps are great for applying something to the "face" of another piece. For example, here they are holding mitered molding strips to the face of a panel to create an elegant frame.



7

### 7] Small Part Supporter

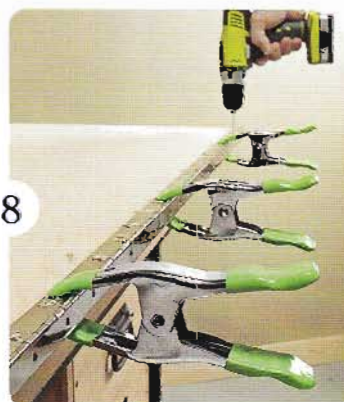
**How It Works:** Small knobs and other hardware can be tricky to work with, especially if you have to sand, paint, or stain them. Use a clamp to do the holding part to keep your hands free of the fray.

### 9] Flush Surface Creator

**How It Works:** In this assembly, the pipe clamps are holding wood edging to a plywood shelf. But the spring clamps serve an equally important role: keeping the edging flush with the shelf surface.



9



8

### 8] Hinge Helper

**How It Works:** Hinges require pre-drilling pilot holes and then driving screws into those holes. It sounds easy, but the hinges have a frustrating tendency to move between those two steps. Not if you lock them down with spring clamps, though.

### 10] Design Assistant

**How It Works:** Clamps are great when it comes to decorating, too. If you want to coordinate paint colors with curtains or other room furnishings, just clamp on the paint swatches, and move back a few steps to envision a whole room of bold new color!



10



# Organized Garage Storage *On a Roll*

Get big storage capacity in a very small space with a rolling cart you can build in no time.

**G**arages are catchalls in every home, and despite their size, they fill up fast. For an easy way to corral the clutter, check out this rolling pegboard rack created by reader Huc Hauser of Bennington, Vermont.

The rack doesn't take up much floor space but has four two-sided "wings" that give it an amazing 53 square feet of hanging surface. The wings are made from pegboard, so they easily accept hooks, bins, and all sorts of accessories.

Take a look at the illustration (*far right*), and you'll see that the rack is very simple to build. Each pegboard panel has frames made from 1x2s that get glued and nailed on. The base is a piece of plywood with casters on the bottom. The wings mount to the base, and to each other, with metal corner braces.

To make one for yourself, first cut all the parts to the sizes shown. You'll need four pegboard panels, 16 frame ends, 16 frame sides, and a plywood base. Then follow the steps at right.



## Shopping List

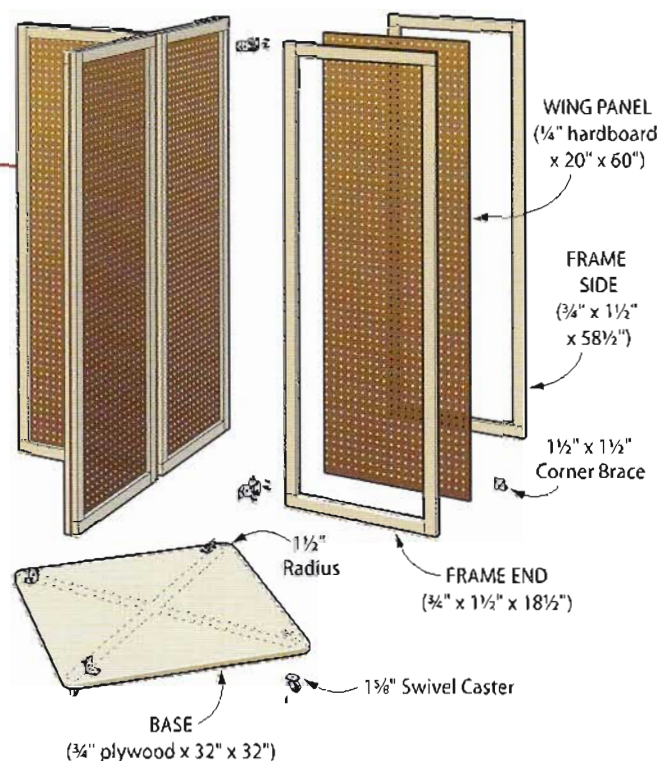
- |                                                         |                                                             |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (16) pine 1x2s,<br>8 feet long | <input type="checkbox"/> (1 half-sheet) ¾"-thick<br>plywood | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) 1½" swivel casters                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2 sheets) ¼"<br>hardboard     | <input type="checkbox"/> ¾" brad nails                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) 1½" x 1½" metal<br>corner braces |
|                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 1¼" brad nails                     | <input type="checkbox"/> wood glue                             |



