

Volume 2
**Quick & Stylish
Decorative Crafts**



How to Create Rooms

of
Radiance

by Marney K. Makridakis, edited by Michael J. Holland

Quick & Stylish Decorative Crafts

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How to Create Rooms of Radiance

**Dedicated to those who delight in creating
tangible wonder in their homes.**

How to Create Rooms of Radiance

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Introduction

by Marney K. Makridakis

Why Crafts?

If you are reading this book, you probably already have a desire to live in a home that will soothe your spirit. Such a home is filled with inspiring decorative accents that tie rooms together aesthetically and fill your heart with joy. But why should you attempt to create these decorative items yourself, rather than simply purchase them? I have four great reasons for you:

1. **Save Money!!!** In this Introduction, you'll see an outline of the projects we've included in this book. In each instance, I've estimated the amount that it would cost to purchase the item through traditional means. I then report how much our version costs, and approximately how much you'll save by following our simple instructions.

Naturally, these are just estimates, but it's impossible to deny the staggering amount of money that can be saved by undertaking these projects!

Many estimates are made with thrift store or garage sale furniture items in mind. These are great sources for furniture pieces used in this book...so keep your eye out for great bargains!

2. **Save Time!!!** My step-by-step instructions are designed specifically for YOU, the busy home decorator who would love to hang out making crafts but doesn't have much time.

I've given you lots of time-savers and quick-fix tips to help you along your way...tips that other do-it-yourself books don't include...to ensure that you're producing top-quality work in the minimum amount of time.

3. **Customize Your Home!!!** By creating these projects yourself, you're crafting one-of-a-kind items that you can't find ANYWHERE else. You can choose the colors, patterns, textures, and styles that will make these items fit your decor perfectly.

Forget finding the perfect lampshade, only to find that it doesn't come in the right color for your room. With our projects, you can customize items so that they fit your home to a "tee".

4. **Enjoy yourself!!!** Why not take an hour (or sometimes, even less) away from your busy life to do something that is thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying? When such unique projects can be done so quickly and easily, there's just no reason why you shouldn't take a break to create something for your home. You deserve it!

Making items for your home with your own hands is kind of like engaging in a conversation with your home's spirit. The process will make you more excited about your living space than ever!

How Does This Book Work?

This book contains **20 home decor projects**, with step-by-step photographs and detailed instructions. In addition, I've included **over 300 great ideas** for using these unique techniques throughout your home in a wide variety of ways.

Each project starts off with a "**Supplies Needed**" list. In all cases, these supplies are readily available at fabric, craft, home improvement stores, and on the Internet. To make it even easier for you, when possible, we've included links to product and manufacturer Web sites. These links are indicated in underlined blue. When you see a product or manufacturer name in underlined blue, simply click it and you'll be taken right to the appropriate Web site.

Peruse the supply list for each project prior to undertaking it, so you know what you need to have on hand. Please note that many of these projects require a **glue gun**, and this is something I recommend you purchase right off the bat. You will wonder how you ever lived without it! Glue guns dispense hot or cold glue, depending on the kind of gun you buy. I, personally, believe that a hot glue gun provides more satisfactory adhesion for home decor projects.

A glue gun is comfortable to hold in one hand, and has a “trigger” that releases the glue. The glue itself comes in sticks that you simply load in the dispenser. Craft stores sell glue guns in various sizes. The larger sizes can be more convenient because they don’t require you to load glue sticks as often, but the mini glue guns (sold for about \$1.99) do the job just as well. It’s such a small investment and will make your decorating experiences very easy!

After the supply lists, we include a “**Time Needed**” section, which is an estimation of the time needed to complete the project. We hope that by including these estimates, you’ll be able to plan ahead and pick the projects that are most suited to your schedule. The time estimates are our most accurate guess on how long it will take you to complete the project the first time you try it. If the project is such that subsequent attempts will take less time (such as creating no-sew slipcovers), we indicate that in the “**Time Needed**” section for each project. We also indicate whether our time estimate includes “non-working” time, such as time for paint to dry or caulk to cure. *Keep in mind that these time estimates do not include the time it takes to shop for supplies and gather them prior to starting a project.*

Next are “**The Steps**”. The steps are ordered sequentially, and are illustrated by photographs so that you can follow along as you design and create. It’s recommended that you read through the entire project steps before beginning the project. That should give you a better idea of what you’re doing, from the get-go.

Throughout the book, keep an eye out for our friendly icons that offer various bits of information, including:




Sit ‘n Summarize – summaries on topics for quick reference



Ancient Wisdom – little known facts of home and style through the ages to inspire you along the journey



Marney’s Memo – my favorite ideas on how to use the project techniques in other diverse ways...**over 300 ideas in all!**

Finally,  indicates helpful hints given as you work through the steps.

What Are the Projects?

Take a look at the projects included in the book...

Project 1: Faux Inlaid Wood Tiles

Authentic faux inlaid wood table: \$2,500.00

Our version: \$15.00

Amount saved: \$2,485



Project 2: Stone Mosaic TV Tray

Authentic stone mosaic side table: \$300.00

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$25.00

Our version: \$8.00

Amount saved: \$292.00

Project 3: Faux Marbled Glass Vase

Authentic marbled glass vase: \$200.00

Our version: \$5.00

Amount saved: \$195.00



Project 4: Faux “Flower Pounded” Tablecloth

Handmade “Flower Pounded” tablecloth
purchased at a craft show: \$80.00

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$10.00
but with
HOURS of
frustration!

Our version: \$20.00

Amount saved: \$60.00 (and several hours!)



Project 5: Wrapped Dining Room Chair

Ready-made slipcover: \$30.00

Our version: \$12.00

Amount saved: \$18.00

Amount saved for 8 dining room chairs: \$144.00

Project 6: No-Sew Tailored Dining Chair Slipcover

Ready-made slipcover: \$30.00

Our version: \$8.00

Amount saved: \$22.00

Amount saved for 8 dining room chairs: \$176.00



Project 7: Easy Wrapped Easy Chair

Professional reupholstery job: \$400.00

Our version: \$20.00

Amount saved: \$380.00



Project 8: Easy Embellished Throw Pillows

Retail decorative pillows: \$30.00 and up

Our version: \$4.00 each

Amount saved: \$26.00 per pillow

Average amount saved for 8 pillows: \$208.00

Project 9: Pleated Fabric Wall Treatment

Professional job: \$300.00

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$80.00

Our version: \$40.00

Amount saved: \$260.00



Project 10: Fabric-Wrapped Headboard

New custom fabric headboard: \$400.00

Our version: \$15.00

Amount saved: \$385.00



Project 11: Romantic Fabric-Covered Storage Baskets

Store-bought fabric-covered baskets: \$20.00 each

Our version: \$4.00 each

Amount saved: \$16.00

Amount saved for 5 baskets: \$64.00

Project 12: Botanical Decoupage Box

Purchased handmade decorative box: \$40.00 each

Our version: \$10.00 each

Amount saved: \$30.00



Project 13: Faux Toile Lampshade

Authentic French lampshade: \$60.00 each

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$25.00

Our version: \$10.00 each

Amount saved: \$50.00



Project 14: Ribbon & Bead Lampshade

Purchased hand-crafted lamp: \$40.00 each

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$18.00

Our version: \$8.00 each

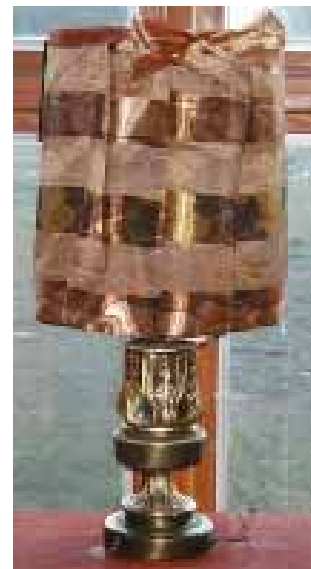
Amount saved: \$32.00

Project 15: Silk Lampshade with Gilded Base

Purchased silk shade and gilded base: \$80.00

Our version: \$15.00 each

Amount saved: \$65.00



Project 16: Gilded Picture Frame & Dimensional Paper Art

Authentic gold leafed frame: \$50.00

Our version: \$15.00 each

Amount saved: \$35.00



Project 17: Fine Art Dresser & Mosaic Mirror

Hand painted dresser: \$350.00

Our version: \$20.00 each

Amount saved: \$330.00

Project 18: Checkerboard Counter Edging Tiles

Professional custom job: \$850.00

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$300.00
(based on 200 tiles)

Our version: \$40.00 (based on 200 tiles)

Amount saved: \$810.00



Project 19: Whimsical Floorcloth

Purchased hand painted floorcloth: \$75.00

Our version: \$15.00

Amount saved: \$60.00



Project 20: Pearl & Caulk Faux Moldings

Professional molding installation: \$200.00

Regular do-it-yourself technique: \$100.00

Our version: \$10.00

Amount saved: \$190.00

Here's the bottom line: If you did each project in this book only once, **you could save over \$6,200!** And that's not to mention the **300+ project variation ideas** that are included in the book.

So now that I've whet your appetite with these great projects, it's time to get started! Roll up your sleeves, and get ready to have some fun and treat YOUR home to something really special!

Swirling in Creativity,



Project 1: Faux Inlaid Wood Tiles

Though the technique is centuries old, inlaid wood has a trendy appeal that is equally at home with all decorating styles - from traditional to contemporary, casual to formal.

However, because of the skilled craftsmanship involved, the cost for an inlaid wood table is often beyond the means of appreciating homeowners. An authentic inlaid wood coffee table typically costs between \$1,000 and \$4,000, or even more. Obviously, larger tables, such as dining tables are even more expensive.



What if you could create the look for under \$15? With these instructions, you can!

A casual dining table shines with the impressive look of handcrafted inlaid wood.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Any size wood or laminate table
- Paper napkins with a wood-colored design
- Scissors
- Decoupage medium (We recommend [Mod Podge](#) by Plaid Enterprises. You'll use less than half of an 8 oz. jar, but it's a far better value to buy a larger size and save it for other projects.)
- Paint brush (1"-2" household) or sponge brush
- Waterproof polyurethane



(Clockwise from bottom left: scissors, decorative paper napkins, [Mod Podge](#) by Plaid, polyurethane, sponge brush)

TIME NEEDED:

About an hour start to finish, depending on table size (includes drying)

THE STEPS:

1. Select a package of decorative paper napkins with a wood-colored design. You can select napkins in neutral, solid colors to simulate solid wooden tiles, or choose a design such as this one (photo #1) to give the impression that a design has been burnished into the wood tile. Make sure there is a contrast in color between the napkin and the table.

1.



(Napkin is by [DecoArt](#).)

2. Decide which portion of the napkin you will use for a “tile” and cut it out (photo #2). Remove all extra layers so that only the top “ply” with the design remains.

2.



3. This technique can be applied to any wood or laminate table, but don't use a natural wood table that you don't want to varnish. If you're working with a laminate table, before you begin decoupage the napkins, just make sure the surface is clean from dirt, dust, and stains. If you are working with a natural wood table, brush the entire table with one coat of polyurethane varnish before you begin decoupage. This serves two purposes: it protects the original finish and also will make the napkin “tiles” adhere smoothly.

**Crafty
Clue!**

Polyurethane comes in several finishes. Depending on the brand you're using, you usually can select from glossy, semi-gloss (also called “satin”) or matte finishes. Even if you are working with a laminate table, you still need to decide on your preferred polyurethane finish, because you'll be varnishing the entire surface of the project when you have adhered all the tiles.

The table shown in these photographs was varnished with a glossy finish to highlight the faux tiles in natural sunlight and give the wood a polished sheen.

