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Give a basic guest room a hardworking refresh complete with dreamy boho verve and a closet-turned-office.

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This crafty couple combined thoughtful DIYs with smart design to update a rough-around-the-edges house into their ideal family home.

70 8 KITCHEN + BATH TRENDS WE’RE DYING TO DIY
Take a deep dive into the looks we’re loving for two of your home’s busiest spaces. We bet you find something you can’t wait to try in your own kitchen or bath!

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Dust off an old dresser or cabinet and make it your new focal point with one of four easy furniture makeover projects.

86 BOOSTING THE BRIGHT
An outdated kitchen and bath get an amazing overhaul.

92 IT’S TOO SMALL, Y’ALL
Fall in love with a too-small decor item? Don’t return it—fix it with our just-right solutions!

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DEPARTMENTS

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It’s a two-parter: First, whip up a batch of homemade paper, then make one of these sweet giftables with your new homemade sheets.

13 HANDY GIRL
We get by with a little help from Handy Girl, and this time we focus on what you CAN do this spring.

16 MEET THE MAKER
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19 WEEKEND PROJECTS
Upgrade the greenery in your home with unique craft-your-own hangers for houseplants, herbs, and succulents.

24 COOL TOOLS
It’s spring, so you know what that means—spring cleaning! Check out the arsenal of cleaning tools and products we’ve got our eyes on.

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Electronic cutters have evolved way beyond just a tool for scrapbooking. These home decor DIYs show what these crafting dynamos are capable of.

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ON OUR COVER
PROJECT JESSICA ENO
PHOTOGRAPH CARSON DOWNING
STYLING JENI WRIGHT
FROM THE EDITOR

I think of DIY projects during this time of year as spring cleaning for your home’s style. Now is the moment to let go of the old and welcome the new. You know that lighter, brighter feeling you experience after washing the windows? You can enjoy a similar effect year-round by undertaking one of the targeted makeovers featured in this issue.

Start by doing something with that old dresser or cabinet gathering dust in your garage or basement. “Drab to Fab,” page 78, shows how to complete four no-fail furniture flips. Just combine the finish changes, carpentry details, and storage upgrades that suit your piece and get going!

I’ve long believed in the power of paint, but I was awed by the way it transformed a cavelike bedroom (“Room Revival,” page 46) and a dated bath vanity (“Boosting the Bright,” page 86) for less than $50 per project.

Similarly budget-minded, few projects yield as much bang for your buck as a backsplash upgrade. While you could always tile yours—see our new favorites in “8 Kitchen & Bath Trends We’re Dying to DIY,” page 70—we give you six easy backsplash projects that use surprising materials like plywood and plexiglass (“Baby Got Back,” page 54).

And if you want to roll up your sleeves for some actual spring cleaning, don’t miss our lineup of classic and innovative tools (“Squeaky Clean,” page 24). These helpers may have you smiling while you’re scrub-a-dub-dubbing.

Brian Kramer
Editor, Do It Yourself™
BEFORE + AFTER

Give your space a new look with these simple but impactful projects.

HEADBOARD
A cast-off headboard becomes a new bedroom beauty with the help of upholstery. BHG.com/UpholsterBed

LAMINATE FLOORING
Give your whole main level a makeover with plank flooring—it’s easy to install and stain- and scratch-resistant. BHG.com/Laminate

PANTRY SHELVES
Who couldn’t use a little more storage? Maximize your shelf space with easy organizational tips. BHG.com/PantryShelves

ARTWORK
Fill an old frame with custom artwork made with unexpected materials. BHG.com/DIYArt
TRY IT

HANDMADE PAPER

These projects are all you—crafted from the paper you make yourself and customized with your choice of add-ins.

PROJECTS KIM HUTCHISON
PHOTOGRAPHS CARSON DOWNING
WORDS BECKY HOSCHEK
MAKE IT

PAPER

MATERIALS
• 2 same-size wood frames with flat sides
• Vinyl window screening
• Staple gun
• Junk mail
• Paper shredder
• Blender
• Extra-large rubber bands
• Plastic tub big enough for screen
• Small plastic tub
• Sponge
• Felt sheets

Step 1: Cut screen approximately 1 inch larger than frame. Lay screen over the flat side of one frame. Wrap screen around frame edges and staple. Cut an additional screen piece approximately the frame size; save this piece for Step 4.

Step 2: Place a handful of shredded junk mail into blender; cover with water and let soak for 15 minutes (A). Blend until the paper mixture is a smoothie consistency (B). This is the pulp. If using add-ins, below, mix them in now.

Step 3: Stack the frames, placing deckle (the screenless frame) on top with the screen side up on the bottom frame; secure by wrapping a rubber band around each end. Fill the large tub with water; lay frames in water. Pour pulp inside the top frame; evenly disperse. Lift frames out of the water and allow to drain.

Step 4: Set the frames atop the smaller tub. Remove rubber bands and deckle. Place the extra cut screen piece over pulp area to keep sponge from pulling up pulp. Gently dab screen with a sponge to remove excess water (C).

Step 5: Remove the loose screen, and transfer the paper onto the felt sheet by flipping the frame over (D). Remove screen frame. Allow to dry.

THE ADD-INS

1. BOTANICALS
Add dried florals or seeds to pulp, or press them on while your sheet dries for a more flower-forward look.

2. COLORED PAPER
Create a confetti look by mixing in shredded cardstock in different sizes and colors.

3. GLITTER
Make your paper shimmer and shine by introducing glitter to the mix.

4. PAINT
Squirt acrylic paint into your paper pulp and blend thoroughly.

LOOK FOR THESE NUMBERS. THEY IDENTIFY THE ADD-INS WE USED IN OUR PROJECTS!
LAYERING THE RAW-EDGE HANDMADE PAPER OVER A MAT BOARD OR A LARGER SHEET OF TEXTURED PAPER BOOSTS VISUAL INTEREST. A DEEP SHADOW BOX FRAME ADDS DIMENSION AND FURTHER ELEVATES THE DISPLAY.

LAYERS OF INTEREST Combine paint, stencil patterns, and textures with homemade paper to create one-of-a-kind framed art, above. Spray a stencil with adhesive. Carefully position the stencil on a sheet of paper. Place paint on a paper plate. Dip a round stencil brush into the paint, dabbing a few times on a dry part of the plate to remove excess. Dab the paint to the stencil in a circular motion (A). Repeat until the stencil is covered. Reposition the stencil if necessary. Remove stencil and allow to dry.
TAG, YOU'RE IT
Dress up gifts with tags made from handmade papers, this photo. Trace tag shape, cut out, punch a hole for string, and hang from your package.
DEEP DISH Fashion decorative paper bowls to contain small objects or serve as artful display pieces, this photo. Make the paper pulp according to the handmade paper how-to on page 7. Pour pulp mixture into a strainer above a plastic tub. Use a second strainer to sandwich the pulp (A). Press strainers together to squeeze out excess water. Dab with a sponge to remove remaining water (B). Flip the strainers upside down and remove the top strainer. Let the bottom strainer (with pulp still affixed) partially dry for four to six hours. Gently remove paper bowl and place on felt to finish drying (C).

DO IT BETTER
ONCE DRY, A PAPER BOWL CAN BE EMBELLISHED WITH GOLD LEAFING. SIMPLY FOLLOW LEAFING PACKAGE DIRECTIONS TO ADD THIS GLAM ACCENT.
FRESHEN UP Turn handmade paper into a colorful air freshener, left. Trace cookie cutter designs onto a piece of paper and cut out. Punch a hole in each and add cord. Make an essential oil spritzer by filling a small spray bottle with about 3 ounces of witch hazel and adding 40–60 drops of essential oils (your choice). Generously spray paper and let dry. Hang to enjoy.

PARTY STARTER Garnish a favorite space or treat table with a colorful mini pennant garland, this photo. Trace and cut pennant pieces. Sandwich string between two pieces using double-stick tape to secure.

REFRESH YOUR PIECES AT ANY TIME BY SPRITZING WITH ADDITIONAL SPRAY.
DO IT BETTER
HOMEMADE PAPER ENVELOPES MIGHT NOT WITHSTAND THE WEAR-AND-TEAR OF THE POST OFFICE. FOR BEST RESULTS, WE RECOMMEND DELIVERING THESE SENTIMENTAL CARDS BY HAND.

IN THE FOLD Enclose your sentiments in a fun, handcrafted envelope, this photo. Trace template, available at BHG.com/DIYPaper, onto selected paper. Cut out and press with bone folder on indicated seams. Fold and secure with double-stick tape. Use washi tape to seal.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.
HANDY GIRL, 
THE CAN-DO EDITION

Our homes never stop needing love and attention. This spring, we’re all about putting the can back into you-can-do-it-yourself projects. It’s time to overcome your fears, fix your mistakes, and put those little to-dos to bed. Here’s how.

WORDS KELLY ROBERSON

CAN I PAINT MY DECK?
Stain is not the only option to update a deck. You can absolutely paint yours—and boost your DIY expertise in the process. But do not pick a color or open a paint can until you do every last prep step.

1 KNOW THE PROS AND CONS. Painting any outdoor surface can lead to heartbreak—or happiness. Why? Because even if it’s screened or shaded, the surface is outside where there’s dirt and dust and spiders and sun. You’ll have to be vigilant about taking care of the finish and touching up paint as needed.

2 PREP THE SURFACE. This might mean a super-good power wash. It might mean scraping and sanding what’s there. Your deck should be as clean as it’ll ever be.

3 SELECT YOUR PAINT. Choose a type that’s formulated for floors, for outdoor spaces (oil-base enamel for gloss, latex enamel for a more muted finish), and for the deck material. Many do not require a primer.

4 PAINT only when it’s warm but not humid, and keep your work time to when the surface is in the shade.

5 FOLLOW THE PRODUCT DIRECTIONS. If it says to let dry for 72 hours, don’t skimp. If it says to scrape and sand, do it.
CAN I COMPOST?

A: Yes, yes, and YES! Honestly, it’s one of the best choices you’ll ever make, especially once you see how little regular trash you generate. (In my house we can get it under a bag a week for a family of four.) You can skip the compost pail inside the house if you want—just take scraps out with every meal prep. If your yard space is limited, check out the loads of cute countertop compost bins; you’ll just have to dump the end result into flowerpots and the garden more frequently. If you have a bigger yard, a compost site can be as low key as a pile (I mean that quite literally) or as fancy as a self-contained compost bin that turns.

**ONE NOTE:** Throw any kind of meat, bones, fish, fats, dairy, and pet droppings into the regular trash.

**AVOID COMMON TILING MISTAKES**

1. **DON’T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW**—or more than you can grout. Start simple and small: Use one tile type, and try a teensy spot. Get your feet wet before you go for something more expansive (and expensive).

2. **LEVEL, PLEASE.** You’ve heard the saying, “Measure twice, cut once”? When it comes to tile, the surface must be even, so level twice, lay the tile once.

3. **EASY DOES IT ON THE GROUT.** Spreading grout in small doses means it won’t dry too quickly, and you can clean up as you go.


5. **LET THE THINSET SIT.** When mixing thinset mortar, use cool water and wait 10 minutes so the water is absorbed. Otherwise you’re asking for a do-over.

5 RULES FOR TRIMMING SHRUBS

1. **If** it’s dead or dying or broken, remove the branch no matter the time of year.

2. **If** it blooms in the spring, trim it right after it’s done flowering. This includes lilacs.

3. **If** it blooms in the summer, trim it in winter when dormant or very, very early in the spring.

4. **If** it’s a hydrangea, read the label. Some need pruning by midsummer, for others the time doesn’t matter.

5. **If** it’s a showy foliage shrub, pruning any time other than late autumn is OK.

**Q**

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Many of the things that seem scary (such as replacing an electrical outlet) are actually easy because manufacturers include printed directions in product packaging. Much to my husband’s chagrin, I read labels, directions, packaging, and inserts. It’s empowering for assembling the skills you never knew you could have.

Q CAN YOU HELP ME PICK THE RIGHT MULCH?

A: Why do the simplest things seem the hardest? Probably because there are lots of choices for stuff like mulch. Here’s my rule of thumb: Generally organic material is better. It eventually decomposes into the soil, helping replace nutrients lost to erosion and plants. Check the label, though, to make sure the product is free of dye or additives. Rock doesn’t need to be replaced, but it doesn’t do much for the soil or plants—no harm no foul, but no help either.

WHAT’S YOUR SECRET CAN-DO SKILL?