1

## assemble the panels

Lay two frame ends and two frame sides on a flat surface, and then apply glue to the frame pieces. Place a pegboard panel on top, so the frame pieces are flush with the perimeter. Then drive  $\frac{3}{4}$ " nails through the pegboard and into the frame. Now attach the other frame using glue and  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " nails. Note that the frame pieces are offset at the corners for extra strength.



2

## prepare the base

Cut a piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood to 32" x 32". Use a long straightedge to mark lines from corner to corner on both faces of the base. Then, round off the corners by cutting a radius with a jigsaw. Sand the edges smooth. Now attach a caster (see page 62) at each corner, positioned about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the corner and straddling the line.



3

## install the wings

Screw a pair of corner braces to one wing frame. Then stand another wing up next to it, and screw that frame to the other "leg" of each corner bracket. Now move this pair onto the base, and roughly position it. Repeat the process with the other pair of wings, and then join the two assemblies with two more sets of corner braces. Align the wing assembly with the lines marked on the base, and finally attach it to the base with corner braces — you just need one brace per wing.





# useful, unique products for your home

Check out this selection of noteworthy products, from tools and DIY solutions to home accessories.



## 1 One Tool, Three Essential Functions

You don't have to get out your entire tool arsenal for every project. Sometimes the job just requires one tool that multi-tasks, like the Dremel Trio. It packs three major functions — cutting, sanding, and routing — into its compact profile. The tool boasts a pivoting handle and a variety of time-saving accessories.

**PRICE:** \$99 **LEARN MORE:** Dremel.com or 800-437-3635



works  
with *any*  
lamp!

## 2 Lights Out

Plug any lamp into the uSwitch motion sensor, and it will switch on your lamp when you enter a room and shut it off automatically after you leave.

**PRICE:** \$35

**LEARN MORE:** Datexx.com or 908-964-8109



unique design  
offers *easy* mixing

## 3 Quicker Mixers

Get evenly mixed paint in no time with a StirWhip mixer. The accessory attaches to your drill, and its design is meant to reduce strain on the drill's motor. It's available in two sizes to accommodate one-gallon and five-gallon containers.

**PRICE:** \$9 (8" mixer) or \$11 (18" mixer)  
**LEARN MORE:** PraziUSA.com or 800-262-0211



## 4 Retro Accents

Sleek knobs and pulls can instantly transform your cabinets, and the Zanzibar White Leather collection takes style a step further. The hardware's white leather wraps provide a retro twist.

**PRICE:** \$17 to \$41

**LEARN MORE:** AtlasHomewares.com or 800-799-6755



white leather wraps give these knobs and pulls their retro style

plain mirror before



## 5 Frames Refresh Bland Mirrors

For a quick bathroom makeover, try turning a plain mirror into a focal point. MirrorMate is an easy-to-install product that lets you add a custom frame to an ordinary mirror.

Visit the MirrorMate Web site to enter your mirror's measurements and answer a few simple questions. Then the company will send you a trim kit with almost everything you need for easy installation, including mitered trim pieces and connectors.