4. Determine how you want to arrange the “tiles” on the table. In this example, the napkins are placed in a diagonal line going from one corner of the table to the opposite corner. (photo #4). *(Note: If your table is round or oval in shape, it works well to place the “tiles” in a hexagon or octagon shape centered in the middle of the tabletop.)*



5. With the paint brush or sponge brush, apply Mod Podge directly to the table in the shape of the first “tile” you will be placing (photo #5). You can “eyeball” this - it’s not necessary to measure the area for the “tile” exactly, since the Mod Podge dries clear.



6. Place the napkin “tile” over the area with Mod Podge, starting at one edge and slowly laying the napkin down to cover the entire area (photo #6). The single ply napkin will be quite flimsy, so lay it down slowly and gently.



7. Once it is down on the table, gently tap across the surface of the napkin to make sure it is adhered smoothly to the table (photo #7). *Do not rub the napkin, or it will tear.* Instead, just apply moderate pressure by tapping your finger directly up and down.



8. Make sure that all the edges of the napkin are glued down to the table. If there are any loose edges, all you need to do is add a bit of Mod Podge on the table underneath the loose edge. *To avoid tearing the napkin, do not brush Mod Podge directly on top of the napkin at this point. If a napkin DOES tear, just peel it off and start fresh with a new one.*

Again, don’t worry if there is a bit of excess Mod Podge on the table outside of where the napkin is - the Mod Podge will dry clear.

9. After making sure that all edges are securely glued to the table, repeat these steps to glue down the rest of the “tiles”, until the design is complete (photo #9).

9.



10. Allow the Mod Podge to dry for about 20 minutes.

11. Once the Mod Podge is dry, the napkins won't tear when you brush over them again. Coat the entire table with at least one coat of polyurethane varnish using long, broad strokes. **Voila! You have an inlaid wood table! Pretty easy, huh?**

*Crafty
Clue!*

As you apply the polyurethane, keep your eye out for “dry” areas on the table to ensure that you don't miss any spots. A professional-looking varnish job is one that is evenly covered, with no “missed” spots. You can add a second coat of polyurethane to ensure smooth coverage. This is also a good idea if the table will receive a lot of activity, such as is the case with a dining table. Be sure to wait at least half an hour in between the first and second coat of varnish.



Marney's Memo

Like the technique but don't have a table handy? Here are some other great places you can use the faux inlaid wood technique:

- Bathroom/kitchen cabinets
- Dining room chairs
- Microwave carts
- Wood or laminate floors
- Kitchen islands
- Dressers
- Wood doors
- Entertainment centers
- Armoires
- Wood windowsills
- Wood curtain rods
- Headboards
- Wood boxes
- Wood panelling on walls
- Baseboards/trim
- Bookshelves
- Desks
- Closets

You can use the above technique, also called decoupage, to apply a single ply napkin to other surfaces besides wood for a variety of looks. Check out our instructions for project 13, *Faux Toile Lampshade*.

Project 2: Stone Mosaic TV Tray

TV trays are an easy find at thrift stores and garage sales, but is it possible to make them look classy? Here's the answer: create a stone mosaic frame around the tabletop! With a few easy steps, you will end up with a TV tray that looks like a unique one-of-a-kind furniture piece.

Mosaics are made using grout, which typically comes as a mix that is combined with water to create a thick paste. While using grout is "authentic", it also can be expensive to buy and time-consuming to mix up. Using these project instructions, you can **save about an hour of your time** by using adhesive caulk, instead of grout. You'll also save money, too! **The product we recommend for this project costs less than \$3.00 a tube, as opposed to about \$12.00 for a small bucket of grout.**



Who knew a TV tray could be so elegant?

While this project specifically transforms a thrift store TV tray, you could easily adapt it for any surface...from a coffee table to an artificial fireplace.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A wooden TV tray
- Approximately 100 stones in desired size/color/texture (This project used less than 1 bag of craft stones purchased at [A.C. Moore.](#))
- Caulk (We highly recommend Tile Perfect's All-in-One Ceramic Tile Adhesive and Caulk, available at [Home Depot](#) and other home improvement stores in several basic colors. One 5.5oz tube will complete the project.)
- Container of water (An empty soup can about 3/4" full is sufficient)
- Paper towels
- Optional:* If you want to stain the TV tray first, you will also need stain in desired color, 1"-2" sponge brush, and polyurethane varnish.

TIME NEEDED:

About 1.5 hours or less, consisting of two sessions of about 30-45 minutes each, 24 hours apart.

THE STEPS:

1. You may want to coat the TV tray with a coat or two of wood stain if you'd like it to be darker or to resemble a different color wood. In this project, the original TV tray was very light and so it was stained with [Minwax Water-Based Wood Stain](#) in Vermont Maple to create a warmer color.



Clockwise from bottom left: All-in-One Ceramic Tile Adhesive and Caulk by Tile Perfect, sponge brush, stain, craft stones.

Wood Stains have a consistency that is much thinner than paint, and go on easily with a sponge brush. Allow the stain to thoroughly dry before going to the next step. It usually will dry in about 15 minutes, but check the product details for the specific brand you are using. Follow with a coat of polyurethane to seal the stain.

Crafty Clue!

Here's an easy way to ensure great coverage every time you stain. Take the sponge brush and lightly dab several spots of stain on the surface a few inches apart. Then brush the sponge brush across the spots to spread the stain across the surface with even coverage (photo #1). Then, even the stain out by dragging the brush across the entire surface in long, smooth strokes .

1.



2. The product we recommend for this project, All-in-One Ceramic Tile Adhesive and Caulk by Tile Perfect, can be used as both the adhesive (to glue the stones to the tray) and the caulk (to act as the faux "grout"). Apply the caulk to the back of a stone and firmly lay it down in one corner of the tray. Follow the same steps to add stones to the edge of the tray's surface (photo #2).

2.



3. Continue adding stones in this manner. Feel free to mix up the sizes of the stones a bit (photo #3). Don't worry if there are gaps between large and small stones because you'll be adding smaller stones later.

3.



4. Use some smaller stones to build up the stone "frame" to the desired width (photo #4). For this project, the "frame" is 2-3 stones wide, all around.

4.



5. When you're pleased with the arrangement of the stones, leave the table for at least 24 hours. This allows the adhesive to cure, so that when you come back to work on the table the next day, the stones are firmly adhered.

6. (*At least 24 hours later*) Apply the caulk between the stones in one corner (photo #6).

6.



7. Dip your index finger in the container of water to wet it. Then, rub your wet finger across all areas where caulk has been applied (photo #7). This is the easiest way to "fill" the gaps easily and smoothly.

7.



8. After smoothing over all the areas, examine the area to see if there are areas that need additional caulk. If there are still visible gaps in between the stones, add more caulk, and once again, smooth the area with a wet finger. After you are satisfied with the caulking in the area, use a damp paper towel to wipe off any caulk that has stuck to the stones. It's important to wipe off the stones at this point, before moving on to the next area.

9. Move on to the next area of stones and repeat the steps for caulking, smoothing, and wiping clean the stone (photo #9). Think in terms of working with about 3-4 inches of the “frame” at once.

9.

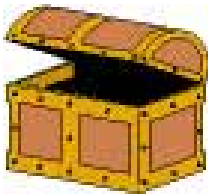


10. Once you’ve gone around the entire tray, your table is complete (photo #10).

And there you have it!

10.

All for just a few dollars and for much less time than if you mixed traditional grout!



Ancient Wisdom

Around 1200 A.D., stone mosaics appeared on the floors of many European cathedrals. The mosaics symbolized the journey to penance, and were often referred to as “Roads to Jerusalem”. They were used by monks for meditative walks and inner reflection.

If you’re in the mood for a bit of research, you might want to read a bit about the history of stone mosaics, and even replicate an authentic medieval design when you create your TV tray. For books about stone mosaics and history, do a search at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and browse through the results until you find a book that suits you, such as *Mosaics of the Greek and Roman World*, by Katherine M. D. Dunbabin.



Marney's Memo

I know that you've amazed yourself (and your friends!) with your ability to turn a regular TV tray into a high-quality, handcrafted end table in no time at all. While the resulting tray looks fantastic as is (right), you also might want to consider adding a floor-length table drape to the tray (below left) to cover the tray's legs.



For this example, all I did was measure a piece of suede fabric so that it could fit all the way around the table, stopping short at about two inches. I used a glue gun to glue the fabric to the tray's edge. With the glue gun, I then glued a sheer fabric to the edge of the tray at the "opening" between the edges of the suede fabric. I added a fringed trim to one of the edges of suede at the opening, and then let the fringe puddle on the floor. The whole thing took less than 10 minutes!

And guess what? You can use this caulk technique to create faux grout in a mosaic with just about anything! Here are some favorite ideas for mosaics:

- Wood chips
- Seashells
- Charms
- Jewelry parts
- Faux gems
- Broken china
- Pieces of glass
- Buttons
- Game pieces
- Watch faces and parts
- Beads
- Bows
- Magnets
- Doll house miniatures
- Small toys
- Figurines
- Screws, nails, nuts, bolts
- Miniature holiday ornaments
- Broken CDs
- Bottle caps

Project 3: Faux Marbled Glass Vase

Marbled glass is one of the most expensive glass collectibles on the market. Its luminescence and elegance are unmistakable, so it's no wonder that it is treasured by top-level collectors and celebrities worldwide.

Would you believe us if we told you that the vase pictured here was created for about **\$5.00** in about **15 minutes**?

Well, it's true! And you won't even need a paint brush! Even children can achieve this lustrous look every time. Read on to find out how....



Marbled glass, whether fashioned in a fine art vase or in small marbles, will always capture fascinated eyes!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A plastic vase (This frosty-colored vase was bought for \$1.00 at a dollar store.)
- Two sheets of wax/freezer paper
- Acrylic craft paint in two contrasting colors (Here, pale pink and dark red were used. Very little paint is needed, so the small 2 oz. bottles work well.)
- White acrylic paint (Very little paint is needed, so a small 2 oz. bottle works well.)
- Polyurethane varnish (*optional*)



Left to right: wax paper, plastic vase, red, pink, and white acrylic craft paints.

TIME NEEDED:

About 15 minutes.

THE STEPS:

(Note: this process can be a bit messy, so make sure you are dressed accordingly!)

1. Place one sheet of wax or freezer paper on a table. Take the bottle or tube of the lighter of your two colors of paint and squeeze out some paint in a random design on the freezer paper (photo #1). Large circles and swirls work great.



2. Take the bottle or tube of white paint and add several swirls and splotches of paint over the first paint you laid down (photo #2).



3. Take the bottle or tube of the darker of your two colors and drop several small splotches over the two paints (photo #3).



4. Place the second piece of wax/freezer paper on top of the piece with the paint on it. Press your hands on top of the top piece and gently move the piece in a circular motion (photo #4). This swirls the paint between the two sheets of paper.



5. Gently peel back the top piece (photo #5) to reveal a marbledized design (photo #5a). At this point, you can add more paint and re-press the papers together, if you'd like to tweak the design in any way.



6. Pick up one of the pieces from its underside (the side without paint on it) and apply it directly to the **inside** of the vase by pressing the paper to the sides of the vase (photo #6).

*Crafty
Clue!*

To maintain distinct marbled swirls in the design, put your hand all the way down into the vase to cover the bottom of the vase, first. Then work your way up to the top of the vase. If you're interested in a more solid-color design with subtle swirls, start at the top and work your way down. As you work your way down, parts of the paper will inevitably touch the areas you've already painted, which will further blend the colors together.