Reading—and I mean that quite seriously. Many of the things that seem scary (such as replacing an electrical outlet) are actually easy because manufacturers include printed directions in product packaging. Much to my husband’s chagrin, I read labels, directions, packaging, and inserts. It’s empowering for assembling the skills you never knew you could have.

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MEET THE MAKER

EMILY EISENHART

The Austin-based artist dishes on where she finds inspiration and her process for creating larger-than-life art.

WORDS JESSICA BENNETT
THE MAKER:
EMILY EISENHART

The Texas muralist is experimenting, exploring, and discovering her own style one brushstroke at a time.

Q: Why did you decide to pursue art as a career?
A: I think at my core, I was born an artist and that’s always what I wanted to be. I ignored that for a really long time. As a kid, I was always drawing and painting, but as I grew older, I never thought I could make a career out of it. A few things fell into place, including a solo show and a large mural commission, and I decided to take the leap. Fast-forward to now: I work for myself and am having a blast.

Q: Where do you find inspiration?
A: I find inspiration everywhere. It might be the shadow cast from a streetlamp or the colors of the sunset when I’m kayaking on the lake. I’m consistently drawn to patterns and shapes.

Q: What’s it like living in Austin?
A: As a creative professional, Austin has been a total dream. The creative community here is alive and well. There are tons of artists, makers, small-business owners—most of whom are incredibly supportive of one another. And there are lots of walls!

FLUID LINES

Emily’s signature paintings feature mazelike patterns of squiggles, lines, and circles painted in black sumi ink, above left and middle. “It’s fluid, organic, and totally unplanned,” she says. “Each time, it’s a completely different composition.” From start to finish—including site visits, sketching ideas, and finally painting the finishing strokes—a large mural like this Madewell one, above right, could take Emily a month to complete. Stepping back and seeing it all come together makes it worth the work. “It’s so fun transforming something from small to large scale,” she says. To shop some of Emily’s pieces and see more of her work, visit emilyeisenhart.com.
MAKE YOUR OWN ART!
Follow Emily’s creative process to inspire a mural masterpiece of your own.

1. GET MOTIVATED BY COLOR.
Take a walk, look through art or picture books, or reflect on your favorite colors. Head to a nearby paint store and pick out paint chips that catch your eye.

2. CUT AND PASTE.
Cut your paint chips into shapes and arrange them into a scene. Move the forms around until you settle on a composition that appeals to you. Snap a photo or glue it down when you get it just right.

3. TAKE IT TO THE WALL.
Visualize your design in large scale. If you need a little help, use a projector to cast your design onto the space and roughly sketch it with chalk. Or, wing it!

4. GATHER SUPPLIES AND GET STARTED.
You’ll need drop cloths, trays, brushes, a ladder, and LOTS of paint! Pop open the paint cans and have some fun.

Emily’s advice: “DON’T TAKE YOURSELF TOO SERIOUSLY. YOU’RE GOING TO MAKE A MESS. YOU’RE GOING TO ‘MESS UP.’ BUT PAINT DRIES AND YOU CAN PAINT OVER IT.”

STROKE OF BRILLIANCE
From a paintbrush collection that spans all shapes and sizes, Emily selects her tool of choice based on her intended style. Crisp, squared-off lines demand a flat brush; rounded corners call for a tapered one. Larger projects, like murals, require paint rollers. “How I apply the paint and wield my hand while making the stroke also creates varied effects,” Emily says. When she’s not beautifying walls with supersize art, Emily typically paints on mixed media or hot-pressed watercolor paper using acrylic paint, ink, indigo, or other colorants.

WITH NO SHADING TO ADD DEPTH, EMILY’S PAINTINGS RESEMBLE THE PAINT CHIP CUTOUTS SHE USES FOR INSPIRATION.
Simple, inexpensive materials and an hour or two are all it takes to give your houseplants and herbs stylish new homes.

WORDS KATELYN SOULTS

HANG LOOSE

Simple, inexpensive materials and an hour or two are all it takes to give your houseplants and herbs stylish new homes.

WORDS KATELYN SOULTS
ORCHIDS ON DISPLAY Create a quick hanging basket to show off your orchids, previous page. Place Spanish moss in the bottom of a sphere planter. Press to the sides, leaving a depression in the middle (A). Soak sphagnum moss in water for 30 seconds. Wring out slightly and place atop the Spanish moss. Snugly fit your orchid, still in its nursery pot, within the sphagnum moss (B). Secure the orchid with additional sphagnum if needed. Add potting soil around the orchid (1 inch deep) (C). Tuck sedums in the potting soil (D). Hang from a long plant hook.

FIT TO FRAME Give air plants a home base with an old frame and chicken wire, left. Spray-paint an empty frame. Cut chicken wire 1 to 2 inches larger than the opening. Staple the wire to the frame back. Cut two sections of ¾-inch square dowel (painted, if desired) to the width of the frame opening. Use wood glue to affix dowels to top and bottom of the frame back, securing each with two screws. Attach a sawtooth picture hanger to the top dowel, and hang the frame on the wall. Unwind and bend paper clips into a hook shape with a round base. Use paper-clip hangers to attach air plants to chicken wire.

WE FOUND THIS OLD FRAME AT A GARAGE SALE AND SPRAY-PAINTED IT WHITE FOR A CLEAN LOOK.
THREE OF A KIND Shape unfinished wood planters into style-forward decor, this photo. Apply two coats of polyurethane to a small wood planter. Sand and allow to dry for two hours between coats. Drill holes in the center of every other top panel of your planter. Use painters tape to cover a portion of the planter. Paint the exposed section the color of your choice. Remove tape when dry. Cut three lengths of parachute cord, using a lighter flame or match to melt the ends. After cooling, thread one cord into each hole in the planter, and tie knots on the inside. Place plants (transferred to jars) in your planter before hanging.

WE LOVE THESE GEOMETRIC PLANTERS, BUT ANY SHAPE WILL WORK. SEPTAGON WOOD PLANTER, $4; TARGET.COM
HOW’S IT HANGING This teardrop design makes a charming houseplant holder, this photo. Purchase a ¾-inch-thick 24×34-inch void-free plywood panel. Download the free pattern at BHG.com/HangingPlanter. Enlarge print at 400 percent. Cut along solid lines for teardrop pattern, then cut out the platform (circle) pattern. Trace teardrop and platform onto plywood. Mark screw placements. Using a jigsaw with a fine-tooth blade, cut slightly outside traced lines. Drill ⅛-inch pilot holes through the platform for screws. Sand cut edges back to the traced lines. Smooth edges with 100-grit sandpaper. Repeat using 150-grit sandpaper. Stain the teardrop and platform, if desired. Apply three coats of water-resistant clear finish, like polyurethane. Allow to dry between coats. After final drying, center platform holes on teardrop (based on drawing). Drill ⅛-inch pilot holes into teardrop (A). Use 1¾-inch deck screws to attach the platform to the teardrop. Tie a length of jute to the teardrop and tether to a ceiling hook.

DO IT BETTER

BUY A VOID-FREE PANEL TO AVOID VISIBLE PLYES (LAYERS) FOUND IN STANDARD PLYWOOD. PLYES WOULD SHOW WITHIN THE EDGES OF THE FINISHED PROJECT. IF YOU CAN’T LOCATE VOID-FREE PLYWOOD, FILL VOIDS IN STANDARD PLYWOOD WITH WOOD PUTTY AFTER CUTTING.
**UPSIDE-DOWN HERBS** Look up for a little extra space in tight places. These pots, left, dangle from the ceiling and the herbs hang out the bottom for easy snipping!

Using a 2½-inch hole saw, drill a circle at the bottom of a 6-inch-diameter plastic pot (A). Cut a window air conditioner filter into a circle shape, using the bottom of the pot as a guide. Fold filter circle into a cone, and trim off the tip of the cone to create a center hole (B). Cut through one side of the circle. Drill a ¼-inch hole in the pot, ¾ inches from the rim. Repeat on opposite side. Thread ¼-inch nylon rope through both holes, from exterior to interior, and knot. Insert your plant roots through the hole in the bottom of the pot (C). From the top of the pot, fit the prepared filter circle around stems (D). Press to the bottom. Add extra soil and hang the pot by the rope.

For resources see Page 100.

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**Let's talk plants!** Try out the plant-finder tool and learn about different plants that work well in your home at BHG.com/Plants.
1. NATURAL LATEX CLEANING GLOVES
A good glove makes cleaning easy-breezy, especially when it’s a cheery lime green color, soft to the touch inside, and slip-resistant on the outside. You’ll want a pair at the sink, where the cuff will keep your digits dry, and in each cleaning caddy in the house. $13; fullcirclehome.com

2. LINT-FREE CLEANING CLOTHS
Spot-clean stains from upholstery and smudges from glass with these lint-free cloths that leave no fibers behind—unlike sponges, washcloths, or paper towels. $20; thelaundress.com

3. ANGRY MAMA MICROWAVE CLEANER
Let this little lady pop her top, because it helps get your crusty microwave clean. Fill with water and vinegar, microwave, and wipe. Try adding a squirt of lemon juice for a fresh scent. $10; containerstore.com

SQUEAKY CLEAN
Your home will spring to life with help from these tools.

WORDS LINDSEY M. ROBERTS
4. **DYSON V7 ANIMAL VACUUM**
Vanquish ground-in dirt and debris from pets and kids with a vacuum that can convert from a long stick for carpets to a short handheld tool for crevices in car interiors. Accessories include a docking station for recharging, plus crevice, combination, and mini motorized tools. $400; dyson.com

5. **LIBMAN SPIRALSweep BROOM**
Make a clean sweep of any room with an innovative push broom that uses spinning brushes to pull dirt in—even from edges of baseboards—and has a catch to hold and dump whatever rubbish it may find. $20; homedepot.com

6. **18-INCH LAMBSWOOL DUSTER**
Lanolin in lamb’s wool naturally attracts dust particles away from your window blinds and bookshelf trinkets, and a long handle on this duster gives greater reach. To periodically clean the duster, twirl the handle between your hands, or hand-wash using duster shampoo. $10; woolshop.com

7. **HOOVER SMARTWASH+ AUTOMATIC CARPET CLEANER**
As you push and pull Hoover’s machine, it senses whether it needs to dispense carpet-cleaning solution or suck it up. It also mixes the solution as you go, so no measuring is needed. $229; homedepot.com

8. **O-CEDAR PROMIST MAX MICROFIBER SPRAY MOP**
Powered by hand (not batteries), this eco-friendly microfiber mop helps clean longer without much fuss—thanks to a mop head that flips over to reveal a clean side and a mop pad that can last up to 100 washes. Use your own solution in the refillable bottle. $20; amazon.com
9. SCRUB DADDY
An adaptable sponge, the stink-free Scrub Daddy is made of a material that changes texture based on water temperature. It’s firm in cold water for serious scrub-a-dubbing and soft in warm water for light cleaning. $15 for 4-pack; smileshop.scrubdaddy.com

10. RING BRUSH
Liven up cleaning day with a petite brush featuring peppy-color nylon bristles that are safe for nonstick surfaces. Its shape is perfect for grout and tight corners, and the ring handle is easy to hold. $5; casabella.com

11. STAIN REMOVER
Borax plus enzymes and soap make for an unscented natural stain remover for laundry that founder Christine Dimmick designed after her experience with cancer. Spray liberally and wash, either immediately or after it sits, depending on the stain. $15; goodhomestore.com

12. PURE-CASTILE LIQUID SOAP IN ALMOND
The beauty of castile soap is its versatility: This 18-in-1 product can handle laundry, mopping, countertops, dishes, and more. We love almond, but seven other fragrances are available. $11 for 16 ounces; shop.drbronner.com

13. COMMON GOOD GLASS CLEANER
This cleaner helps mirrors and windows come clean just as well as the other guys and smells like lavender to boot. Made from plant-derived ingredients, it’s one you’ll let kids use to help with the chores. $7; commongoodandco.com
14. DREMEL VERSA 4-VOLT CORDLESS LITHIUM-ION POWER CLEANER TOOL
Soap scum, baked-on food, rust, and thick grease are the worst-of-the-worst cleaning jobs, but this petite rotating device handles it all. Dremel’s handheld machine tackles wet or dry messes and comes with four accessories and a micro USB adapter for a quick two-hour charge. $50; homedepot.com

15. GRANITE GOLD SEALER
To test whether you need to do more than a deep clean on your granite or other natural stone, let water sit on the counter for 30 minutes. A dark mark or ring means it’s time to clean and then seal again to protect against stain, etching, and soil buildup. $30; granitegold.com

**Colorful Gem Coaster Kit**
The perfect craft for all skill levels! This kit makes four unique coasters that you will love for years to come.

www.milestonesproducts.com
info@midwestproducts.com
800.848.3497
WHAT TO DO WITH
ELECTRONIC CUTTERS

The new arsenal of cutting machines goes beyond basic paper crafting. Make stamps, cut leather, and create stencils with the latest tools on the market.