**PRICE:** \$102 and up **LEARN MORE:** MirrorMate.com or 866-304-6283

## 6 Easy-to-Install Flooring Underlay

Hardwood flooring is a timeless choice for any style of home, and now installing it is easier than ever. An underlay membrane called Elastilon lets you install hardwood flooring over any surface — even concrete — without using glue or nails.

The material comes in rolls that you simply position on the existing floor (Photo, right). Then peel off the underlay membrane's protective film, and install the boards right over it (Photo, far right). The adhesive on the membrane allows you to secure the boards quickly.

**PRICE:** \$199/roll (107.64 square feet)  
**LEARN MORE:** ElastilonUSA.com or 877-526-9663

a peel-and-stick membrane lets you install flooring without nails



To begin installing your new hardwood flooring, simply roll out the underlay membrane, and cut it to fit your room.



Once the underlay membrane is in place, peel back the protective film. The floorboards will adhere directly to the material.



simple upgrades  
& accessories  
do wonders for a  
home's curb appeal

## Readers' Tips (page 6)

12" x 16" Canvas Art Frames, available at Michaels stores

Stanley 6"-long Wallboard Saw #15-556X; Joubert 24" Superstrong Bungee Cords (pack of four) #4T960N, available at The Home Depot stores

## Q&A (page 8)

Stanley SurForm Pocket Plane, available at The Home Depot stores

## Revamp a Lamp (page 10)

Band-It Veneer Facing with Peel-N-Stick Backing in Maple and Cherry, available at local retail stores listed at Band-ItProducts.com, 800-782-9731

Design Trends 10" Natural Linen Lampshade #235456, Lowes.com, 800-445-6937

## Marvelously Modern (page 14)

"Swiss Coffee" Paint #OC-45; "Caliente" Paint #AF-290, BenjaminMoore.com, 800-344-0400

Teepee Dining Table #421157, CB2.com, 800-606-6252

Modern Stacking Chairs in White #11240325, Target.com, 800-591-3869

Julian Beige Shag Rug #12958637, Overstock.com, 800-843-2446

Oslo Storage Cube in White #OSL802, SitcomFurniture.com, 510-434-1600

Woven Veneer Pendant (shade only) #2297356, WestElm.com, 888-922-4119

36" InPlace Square Edge Bracketless Shelf in Black #0191402, Walmart.com, 800-925-6278

Oval Serving Bowl #2136908, Pier1.com, 800-245-4595

Bridges "Lots of Spots" Art #426804, WorldMarket.com, 877-967-5362

WeatherBoards Stucco Vertical Panel, CertainTeed.com, 800-782-8777

Sliced Bamboo Branch, available at Pier 1 Imports stores

Salvaged Serving Station; Other Accessories, purchased locally



## Redefined Linen Closet (page 20)

¾" x 15¼" x 8" White Melamine Bullnose Shelf #256651, Lowes.com, 800-445-6937

¾" x 23¼" x 97" White Bullnose Redi-Shelf, available at The Home Depot stores

Richards Homewares Inc. Laundry Bins, available at Easy Living Stores

Towels, available at Bed Bath & Beyond stores

Baskets; Soaps, available at T.J.Maxx stores

## Bathroom Makeover (page 26)

Poplar 1x4s; Poplar 1x6s; Poplar 1x3s; ¾" x 1¾" Cove Molding; 2" Finish Nails, available at Lowe's stores

½" Poplar Boards, available at lumberyards

⅛" x 24" x 32½" Mirror, cut at a local glass shop

"Pittsfield Buff" Paint (cabinets) #HC-24;

"Silver Satin" Paint (wall treatment) #OC-26;

"Ozark Shadows" Paint (upper wall) #AC-26, BenjaminMoore.com, 800-344-0400

Norwell Lighting Wall Sconce in Brushed Nickel #9675-BN-WS, LightingByGregory.com, 800-807-1826

Top Knobs Nouveau III 1¼" Cabinet Knob in Brushed Satin Nickel #TOP-M1119; Top Knobs Nouveau III 3¼" Cabinet Pull in Brushed Satin Nickel #TOP-M1128, TheHardwareHut.com, 800-708-6649