7. When you remove the paper from the vase, you'll see that the marbled design has been transferred to the inside of the vase, and shows through to the outside (photo #7). The fact that the paint shows through from the inside is what creates the smooth, marbled glass effect. If the paint were applied to the outside, the design would be colorfully and texturally interesting, but it wouldn't have the smooth, reflective look of glass.



Now, just repeat the process until all areas of the inside of the vase are covered with paint. Aim to cover a new area each time you put the paper in the vase to keep the design clear. When the sheet of paper starts to look "muddy", pick up the second sheet and continue.

8. When all areas are covered, allow the vase to dry thoroughly. If you plan to only use the vase alone or with artificial flowers, there's no need to varnish the inside. If, however, you plan to use live flowers in the vase, you need to cover the inside surface with two coats of waterproof polyurethane. You may find that it is easier to get proper coverage in the inside of the vase with a sponge or sponge brush, rather than with a paint brush.



Marney's Memo

Super easy, huh? If you like this technique, you don't have to limit yourself to marbled swirls. Another alternative is to create an abstract glass impression, as shown here (right).

Perfect for contemporary decorating styles, this look is as easy to achieve as the marbled glass. All you need to do is drop several colors of paint to create an abstract design on a single sheet of wax paper. Then, apply the single sheet to the inside of the vase by pressing it against the inside surface. An easy variation to please the modern artist in you!!

And don't stop with vases....consider these suggestions for other ways to use the wax paper marbling technique:

- Apply the marbled paint by rubbing wax paper on unfinished wood items, such as:

- * Furniture
- * Decorative boxes
- * Shelves
- * Footstools
- * Picture frames
- * Shadow boxes
- * Ornaments
- * Cabinetry
- * Candlesticks (right)

- Create a marbled border around a table or counter top. Block off the center of the table with a wide-width masking tape, and then just apply the wax paper directly to the untaped area. Wait for the paint to dry, and then remove the tape....you'll have a perfect border! For counter tops and the other surfaces listed above, be sure to apply a coat of polyurethane varnish when you're done.

- After applying the marbled paint to your item, if there is still paint on the wax/freezer paper, press it on regular white cardstock. When it dries, you'll have beautiful marbled paper. Cut out note cards, fold them over, and you have an elegant, splashy stationery set (right).



A glass vase patterned with an abstract design can't help but be admired!



A marbled candlestick.



Make a stationery set when you're done with your project!

Project 4: Faux “Flower Pounded” Tablecloth

Ever since the book, [The Art and Craft of Pounding Flowers](#) by Laura C. Marting, was published in 2001, the craft of “flower pounding” has been amazingly popular. Flower pounding involves using a hammer to literally pound the pigment of a botanical to a piece of fabric or paper. When done successfully, an imprint of the flower or leaf is left in the fabric. The result is lovely. But the process can be frustrating.

For starters, if you take a look at any how-to information about this craft, you’ll notice that there are actually only a few specific kinds of flowers and leaves that work well for the process. Consider the time to track down these botanicals, and then the time it takes for the trial and error to get the process to work successfully.

Not to mention the money you can lose by having to discard items from numerous failed tries. Sounds exhausting, right? Why don’t you try our easier way to get the very same delicate look of flower pounding, but with a lot less hassle.



The delicate look of “flower pounding” graces this tablecloth.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- White or light-color tablecloth (Cloth, not plastic; cotton or cotton/poly blends work best.)
- Artificial flowers or leaves (We recommend silk flowers or leaves. While any type of artificial flower will technically work, the key to this project is to use realistic-looking flowers, and therefore silk flowers are usually the most appropriate.)
- Scissors
- Computer, scanner, printer, and iron-on transfer paper that is compatible with your printer (we like Avery’s [T-Shirt Transfers](#)). If you don’t have access to a scanner and printer, you can also have color iron-on transfer pages printed at your local copy shop.
- An iron and ironing surface



Clockwise from left to right: tablecloth, artificial flower petals, iron, iron-on transfer paper, scissors.

TIME NEEDED:

Typically 1-2 hours, depending on the amount of time you spend working with the flower images on your computer or at the copy center, the size of the tablecloth and the amount of area on it you want to cover.

THE STEPS:

1. Remove buds, petals, or leaves from artificial flowers, scan them (photo #1) and print them on iron-on transfer paper with your printer (photo #1a). If you don't have access to a scanner and printer, simply take the flowers to a copy center and ask for color copies on iron-on transfer paper.

1.



1a.



*Crafty
Clue!*

If you scan the images to print them yourself, you can experiment with photo editing software to alter the look of the flowers before printing them. You can change several aspects of the image such as color, size, lightness/darkness, and more.

2. Carefully cut out one flower from the iron-on transfer (photo #2). Try to cut the image exactly on the edge to remove all white borders (these borders will show after the image is transferred to the tablecloth.)

2.



3. Continue cutting out the images until you have enough to cover a small area of the tablecloth so that you can iron them to the tablecloth all at once. (photo #3). An area of 6 square inches is a good size to work with.

3.



4. Determine the design you would like to make with the flowers. In this example, flowers of varying sizes were placed in clusters around each corner of the tablecloth. Working in the first small area of the design, lay the flower images **face down** on the tablecloth (photo #4).

4.



5. The next step is to iron the pieces of transfer paper to the tablecloth (photo #5). Follow the ironing instructions on the specific transfer paper you are using. For the Avery [T-Shirt Transfers](#), you simply need to place a plain pillowcase underneath the fabric, and then iron a single pass across each image with even pressure, counting about 20 seconds per pass.

5.

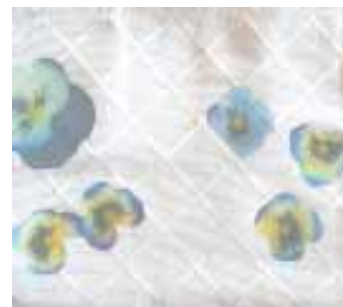


6. Allow the images to completely cool, so that they are cool to the touch (about 10 minutes). Gently pull back the paper to remove it from the tablecloth (photo #6). Peel off all the paper backings to reveal the images adhered to the tablecloth (photo #6a)

6.



6a.



7. Repeat these steps until your design is complete (photo #7).

And that's it! Your tablecloth is finished!

7.



WASHING INSTRUCTIONS:

Machine wash item separately (first time only) in cold water with color-safe detergent. Do not bleach. Remove from washer immediately, as colors may bleed if left wet too long (if bleeding occurs, wash again immediately.) Tumble dry warm. If possible, add dry towels to dryer to promote quicker drying. Check specific product instructions for other drying tips.



Sit 'n Summarize

If you're a stickler for authenticity, here's a list of the top ten flowers that work "best" in traditional flower pounding (source: [*The Art and Craft of Flower Pounding*](#) by Laura C. Martin):

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Lobelia | 4. Marigold | 7. Phlox | 10. Cosmos |
| 2. Bee balm | 5. Pansy/ violet | 8. Nigella | |
| 3. Verbena | 6. Coreopsis | 9. Impatiens | |

But remember....with OUR faux technique, you are completely, 100% unlimited!
Any flower that you can color copy can be transferred!



Marney's Memo

Once you've got this super-quick technique down, I promise you'll want to start ironing designs on every fabric item in your house! And don't stop at botanical images - think fine art, family photos, emblems, monograms, clip art, children's artwork...basically, any item that you can print on a sheet of paper can be transferred to fabric. Here are some ideas for where to begin:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| - Canvas wall hangings | - Comforters and duvet covers |
| - Floorcloths | - Pillow shams (right) |
| - Decorative towels | - Throw blankets |
| - Lampshades | - Rugs |
| - Table drapes | - Scarves |
| - Valances | - Furniture shawls |
| - Curtains and drapes | - Fabric-covered buttons used
as drawer pulls |
| - Napkins | - Decorative swags |
| - Placemats | |



Faux "pounded" ivy dances down a pillow sham.

Project 5: Wrapped Dining Room Chair

Do you need to unify a dining room of mismatched chairs? Or would like to add a festive touch for a party?

It doesn't get easier than this five-minute slipcover technique. Just select materials that go with your color scheme and desired feel for the room, and follow these instructions.

You can get 8 dining chairs done in well under half an hour, if you have all the supplies at hand!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Dining room chair needing a makeover
- Tablecloth (60"x84" standard oblong is a good size for most dining room chairs.)
- Embellishments of your choice. (For this project, we used three small bunches of artificial flowers and two beaded \$1bracelets. See the list at the end of this project for ideas)
- Optional:* Glue gun to attach embellishments



Bring elegance to your dining room, in minutes!

TIME NEEDED:

About 5 minutes for the first time -- even less once you get the hang of it.

THE STEPS:

1. Drape the tablecloth over the chair (photos #1 and #1a). Center it so that the fabric in the front of the chair just touches the floor.



2. Pick up the two ends of the tablecloth that are draped against the back of the chair and pull them together so that the two “flaps” meet in the center of the chair’s back (photo #2).

2.



3. Once you have centered the two “flaps”, grab the ends of each piece and tie them together in a knot (photo #3).

3.



4. Arrange the artificial flowers so that they sit directly above the knot, and glue them in place (photo #4). When no one is sitting in the chair, you can lift up the knot so that it sits on top of the chair back (photo #4a). Then, as guests take their seats, the knot can simply be lifted to drape down the back.

4.



4a.



5. Knot the ends of the tablecloth that hang by the front legs (photo #5). An alternative is to wrap a beaded bracelet around each end, as has been done in the example shown in photo #4a.

5.



Can you believe that's ALL you have to do???



Sit 'n Summarize

THE TOP SIX REASONS TO USE SLIPCOVERS IN YOUR DECOR:

1. You can redecorate as often as you want: with the seasons, when you buy new furniture, when you get bored.
2. They're washable; great for homes with kids.
3. You can quickly change a room's color or theme for a party.
4. You can buy a room's worth of furniture at a garage sale or thrift shop and have confidence that the slipcovers will unify mismatched chairs.
5. You aren't stuck with living with a regretted purchase, because you can easily keep trying new looks for very minimal time and money.
6. There are endless ways to embellish them. (see below)



Marney's Memo

Even though this easy wrapping technique works perfectly every single time you do it, no two slipcovers you make need ever be the same! There are an infinite number of ways to embellish a wrapped dining chair, depending on the look and mood you're going for. Here are some fun ideas to get your thoughts rolling:

- Apply glue to the ends of the draped fabric. Then, dip them into a white or colored glitter for a highly festive look.
- Glue wide grosgrain ribbon to each end of the fabric that hangs down in the back, and use the ribbon to tie the two ends together. Tie into a bow and let the ends of the ribbon hang down the back of the chair.
- Tie the ends of fabric on the back of the chair around a plastic vase or cylinder, so that it hangs directly on the back of the chair. Treat it like a decorative vessel and fill with anything pretty - flower petals, seashells, small ornaments, old photographs, etc.
- Decorate the tablecloth before wrapping with it, using stencils, stamps, or faux flower pounding (see project 4, *Faux Flower Pounded Tablecloth*).

Project 6: No-Sew Tailored Dining Chair Slipcover

Now that you've just read all the [great reasons to use slipcovers](#), here's an alternative to the wrapping technique we presented in project 5, *Wrapped Dining Room Chair*. A tailored slipcover such as the one shown here (right) is marvelously versatile. It is appropriate for formal and casual dining rooms. It can be simple and streamlined, or embellished with all kinds of extras for a look that is custom-designed for your dining room.



The classy appeal of the tailored slipcover - all without ANY sewing!