PROJECTS LESLIE POYZER
PHOTOGRAPHS BLAINE MOATS
WORDS NATALIE DAYTON
**LEATHER NAPKIN RINGS** Sure, we all know an electronic cutter cuts paper, but the new Cricut Maker cuts leather, fabric, even balsa wood, too. Can you say game changer? For the floral napkin rings, above left, download the flower image with interlocking arrow at BHG.com/FreePatterns and import into your Cricut Design Space canvas. Copy and paste the flower three times (you will need four flowers for one napkin ring). Press “Make it” button on your Cricut and change cutting settings to thick leather. Place the deep-cut knife blade into cutter. Fit leather (we used a piece from Cricut’s line of materials) onto a strong-grip mat and tape down the four edges of the leather for added security. Send through cutter (A). Remove the cut flowers from the mat using a weeding tool (B). Link the flowers to make a ring by passing the arrow through the center of the adjacent flower, front to back.

**FLUTTERY CHARGERS** Vinyl butterfly cutouts morph plain chargers into eye-catchers, right. In your cutter’s design platform, upload butterfly images. We used three different images and resized them to fit our charger’s outer ring. Place white vinyl onto cutting mat and set cutting settings to vinyl. Cut according to design platform’s instructions. Remove the negative space off the vinyl. Cover with vinyl transfer tape and carefully remove from mat. Cut the transfer tape around each vinyl butterfly. Remove backing and set design into place on charger ring. Smooth using scraper, and remove the transfer tape. Handwash only.

**GET THE PATTERNS!** To download the custom patterns used in this story and get the table runner how-to, visit BHG.com/FreePatterns.

**DO IT BETTER** For each project that involves heavy materials, make a test cut to ensure the settings are correct and your pattern looks right before proceeding with your final product.
**FELT PILLOWS** Pile on the personality by applying felt shapes to pillows, above. In your cutter’s design platform, create abstract shapes in various sizes (or upload our predesigned shapes, available at BHG.com/FreePatterns). Prepare felt by ironing on adhesive backing according to the package directions. Place the felt pieces on a standard-grip cutting mat. Set cutter settings to felt and follow design platform instructions to cut. Remove felt from the mat and arrange shapes on pillow. Iron adhesive-backed shapes into place according to the backing instructions. We embellished the blue pillow with white yarn pom-poms. Sew pom-poms onto pillow by threading through the center of the pom and tying off on the inside of the pillow cover.

**VINYL DECAL TABLE** Bring out your inner Matisse by adding XL abstract shapes to your home decor, above. In your cutter’s design platform, design or import leaf and tulip images. (We used Leaf #M3CC44 Home Decor and Leaf #M470A8 Mother’s Day Bouquet from Cricut Design Space.) Apply 12x12-inch sheets of vinyl to standard-grip cutting mat. Set cutting settings to vinyl and cut designs according to design platform instructions. Remove the negative vinyl shapes using the weeding tool. Cut a piece of transfer tape to size and smooth over vinyl image. Peel vinyl with the transfer tape off the vinyl paper backing and position vinyl onto the tabletop. Smooth vinyl into place, then peel off transfer tape.

**DO IT BETTER** We found that the rotary-style blade, available on the Cricut Maker, did the best job of cutting our abstract felt shapes.
Spring is what you make it.

Creativity blooms when you have Cricut Maker®, the ultimate smart cutting machine. Cut, write, and score 100+ popular materials — including leather and even unbacked fabric — for fresh, professional projects all year round.

Get $20 off Cricut Maker. Use DIYMAG on cricut.com.
Offer ends 12/31/19.
STAMPED MIRROR  Give a tribal vibe to your wood mirror frame, right, by creating your own stamp using the new Brother ScanNCut machine. Measure mirror frame to know what size to create your stamp. Draw a triangle in the Brother Design Center, then use the circle tool to draw circles inside the triangle. Place the stamp material on the cutting mat and set blade to the proper settings. Cut design according to Design Center directions (A). Place stamp onto acrylic stamp block. Prep block paint by squeezing a bit onto waxed paper. Roll brayer over the paint repeatedly (B) until paint makes a snappy sound. (This will prevent over-inking.) Apply paint to stamp, and stamp pattern onto mirror, reinking after each use. Allow paint to dry before hanging.

WOOD LAMPSHADE  Add dimension to a plain lampshade with wood veneer, left. Measure sides of lampshade. In cutter’s design platform, create rectangle shapes to fit the measurements. Next, create the pattern to be cut from the veneer (ours is available at BHG.com/FreePatterns). Evenly space the pattern to fit the width of the lampshade. Set veneer onto a standard-grip 12x24-inch mat with grain going the long way. Follow directions within the design platform to set up cutter for veneer; cut. Carefully remove the positive and negative pieces of wood from the mat after passing through the machine. Spray back of veneer with adhesive and apply it to each side of the lampshade.

DO IT BETTER  TO KEEP THE WOOD VENEER FROM SHIFTING WHILE THE CUTTER WORKS ITS MAGIC, WE RECOMMEND SECURING THE OUTSIDE EDGES OF THE VENEER WITH MASKING TAPE.
STENCILED DRESSER

An all-over stencil gives this dresser a little shimmer and a lot of style, this photo. Prep and paint dresser your desired base color. Design stencil patterns in the cutter’s design platform (find our pattern at BHG.com/FreePatterns). Measure the drawers and sides of dresser to determine stencil size for easy pattern repeat. Apply stencil material to standard-grip cutting mat. Set cutting setting to thick transparency paper and cut. Stencil the pattern onto dresser by attaching with painters tape and applying paint with a round stenciling brush. (We used Martha Stewart Pearl crafts paint on our project.)

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.

DAB THE BRUSH ONTO PAPER TOWELS TO REMOVE EXCESS PAINT BEFORE APPLYING TO STENCIL. IF THERE IS TOO MUCH PAINT ON THE BRUSH, PAINT WILL SEEP UNDER THE STENCIL AND THE DESIGN EDGES WILL BLEED.
MATERIAL GIRL
Learn more about the cuttable materials featured in this story.

1. STAMP SHEETS
These clear stamp sheets from Brother are just the right thickness to be mounted and used as a stamp after your design is cut out and applied to a stamp block.

2. Balsa Wood and Chipboard
The trick to cutting wood veneer? The blade. For best results, cut your wood with the special Cricut knife blade or Brother Auto blade—and make sure it's sharp!

3. Heat-Transfer Vinyl
Offered in many colors, heat-transfer vinyl can be applied to cotton, polyester, blends, even leather. For best results, transfer vinyl by using transfer tape.

4. Transfer Tape
Transfer your vinyl designs easily with this gridded transfer tape. Place it on top of the cut vinyl, position vinyl where you want it, then peel back the tape to reveal your vinyl creation.

5. Removable Vinyl
Available in solids and patterns, removable vinyl can be peeled off without leaving residue for up to two years! Simply remove it and replace when you’re ready for a new look (or a new name, like on our place card project, page 29.)

6. Foil Iron-On
Foil iron-on sheets, sold in a range of colors, can be cut and heat-transferred to a variety of projects, including fabric, cardstock, and more.

7. Leather
Leather and faux-leather sheets from Cricut allow makers to take their crafting to a new level. Check out the metallic, pebbled, and wood-grain finishes.
Spring into creativity with the only brand of home and hobby cutting machines with a built-in scanner. Packed with everything you need for precision cutting and drawing plus optional embossing and foiling. Just add imagination and spring into action!

**ScanNCut DX Features:**
- Blade Sensor Technology
  - No need to adjust based on material type
  - Auto Blade detects the thickness of material
- Cuts up to 0.1" (3 mm) thickness
  - Cut materials such as foam and felt virtually effortlessly with Auto Blade
- Stand-Alone
  - 5" LCD touchscreen display for easy editing of cut data
  - No PC required
- Advanced editing with CanvasWorkspace
  - Create, edit, convert, and send cut data to and from the machine
- Wireless Network Ready
- Up to 600 DPI for the Scan to USB function

**ScanNCut DX SDX225 Innov-is Edition:**
- PES File Import Capability**
- PES File Embroidery Stitch Line Detection**

ScanNCut.com  /brothercraftsus /brothercraftsusa  /brothercraftsus

**Reads most PES/PHC/PHX* embroidery files. *To read PHX file, software version should be 11x or higher. Material compatibility may vary. Always perform a trial/test cut to confirm a successful cut. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Specifications subject to change.  
©2018 Brother International Corporation.**
BATH VANITY

Clever cubbies and custom cabinet inserts make this bathroom a haven for smart storage.

PROJECTS LESLIE POYZER
PHOTOGRAPHS MARTY BALDWIN
WORDS CHELSEA EVERS

LET IT SLIDE A custom-built cabinet drawer insert facilitates easy access to products deep within. Make your own by measuring available cabinet space, building a wood box to size, adding drawer slides, and installing at the desired height.

NEAT NOOK Eye-level cubbies recessed into the wall provide extra space for oft-needed items like cotton swabs and makeup brushes. Glass shelving offers dual-level storage and a clear view to graphic patterned tiles that line the back.

BIN THERE Open vanity shelves offer flexibility in storage. Handwoven rattan bins can be used to keep each partner’s toiletries stowed neatly out of sight—but easy to grab and set on the counter when it’s time to get ready. Container Store, starting at $20; containerstore.com
POWER UP  

Turn a standard cabinet into a functional powerhouse for blow-dryers, curling irons, and electric toothbrushes. Start by measuring the interior of the cabinet, then cut plywood to form a drawer base. Next, measure for the height of the back of the drawer and cut, leaving enough room for a cord to pass over the top. Cut three pieces of wood to size for the side rails and front of the box. Finally, measure items and determine how large each tool compartment needs to be, then cut wood to size to form dividers. We split ours into four sections, but you can customize your drawer to fit items as desired. Sand all pieces, then use wood glue, screws, and clamps to assemble the box. Apply polyurethane according to package directions. When dry, affix drawer glides and install inside cabinet. To finish, use screws or removable hanging strips to add a power strip to the back face of the drawer for easy plug-ins.

WORK AROUND  

The U-shape drawer cutout in the Napa Open Shelf Vanity (fairmontdesigns.com) wraps around sink plumbing without sacrificing storage. Use a mix of clear and wood containers to subdivide the unusual space and keep items standing tall when the drawer is opened.

Build your own! Create custom storage in your vanity at BHG.com/VanityStorage
**TO BE CLEAR** Acrylic office trays double as organizers for small hair and makeup products. Choose stackable containers to save counter and cabinet space. Godmorgon Set of 5, $15; ikea.com

**TILE STYLE** Add a pop of color to an otherwise-neutral bath with graphic tile. We used the same pattern on the floor as in the niches for a cohesive look. Coletiva Muda Central tiles, $18/square foot; cletile.com

**BE OUR GUEST** Help houseguests feel right at home with a basket stocked with everything they might need for a comfortable stay—miniature toiletries, extra razors and toothbrushes—or stow your own travel-size items inside to make packing for trips a breeze.

**Top off your work with quality hardware**

Take a minute to consider how much time you put into refining your design, choosing your material, shaping, sanding and finishing your project. Sure, you enjoy the process, but be sure to “crown” your work with the highest quality, long lasting, impressive hardware. Our selection of turning hardware kits raise the bar and help you to Create with Confidence.

Stainless Steel Pizza Cutter Turning Kit, Pewter Finish, (55423) $19.99
Stainless Steel Ice Cream Scoop Hardware Kit (59182) $14.99
Pewter Bottle Opener Turning Kit (44185) $9.99

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ON OUR STUFF WE LOVE

Spring for these fun buys to brighten your space and make chores a breeze.