Eljer Stratton Centerset Lavatory Faucet in Satin Nickel, available at Menards stores

## High-Style Shelves (page 32)

(2) 6'-long Poplar 1x4s; (1) 6'-long Poplar 1x6; (1 sheet) ½" Arauco Plywood; (1 sheet) ¾" Arauco Plywood; (3) 2½" Deck Screws; (32) 1½" Finish Nails, available at Lowe's stores

## Three Textured Walls (page 36)

Faux Impressions Quartz Stone Base Coat; "Insightful Rose" Faux Impressions Quartz Stone Paint (brushed) #SWF254;



"Steely Gray" Faux Impressions Quartz Stone Paint (smooth) #SWF211; "Distance" Faux Impressions Quartz Stone Paint (striae) #SWF215, Faux Impressions Quartz Stone Metallic Glaze, Sherwin-Williams.com, 800-474-3794

### Front Entry Face-lift (page 42)

QuickWrap Non-Tapered Plain Column Wrap Kit #CWKT86004; QuickRail Deluxe Straight Rail Kit with Straight Brackets and Square Spindles #440636SODF, Fypon.com, 800-446-3040

Heath Zenith Wired Antique Copper Push Button with Lighted Center, available at Lowe's stores

Kwikset Venetian Bronze Juno Entrance Handleset #286972, Lowes.com, 800-445-6937

Cape Fear All-Weather Rocker #11050209, Frontera.com, 800-762-5374

Autumn Suzani Toss Pillow #431811; Spice Garden Handspun Jute Doormat #398601, WorldMarket.com, 877-967-5362

Engraved Stone, PellaEngraving.com, 877-549-5447

Wreath, made from craft supplies available at Hobby Lobby stores

Plant Container, purchased locally

### Wall Clock (page 50)

8" x 8" Shadowbox in Black #10871025, 10" x 10" Shadowbox in Black #11273203, Target.com, 800-591-3869

Burnes of Boston 17" x 17" Shadowbox in Black #LL2722, Amazon.com, 866-216-1072

High-Torque Quartz Movement; Extra-Long Clock Hands for High-Torque Movements, KlockIt.com, 800-556-2548

Glitter Jigsaw Alpha in Aqua #28900, MakingMemories.com, 800-286-5263

¾" Natural Wood Cubes; Scrapbooking Paper, available at Hobby Lobby stores

### Gear Guide: Cool Clamps (page 54)

Irwin Quick-Grip Bar Clamps; Irwin Quick-Grip Handi-Clamps; Jorgensen Bar Clamps; Pony Pipe Clamp Fixtures; Assorted Spring Clamps, available at The Home Depot stores

### Garage Storage (page 58)

Waxman 1½" Steel Rigid Caster #67045; Stanley-National Hardware Double-Wide 1½" x 1½" Corner Brace #66938; The Hillman Group ¾" Stainless Steel Brads #128219, The Hillman Group 1¼" Wire Brads #58178, Lowes.com, 800-445-6937

(16) 8'-long Pine 1x2s; (2 sheets) ¼" Hardboard; (1 half-sheet) ¾"-thick Plywood, available at Lowe's stores

## {resources}

refresh your dining room with stylish modern furniture



this easy-to-build shelving unit is sleek yet strong





## {a look inside}

### 6] Turn Old T-Shirts into Cool Wall Art

Personalize any space and preserve your memories by turning your favorite printed tees into one-of-a-kind wall hangings. The process is fast and fun.

### 20] De-Clutter a Linen Closet

Customize any closet to keep your linens orderly and accessible. Our simple organizer turns ordinary home-center materials into a handsome closet system that anyone can build.

### 42] Crank Up Your Curb Appeal

Adding curb appeal to your home is easier than you think. We'll show you how to make your porch pop by adding classic columns and stately rails, plus simple plantings and outdoor accessories.