This project is more time-consuming than the wrapped dining room chair, but if you like the look, you can save quite a bit of money. In home stores and mail-order slipcover outlets, standard tailored slipcovers like this one average \$20.00-\$30.00 a piece, depending on the fabric used. The fabric for the slipcover pictured here cost \$6.00, with an additional \$2.00 for other supplies. **You can make a slipcover for as little as \$8.00, and save as much as \$22.00 a slipcover!** If you're covering 8 dining room chairs, **you can save close to \$200.00!** And best of all, you can do it with absolutely no sewing. If you can plug in and turn on an iron, you can do this!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Dining room chair in need of a makeover
- About two yards of the fabric of your choice (For most dining room chairs -- our chair is 38" x 19" x19". You may need to adjust the yardage if your chair is unusually wide or tall. To do so, follow steps 1-3 using newspaper, instead of fabric. Then measure the cut newspaper pieces to obtain the total yardage.)
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- [Stitch Witchery](#) bonding web by Dritz, 5/8" width (or other fusible bond)
- Iron and ironing surface
- Optional:* embellishments and glue gun to attach them



Clockwise from bottom left: chair, fabric, tape measure, scissors, iron, straight pins, [Stitch Witchery](#).

TIME NEEDED:

1.5-2 hours for the first one you make, and about half that once you get the hang of it.

THE STEPS:

1. With the print side **downward** (if your fabric is printed and not solid), drape just enough fabric on the chair to cover the back support and the seat. Use the scissors to trim the excess fabric from around the seat and back support, leaving 1" for a seam on all edges (photo #1).

1.

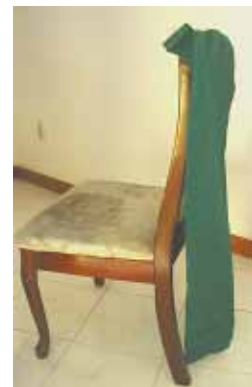


Crafty Clue!

You can use any fabric to make these slipcovers, although medium- to heavyweight fabrics are the most durable and hold the fusible stitching well through wear and tear. If you are watching your budget, broadcloth is very affordable (usually under \$3.00 a yard) and it keeps its shape well. Furthermore, its grain is such that it tears in a perfectly straight line. When trimming the draped fabric (shown in Step 1), just use the scissors to cut a 2" line and then rip it with your hands. It sure doesn't get any easier than that!

2. Drape another piece of fabric to cover the back side of the chair, again with the print facing the chair. The piece of fabric should be long enough to reach down to the floor. Trim the piece, again leaving 1" inch on each edge for a seam (photo #2).

2.



Crafty Clue!

These instructions take you through the process of measuring and cutting the fabric right where it is draped on the chair. If you'd prefer to cut the fabric away from the chair, one easy method is to drape sheets of newspaper on the chair, cut them to the proper size, and then use the sheets as "templates" for cutting your fabric. (If your dining chair is unusually shaped, it's a great idea to do this before you shop for fabric.)

3. Cut a third piece of fabric to go around the sides and the front of the chair. Cut this piece so its length is equal to the distance between the seat of the chair and the floor. As with earlier steps, make sure that the print is facing the chair and leave 1" all around for the seam (photo #3).

3.



4. Drape all of the cut-out pieces over the chair with the print facing inward. Use the straight pins to pin all of the seams together where they meet (photos #4, #4a, and #4b). Every place that two pieces of fabric meet should be pinned so that there are no open "flaps" of fabric.

4.



4a.



4b.



5. The next step is to use [Stitch Witchery](#) (or other heat fusible bond) to attach all of the places you've pinned. You'll be turning the slipcover inside-out before use, so the seams that you make will be invisible.

5.



Stitch Witchery comes in rolls of varying widths (it looks like a roll of tape). The 5/8" width is perfect for this project.

Work with about 4" of Stitch Witchery at a time, until you are very comfortable with it. Start with any pinned seam of the slipcover, and take out about 4" of pins. Place the Stitch Witchery tape on one of the pieces of fabric (photo #5).

6. Follow the directions on the heat-fusible bonding you are working with to make your seam. With Stitch Witchery, you simply place the second piece of fabric directly on top of the first piece of fabric, so that the length of Stitch Witchery tape is between the two pieces. Place a damp press cloth (an old pillowcase, or a cloth cut from an old cotton T-shirt) on top of the top piece of fabric.



Put the iron on the Wool setting and make sure it has warmed up for at least 10 minutes. Press the iron on the press cloth and hold it down for about ten seconds (photo #6). Do not move the iron, just press it straight down. Since the press cloth is damp, the iron will steam and sizzle a bit. Then move to the next area where you have placed Stitch Witchery and, again, press and hold for ten seconds.

7. Repeat these steps to place Stitch Witchery in all the seams of the slipcover -- that is, between the fabrics at every place you have pinned. Just work in small areas at a time, taking out the pins of that one area as you go.

8. When all the seams have been pressed with Stitch Witchery, turn the slipcover inside-out. Then, simply place it over the chair (photo #8). It will fit snugly, so move slowly and gently.



You did it! And all you had to do was iron!!!

WASHING INSTRUCTIONS:

Do not dry clean. Remove embellishments (flowers, bows, etc.) and turn slipcover inside out. Wash on gentle cycle in cold water with like colors using color-safe detergent. Line dry or dry flat (*do not dry in dryer.*)



Marney's Memo

You'll find that after you make your first no-sew tailored slipcover, subsequent slipcovers go much faster. Then the measuring, pinning, and ironing become routine and you can focus on the fun part...embellishing the slipcovers!

For example, you can effectively add a contrasting color in about 30 seconds by tying about a yard of sheer fabric around the top of the chair back (near right). Let the ends drape down the back of the chair for a dramatic finish (far right).



Instant color...



...instant flair!

If you have ten minutes and a glue gun, you can embellish the slipcover in any number of ways. Especially effective is to line the seams with a thick ribbon. Not only does this emphasize the fitted lines of the slipcover, it also is a smart way to cover up any goofs (if, for example, some of the Stitch Witchery shows through to the right side). Here, we've created a slipcover fit for a holiday gala with red velvet ribbon and artificial white poinsettias (right).



This slipcover takes a bow to the Holidays!

Here are some more ideas of things you can add to the seams of the slipcover:

- Fringe
- Faux pearls
- Charms
- Faux ivy
- Rick-rack
- Beads
- Lace trim
- Pebbles
- Brocade
- Tulle
- Garlands
- Buttons
- Moss
- Velvet
- Flat marbles
- Curly ribbons
- Wooden beads
- Dried flowers
- Small bows
- Strings of lights



Giving your easy chair a makeover...

Project 7: Easy Wrapped Easy Chair



...just got easier!

If you have an easy chair or small loveseat that needs a makeover, you can give it a no-sew slipcover in a matter of minutes, just by wrapping it with fabric or throw blankets.

With this easy technique, you can change the look of a piece of furniture as often as you like! And yet, the finished quality is such that the furniture piece is completely liveable -- the slipcover stays in place, yet can be removed for washing at any time.

A great alternative to expensive reupholstering, there's no sewing required.
And it can be done in about 15 minutes!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- An easy chair that needs a face lift
- Fabric or throw blankets (see Step 1 below on how to obtain accurate measurements)
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- T-pins (available at fabric stores)

TIME NEEDED:

About 15 minutes total, excluding shopping time for fabric (10 minutes to measure, and about 5 minutes to wrap).

THE STEPS

1. This easy method uses two pieces of fabric. One is draped across the width of the chair (we'll refer to this as the "width piece"), and the other is draped across the depth of the chair (we'll refer to this as the "depth piece").

(Step 1, continued). The two fabric pieces can be identical or contrasting in color and/or pattern. In this example, we used a lightweight, inexpensive upholstery fabric for the width, and a throw for the depth.

The first step is to measure the furniture piece so you know the yardage of fabric that you need to buy. With the tape measure, start at the bottom left side edge of the existing upholstery, measure up to the top of the left arm, across and down the inside of the left arm, across the seat and up top the inside of the right arm, and over and down the outside of the right arm to the bottom right edge of the upholstery. Make sure to measure with the seat and/or back cushions in place. This will give you the measurement that you need for the width piece of fabric.

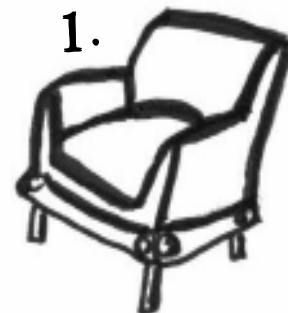
To measure for the depth piece that will be draped cross-wise with the width piece of fabric, start at the bottom edge of the upholstery at the back of the chair, measure up to the top of the back, over the top, and down the inside of the back of the seat. Continue across the seat to the front of the chair, and then all the way down to the bottom of the front edge of the upholstery. This will give you the depth measurement.

**Crafty
Clue!**

If the chair has exposed legs, you have several options. You may want your new wrapped slipcover to extend to the floor to cover the legs. If this is the case, take these measurements to the floor instead of to the edges of the upholstery.

If your chair has exposed legs and you want to show them, you can either pin the fabric underneath the chair for a tailored look, or add excess fabric to each piece and use that excess decoratively.

For example, you can gather the excess at each leg and tie with a pretty ribbon, or roll the excess up and pin the rolls directly below the upholstery (Figure 1).



2. Drape the width piece across the chair (photo #2).
3. Drape the depth piece on the chair, cross-wise with the width fabric. (photo #3).
4. Snugly tuck in the depth piece between the cushion and the side of the chair (photo #4).



5. Use the T-pins to pin the excess width piece to the depth piece where it lands at the front and the back of the chair (photo #5), and then push the pin into the chair's upholstery. Make sure to push the T-pins so the point faces **down** in the chair. This attaches the width and depth pieces together nicely, and only the very subtle "T" at the top of the pin ends up showing, and it is virtually invisible.



6. Step back and look at the chair, making any adjustments in the draping so that it "falls" to your liking.



Wrap the seat cushion individually in a contrasting fabric.

**And there you have it....
the five-minute miracle
slipcover!**

Variation: Use identical fabric for the width and depth pieces, and then wrap the seat cushion individually in a contrasting fabric, as shown here (left). Secure fabric to the bottom of the seat cushion with T-pins.



Marney's Memo

It's Sofa Time!!! With some minor changes, you can adapt Step 1 of these instructions to wrap a sofa. Take your width measurement to cover the entire width of the sofa. This piece of fabric will be several yards long. Remember, it will not only cover the length of your sofa, but it also will include the extra yardage to cover the side upholstery, all the way to the floor.

The "depth piece" will actually be made up of two (or more) fabric pieces, depending on the width of the fabric you're using. Drape them over the sofa to reach the edge of the upholstery by the floor on both the front and the back. Overlap the pieces and place T-pins at the top and bottom of the sofa (be sure that you don't pin in places that people will sit). For extra security, you may want to consider bonding the fabric pieces together using Stitch Witchery.

Adding a skirt is a great way to customize a wrapped sofa. You can make a "skirt" for the sofa by placing a coordinating fabric under the seat cushions so that the fabric hangs in front of the sofa's base, touching the floor. Go a step further and make a *gathered* skirt with one simple hand-sewn stitch across the top of the fabric you want to use for the skirt. Here's how to do it:

1. Start with twice the length of fabric that you need to cover the front of the sofa.
 2. Thread a large tapestry needle with upholstery thread, thin yarn, or a thin ribbon (whatever you have on hand and don't need to go out and buy; we'll refer to it as the "thread"). Make a stitch on the top of one end of the fabric and tie a knot in it.
 3. Make stitches (approximately 1" long, about 1/2" apart) across the top of the fabric. These stitches will not even be seen, so it doesn't matter if they are uneven or not spaced perfectly. When you reach the other end, make another knot to tie the thread down, and unthread the needle.
 4. Pull the thread on the side that you ended on, and the fabric will gather up. You can make loose gathers or tight gathers, depending on how tightly you pull the thread.
 5. Lay the gathered fabric underneath the cushions and allow it to drape down to the floor.
-

Project 8: Easy Embellished Throw Pillows

One of the best ways to add “punch” to a room is to pile lavish, luxurious throw pillows on a sofa, chair, or even on the floor.