WORDS AMBER WAGNER

PHOTOGRAPHS CARSON DOWNING

Smudge, paint, draw, stamp—Gelatos do it all! Blendable with fingertips or water to create effects like watercolor, gouache, oil pastels, and more, the acid-free pigment sticks come in over 50 creamy colors. Gelatos Gift Set, $63 (or $2.45 for one); fabercastell.com

STUFF WE LOVE

ON OUR RADAR
1. Adding greenery to your home has never been easier with potted plants delivered right to your door. Shop online by size, type, and care requirements, then just unbox and set in place when they arrive. Bloomscape, from $35; bloomscape.com

2. Grab one gadget for the job and take guessing out of the game with a universal socket. It adjusts to fit wing nuts, hooks, hex nuts, and more ranging from ¼–¾ inch and 7–19 mm metric. Universal Socket tool, $10; gator-grip.eu

3. Don’t fear leaking pipes again. This smart water monitor simply straps onto your main water supply line and sends real-time updates to your smartphone app about usage and flow rates. Streamlabs Smart Home Water Monitor, $199; streamlabswater.com

4. Warm someone’s heart with a candle featuring a hidden message. Choose one of eight witty quips or come up with your own clever words. Once lit, the message is revealed. Secret Message Candles, starting at $12; us.54celsius.com

5. Save yourself some spring cleaning by snapping on these shoe covers. Easily go from outdoors to in without tracking mud on your floors. Reusable covers feature nonskid soles to keep you safe and clean. Step-In Sock, $12; amazon.com
6. Pencil, meet paper. The book 100 Days of Drawing will have you sketching up a storm. Colorful page prompts are just the push you need to dust off those sketching tools and get artsy. 100 Days of Drawing, $17; abramsbooks.com

7. Leave prepping in the past with these milk-finish paints. Six lovely hues highlight the natural beauty of your painted pieces with minimal prep required. The matte, low-VOC formula covers most surfaces, including glass, metal, and wood. Rust-Oleum Milk Paint Finish, $16 per quart; rustoleum.com

8. Don’t wait for May flowers—craft your own! Easy-to-follow instructions guide you through making more than 30 different blossoms in this beautifully illustrated book, complete with paper and SVG file templates. Crepe Paper Flowers, $17; liagriffith.com

9. This isn’t your grandma’s cross-stitch. Petit point kits from We Are Knitters are a fun new way to create. Kits include canvas, needle, yarn, and instructions to guide you on your way to stitched bliss. Wynwood Petit Point Kit, $85; weareknitters.com

10. Tight squeeze painted with ease. The Flat Painter glides behind tight spaces that brushes and rollers can’t reach. The low ¼-inch profile fits almost anywhere, and the replaceable pad is lint-free. Shur-Line Flat Painter, $4; shurline.com
11. Create colors from foraged natural sources. Make Ink is a how-to that reads delightfully like a can’t-put-it-down novel. You’ll be surprised at some of the unlikely ingredients in these interesting inks. Make Ink, $30; abramsbooks.com

12. Save your finishes, paints, and even wine with a spray of Bloxygen. Inert gas displaces air and prevents oxidation to preserve your products, saving you time and money. Bloxygen, $12; bloxygen.com

13. Stick ’em up! Keep tools and utensils within reach. Just slide on the magnetized silicone band and stick items to any ferrous surface. Magnetic pad stickers for nonmetal surfaces are also available. StickQuik Bands, $15 for six; stickquik.com

14. Rethink embroidery and mending with sashiko. Repair holes with beautiful stitches and add a touch of handmade beauty to projects. Make + Mend illustrated guides help you transform rips and tears into works of art. Make + Mend, $19; penguinrandomhouse.com

15. Track your travels on these map mugs. Fill in countries or states as you go, bake to set, then reminisce while you sip. Each mug comes with a marker— multiple colors available for purchase. Color Map Mugs, starting at $18; uncommongoods.com
16. It’s a fuss-free facelift in a bucket. This brick limewash will bring quick character to your home, whether you’re upping your curb appeal or freshening your fireplace. The concentrated formula is eco-friendly and removable within five days of application. Romabio Classico Limewash, $32.50 per quart; romabio.com

17. Discover the health benefits of 50 common houseplants with this primer on easy-to-grow plants that purify the air, reduce stress, and improve sleep. Houseplants for a Healthy Home, $18; simonandschuster.com

18. Hang in there! Plants are elevated to new heights with kokedama, a beautiful Japanese style of gardening. Each kit includes everything you need. Just choose your plant type and get growing. Kokedama Kit, $32; pistilsnursery.com

19. Check out the shades of gorgeous! Revamp tired items without tiring your hands thanks to an easy-grip can. The quick-dry formula with sugar cane-base propellants means less worry about fumes and more time to admire your handiwork! Colorshot Spray Paint, $7 per can; mycolorshot.com

20. Clear brush without chemicals or heavy equipment. Solid carbon steel slices through roots and sharp serrated edges double as a limb saw. Root Assassin Shovel, $50; rootassassinshovel.com
CURTAIN CALL: Boost the style of plain-Jane curtain panels by stamping them with a shapely print, this photo. To create custom stamps, cut five half-circles out of adhesive felt pads, varying their sizes slightly but keeping them 1–2 inches long. Adhere felt pieces to a scrap block of wood. Spread a white curtain on a drop cloth, and position a straightedge where you want your first row. Dip stamp in acrylic paint, dabbing off any excess. Press stamp onto the curtain along straightedge. Repeat, leaving a small space between each print as you work your way across the curtain. Moving the straightedge up about 10 inches per row, continue until the curtain is complete.
Bring order and oomph to bedroom spaces with storage and style upgrades that you can do with your own two hands.

PROJECTS JENI WRIGHT  PHOTOGRAPHS JACOB FOX + CARSON DOWNING
WORDS LAURA KRISTINE JOHNSON

DRESSED TO THE NINES Outfitted in a sea of grainy orange woodwork, a pair of side-by-side reach-in closets dated the look of this bedroom without providing much organization, inset photo. A smart system of shelving, drawers, and hanging rods mapped out with the Elfa Design Center tool (available on containerstore.com) converted both closets to fully functional spaces, above. Enter your closet’s specific dimensions and the tool presents you with multiple storage configuration options so you can choose one that suits the amount and type of items you want to store.
WHITE CURTAIN PANELS PROVIDE PRIVACY WHILE KEEPING THE SPACE BRIGHT.

DRESSER UP A fresh coat of paint and new knobs refresh a flea market dresser, this photo. On top, vintage candy dishes and a coral-shape jewelry holder show off colorful statement pieces that double as decor. On the floor, laminate planks from Lumber Liquidators live large in an on-trend wide width. Solo installation was easy thanks to the flooring’s click-together design. A flooring cutter made quick work of trimming planks to size, leaving a clean edge and no dust.

NORDIC FOG DREAM HOME ULTRA X2O LAMINATE LUMBERLIQUIDATORS.COM
STRING ALONG Warm up bare walls with a textural wall hanging, above. To create your own, gather a tree branch, a handful of wood beads, and various weights of yarn, twine, ribbon, rope, strips of denim, and welting cord (A). Begin by cutting your first length of string twice as long as you want the finished length to be. Fold the string in half, and bring the folded loop of the string over the top and behind the branch. Feed the ends of the string through the loop and tighten to secure. Repeat with remaining types of string, alternating materials and adding extra length to strings you plan to braid or knot. Add beads as desired, knotting the string to keep beads in place. To form a square macramé knot, secure a thick piece of string to the branch and a thinner piece of string on each side (B). Pull both ends of the right-hand string behind both ends of the thick string and on top of the left-hand strings. Hold in place while you pick up both ends of the left-hand string, cross over both ends of the thick string, and feed through the loop the right-hand strings created (C). Tighten. Repeat until the length is braided. Knot to secure.

USING DECORATIVE PUSHPINS AND GLUE, MAKE A BEDSIDE EYEGlasses HOLDER BY ATTACHING A RIBBON AROUND THE TOP OF A VINTAGE HATSTAND.
SEE HOW TO MAKE THESE PICTURE LEDGES AT BHG.COM/PHOTOLEDGES.
STATE OF THE ART Frame your own creations for low-cost artwork that doubles as a conversation starter, below. Load a thick paintbrush with your first paint color, then plop the bristles onto a piece of watercolor paper and drag the brush downward. Repeat with remaining colors, making sure to clean your paintbrush after each color.

GINGHAM STYLE Avoid the hassle of wallpaper by creating a patterned accent wall with paint, opposite. To channel this gingham look, first prep for the horizontal stripes by placing guide marks every 24 inches starting at the ceiling and working your way to the baseboard. Dip a 12-inch wallpaper smoothing brush into the paint and drag it horizontally across the wall at the ceiling to create your first stripe. Drag another horizontal stripe alongside the first to make a 24-inch stripe. Continue positioning the brush along the guide marks and dragging across, adding paint as needed. Repeat with vertical stripes, placing guide marks every 24 inches. Repaint as desired to darken the stripes.

Different Strokes Full paintbrushes, called mop brushes, absorb plenty of paint to cover large areas or create 3-D texture. Try different types of paint—watercolor, acrylic, etc.—to get different effects.

TO HANG, DRILL PILOT HOLES INTO THE BACK OF THE TALLEST SIDE OF YOUR SHELF. SECURE TO WALL, AND STYLE AS DESIRED.
MATERIALS
• Two 48-inch 1×4 poplar boards
• Two 17¾-inch 1×4 poplar boards
• Wood glue
• 1¼-inch wood screws
• Drill driver
• 4×18×48-inch piece of foam
• ¾×18×48-inch piece of plywood
• Polyester batting
• Staple gun
• Desired fabric
• 4 furniture leg top plates
• Four 9-inch-long furniture legs
• Desired paint or stain
• 6 L brackets and screws

Step 1 Lay two 48-inch poplar boards parallel to each other on their short edges. Set two 17¾-inch poplar boards inside to form the four sides of a box, creating butt joints at the corners. Glue and screw boards together with 1¼-inch wood screws.

Step 2 To make the seat, set foam on the plywood. If you want your cushion to have a rounded top, use scissors to trim the foam’s top corners.

Step 3 Drape polyester batting over the foam and plywood and cut off excess batting, leaving an extra 2 inches on all sides to make it easier to secure. Staple batting to the underside of the plywood, pulling it taut as you go. Staple additional batting around the box frame as well. Repeat this process using desired fabric to cover the seat and frame.

Step 4 To add legs, screw a furniture leg top plate into each corner of the frame bottom. Paint, stain, or seal four 9-inch-long furniture legs; when dry, screw the legs into the top plates (A).

Step 5 To secure the frame to the seat, screw six L brackets onto the edges of the frame, placing two brackets on each long side and one bracket on each short side. Then attach the other ends of the brackets to the underside of the seat with screws (B).
OFFICE SPACE: Convert an unused reach-in closet into desk space for paying bills and other light office tasks, *this photo*. To configure this mini office, we installed a horizontal track bar from The Container Store’s Elfa storage system at the top of the closet and attached four evenly spaced hang standards to the track bar to support individual shelving. A pair of 20-inch-deep shelves forms the desktop, and shelves of varying depths complete the rest of the space. Infrequently used document boxes are stored high while office supplies that get daily use are kept at eye level. A slide-out shelf for the printer makes scanning documents easy. To help the closet feel like an extension of the bedroom, we painted the walls a coordinating color and added artwork.

**FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.**
When a traditional backsplash just won’t do, turn to an unconventional design that is sure to steal the show.

PROJECTS LESLIE POYZER
PHOTOGRAPHS CARSON DOWNING & BRIE PASSANO
WORDS BECKY MOLLENKAMP
Home improvement stores routinely offer steep discounts on the last box of tile. Grab those bargains and turn them into a custom backsplash, left and opposite. Create textural interest with tiles of different shapes and sizes, but stick to a single color for a cohesive look. On a flat surface, lay out your pattern. To keep things interesting, offset some pieces so all the grout lines don’t line up. Also, choose a design that requires as few cuts as possible. Install the tile starting from the center and working your way toward the edges.

DO IT BETTER
INSTALLING A TILE BACKSPLASH IS PRECISION WORK, BUT DEFINITELY DOABLE FOR EVEN NOVICE DO-IT-YOURSELFERS. BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE BY FOLLOWING OUR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS AT BHG.COM/DIYBACKSPLASH.