Decorative throw pillows can be surprisingly expensive, which can limit both the number and the styles of throw pillows that you use in a room. But with these instructions, the sky is the limit! We'll show you lots of methods for making an inspiring design out of any throw pillow!

All you need is an existing pillow shape, such as pillows you already have on hand, or purchase at a discount. For example, all pillows used in this project were **purchased for \$1-\$2 a piece** at a thrift shop. Add fabric and other fun stuff and the result is a gorgeous pillow that would cost \$30 or more! And all with **no sewing!**



To make a decorative statement, pile on the pillows!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Existing throw pillows of any kind
- Fabric and embellishments (see specific instructions below for the supplies needed for each method we present)
- Glue gun
- Scissors

TIME NEEDED:

5 minutes and up, per pillow, depending on the design.

THE STEPS:

The first is to cover the existing pillow in your desired fabric. Here are two methods on how to do it: the **two-way tuck** and **wrapping**.

The Two-Way Tuck

This produces a very polished finish with clean seams around the edges, but it requires more fabric than the wrapping method. You'll need enough fabric to go all the way around the pillow's length, and then all the way around its width.

For example, if you are working with a square pillow (as in this example), simply measure all the way around the pillow and multiply it by 2. Then add another 2" for seams. If your pillow isn't a square, just add the width and length measurements plus 2".

The pillow in this example is 10" x10", and the fabric is actually a long scarf purchased for \$1 at a dollar store. Using a scarf is a wonderful alternative to buying fabric because the edges are already finished for you.

1. Place the pillow on the fabric so that you can wrap it going one way (either covering the pillow's width or covering its length). Place one edge of the fabric in the middle of the pillow and wrap the fabric around to meet the edge (photo #1). If the fabric has a pattern (such as the stripes in this scarf), aim to match up the pattern where the two edges meet. Cut the fabric, leaving about 1" extra.

1.



2. Use the glue gun to glue the two edges together, by releasing a strip of glue on either edge (photo #2) and then gently patting the outside of the fabric to aid the adherence. You'll end up with a tidy seam (photo #2a).

2.



2a.



3. Center the pillow on the remaining fabric in the direction opposite from the direction of the fabric that is already glued down. Loosely roll up the fabric on one side (photo #3). For an even finished edge, you should have at least 2" of excess fabric in your roll - more is fine, if the scarf is longer.



4. Gently tuck the roll of fabric into the open end of the pillow (photo #4).



5. With the glue gun, place glue between the two edges of fabric (photo #5) so that they close the end of the pillow (photo #5a).



6. Repeat these steps to close the other side of the pillow. **Quick, easy, no sewing, and great results!!**

Wrapping

Wrapping a pillow with fabric is just like wrapping a gift.



1. Place the pillow on the fabric and wrap the fabric around the pillow, gluing the fabric together where the edges meet.

2. Take the excess on one end of the pillow and wrap it like a present. Press the ends down (photo #2), and fold the corners over (photo #2a). Lift the "flap" toward the back of the pillow, and glue the seam line down so that it is flat on the pillow's back (photo #2b). Repeat on the opposite side. Your pillow is complete (photo #2c)!



Embellishing Ideas

After covering your pillow with fabric, the next step is to customize it with fabric, trim, or other embellishments.

There is no “right” or “wrong” way to decorate a pillow. We’ll give you some ideas, here, and then you can take off from there!

IDEA #1: Add a strip of contrasting fabric down the center of the pillow as you wrap it (photo #1). This is an easy way to add some interest to a plain pillow, and no extra work is required, since you can wrap the strip right along with the rest of the fabric! If you find that the strip curls up, you can glue it down with the glue gun.

1.



IDEA #2: Add a button covered with coordinating fabric. If you are layering a sofa or chair with pillows in a variety of fabrics, an easy technique is to add center buttons to the pillows in fabrics that match the other pillows on the sofa.

2.



Crafty Clue!

You can purchase a “cover button kit” (shown in photo #2 is the 3 Cover Button Kit by Dritz) at a fabric store and follow the directions for covering a button with fabric. It comes with everything you need to make a button out of a small circle of fabric.)

Simply glue the button to the center of your pillow with your glue gun (photo #2a), and you have a simple embellishment that ties the pillow in with the rest of its environment.

2a.



An alternative to simply gluing the button so that it lays flat on the pillow is to make a faux “tufted” pillow (photo #2b).

2b.



This faux method is super simple and requires NO sewing...just watch:



Twist the fabric in the center of the pillow:



Push a T-pin or tapestry needle through the gathered fabric to hold the twist in place:



Put a generous amount of glue from the glue gun into the button and then firmly press it over the twist, fully covering the T-pin.



And there's your no-sew tufted pillow!

IDEA #3: Add multiple buttons in patches or designs. In this example, we repaired a pillow with a torn center panel by gluing buttons directly over the torn seams (photo #3).

The end result (photo #3a) worked perfectly as first aid for a torn pillow, but you can visualize how adding a frame of buttons to *any* pillow adds delightful dimension. Think of gluing the buttons down in blocks, stripes, hearts, swirls, or any other design that appeals to you.

3.



3a.



IDEA 4: Add fringe! Adding fringe is a great way to add some dimension and a playful sense of movement to a throw pillow. For this example (photo #4), fringed trim and bows were added across the middle of the pillow.

Using the glue gun, release a line of glue that extends across the middle of the pillow (photo #4a). Lay down the fringe on top of the glue line and gently pat it down to promote adhesion (photo #4b). Repeat to wrap the fringe around on the other side, if desired.

The bows used in this example are from a pack of Christmas bows. The “ties” of the bows were clipped (photo #4c), and then the bows were glued down at the top edge of the fringe (photo #4d).

While the fringe on this pillow stands out boldly in the center, another effective choice for trim is to outline the edges of the pillow with it.

In photo # 4e, beaded fringe was added to two opposite ends. The fringe doesn't overpower the pillow, but rather brings a subtle shimmer to enhance the patterned fabric.

4.



4a.



4b.



4c.



4d.



4e.



IDEA 5: Go off-center with ribbon or trim. Off-center designs are really eye-catching, as you can see in the criss-cross designed pillow on the sofa in photo #5.

5.



To create this design, simply glue a ribbon length to the fabric (photo #5a) and then add several more ribbon lengths in an off-center crisscross (photo #5b).

An off-center design also works great when you vary the elements you are using so that various textures and widths are represented. For example, the interesting off-center design in photo #5c combines a piece of suede fabric with a wooden bead trim.

5a.



5b.



5c.



Marney's Memo

Walk down the aisles of your local craft store while you're in a "pillow" mode, and you'll get tons of ideas for embellishing. To name just a few:

- beaded earring loops
 - dried moss or flowers
 - twisted bamboo
 - faux rhinestones
 - fancy paper clips
 - tiny mirrors
 - pom pom balls
 - fun foam shapes
 - streamers
 - curly ribbons
 - wedding decorations
 - blocks of felt
 - organza ribbon
 - fancy candles
 - unusual beads
-

Project 9: Pleated Fabric Wall Treatment

Covering walls with fabric is a very exciting alternative to using paint or wallpaper.

Fabric wall treatments instantly bring softness to a room, so they are an especially lovely choice for bedrooms.



The soft, dreamy look of a wall covered in pleated sheer panels.

This project addresses the task of hanging fabric on the walls so that it falls in pleats. Don't worry, it's a lot easier than it looks!

For this project, we've used ready-made sheer window panels (the "Lori" design by S. Lichtenberg & Co.) as our fabric of choice, for a soft and flowing look. But feel free to adapt the project to use with any fabric you'd like. Keep in mind, however, that the pleating method works best with lightweight, thin fabrics. Thicker fabrics work best when solidly tacked to the wall.

Furthermore, since this particular design costs about \$20 per 59" x 84" panel, we're offering step-by-step instructions to **make your own sheer panels for under \$10 each.**

While this option takes a bit more time than using ready-made panels, it's a great way to save money, especially when covering a fairly large-sized room (we used four 59"x 84" panels to cover a 15' x 8' wall). And it's still very easy...no sewing except stitching with ribbon to make a few decorative flower petals.

Read on for the directions to make a do-it-yourself sheer panels!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:
(for one panel)

- 2.5 yards of sheer white fabric
- .5 yard of sheer light blue fabric
- Small applique flowers with
- embroidered stems (the Patch it Up! appliques from Hirschberg Schultz & Co., available at [Rag Shop](#), have a variety to choose from)
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Roll of 3/4" white ribbon
- Glue gun
- Optional:* [Stitch Witchery](#), iron, and ironing board

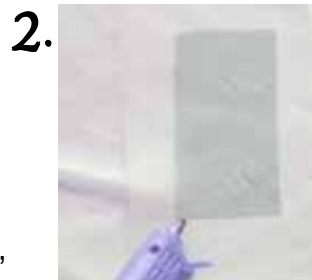
TIME NEEDED:

About 1 - 1.5 hours per panel.

THE STEPS:

1. Cut the white sheer fabric to 59" width x 84" length. You can leave the edge straight, or turn it under to make a small hem. If you make a hem, you can attach the hem to the fabric with a glue gun, or use [Stitch Witchery](#) for a perfect no-sew hem. See project 6, *No-Sew Tailored Dining Chair Slipcover*, for instructions on how to use Stitch Witchery.

2. Place the panel on a large table or on the floor and determine where you want to position the small light blue panels, and what size you want them to be. There are no hard-and-fast rules, here, but as a guideline, the panels we used (shown on the previous page), consist of small blue panels of 4 different sizes (2"x6", 3"x4", 3"x6", and 4"x8") placed in five free-form rows, with about 14"-16" between each blue panel. Cut small panels from the blue sheer fabric in varying sizes and use the glue gun to glue them to the sheer white panel (photo #2).



When gluing sheer fabrics together with a glue gun, aim to release very thin lines of glue so that you can't see the glue lines later.

3. Remove the stem from the the applique flower and attach it the center of the blue patch (photo #3). In this example, the stems from two applique flowers were used and stacked upon one another. You can either attach the applique piece by ironing it (follow the instructions on the package) or by gluing it with the glue gun.

3.



4. Thread white ribbon in the tapestry needle. Make a stitch on the back of the panel and then make a knot in the ribbon (photo #4).

4.



5. Stick the needle from the back of the panel to the front, and then stick the needle back down again so that the ribbon forms the shape of a petal (photo #5).

5.



6. Continue to make stitches of varying lengths for the petals of a full flower (photo #6).

7. Repeat the process of adding stems and flower petals to the other blue patches.

And that's the do-it-yourself way to make a sheer panel!

As stated earlier, this example was based on the "Lori" design by S. Lichtenberg & Co. But you can adapt the instructions to make a panel with any design that you like. The main thing to know is that you can buy sheer fabric for as little as \$3.00 a yard, and that makes doing it yourself a lot less expensive than buying ready-made panels.

6.



Whether you make your own panels, or use ready-made ones, the instructions for hanging the pleated treatment on the wall are the same, and they follow below:

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Enough 59"x84" panels to cover the entire wall (keep in mind that you will lose about 10"-12" of the width of each panel in the pleating process)
- Stapler and staples (a regular desk stapler will work with most walls)
- A ladder (to reach high areas on the wall)
- Ruler or tape measure

TIME NEEDED:

About 1.5 hours to hang a wall with four panels, less or more depending on the size of the wall or room you are decorating.