LOUISBURG GREEN
HC-113, BENJAMIN MOORE, BENJAMINMOORE.COM
STICK TO IT  Typically used to line shelves or drawers, vinyl adhesive paper can also serve as a surprisingly stylish backsplash, this photo. It’s an easy-on, easy-off solution for renters or anyone in need of a temporary kitchen facelift. Measure and cut the first strip to the height of the backsplash area. Line up the next strip, matching the pattern repeat, and cut to size. Remove the backing from the first strip and attach it to the wall. Cut a third strip to match patterns with the second, then attach the second. Continue cutting and hanging strips until the backsplash is complete.
TOP SHELF Skipping upper cabinets is a chic look but not entirely practical. Make more of that open space with an inexpensive plywood backsplash topped with a little ledge for storage and display, this photo. Measure and cut ¾-inch plywood to the desired height and as long as your run of base cabinets (you may need more than one piece of plywood), plus 1x4 boards for the top ledge. Sand the edges and paint the pieces. Screw the back piece into wall studs. To install the ledge, screw every 18 inches from the top down into the plywood backsplash.

TURN A PLAIN BOARD INTO A PLATE RAIL BY ADDING A ¼-INCH CHANNEL USING A ROUTER. THIS ALLOWS DISHES TO LEAN SAFELY AGAINST THE WALL.

STUNNING 826 IN SEMIGLOSS, BENJAMIN MOORE; BENJAMINMOORE.COM
GET THE MARBLE LOOK FOR WAY, WAY LESS. MODERN MARBLE FROM YORK WALLCOVERINGS; YORKWALL.COM
**Top Brass**
Push plates are often used in commercial settings to protect doors from wear. Find lightweight aluminum versions in a variety of finishes (including shiny brass) at home improvement stores for less than $10 each. The plates are easy to install—they come with drilled mounting holes and screws—and can be easily wiped clean.

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**6 TIPS FOR A PERFECT BACKSPLASH**

1. **CHOOSE AN AREA:** A backsplash is traditionally installed behind the stove and sink to keep stains and water off the wall. Extending the backsplash can make the kitchen appear larger, while limiting it can make a more dramatic statement.

2. **LIMIT BOLD ACCENTS:** Avoid an overly busy look by concentrating elaborate designs on natural focal points like the areas above the range and/or the sink.

3. **PICK THE RIGHT PRODUCT:** If you’re using tile, which is the most popular backsplash material, consider its durability (porcelain is stronger than ceramic) and upkeep (natural stone must be sealed once a year).

4. **DON’T OVERLOOK GROUT:** Almost as important as choosing tile is selecting grout. Grout comes in many colors (darker grout is more forgiving). Stain-resisting epoxy formulations can be worth the investment. Take a tile when shopping to ensure your choice coordinates.

5. **MIX IT UP:** Don’t be afraid to mix materials, colors, or patterns in your backsplash, especially if everything else in the kitchen is fairly monochromatic.

6. **DO THE MATH:** To determine how much material you need, multiply the height and width of the area you’re covering (add 10 percent for unexpected problems).
BY THE YARD  Think outside the box  
(of tile) and show off your softer side  
with a fabric backsplash, this photo.  
Sandwich a favorite pattern between  
two sheets of plexiglass, using it as an  
accent on one wall or throughout the  
kitchen. Measure the area you want to  
cover. Cut two ¼-inch-thick plexiglass  
sheets to size using a table saw. Polish  
the rough edges using polishing  
compound and a buffer attachment  
on your drill. Trim your fabric to size,  
then place it between the plexiglass  
pieces. Install mirror clips, following  
manufacturer’s instructions. Slide  
plexiglass in place, and tighten the clips.
ONE-BOX BACKSPLASH When you fall in love with a designer tile that you can’t afford to use kitchen-wide, consider this clever trick. Buy just one box (about 8–10 square feet) and use it to create a feature backsplash above the stove, this photo. Lay the tile out in an eye-pleasing pattern on a flat surface and plan any needed cuts. Prep the wall for tile (you may need to move the stove first) and mark where the tiles will go. Install the tiles, leaving the edges raw and stopping the grout at the edges.

GET THE LOOK: ABOLOS NATURE CELESTIAL CALACATTA GLASS MOSAIC TILE; HOMEDEPOT.COM. LATICRETE SANDED GROUT IN TWILIGHT BLUE; LATICRETE.COM

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.
Two teachers devote every break from school to turning “the worst house on the block” into a fresh, fun, modern family home.

WORDS SARAH WOLF  PHOTOGRAPHS EDMUND BARR
STYLING KAREN REINECKE

A gallery of ever-changing artwork swarms Ken and Julie Balcom’s living room wall. Etsy, Society 6, and Minted are their go-to sources for art. They scoop up frames at Target, IKEA, or thrift shops and spritz them with spray paint if the color isn’t right.
For most of the year, Ken and Julie (pictured with Hayden, 8, and Liam, 6) are unassuming middle-school teachers. Come summer, Christmas vacation, and spring break, they turn into an almost-fearless design-build duo. “Ken is just really handy,” Julie says, “and I design it all, I help paint, and I help supervise.”

To impart the midcentury style they adore, the Balcoms amped up the architecture on the front entry of their Southern California home. The stucco post was wrapped in orange-hue lumber; modern house numbers were mounted on a black-painted plywood plaque; two statement doors in dramatic black replaced the standard doors; and the steps, risers, and landing were paved in small hexagonal tiles that Ken painstakingly laid over the existing concrete.

Julie designed the coffee table, and Ken paired a marble scrap with dark-stained lumber and hairpin legs from eBay to craft a modern marvel so cool it belies its less-than-$200 price tag.

“I LOOK AROUND AND SEE A TABLE MY HUSBAND MADE OR POTS MY KIDS PAINTED, AND IT’S THAT MUCH MORE SPECIAL. THE HOUSE IS A REFLECTION OF US AS A FAMILY.”
—JULIE BALCOM, HOMEOWNER
Removing the old fluorescent box light left the kitchen with a recessed tray ceiling. For a fun touch, they painted it navy blue and put a modern fixture in the recessed space. Because all the old aluminum windows in the house were so rickety, Ken replaced them with new ones. He added a third window in the kitchen to coax more light into the room. To this day, replacing the windows is one of Ken’s proudest accomplishments. Julie raves about the IKEA cabinets, which she and Ken chose for their price tag and ease of installation. The pulls and knobs were a separate purchase from Overstock.com to elevate the stock cabinets. The former tile floor gave way to wood-look laminate, which they also used in every room throughout the house for a cohesive, space-stretching appearance. What looks like fancy tile on the peninsula is actually removable wallpaper (found on Etsy) that was a breeze to install.

WHEN PLANNING THE NEW KITCHEN LAYOUT, KEN AND JULIE REJIGGERED IT TO INCLUDE A SHORT PENINSULA SO LIAM AND HAYDEN HAVE A SPOT TO DO HOMEWORK.
The graphic play of black and white—the most classic of all color combos—refreshed and brightened the guest bathroom. Each subway tile is defined by dark grout, a simple selection with major impact. High-contrast concrete tile invigorated the floor. Rather than leave this little corner empty, Julie hung a few plantings (cradled in macramé, a '70s decor mainstay that is making a rather glorious comeback) from the ceiling. They catch plenty of sunny rays from the window.

The claw-foot tub resided in the upper-level bathroom until Julie and Ken hauled it downstairs to the main level. For a colorful punch, Julie painted the outside with high-quality enamel. In a happy accident, she found a small can of this lovely dark teal in the remnant section of the home center. Another customer had returned it, and it was just the color she was looking for.

Four deep shelves were constructed of 1x lumber, painted white, and mounted on iron brackets for a few feet of display space.
Placing Liam’s bed against the window—the only good spot for it in the compact room—gave the space much-needed symmetry. Short shelves crafted of stained lumber and metal brackets hoist beloved artwork and figurines (much of it dinosaur-related) into prominent positions. Papering one wall in a whimsical animal print introduces “some visual interest in his room without taking up any space,” Julie says. Even better? This wallpaper is removable, “so when Liam gets older and decides he wants something else, he’s not stuck with it,” she says. Shallow ledges are meant for photos or art, but they work just as well for displaying and storing Liam and Hayden’s library of books. Julie bought black ledges but spray-painted them white to keep the look light and airy. The peacock rattan headboard in Hayden’s room—a girl’s-bedroom staple in the ’70s—came from Craigslist. Ken and Julie enclosed the once-wide-open closet with two mirrored doors. “I guess closet mirrors are seen as a design don’t,” Julie says, “but when you have a small space, they make the room look almost twice as big. Worth it for us!”

“TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE SUCH A HUGE DIFFERENCE! WE WOULD’VE BEEN TOO SCARED TO DO ANY OF THIS WORK, BUT BECAUSE OF PINTEREST AND BLOGS, WE GOT THE CONFIDENCE TO TRY THINGS. YOUTUBE OPENED A LOT OF DOORS.”

—JULIE BALCOM, HOMEOWNER
Julie gave up setting lamps on the nightstands in the master bedroom because breezes through the open windows kept knocking them over. Instead, Ken hung a sconce on each side of the bed. Two IKEA dressers, which are sold unfinished, could pass for vintage treasures after the Balcoms worked their magic. They stained the tops and sides, painted the fronts white, and adorned the drawers with round brass pulls they found on eBay.
“OUR GOAL WAS TO BUY IN THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD WE COULD, AND TO GET A HOUSE WE COULD FIX UP OURSELVES. WE DIDN’T WANT TO PAY FOR SOMEBODY ELSE’S UPDATES.”
—JULIE BALCOM, HOMEOWNER

21 The upholstered bench is another Ken-and-Julie original, with Julie dreaming up the design and Ken bringing it to life with wood, fabric, and foam. 22 This sleek vanity (actually a Campaign desk from World Market) is not just pretty, but practical too. It’s where Julie does her hair and makeup in the mornings while the master bathroom (not shown) is still under construction. 23 Placing the flat-screen TV above the firebox might not suit every family, “but it works for us,” Julie says. Ken mounted it on white-painted plywood, and all of the cords are ingeniously routed through a hole in the plywood behind the mantel and into one of the cabinets (on the right) to a hidden power strip. 24 Some people claim that painting brick is sacrilege, but in this modest-size family room, it knit the fireplace into the rest of the room. 25 Cabinets and shelves from IKEA were arranged on either side of the fireplace and climb nearly to the ceiling to maximize their storage capacity. Molding at the top and bottom of the assembly gave it the look of pricey built-ins. “We put things we want to hide in the cabinets,” Julie says. The shelves are for displaying decorative items, “and we change them out with the seasons,” Julie says.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.
TRENDS WE’RE DYING TO DIY

Skip the complete overhaul and follow our tips and tricks for bringing some of the hottest looks to your hardest-working rooms.

WORDS MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX
TREND OPEN SHELVING, EVOLVED

Just when you thought you’d seen it all in open shelving, fresh interpretations are breathing new life into the well-loved #shelfie trend. Floating shelves that wrap around corners, units suspended from ceilings, organic live-edge wood—these innovations keep this popular look at the forefront of kitchen and bath design.

HARDWARE HELPER
A ½-inch extra-long drill bit and blind shelf supports make the floating look possible. These accommodate shelves between 7 and 12 inches in depth and support up to 100 pounds per bracket when mounted in studs. Dakoda Love Floating Shelf Brackets, set of four, $50; amazon.com

LIVING ON THE EDGE
Step aside, barnwood. Live-edge wood shelves offer a new way to channel a rustic vibe. Peruse retailers like Etsy for shops offering handmade shelves like these, left, in a variety of sizes and wood types. We like the selection in TreeCycleNW (starting at $105; treecycleNW.etsy.com) and MaedaWoodCo (starting at $80; maedawoodco.etsy.com).

TREND WOOD, REVISITED

While white cabinets have dominated in recent years, wood finishes are making a comeback. The newest takes are lighter, grayer, and just a little rustic. Want to revive dated oak? We like gel stain for refinishing cabinets—it’s super forgiving on vertical surfaces. For best color results, thoroughly sand the surface to remove the existing finish before applying the stain and sealing.

BEFORE
ORIGINAL OAK FINISH

GEL STAIN IN GRAY
GENERAL FINISHES,
GENERALFINISHES.COM

GEL STAIN IN AGED OAK
OLD MASTERS,
OLDMASTERS.COM

GEL STAIN IN NATURAL
VARATHANE,
VARATHANEMASTERS.COM

TREND FREESTANDING FURNITURE

This one’s for you, furniture makeover fanatics. Think tall, skinny curio cabinets in the bath and hutch-style units in the kitchen. Find solid pieces sized right for your room, and make the most of awkward spaces.
TREND
ALL ABOUT ARTWORK

Let eye-catching art play a key role in your kitchen or bath design. Explore sources offering printable options, and experiment with scale in your frame and mat choices for a modern look.