THE STEPS:

1. Determine which direction you want the pleats to fold. If you want the pleats to fold to the right (as in our example), staple the upper-right corner of the panel to the right corner of the wall (photo #1). If you want the pleats to fold to the left, staple the upper-left corner of the panel to the left corner of the wall.
2. Measure 6" (or whatever distance you want to insert between pleats) and pinch the fabric at the top edge. Fold it over to make a pleat (photo #2). Staple the panel to the wall at the top of the pleat to hold it in place (photo #2a).



3. Use your hand to continue to fold the pleat all the way down the length of the panel (photo #3). Staple the the pleat in place in points about 12" from one another (photo #3a).

3.



3a.



*Crafty
Clue!*

If you are using a ready-made panel and it came folded in a package, you can "cheat" by just making the pleats where the fold marks are, instead of actually measuring the distance between two pleats. Shhh... don't tell anyone!

4. Repeat this procedure to make another pleat 6" over (photo #4). Continue until the panel is complete.

4.



5. Move on to the next panel, repeating the same procedure, until the wall is covered (photo #5).

Don't forget about the space above or below windows and doorways! Here, we made pleats with white sheer fabric cut to the distance between the ceiling and the top of the door frame.

5.



And there you have it! This wall treatment is so luxurious, it looks like it takes weeks! But you can do it in an afternoon (if you use ready-made panels) or in a weekend (if you use your own)!



Marney's Memo

This project is just one of the many ways to use fabric as a wall treatment. Take a look at a few more of my very favorite ideas and techniques:

- Attach a solid fabric straight down the wall and hold it down with decorative thumb tacks or push pins, such as the Jumbo Push Pins by [Stockwell Office Products](#) (right), available at [Staples](#).



- Cut squares out of two contrasting fabrics (12" x 12" is a good size). Attach the squares to the wall in a checkerboard pattern using a stapler or with thumb tacks. You can use more than two colors to vary the repeat of the pattern. You can either make the pattern repetitive, or just randomly place the different fabric pieces (right).



- Place a fabric wall treatment of any kind on a wall directly behind a bed. Extend the treatment only to the width of the bed. The fabric will be attached to the wall but it will have the look of a fabric wall hanging, crowning the bed for a simple but dramatic effect.

- Attach panels at the top of the walls, as we've done in the project presented here, but then just let the panels hang down like drapes. If you are using sheer panels, paint the wall underneath in a contrasting color. Open the windows to let the wind tickle the wall drapes a bit.....ah, heaven!

- Use one of these wall treatment ideas to cover your ceiling. Fabric on a ceiling ignites a very warm, cozy feel.

- To make a fabric-lined wall padded, simply attach a bit of batting to the wall prior to stapling down the fabric. For a more uniform padded look, use pieces of foam. (Both batting and foam are available at fabric stores.)



A fabric cover and decorative drape softens an angular wooden headboard.

Project 10: Fabric-Wrapped Headboard

One of the easiest ways to add softness and romance to a bedroom is to cover a headboard with fabric. The bed is usually the focal point in a bedroom, so adding extra softness by padding it with fabric brings about a luxurious feel and atmosphere.

This project is quick, easy, and cheap...you just can't go wrong! The only hard part is deciding on just one fabric, when so many gorgeous fabrics are available!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A headboard
- Fabric to cover the headboard
- About 3 yards of sheer fabric or netting
- Artificial flowers
- Tape measure
- Glue gun

TIME NEEDED:

About 30 minutes.

THE STEPS:

1. Drape the fabric over the headboard (photo #1). Sturdy upholstery fabric was used in this project, but any kind of fabric will work just fine.



Clockwise from bottom left: upholstery fabric, glue gun, sheer fabric, artificial flowers. (Fabrics are from [Rag Shop](#); flowers are from [A.C. Moore](#).)

1.



2. Starting at one end of the headboard, pull the fabric so that it is taut across the front of the headboard, and attach the fabric to the back of the headboard (photo #2). There are several ways to attach the fabric to the back of the headboard, and the method you choose will largely depend on whether the headboard will be set right up against a wall, or not.

2.



If the headboard will be flush against a wall, and you don't care if you ruin the back of the headboard with glue, gluing with a glue gun is the easiest way to adhere the fabric to the back of the headboard. You can release lines of glue directly on the headboard and glue the fabric so that it adheres smoothly to the surface.

If the back of the headboard is going to be exposed, or if you don't want to glue the headboard, consider using small nails or - even easier - thumb tacks or push pins.

Another option for attaching the fabric to the headboard is to glue ribbons or small pieces of fabric to the edges that hang at the bottom when you drape the fabric over the headboard. Use these ribbons or fabric pieces as "ties" to tie the fabric together to close it snugly around the headboard.

**Crafty
Clue!**

Many headboards have special cut designs that present unique challenges. For example, a large piece of wood is cut out between the small support beams of this headboard, right where the headboard joins the posts.

To highlight a cut design like this one, cut slits in the fabric on the inside of the "cut out" area (photo #2a), and then press the excess fabric to the back of the headboard and glue it in place (photo #2b).

2a.



2b.



4. After you have covered the headboard with fabric, tie one end of about 3 yards of sheer fabric to one post (photo #4).

4.



Drape the sheer fabric in a way that looks pleasing to you. You may want to wrap the sheer fabric diagonally all across the headboard (photo #4a). Or, perhaps, drape the fabric in swags to meet a bouquet of flowers at the top center of the headboard (photo #4b). Don't forget to add flowers to the where the fabric is tied to the posts (photo #4c)!

4a.



4b.



4c.



And that's it! Now all you have to do is just lay back and have some sweet, sweet dreams...



Marney's Memo

I really love wrapping hard furniture pieces with fabric. I think it's a great way to accent the shape of interesting pieces and best of all, it hides all kinds of imperfections. So don't stop at wrapping your headboard....look at all the other things you can wrap with fabric, too!:

- Mantels
- Coffee tables
- Console tables
- Doors
- Window ledges
- Hutches
- Armoires
- Bookshelves
- Wooden chairs
- Cabinets
- Desks
- Dining room tables
- Baseboards, trim, and chair rails
- Lamp bases
- Picture frames
- Counter tops (decorative, as opposed to functional)

Project 11: Romantic Fabric-Covered Storage Baskets

Be honest, now....

Do you have a closet that looks something like this???



How would you like to transform it to look like THIS?



The key to this magical transformation is the romantic fabric-covered baskets used for storage.

These baskets not only help organize closet items, but they are such a joy to look at! Imagine walking into a closet and being greeted with order and attractive decor. Closets are, after all, small rooms, and can be decorated as such.

Best of all, this project can be done in a snap, and **can cost as little as \$3.00 a basket**, depending on the price of the baskets and fabric.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Several baskets that fit in your closet's shelves
- Coordinating fabrics; each basket will need .5-1 yard
- Glue gun
- Optional:* braided cording or other trim

TIME NEEDED:

About 5-10 minutes per basket.

THE STEPS:

1. Wrap a single piece of fabric around all four sides of the basket and trim it so there is about 1" extra on both the top and bottom of the fabric. **2.**
2. Using the glue gun, glue the top 1" of fabric to the *inside* of the basket (photo #2).
3. Release a fairly thick line of glue on the bottom edge of the basket (photo #3) and lay the bottom edge of the fabric on the line of glue, pulling the fabric so that it stretches taut across the basket. Glue the remaining 1" seam allowance of fabric to the underside of the basket. **3.**
4. Repeat steps 2-3 so that all four sides have fabric glued to the top and bottom edges of the basket.



Four coordinating calico prints, ready for the glue gun's magic! (All fabrics are from [Rag Shop.](#))



4. At each corner, there will be a flap of excess fabric that needs to be glued down. Grab the flap and, pulling tightly, fold it over on the side of the basket (photo #4) so that it lays down flat on top of the other fabric (photo #4a). Use the glue gun to glue the flap firmly in place.



5. Repeat the process to glue down the flaps on all the other corners.

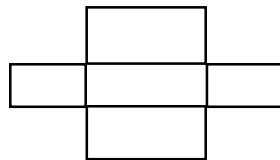
6. If you like, add cord or trim to the top edge of the basket (photo #6).



And that's it! You now have a lovely fabric-covered basket! Go ahead and make several more to arrange in your closet.

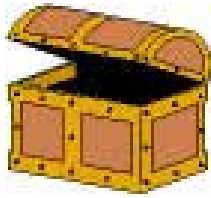
Crafty Clue!

If you want to line the inside of the basket with fabric, cut the fabric to resemble this pattern:



The piece in the middle will go on the inside of the box, while the other pieces will wrap around and be glued together at the corners. The easiest way to make a pattern for yourself is to place a piece of newspaper in the basket, cut it to the correct size, and then cut the fabric from the newspaper "pattern".





Ancient Wisdom

Closets are actually a fairly modern luxury, as built-in closets were not invented and popularized until the mid 19th century. In fact, manufacturing new closets is one of the top renovations performed in Victorian-era houses. Most often made by cutting into stairwells or adding walls in the corner of a bedroom, there are construction companies that specialize in this specific type of renovation.



Marney's Memo

Don't you just love how easy it is to change the look of your closet with handsome fabric covered baskets? They not only look great, but in my experience they really do promote neatness and expand storage space. While you're giving your closet a makeover, here are some other ideas you might want to try:

- Invest in sturdy plastic hangers in your favorite color, and get rid of the old wire ones. It will make your closet look more unified and stylish, and good-quality hangers make life easier! We recommend the affordable [tubular plastic hangers](#) from The Container Store, available in a wide variety of lovely colors.
 - Speaking of The Container Store, you must check out their online "[Plan A Space](#)" tutorial. I'm convinced that this interactive planner is one of the greatest resources on the Web. It gives you great organization ideas and offers custom solutions using their famous Elfa shelving system. You have to try it!
 - Paint bedroom closets in bright, cheerful colors to help you start your day with the right attitude.
 - Consider buying fabric garment bags and fabric hanging shoe pockets to complete the streamlined, romantic look of your closet. You can find them at [Bed, Bath, and Beyond](#) and [Linens 'n Things](#).
-

Project 12: Botanical Decoupaged Box

Boxes, containers, key hooks, small shelves ...these are the little items that are present in almost every single room, and yet we usually don't think of them as part of a room's decor.

Well, think again! We've got a great way to make these items sing with stunning creative detail and visual appeal..

In our home decorating e-book, *Awaken Your Interior Designer*, we present instructions for decoupage walls with paper. In this book, project 1, *Faux Inlaid Wood Tiles*, and project 13, *Faux Toile Lampshade*, opens you up to the world of decoupage with paper napkins.



Small decorative items are made beautiful with nature's recycled gifts.

But here's an idea you may not have thought of - decoupage with real botanicals. In this project, we'll decoupage a decorative box with dried pressed leaves.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A wooden box (this unfinished wood box is from [A.C. Moore](#))
- Decoupage medium (we recommend [Mod Podge](#) by Plaid Enterprises)
- Dried, pressed leaves
- Polyurethane varnish
- Sponge brush
- Optional:* [Krylon 18KT Gold Leafing Pen](#)
- Optional:* gold metallic paint (we recommend [Lumiere metallic paints](#) by Jacquard)



Clockwise from bottom left: pressed leaves, [Mod Podge](#), polyurethane, wood box, sponge brush.

TIME NEEDED:

About 2 hours, start to finish, including drying time.

THE STEPS:

1. For this project, you'll decoupage leaves as if they were paper. Start by using the sponge brush to coat the back of the leaf with Mod Podge, or other decoupage medium (photo #1).

*Crafty
Clue!*

The leaves should be **dried** and **pressed** prior to starting this project. It's not necessary to have an official leaf and flower press. All you need to have is a stack of books! Start by selecting any leaves that appeal to you. This project uses the colored leaves found during autumn, but green leaves work just as well. Place any leaves in the pages of a book (the leaves may leave some markings or moisture spots on the pages, so select the book accordingly.) Make sure that leaves do not overlap on one page, rather, spread them out over several pages. Close the book and then place several large, heavy books on top of the closed book. Leave the stack uninterrupted for 3-4 days. At that point, check the leaves in the book. If they are dry to the touch, they are ready. If they still feel like they have some moisture in them, let them stay pressed under the books for a few more days.

1.



2.

2. Place the leaf on the box and immediately brush with a coat of Mod Podge (photo #2).



3. At this point, there is Mod Podge applied to both the underside and the top of the leaf. Because even a leaf that has been pressed is rarely completely flat, it takes a little work to get it to adhere smoothly to the surface. Use your finger to press the leaf to the box, smoothing one area at a time (photo #3). If part of the leaf starts to crumble, don't worry - just gently tear off the crumbling corner or area (photo #3a).

3.



3a.



4. Continue to apply leaves on the rest of the box's lid. Feel free to overlap them in places. Break off small leaf parts to cover small areas that haven't been covered.

4.



**Crafty
Clue!**

When working on the sides of the box lid, use one finger or a pencil to keep the box open as you work, so that you don't accidentally glue the box shut (photo #4)!

5. When you have covered the box's lid completely (photo #5), apply a coat of Mod Podge over the entire surface. It goes on thick and white but will dry clear. Allow it to dry (about 20 minutes or so) and then repeat with another coat. Then, apply a coat of polyurethane varnish to seal the box top.

5.



6. The next step is to determine how you want to decorate the base of the box. You can paint it a solid color, multiple colors, or apply a wood stain. The paint on the box base shown here (photo #6) is Bright Gold [Lumiere paint](#) by Jacquard. Apply the paint to the base of the box with a sponge brush.

6.



7. To accent the metallic gold paint applied to the box's base, we used a gold leafing pen (we highly recommend the [Krylon 18KT Gold Leafing Pen](#)) along each edge of the box, and then highlighted select veins in the leaves with the pen, as well. The end result (photo #7) is a shimmery autumn red-gold dance!

7.



Marney's Memo

You can use this technique with pressed flower petals, too. Flower petals (dried and pressed using the same process given earlier for the leaves) are very thin and fragile, so they have to be handled with care. But they don't crumble or tear like leaves do, so they are very easy to work with. In the three photos on the right (a, b, and c), you can see how these steps were applied to create a floral shelf with key hooks. After the petals were decouped and varnished, the edge of the shelf was painted with the Metallic Bronze [Lumiere paint](#) by Jacquard, and decorative buttons were glued to the key hooks with a glue gun.

a.



b.



c.



Think of decoupage several items in the same room with similar materials to create a matched set. For example, you can imagine how nicely this decoupage picture frame and foot stool (near and far left) accompany one another when placed in the same room.



Romantic images visually connect a decoupage picture frame and foot stool.

(Marney's Memo, continued)

Decoupage several items in the same motif is especially effective in a home office. Just think of all the things you could decoupage in a leaf or flower petal motif:

- Pencil cans
- Small shelves
- Picture frames
- Index card boxes
- Desk borders
- Storage bins
- File cabinets
- Paper trays
- Book covers
- Ink blotter borders
- Letter holders
- Phone stands

And, when it comes to storage and home office needs, think outside the box! There are lots of things you can recycle to use for storage of medium- and small-size items...perfect alternatives to expensive office supplies. Here are a few you might never have thought of...and all of them are suitable for decoupage!

- Hatboxes (right)
- Wicker baskets
- Tin and aluminum trays
- Soup cans
- Cereal boxes
- Pizza boxes
- Plastic trays
- Wire baskets
- Medicine bottles
- Egg cartons
- Canvas bags
- Suitcases
- Empty shadow boxes
- Chocolate candy box liners
- Shoe boxes
- Toiletry bags and cases
- Small wastebaskets



A decoupage hatbox is a great way to combine beauty and function.

Get the idea?

Getting your home office organized was never so much fun, and definitely never so pretty!

Project 13: Faux Toile Lampshade

Toile (short for the French, *toile du Jouy* and pronounced “twall”) is a classic fabric pattern used in many decorating styles. Not only suitable for any Traditional style, it’s a staple in both European Country and American Country styles, and serves as a feminine accent in Casual Romantic style.

A lampshade is the perfect place to showcase the intricate design of toile fabrics. While we’ll present instructions on how to cover a lampshade with fabric in project 15, *Silk Lampshade with Gilded Base*, doing so with authentic toile fabric often can be cost prohibitive.

One yard of toile fabric can cost as much as \$20. **But our method uses decorative paper napkins, bought for under \$3 a pack.** Only a few napkins were used, so there was plenty faux “fabric” left over to use for other projects, too!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Any lampshade
- Decoupage medium in matte finish (We recommend [Mod Podge](#) by Plaid. You’ll need very little for this project; the smallest size is an 8 oz. jar, but it’s a far better value to buy a larger size and save it for other projects.)
- Toile-printed paper napkins (These were purchased at [Bed, Bath, and Beyond](#))
- Scissors
- Sponge brush (1”-2”)
- Optional:* matte polyurethane varnish

TIME NEEDED:

About 1-1.5 hours, depending on the size of the shade and how many coats of Mod Podge are applied.



The classic, elegant look of toile graces this sweet lampshade.



Clockwise from bottom left: napkins, sponge brush, scissors, lampshade, [Mod Podge](#).

THE STEPS:

1. Cut out of the napkin the first piece you will attach to the lampshade (photo #1). Remove all layers so that only the top “ply” with the design remains (photo #1a).

*Crafty
Clue!*

You can apply pieces of the napkin so that the design is continuous around the lampshade (which looks like a solid piece of toile fabric), or you can “collage” several pieces together to look like toile fabric has been pieces together for a more vintage look. We chose to layer several pieces together, but to place the solid outline of the bottom of the napkin at the bottom of the lampshade (see photo on previous page.)

1.



1a.



2.



3.



2. Use the sponge brush to apply Mod Podge directly to the lampshade in the approximate shape of the piece you are going to lay down (photo #2). You don't have to be exact with this, since the Mod Podge dries clear. Use the matte finish so that the finished product looks like authentic fabric.

3. Gently place the napkin piece on top of the area with the Mod Podge, starting at one edge and slowly laying the napkin down to cover the entire area (photo #3). The single ply napkin will be flimsy, so lay it down slowly and gently.

4. Once it is down on the table, gently tap across the surface of the napkin to make sure it is adhered smoothly to the lampshade. *Do not rub the napkin, or it will tear.* Instead, just apply moderate pressure by tapping your finger directly up and down.

5. Continue to lay pieces of napkin down until the entire lampshade is covered. Take extra care to make sure that all of the edges of the napkin pieces are down smoothly.

Crafty Clue!

Once the pieces have been glued down for about 60 seconds, the Mod Podge “cures” so that it won’t rip when it is rubbed with the sponge brush, during the next step.

6.



6. Use the sponge brush to apply a coat of Mod Podge over the entire surface (photo #6). It goes on thick and white, but dries clear. Allow the Mod Podge to dry for about 20 minutes.

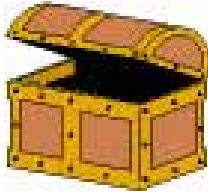
7. If, after the Mod Podge dries, the lampshade surface feels bumpy, you can add one or more additional coats of Mod Podge, allowing to dry thoroughly between each coat. If the lamp will be in an area where it needs to be protected from moisture or spills, add a coat of polyurethane varnish on top of the final dry Mod Podge coat. Use a varnish with a matte finish.

Crafty Clue!

At this point, you might be wishing that you could further embellish the lamp and shade to bring even more pizzazz to it. Well, you’re just in time, because the next several projects introduce lots of ways to decorate both lamps and lamp shades! Just keep reading...

And that’s how easy it is to bring an authentic-looking toile lampshade into your home!





Ancient Wisdom

Toile du Jouy refers to intricately-detailed fabric depicting life on the French countryside. Toile originated in the mid 1750's and was manufactured and distributed in large quantities by a company in Jouy-en-Josas, a small town near Versailles. However, some sources say that the true origin of toile was in Ireland a few years earlier, starting with a famous design by Francis Nixon titled "The Miller, his wife, and his ass". We'll let your imagination work on that one... 😊



Marney's Memo

Isn't it great how a simple napkin can look like fine fabric? Here are some other places to consider decoupage napkin "fabrics":

- Covering a headboard
- Covering a small shelf (right)
- Covering baseboard, trim, or chair rails
- Covering a border around a coffee or side table
- Covering a serving tray
- Covering a wall
- Creating a focal point in a wood floor by covering a small area
- Covering window blinds, a solid valance, or a cornice (right)
- Covering a cabinet
- Covering a bannister
- Covering table or chair legs
- Covering a flower pots or planters



A small "toile" pegged shelf is the perfect home for a vintage pot holder.



A faux "fabric" window treatment.

Project 14: Ribbon & Bead Lampshade

You'd probably never guess that this wonderful whimsical lampshade is made only from ribbons! Well, it's true! This project is a great way to use ribbons you have leftover from gifts or other craft projects.

This is a really speedy project, especially if you use the Self-Adhesive Accent Lamp from Hollywood Lights by [Wisconsin Lighting](#). This lamp (see photo below) is ready-wired, and comes with a paper covering the entire surface. When you peel the paper off, the entire shade is sticky and ready for your embellishments!

But don't worry if you don't happen to have this nifty product. If you're looking for a less expensive option, all you need to do is cover a traditional shade with an adhesive sheet, such as [Terrifically Tacky Tape sheets](#) by Art Accents. Peel the backing off the sheets, and you've made your own self-adhesive lampshade!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Lamp with adhesive surface (either a self-adhesive lamp such as the one by Hollywood Lights, or a regular lampshade covered with adhesive sheets, such as [Terrifically Tacky Tape sheets](#) by Art Accents)
- A variety of ribbons, each one being long enough to wrap around the lampshade. Sheer ribbons are especially effective, since light will shine through them to create lovely effects (see bottom right).
- Beaded fringe
- Glue gun

TIME NEEDED:

Less than 30 minutes



A small ribboned lamp makes a BIG decorative statement!



Ribbons and a self-adhesive lamp.



Sheer ribbons create dramatic effects.

THE STEPS:

1. If you are not working with a self-adhesive lampshade, apply adhesive sheets to the lampshade and trim them to size. Do *not* remove the adhesive's backing, yet.

2. With the backing still on the shade, place a ribbon around the shade and cut it to fit exactly around the circumference of the shade. Repeat until all ribbons and the beaded trim are cut to the appropriate length (photo #2).

2.



**Crafty
Clue!**

The lampshade in this project is the same circumference all the way down the shade. If your lampshade is conical, you just need to be sure to measure each ribbon according to where it will be placed on the lampshade. In this case, it may be easier to cut the ribbons as you place them on the adhesive surface, rather than pre-cutting them.

3.



4.



3. Remove the paper backing, and then place the top ribbon on the lampshade, lining up the top edge of the ribbon with the top of the shade. Press firmly to adhere the ribbon to the surface (photo #3).

4. Continue to place ribbons around the lampshade, one on top of another, until all ribbons are in place (photo #4).

5.