TREND
RICH, COMPLEX COLORS

Moody, deep, and inspired by nature, vivid colors are now accentuating the white, black, and wood tones we’ve been seeing in kitchens and baths. Whether you go big with colorful cabinetry, small with well-placed accessories, or somewhere in between with an accent wall or island, take your hue cues from the more saturated side of the paint chip.

Foliage

Trendy shades of deep green call to mind lush forests. When you go this bold, opt for lighter woods and hits of warm metallic for contrast.

Earth

Dust, sand, rock—deep desert-inspired hues envelop a space with warmth and pair well with hits of black, cream, and wood in all tones.

Water

Blue is always a classic and offers the ultimate in versatility. The trendiest shades have plenty of black in them to keep the look sophisticated.

OUR FAVORITE Affordable ART SOURCES

+ 20X200.COM
+ ARTFINDER.COM
+ DANHOBDAYART.ETSY.COM
+ JENNYSPRINTSHOP.COM
+ MINTED.COM
+ MODEAPRINTS.ETSY.COM
+ PRINTABLESOCIETY.COM
+ SOCIETY6.COM
+ THEPEOPLESPRINTS.ETSY.COM
+ THEPRINTABLESTUDIO.ETSY.COM
+ TINYSHOWCASE.COM
+ URBANOUTFITTERS.COM

20X200
ARTFINDER
DANHOBDAYART
JENNYSPRINTSHOP
MINTED
MODEAPRINTS
PRINTABLESOCIETY
SOCIETY6
THEPEOPLESPRINTS
THEPRINTABLESTUDIO
TINYSHOWCASE
URBANOUTFITTERS

NIGHT WATCH
PPG 1145-7
PPG PAINTS

DARD HUNTER GREEN
SW 0041
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

GARDEN PATCH
526-5DB
DUTCH BOY

CAVERN CLAY
SW 7701
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

KINDLING
N200-6
BEHR

KONA
AF-165
BENJAMIN MOORE

BLUEPRINT
S470-5
BEHR

DARK NIGHT
SW 6237
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

TWINKLE
VR087B
VALSPAR
If you’re going to go bold in a kitchen or bath, remember to also go bright. Deep saturated hues work well in spaces with great natural light, and white countertops and backsplashes offer much-needed contrast to avoid a cavelike effect, this photo.
TREND STATEMENT MARBLE

Known for its upscale classic look, Carrara marble continues to dominate flooring, backsplashes, shower surrounds, countertops, and accessories. Bring home the trend to your kitchen or bath in a big way—sans custom fabricator—with these affordable, DIY-friendly ideas.

FLOORING
A marble tile install is doable for the intermediate DIYer, but you may be looking at some intense subfloor prep, depending on your existing flooring. For the beginner or time-strapped remodeler, we like luxury vinyl tile for cost, ease of installation, and long-term maintenance. Available in peel-and-stick, glue-down, grip strip, or interlocking varieties, these planks can usually be installed over existing smooth, undamaged flooring surfaces. Shaw Floors Fairmount 12x24-inch luxury vinyl tile in Belmont, $5/square foot; wayfair.com

WALLS & BACKSPLASHES
For a shower surround or other high-moisture area, real marble tile is your best bet. If you can’t afford the real deal, opt for one of the realistic ceramic or porcelain look-alikes in a variety of shapes and sizes available at home improvement stores or tile retailers. For walls or backsplashes in dry areas, try wallpaper. For a high-end look, we like this style that creates the illusion of hex tiles with copper grout lines. Marble and Copper Tiles Wallpaper by Milton & King, $132/roll (65 square feet); burkedecor.com

COUNTERS
Fabricate a marble countertop for much less than the cost of having a stoneyard slab professionally installed by using 12x24-inch marble (A) or marble-look porcelain tiles (B). The tiles range in cost from a few dollars per square foot for porcelain to $30 per square foot for high-end marble. Build a sturdy base from plywood, and cover it with cement board. Dry-fit the tiles to map out your cuts and find the most pleasing layout for the variations in the stone. Then lay the tile, using white mortar made for heavy tiles and a notched trowel. After it’s dry, seal according to manufacturer’s instructions. Use a light gray nonsanded grout that matches the marble graining to finish the project.

If you’re starting with a smooth and solid countertop surface …
Get a marble look by disguising your existing surface with peel-and-stick vinyl made for countertops, above left. PVC material is heavier duty than other available options, but it can mold easily around curved edges. You’ll need a squeegee, hair dryer, scissors, and razor blade to install. While we don’t recommend cutting veggies or placing piping-hot pots on this surface, you can clean it with nonabrasive household cleaners. Instant Granite White Italian Marble countertop film, starting at $40 (36-inch-square sheet); instantgranite.com

EASY DOES IT For countertop edges, you can cut tiles to fit and hone the edges with a tile sanding stone, but we like using trim pieces. Plan your project so the thickness of your base and tile equals the height of the trim pieces, and hold them in place with painters tape as the mortar dries. The added investment is well worth the professional finish. Hampton Carrara Polished Barnes Marble Tile Trim, $22 each; tileshop.com

Luxury vinyl tile (LVT) is warmer to the touch than marble. It doesn’t need to be sealed, and some styles can even be grouted.
White marble, wood cabinetry, hits of black, mixed metals, and accessories in deep hues—so many trends merge in this beautiful, of-the-moment kitchen, this photo. Don’t be deterred if a complete remodel isn’t in your future. Any space can benefit from a new light or faucet, a coat of paint on the walls or ceiling, updated hardware, or a few new gadgets.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY WHEN YOU’RE ON A BUDGET. SCOUR THE REMNANTS AT YOUR LOCAL STONE SUPPLIER AND ADD STURDY BASE CABINETRY TO CREATE A SHOWSTOPPING ISLAND. CHOOSE A MORE AFFORDABLE MATERIAL FOR THE PERIMETER COUNTERTOPS.
TREND ARTISAN TILE

Call it white subway tile fatigue. Today’s trendiest tile styles are handcrafted head turners. Think encaustic cement tile in colorful patterns, bold geometric shapes, and textural terra-cotta glazed tiles. Budget finds in porcelain and ceramic can help you get the designer look for less—with a much easier DIY install.

1. Laura Ashley Wicker Charcoal Matte ceramic tile, 13×13-inch, $10/square foot; tileshop.com
2. Decor Square porcelain wall and floor tile, 7½×7½-inch, $8/square foot; tileshop.com
3. Splendours Vertex Blue Decor ceramic subway tile, 3×12-inch, $13/square foot; tileshop.com
4. Jeffrey Court Beverly Blue Fan ceramic mosaic tile, 8¾×13-inch, $14 each; homedepot.com
5. Star ceramic wall and floor tile, 18×18-inch, $9/square foot; tileshop.com
6. Della Torre Cementina ceramic tile, 8×8-inch, $1.50/each; lowes.com
7. Jeffrey Court Beverly Blue ceramic subway tile, 3×6-inch, $3.50/square foot; homedepot.com

TILE Tips

CEMENT THE DEAL Trendy encaustic cement tiles like those on the floor, below, can be difficult to work with because of their handmade imperfections, thickness, and tendency to stain. If you go this route, do plenty of research first, take your time between steps, and invest in quality tools—especially a good tile cutter and diamond blade—for the best results.

MATERIAL MATTERS Porcelain and ceramic tiles offer trendy looks, often at affordable price points. In general, porcelain is harder, more durable, and more impervious to water than ceramic because it’s fired at a higher temperature. Ceramic is easier to cut, but it can show damage more easily as the color is only part of the glaze layer.

PLAN FOR SUCCESS The difference between a top-notch installation and one that looks DIY (not in a good way) is in the planning. Before you ever lay a tile, prep your surface, plan your layout, and consult the manufacturer’s instructions.
TREND MATTE BLACK METAL

On hardware, plumbing fixtures, and lighting, matte black metal finishes reign supreme in today’s cool, crisp, and modern kitchens and baths and in those with more traditional farmhouse styles. They’re also more affordable than ever. For lighting, search the exterior section for options that will hold up well in humid conditions.

If you have existing hardware...

Give your cabinet pulls, knobs, and hinges a facelift (or make over affordable bulk buys) with an ultra-flat black spray paint, such as Rust-Oleum Universal Matte Spray Paint in Farmhouse Black ($9; michaels.com). For best results, clean thoroughly and lightly rough up the hardware with fine-gauge steel wool before spraying two to three thin coats a few minutes apart.

If you need new hardware...

1. 3-inch Streamline pull in Flat Onyx, Hickory Hardware, $5; homedepot.com
2. 3-inch Peak handle in matte black, CB2, $9; cb2.com
3. 1½-inch Hex knob in matte black, CB2, $5; cb2.com
4. 1¾-inch Bar rectangular cabinet knob in matte black, Lew’s Hardware, $7; lowes.com
5. 1¼-inch Cadet Mushroom cabinet knob in flat black, Emtek, $7; build.com
6. 3-inch Center to Center cabinet pull in matte black, Richelieu, $5; lowes.com

METAL MIXING 101

+ Stick with two or three metals, and choose one to be dominant or use them in equal doses. Matte black, aged brass, and polished nickel get equal play time, above.
+ If you’re selecting a warm metal, such as aged brass, pair it with a cool metal, such as polished nickel. Black metal goes with all.
+ Repeat each metal at least once. The dominant finish should appear around the room for balance.
+ Fixtures with similar functions (cabinet hardware, plumbing, lighting) should have the same finish—so choose a finish for each and deploy consistently throughout the space.

On hardware, plumbing fixtures, and lighting, matte black metal finishes reign supreme in today’s cool, crisp, and modern kitchens and baths and in those with more traditional farmhouse styles. They’re also more affordable than ever. For lighting, search the exterior section for options that will hold up well in humid conditions.
DRAB TO FAB

Teach an old piece of furniture new tricks. Follow our lesson plans to combine colorful facelifts, storage upgrades, and stylish add-ons.

PROJECTS JESSICA ENO
PHOTOGRAPHS CARSON DOWNING
WORDS LACEY HOWARD

DRAB
FAB

TO
The Side Table
SHOP WITH AN EYE FOR SHAPE, SCALE, AND POSSIBILITIES. DON’T OVERLOOK THE UGLY, SAD, OR FALLING APART. THIS LOW-SLUNG SIDE TABLE WAS ONLY $12. WE ADDED LEGS AND A SHELVING UNIT FOR HEIGHT AND FUNCTION.

TALL DRINK OF WATER Adding height transformed a low-rider cabinet into a living room standout, opposite. Attach legs of your choice to the original piece. Determine the desired final height and the length of the vertical boards of the shelving unit. Cut to length. Determine the length of the horizontal boards by subtracting the thickness of the vertical pieces from the width of the cabinet. Measure and mark the shelf placement along the vertical boards as desired. Drill three Kreg jig holes and attach one horizontal board to span the two vertical boards for the unit’s top (A). Drill two holes the size of your shelf holder pins at the marked places for each shelf on each vertical board. Use L brackets to secure the sides of the shelving unit to the cabinet. Prep, prime, and paint; once dry, add hardware and place the pins and shelves (B).

LIKE A PRO
Making over a piece of found furniture looks easy enough. But following these pro tips will make sure your project is IG humble-brag worthy.

SHOP SMART If you’re shopping online, Facebook is easy to navigate, and buyers communicate with sellers via Facebook chat. Craigslist is still a good place to look; sellers like to be anonymous and make deals via email or phone. If you’re shopping locally, consignment is great, but people who consign generally want more money for their items. However, a lot of consignment shops discount pieces the longer they sit, so keep your eyes peeled. Tag sales, Goodwill, Salvation Army, and thrift stores often have some quality pieces with good lines and are good for browsers who enjoy the hunt and have the time and patience to wait for a gem. Ask family and friends if they have anything they want to unload. Chances are they’ve been meaning to move something out of their homes or storage spaces. Maybe they’ll let you have it for free!

CHECK FOR QUALITY Make sure your chosen piece is free of rotten or soft wood, and its drawers and doors work and are of solid construction. Repair or reinforce any loose or wobbly bits before prepping for paint.

PREP WORK Begin by protecting your work surface or floor with a drop cloth. Remove hardware, doors, and drawers from the furniture piece. Clean all surfaces to be painted with a degreaser, such as trisodium phosphate (TSP). Fill any dings or scratches with wood filler. Sand all surfaces and wipe clean with a lint-free cloth.

PRIME & PAINT Choose quality primer and paint. We recommend oil-base interior ProBlock Primer by Sherwin-Williams for any piece with existing stain or paint. Prime, then paint. Once the final coat has dried, reattach doors or drawers as needed.
TILE-TOP BUFFET

MATERIALS
• Drop cloth
• Screwdriver
• Tile backer board or plywood
• Tile
• Construction adhesive
• TSP
• Wood filler
• Sandpaper
• Lint-free cloth
• Primer
• Paintbrush
• Paint
• Furniture legs
• Door/drawer hardware

Step 1 Remove doors and inlaid surface.
Step 2 Measure the thickness of the old surface and cut to fit a board that, when topped with your tile, will equal the same thickness (the board we used was only ¼ inch thick).
Step 3 Dry-fit the tile and trim as needed. (We added narrow pieces of wood along the long sides to fill a gap instead of cutting slivers of tile.) Secure tiles, flush to one another, to board with construction adhesive.
Step 4 Prep, prime, and paint piece (see “Like a Pro,” page 79) and legs as desired. Secure legs to base, rehang doors, and attach door hardware. Place the board with tile into the buffet’s top.

The Buffet
THIS PIECE’S DOORS AND ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS SOLD US. ITS SHORT STATURE WAS NOT A PROBLEM—IT’S EASY TO ADD LEGS TO MAKE IT THE PERFECT HEIGHT. THE FAUX-LEATHER SERVING SURFACE WAS REMOVABLE AND GAVE US A PLACE TO ADD PLAYFULLY PATTERNED TILES.
**BLISSFUL IN BLUE** This low-slung bar cabinet could easily have been a piece pulled from a *Mad Men* set, this photo. Instead, it was a Facebook Marketplace score and, with the addition of mod metal legs, an inlaid cement-tile top, and a coat of heavenly blue paint, it becomes the star of your living or dining room—or even kitchen—show. The piece’s paneled door design is updated with clean, contemporary touches like Lucite door hardware and squared-off metal legs. The cement tile offers an on-trend sunburst pattern and inspiration for the azure hue.

**EIGHT-INCH-SQUARE CEMENT TILES MAKE A BEAUTIFUL AND DURABLE BUFFET TOP.** ERIZO BLUE TILE BY RIAD TILE, $4 PER TILE; RIADTILE.COM
DRESSED FOR SUCCESS This makeover was surprisingly easy and decidedly satisfying for the OCD, type-A brain—so many perfectly spaced dowels, *this photo*. Start by removing the dresser drawers and determining the spacing and placement of square wood dowels. Cut the required number of dowels to the height of the drawers and sand every side (including ends) of dowels. Use a pin nailer to attach dowels to drawer fronts (make sure nails aren’t so long that they poke through to the inside of the drawer). Fill nail holes with wood filler and sand smooth. Prep, prime, and paint the dresser and drawers. Let dry, then add drawer hardware.

The Dresser
BE PICKY WHEN CHOOSING A DRESSER. CHECK THE CONSTRUCTION CAREFULLY TO BE SURE THE DRAWERS WILL STILL FUNCTION AFTER ADDING DOWELS TO THE DRAWER FRONTS. IF YOUR DRESSER’S DRAWERS ARE FLUSH OR INSET TO THE FRAME, YOU COULD DO A FRAMELESS LOOK BY ADDING DOWELS TO THE DRESSER’S FRAME ALSO.

BEFORE

SIDE GIG With all the details on this piece, getting a professional-grade paint job (read: no drips) can be a challenge. Reach for the paint sprayer and apply thin, even coats.

SQUARE METAL LEGS ARE A CONTEMPORARY ADDITION TO THE BAR CABINET. OURS ARE 10 INCHES TALL BY 17 INCHES WIDE. SEARCH FOR ALL KINDS OF SHAPES AND SIZES AT ETSY.COM.
Dowels are attached with pin nails rather than glue to keep them perfectly vertical and securely attached.
MUST-SEE SANS TV This former TV armoire takes on a whole new modern farmhouse motif with a few simple updates—a painted-black finish, wallpaper backing, and glass in the formerly solid doors, *this photo*. Adding mini-drawers and stemware holders makes this piece as functional as it is fashionable. Glass inserts in the doors show off pretty items and let the interior styling shine.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.
**MAKE IT**

**STORAGE ARMOIRE**

**MATERIALS**
- Drop cloth
- Screwdriver
- Router
- Chipboard
- Wallpaper
- Drawer organizer
- Unfinished aspen board cut to size
- 1-inch square dowel
- Pin nailer
- Glass panels and glazier points
- TSP
- Wood filler and sandpaper
- Lint-free cloth
- Primer
- Paintbrush
- Paint
- Wineglass holder brackets
- Door/drawer hardware

**Step 1** Remove doors and each door’s center panel. Route an edge for glass inserts.

**Step 2** Measure the back of the armoire’s interior box. Cut a piece of chipboard the same size, and wallpaper or paint it as desired.

**Step 3** Choose and assemble organizational additions. We chose a three-drawer unit and topped it with an unfinished aspen shelf spanning the interior box. Cut aspen board to size then attach a square dowel to the interior of armoire, opposite the drawer unit, to hold the shelf (A). We added wineglass holders on the bottom of one side of the shelf.

**Step 4** Install glass panels cut to size in the armoire doors using glazier points. Tip: Visit a hardware store and ask for glass cut to your specific measurements.

**Step 5** Prep, prime, and paint piece (see “Like a Pro,” page 79) as desired. Install the wallpapered board, the drawer unit, and shelf. Rehang doors and attach door hardware.

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**WE ADDED WINEGLASS HOLDERS TO ONE SIDE OF THE SHELF TO BENEFIT FROM OTHERWISE UNUSED SPACE.**

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**The Armoire**

AN ARMOIRE WITH SIMPLE, CLEAN LINES MAKES FOR A NO-SWEAT (LITERALLY, BECAUSE IT’S NOT TOO HEAVY) MAKEOVER. CUSTOMIZE THE BIG, OPEN SPACE DEPENDING ON YOUR NEEDS—A PLACE FOR DISHWARE, A BAR FOR ENTERTAINING, LINEN STORAGE, OR EVEN A CABINET FOR SHOES OR ACCESSORIES. IF YOU’RE UNEASY ABOUT ROUTING OUT THE DOORS FOR GLASS INSERTS, CONSIDER HAVING DOORS MADE OR LEAVE THEM OFF.
ISLAND LIVING The kitchen works harder and appears lovelier thanks to the 5-foot island/ breakfast bar homeowner Kelly McJunkin crafted by joining a standard $95 base cabinet and a custom- ordered cabinet designed to hold a microwave. After nailing the two cabinets together, she added plywood to the sides and layered on shiplap-style hardwood panels. She capped the construction with a quartz-surfac ing countertop before enhancing the structure’s profile with wood trim, corbels, and warm gray paint. New stainless-steel appliances and a streamlined range hood work with the rustic-chic barstools to further Kelly’s modern farmhouse vision.
A kitchen and master bath gain a cheerful new look and functionality thanks to the inventive efforts of the hands-on homeowner.

"THE HOME WAS A BIT OF AN EYESORE, AND NOT MY FIRST PICK, BUT ITS BEAUTIFUL, PRIVATE CANYON LOCATION PULLED US IN," says Kelly McJunkin of the 1990s home she and husband Grant bought near San Diego in 2013. "But I knew we could update the house to suit our needs and style."

Fast-forward a few years (with kids Kade and Tegan in the house) when Kelly began overhauling the master bath and kitchen.

“I hadn’t done a lot of serious DIY, but since I was home with the kids, I had time to draw on my creative side,” Kelly says. “If I could figure out how to do a project and had the right tools, I knew I wouldn’t need to hire someone.”

She tackled the master bathroom first—painting the cabinets, refinishing the countertop, stenciling the floor, and gaining the confidence to undertake the kitchen makeover. The first to go in the cook space was the weirdly shaped island, which she replaced with a Kelly-customized alternative. After painting cabinets white and choosing style-apt fittings and furnishings, this brightened kitchen now promotes congregating and invites lingering.
MAKE OLD CABINETS LOOK BRAND NEW BY TREATING SURFACES WITH A DEGLOSSER BEFORE PAINTING THEM WITH QUALITY SELF-LEVELING SEMIGLOSS PAINT.
LIGHT & WHITE Spic-and-span cabinets, sleek 7¼×1½-inch subway tiles, and mostly white countertops generate buoyant vibes and a light-reflective perimeter, opposite and right. Though Kelly built the island and painted all the cabinets, she hired professionals to install the countertops and backsplash to ensure these last-a-lifetime projects were done properly. A woven bamboo window shade, graphic floor runner, and dark metal finishes add layers of warmth, softening the kitchen’s weighty surfaces and straight edges.

DO IT BETTER
GIVE EXISTING HINGES A FACELIFT INSTEAD OF BUYING NEW. THIS MAKES REINSTALLING CABINET DOORS EASIER (NO NEW HOLES TO DRILL!). REMOVE HINGES, CLEAN THEM WELL, AND SPRAY WITH MADE-FOR-METAL PAINT.

THE RIGHT FIT Kelly added oomph to her design by selecting hardware and fixtures with striking silhouettes rendered in notable hues, far left and left above. A statuesque faucet and substantial black iron door pulls, bought in longer versions for the island, contribute contemporary cadences. The gray painted finish (picked up by the gray grout on the backsplash), shapely corbels, and beadboard paneling give the new island fine-furniture appeal, left below. An extended countertop adds dining function to the handy prep and serving center.
MIRROR, MIRROR Kelly turned a ho-hum mirror into a focal point in the master bath by adding a frame she crafted from cut-to-size 1x3 boards butted together and joined with Liquid Nails and staples, this photo. She treated the frame with a wood conditioner and stain before adding decorative brackets at the corners. She mounted the frame on the mirror with Liquid Nails—holding the frame in place with painters tape until dry. Kelly also refinished the yellowed solid-surfacing countertop—she washed the surface, scrubbed it with a hard-water stain cleaner, and then sanded it. Following instructions, she mixed and applied Rust-Oleum Tub and Tile Refinishing Kit. She used a roller to apply three very thin coats, allowing each coat to dry for two hours before applying the next.
IT’S IN THE DETAILS The mirror frame works with bronze faucets and knobs to ply the room with interesting textures, right. Pattern pops up as a blue-green flower motif on the stenciled floor, opposite. Kelly primed existing textured ceramic floor tiles with Zinsser primer before base-coating the floor with one coat of Behr porch and patio paint color-matched to Benjamin Moore Dove White. After the paint dried, she applied a style-defining 2x3-foot stencil from Royal Design Studio Stencils using porch and patio paint color-matched to Sherwin-Williams Rainwashed. Starting at the top center of the room (A), she worked around the space using a stencil roller to apply paint and create a pretty, flowing pattern (B).

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.
We’ve all done it—purchased an item that just isn’t the best fit once you get it home. Fix common size and scale design mistakes with clever DIY solutions.

PROJECTS LESLIE POYZER  PHOTOGRAPHS JACOB FOX  WORDS HEIDI PALKOVIC

IT’S TOO SMALL, Y’ALL

Spring 2019

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THE PROBLEM

THE FRAMED ARTWORK AND LAMPSHADE ARE TOO SMALL FOR THE SPACE AND FEEL DISCONNECTED.

THE SOLUTIONS

SPACE INVADERS Keep accessories from floating in a sea of space by lowering the artwork on the wall and swapping out the lampshade for a taller one. Place the lamp on a stack of books so the frame and the shade reach the same height. Add a top layer to the arrangement with a trio of matching accessories.

A SHADE BETTER

Pair lampshades and bases like a pro with these handy rules of thumb.

SHAPE  Take your cue from the shape of the lamp base when choosing the shade. Pair round or hexagonal shades with round bases, and angular shades with square bases.

SIZE  Get the shade-to-base proportions right. Find a shade that is about two-thirds the height of the base. Measure the width of the base and multiple by two to find the proper shade width. The shade should be tall enough to cover the lamp neck and harp.
WELCOME MAT
Rather than nixing your existing artwork, opt for a new mat and a larger frame. Cut mat board to fit the frame, then mark the mat center. From the center point, measure the size of your artwork and cut out the mat center. Use artists tape to mount the artwork on the mat back before inserting in the frame. A slim yet taller lampshade fits well next to the larger frame.

JAZZ IT UP Layer on a dynamic background and give the lamp a makeover. Cut fabric to the desired width and length (ours extends 5 inches beyond either side of the dresser), then stretch and staple the fabric onto the walls. Cut and paint pieces of wood trim (we chose 1×2s) and use finish nails to attach the trim to hide the fabric edges (A). Touch up nail holes with wood filler and paint. Stack plywood rounds under the lamp and spray-paint the entire base. Top with a larger and more colorful shade.

NEED A TALLER LAMP BASE? PLACE THE LAMP ON A STACK OF WOOD SLICES TO ACHIEVE THE CORRECT BASE-TO-SHADE RATIO.
THE PROBLEM

THE AREA RUG IN THIS LIVING ROOM DOESN’T CONNECT ALL THE FURNITURE IN THE SEATING AREA. TO CONNECT AND GROUND THE PIECES, THE RUG SHOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO EXTEND UNDER AT LEAST THE FRONT LEGS OF THE SOFA AND CHAIRS.

BIG, BEAUTIFUL RUGS OFTEN COME AT A HIGH COST—BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN YOU MUST SETTLE FOR A TOO-SMALL RUG.

THE SOLUTIONS

MAKE IT BIGGER

PIECE TOGETHER Keep your existing rug but add coordinating runners to the sides. Choose runners that are the same length as the existing rug and have a similar edging, such as fringe (A). Our center rug is 5x8 feet and the two runners are about 2½x8 feet, making the new combined rug 8x10 feet. At $35 each, the runners are an inexpensive alternative to purchasing a large rug.

USE SINGLE-SIDED CARPET TAPE TO JOIN THE RUGS ON THE BACK.
GET GROUNDED
Don’t skimp on your underfoot style selections. Pick a rug that packs a punch and pulls your room together perfectly.

**DO**  Choose a rug that is at least 2 feet wider than the sofa so it extends a foot beyond each side. For an average size living room, a 5x8-foot rug is the smallest you should go, but an 8x11-foot rug is almost always a better choice so all four feet of the chairs and sofa fit on the rug.

**DON’T**  choose a rug that floats between the furniture. Resist the lure of the low price of a small rug. A large rug works best because it grounds and unifies the conversation area.

**CUT A RUG**  Layer your small rug on top of a large one cut from inexpensive indoor-outdoor carpet. To cut the rug (ours is 8x10 feet), snap chalk lines on the back, then use a utility knife to cut along the lines. Create a decorative border by painting a repeating stencil pattern along the edges (A). Use a carpet pad under the top rug to prevent shifting.

**ADD LAYERS**

+ **MARK OFF A BORDER WITH PAINTERS TAPE. STENCIL A REPEATING PATTERN USING A SPONGE POUNCER DIPPED IN CHALK-FINISH PAINT.**
GOING UP Ideally, a curtain rod should hang two-thirds of the distance from the ceiling to the top of the window and should extend 10–12 inches past each side. To compensate for the needed extra length, cut fringe the same width as each panel, then sew it to the bottom of each panel. When choosing a fringe length, allow for slightly longer than needed so the fringe dusts the floor.

SEW ON FRINGE

A TOO NARROW CURTAIN ROD IS HUNG TOO LOW, OBSCURING THE VIEW AND MAKING THE WINDOW SEEM VERY SMALL.

THE PROBLEM

THE SOLUTIONS

THE PROBLEM

Now that you know it’s best to hang your curtains high and wide, we’ll let you in on a time- and sanity-saving tip for hanging the rod (especially for multiple windows): Use a template!

To make it, cut a large square from chipboard or sturdy cardboard, and trim a 3-inch-square notch from one corner. Measure up and out the desired distance from the notch corner, position the rod bracket on the template, and mark the bracket holes. Place the template on the wall, positioning the notch around one window frame corner. Drill holes through the template at the marks. Flip the template over, place it around the opposite window corner, and drill holes for the other side.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 100.
**BAND ON THE RUN**

Fix too-short panels by insetting a section of accent fabric for a stripe effect. Sheer fabric (A) will allow light to filter through. Plan the height and placement of the band (ours are centered in the top half of the window when hung), then cut across each panel where the band will start. Cut each band the same width as the panels, adding a 1/2-inch seam allowance to each side. Turn under a 1/4-inch hem on each side edge, then turn under again and sew. With right sides together, sew the top and bottom of each band to panel pieces.

**BOX TOP**

If sewing is not your thing, build a cornice box and mount it over the top of the window to add height. Measure the distance from wall, allowing enough space to enclose the rod, and cut two 1/2-inch medium-density fiberboard pieces for the sides (ours are 4x18 inches). Cut the front piece plenty wide (ours is 12 inches wider than the rod, measuring 52 3/4 inches) and cut a top the same width as the front and the same depth as the sides. Cut two 1-inch-wide mounting brackets. Use wood glue and 1/2-inch screws to assemble the box; clamp the pieces until dry. Sand the cornice, wipe, and paint. Spray four flat corner brackets (ours are 4 inches) with gold paint; let dry. Attach a corner bracket 3/4 inch from each front corner (A). Hang the cornice with 2-inch screws driven at an angle through the mounting brackets, using anchors if not screwing into studs.
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.

[1] 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.

ON THE COVER

TRY IT: HANDMADE PAPER
PAGES 6–12

WHAT TO DO WITH:

ELECTRONIC CUTTERS
PAGES 28–34
Pages 28–29

Leaf images for table runner Bohemian Wedding MC87282 and M2EE91 Birthday Art, both from the Martha Stewart collection. image for napkin ring Flower Shop M3DD6F, butterfly images for charger M802BEE2 and M456EC. font for acrylic block placeholder Enviro Com—Cricut Design Space; design.cricut.com.


Electronic cutter ScanNCut—Brother International Corp.; brother-usa.com.
Spray paint for gold items Pure Gold Metallic Paint and Primer in One—Rust-Oleum; 877/385-8155; rustoleum.com.
Lamp West Window small lamp base from the Project 62 collection, lampshade Rectangle in white—Target Stores; 800/880-8000; target.com (product line varies). Polka-dot planter—West Elm; 866/428-6468; westelm.com (product line varies).
Navy oval tray—CB2; 800/606-6252; cb2.com.
Wood file trays—The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com.

ORDER IN THE HOUSE: BATH VANITY PAGES 36–39
White wall tile 6x16-inch Gloss Sail from the Annapolis collection, shower floor tile 2x2-inch field tile Permatone in Arctic White, blue tile stripe Uptown Glass in Pearl Blue 1x1-inch UP15—Daltile; 800/933-8453; daltile.com. Floor tile Coletiwo Muda Central encaustic cement tile 8x8-inch—Clé; cletile.com.
Sheer shower curtain Universal, faucets Two-Handle Widespread Lavatory Faucet, robe hook, towel ring, all from the Trinsic Matte Black collection—Delta Faucet Co.; 800/345-3358; deltafaucet.com.
Shower door Dreamline Linea Frameless Shower Door in oil-rubbed bronze—Lowe’s; lowes.com.
Light fixture Dynasty three-light vanity light with Patriot Lighting, painted matte black and shades removed after purchase, lightbulbs for fixture Globe 40W Equivalent Dimmable Warm White G40 Globe Vintage LED—Menards; for locations, visit menards.com.
Three-tier glass storage tower, gold-tone lidded canister, blue cup, black metal wire shower caddy—Target Stores; target.com (product line varies).
Acrylic tissue holder similar available, whitewash rattan storage baskets—The Container Store; containerstore.com.


ROOM REVIVAL PAGES 46–53
Flooring Dream Home Ultra X20 14 mm Nordic Fog Oak Laminate—Lumber Liquidators; lumberliquidators.com.
Cabinet storage unit, office arrangement units, hangers, boxes, sock organizer, light square woven basket at center right of cabinet, charging station box in office, navy blue boxes in office, round woven basket in office, drawer organizers in drawer, basket under bed, white lidded box and magazine files in office, woven basket at bedside—The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com. Office chair—Terrain; 877/583-7724; shopterrain.com. Closet draperies, white hexagon clock on shelf, blue bedside table, folders and folder stand in office, notebooks on shelf in office, frame for fourth artwork on bottom shelf above striped bench, jewelry holder tree on dresser—Target Stores; 800/880-8000; target.com (product line varies). Mirror leaning on wall, pink and red gourd-shape pots in office, first framed artwork on bottom shelf above striped bench, round mirror at dresser—CB2; 800/606-6252; cb2.com.
Bedding, hook between closets, dresser scarf runner, gold-tone scissors in office, vase at bedside—Anthropologie; 800/309-2500; anthropologie.com.

BATHROOM PAGES 54–55
Cabinet paint Louiburg Green—Benjamin Moore; 855/724-6802; benjaminmoore.com (product line varies). Penny tile for backsplash Mohawk Vivant Gloss White Porcelain, mosaic tile Mohawk Glasen Stone Matte White Ceramic, subway tile in various sizes, rope trim Mohawk Liners White Ceramic Pencil Liner—Menards; for locations throughout the Midwest, visit menards.com.

CABINET PAINT PAGES 56–61

BABY GOT BACK PAGES 54–61
Pages 54–55
Cabinet paint Louiburg Green—Benjamin Moore; 855/724-6802; benjaminmoore.com (product line varies). Penny tile for backsplash Mohawk Vivant Gloss White Porcelain, mosaic tile Mohawk Glasen Stone Matte White Ceramic, subway tile in various sizes, rope trim Mohawk Liners White Ceramic Pencil Liner—Menards; for locations throughout the Midwest, visit menards.com.

GLASS BOWL WITH WOOD STAND—At Home; athome.com.

CABINET PAINT PAGES 57
Cabinet paint Stunning—Benjamin Moore;
855/724-6802; benjaminmoore.com


Corner brackets for mirror update Flat Corner Brace four-pack, corner brace paint Rust-Oleum Flat Black Spray Paint, floor primer Rust-Oleum Zinsser Bulls Eye, floor paints Behr Porch and Patio, color matched to Benjamin Moore White Dove and Rainwashed by Sherwin-Williams, tub and tile refinishing kit Rust-Oleum Tub and Tile Refinishing Kit, vanity lighting Westinghouse Iron Hill Three-Light Indoor in oil-rubbed bronze, faucet American

IT’S TOO SMALL, Y’ALL

PAGES 92 – 99

Pages 94–95


Pages 96–97


PROJECTS UNDER $20

Handmade paper 6
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Paper gift tags 9
Paper bowls 10
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Paper banner 11
Paper envelopes 12
Abstract art 18
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Wood and rope planter 21
Teardrop planter 22
Plastic herb planters 23
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Vinyl-embellished runner 29
Felt pillows 30
Vinyl-embellished side table 30
Chipboard lampshade 32
Cabinet drawer inserts 37
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SOUTHWEST VIBES

The Southwest has its day in the sun with cactus motifs and graphic patterns.

WORDS NATALIE DAYTON
PHOTOGRAPHS CARSON DOWNING

1. Choose from one of many gorgeous photographs to bring a touch of the desert to your home. From left: Sunburst, Hidden Heart, Painted Desert, from $15 for a digital print; jennysprintshop.com

2. Talk about making a statement. This white oak piece is stained and painted in vivid contrasting layers and comes complete with a French cleat for hanging. Wood Wall Art, $310 for 24×36 inches; blankspacestudios.etsy.com

3. Can’t pick a favorite Southwestern motif? With this set of three zippered pouches—colorful cactus, stripes, and mandala patterns—you don’t have to! Set of three, $30; dylanscandybar.com

4. This steel cactus wall hook holds up to 10 pounds, perfect for slinging your purse on after a long day away from the ranch. Cactus Wall Hook, $10; highlandridgerustics.etsy.com

5. A zip-on pillow cover mixes in effortlessly with most home decor thanks to its simple and modern colorway. Tribal Pattern Pillow Cover, $35; indigotangerine.etsy.com

6. A minimalistic tepee shelf adds a fun layer to a gallery wall or serves as a standout solo piece. It comes in white and teal with varied wood options. Bohemian Teepee Shelf, $54; roamingroots.co

7. Create a graphic accent wall with this geometric pattern. Each panel comes arranged for quick and easy installation. Southwestern Wall Decal in Lime Green, $45 for 28×84-inch panel; wallstargraphics.etsy.com

8. A zip-on pillow cover mixes in effortlessly with most home decor thanks to its simple and modern colorway. Tribal Pattern Pillow Cover, $35; indigotangerine.etsy.com

9. A minimalistic tepee shelf adds a fun layer to a gallery wall or serves as a standout solo piece. It comes in white and teal with varied wood options. Bohemian Teepee Shelf, $54; roamingroots.co

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