5. Determine where you want to place the beaded trim, and use the glue gun to release a line of glue to hold the trim. You can make sure that the trim is straight by applying the glue in a line that is directly on the top or bottom edge of a ribbon (photo #5).

6. Press the beaded trim on the glue, all the way around the shade (photo #6).

6.



**And your lovely lampshade
is complete! Congratulations!**



Sit 'n Summarize

Why are we presenting several projects on decorating lamps and lampshades? Because lamps are not only functional, they are great ways to add unique interest to a room. Here are some of the great reasons to place several lamps in your room:

- Lamps can highlight artwork or decorative objects
- Lamps provide important lighting for tasks, such as reading, watching television, playing games, etc.
- Lamps can create the ambiance of your choice - cozy, romantic, calming, energetic...it's up to you!
- Lamps emphasize focal points of the room in the absence of natural sunlight
- Lamps can help create the illusion of more or less space in the room, depending on where the lamp is focused
- Lamps can be used with specialty or colored light bulbs to create a variety of moods
- Lamps add to the appearance and perception of a room's warmth
- Best of all, if you use the do-it-yourself approach, lamps with decorative shades are a very inexpensive way to add finery to your room!



Marney's Memo

When you get right down to it, there is just no end to what you can use to decorate a lampshade. In this book, we're presenting ideas for decorating with fabric, scarves, napkins, ribbons, and beads. But I sincerely hope that you'll take these basic techniques and come up with your own unique, custom designs.

If you are covering your shade with something that will not be solid - that is, items that will have empty space between them, such as this button lampshade (right) - you shouldn't use adhesive sheets because the blank adhesive space will be a magnet for all kinds of things you don't want (pet hair, dust, potato chips, and the like.) Instead, use a glue gun to attach each item separately. When you dust the room, take a soft rag and gently dust around the items to keep the blank areas of the shade looking fresh.



A button-clad lampshade adds a playful touch to a room.

While we're talking about this button lampshade, I'll tell you that the design also looks great if you place the buttons right up next to one another. There will be very small spaces that remain between the buttons, so you can either cover that space with a small bead, or just leave it blank. A lampshade layered with solid buttons in white and cream creates a sophisticated romantic ambiance, a very different look from the colored whimsical shade pictured here.

Here is list of very diverse items you can add to a lampshade, using either adhesive sheets, or a glue gun:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| - Appliques | - Menus | - Wrapped candies | - Fancy shoelaces |
| - Postage stamps | - Broken china | - Magnets | - Jewelry parts |
| - Sheet music | - Charms | - Lace | - Game pieces |
| - Old letters | - Greeting cards | - Pebbles | - Dried flower petals |
| - Color copies of photographs | - Strings of beads or pearls | - Colored paper clips | - Small cookie cutters |

Project 15: Silk Lampshade with Gilded Lamp Base

You'd probably never guess that the shimmering lamp pictured here started as a dull and dusty find from a thrift store and a scarf purchased at a craft store for \$2.00.

Guess again, because it's true! **This lamp cost about \$6.00 to make, with all supplies included.**

Without further ado, we'll tell you how it's done!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A lamp with a metal base
- A long silk-like or silk scarf
(Make sure it is long enough to fully go around the lampshade. If there is excess length, we'll show you how you can dress it up!)
- Coordinating ribbon
- Glue gun
- [Krylon 18 KT Gold Leafing pen](#)
(available at craft and art stores)

TIME NEEDED:

About 30-45 minutes.

THE STEPS:

1. Use the glue gun to place a thick line of glue all the way around the top edge of the lampshade (photo #1).



A fashionable lamp that began as what some people would call "junk"!



Left to right: lamp, scarf, Krylon pen, glue gun

1.



2. Wrap the scarf all the way around the shade, pressing the top edge of the scarf on the line of glue (photo #2). In this example, we simply allowed the scarf to hang from the top edge. The scarf's width is about 2" longer than the existing lampshade, so it hangs down a little lower, which creates a lovely effect when the light is on at nighttime (photo #2a). An alternative is to trim the scarf so that it matches up with the bottom edge of the lamp. In this case, you could use the glue gun to glue down the bottom edge, in addition to the top edge.



2.

2a.



3. If the scarf is longer than the circumference of the lampshade, you have two choices. You can trim the scarf and glue the edges together at the top of the lamp for a straight, tailored look (photo #3). Or you can use the remaining fabric to give the lamp some dimension (photo #3a).



3.

3a.



For the latter, all you do is make several "accordion style" folds in the scarf. Fold one way and then fold back the other way, as if you were making a paper fan (photo #3b). Each time you make a fold, put a dot of glue from the glue gun to hold the fold in place.

4. To finish the shade, glue a coordinating bow to the top edge of the shade, above the folds (as shown in photo #2a).

3b.



5. The next step is to add some life to the lamp base using a gold leafing pen (we recommend Krylon's [18 KT Gold Leafing pen](#)). This particular lamp base has an embossed (or "raised") design. We applied the pen directly to each raised area (photo #5). You can see how those areas just "pop" out, after they have been leafed (photo #5a).

5.



You can use the Krylon pen to add glints of gold to parts of any lamp base. For example, in the lamp base shown in photo #5b, we added gold in concentric rings down a bronze-colored base. Those specific areas catch the light and stand out from the rest of the base.

5b.



After applying the gold to your liking, the lamp shade and base are finished... and absolutely beautiful!

5a.



*Crafty
Clue!*

In project 16, *Gilded Picture Frame & Dimensional Paper Art*, we give instructions on how to gild a surface by applying gold leaf flecks or gold leaf sheets. Since the Krylon pen is best suited for adding gold to small areas, you should follow those instructions if you want to apply gold leaf to the entire base for a solid look.



Marney's Memo

This project showed you how to use a scarf to decorate an existing lampshade. Obviously, you can substitute any fabric for the scarf, and attach it in the very same way. Look for lightweight, sheer fabrics...they drape nicely, allow light to shine through, and that folded "poof" we added at the very end is foolproof with a lightweight fabric!

You may have noticed that this project used a straight lampshade. Well, just in case you're wondering how to add a fabric or a scarf to a conical lampshade, I'll give you the low-down.

The problem with the conical lampshade is, of course, that the shade is larger at the bottom than it is as the top. Therefore, if you wrap fabric around the shade that fits at the bottom, it will be too wide around for the top. And, conversely, any fabric that fits around the top will be too narrow around the bottom.

If you are working with a "slotted" shade (that is, a shade with little pleats or pinches all the way down), then your job is easy. All you have to do is tuck the fabric excess at the top of the shade into the little slots, as has been done in this lampshade (right). Follow these steps:

1. Keep an even number of untucked slots between each tucked slot. In this case, I tucked the fabric in at every 5th slot. To create the tucked slot, first spread some glue in the top 1"-2" of the slot. I used a strong, all-purpose glue called Diamond Glaze by [JudiKins](#), but your glue gun will also work just fine, as long as you apply it quite liberally.



An eye-catching side lampshade made of soft sheer fabric and shimmering beaded trim. (Fabric and trim are both from [Joann Fabrics](#)).

(Marney's Memo, continued)

2. Next, pinch about 1/2" of fabric and tuck it in the slot, directly on the glue. Hold it there for a moment until the glue dries. Repeat until the entire lampshade is covered.

3. With scissors, trim any excess fabric that extends over the top edge of the shade.

4. For a tailored look, glue the bottom edge of the fabric to the bottom edge of the shade. Or let the fabric hang loose, as in the example shown here.

5. Embellish as you would like. The shade in this example was given beaded trim along the base of the shade. The trim was attached with a glue gun.



So, that's what you do if you have a slotted lampshade. If you have a conical lampshade that isn't slotted, the process takes a few more steps.

A conical lampshade covered in fabric looks best when it is neat and tailored (see photo at right). The best way I know to achieve this look is to allow just enough fabric at the top and bottom edges to overlap over the shade and glue down in a rolled edge finish. The most important part is to cut out the fabric to fit the lampshade exactly... just follow these steps:



1. The first step is to make a pattern to use when you cut the fabric. Place the shade, seam down, on newspaper and use a pencil to mark the position of the top and bottom edge of the shade. Start at the seam and trace the bottom edge on the newspaper while you gently roll the shade until you reach the seam again. Then, roll the shade back along the traced line, this time tracing the top edge of the shape.

2. Cut out the pattern, leaving about 1" around the curved outer edges at the top and bottom, and leave about 1/4" at the ends of the fabric.

(Marney's Memo, continued)

3. Check the fit of the pattern by wrapping the pattern around the lampshade. Make any adjustments that are necessary. Make sure that there is an overlap of about 1/2" on the straight ends and an extra 1" at the top and bottom of the pattern.
4. Position the pattern on the fabric so that any design on the fabric will be displayed to your liking. Cut out the fabric, following the lines of the pattern.
5. Use a strong glue or your glue gun to apply a thin line of glue along the seam of the lampshade and position one straight end of the fabric on the glued line and press it into place.
6. Apply a thin line of glue along the top and bottom edges of the shade. If you are using a glue gun, only apply about 3" of glue at a time, but apply it to both the top and bottom edges. This will ensure that the glue won't dry too quickly. Working from the end of fabric that is glued down, smooth the fabric onto the shade, making sure it is firmly stuck on the top and bottom rim. Keep the extra 1" seam allowance on the top and bottom of the fabric as you go. Continue all the way around the shade (adding glue every 3" inches or so, if you are using a glue gun) until you are about 1" from the glued end where you started.
7. Apply a thin line of glue on top of the glued end. Take the unglued end and fold it over just slightly to make a neat end. Smooth down the turned edge to cover the raw end.
8. Apply a very thin line of glue to the wrong side (inside) of the fabric seam allowance at the top of the shade. Fold the seam to the inside of the shade and press it down firmly. Repeat to fold in the seam at the bottom of the shade.



This lampshade was wrapped with a large sheet of handmade paper from [The Paper Catalog](#), using the same process outlined here.

Project 16: Gilded Picture Frame & Dimensional Paper Art

Have you ever admired gold leaf gilding on picture frames and other decorative items, but gasped at the price? **Well, there's a way to get the look inexpensively while adding personal touches to the project.** Follow these easy "good as gold" instructions and you'll be surprised at how easy gold leafing (a.k.a., "gilding") can be.

For this project, we'll be using multi-colored gold leaf flecks for a one-of-a-kind look. We're crazy about the Limited Edition gold leaf packages by Amy's Magic (below).



Three of the sensational gold leaf collections manufactured by Amy's Magic.

For this project, we'll be using the Sea Spray leaf. But use a bit of imagination and you can envision how the different mixes would look on picture frames (near right). You can also do this project using solid gold leaf sheets, which are available at craft and art supply stores. This creates a solid gold frame - perfect for use in traditional decorating styles (above right).



Nothing says WOW like gold leafed decorative accents.

These splendid packages of joy are filled with leaf flecks in a variety of colors. Amy's Magic products can be found at speciality craft stores (such as rubber stamping stores...enter "rubber stamping" and your local town in a search engine to find a location near you), or contact them directly at (724) 845-1748.



A small picture frame gilded with the fiery hues of Amy's Magical Gold Leaf Flecks.



Sheets of solid gold leaf can be used for a sleek, sophisticated look.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Any picture frame (Wood works best for a solid leafed look, but metal, plastic, or stone will also take the leaf.)
- Gold leaf (flecks or sheets)
- Liquid tacky adhesive (We recommend Duo Embellishing Adhesive by [USArtQuest](http://USArtQuest.com).)
- Artist's paint brush (1/2" works well)
- Paper plate



(Left to right: Amy's Magical Gold Leaf, Duo Embellishing Adhesive, and a garage sale picture frame.)

TIME NEEDED:

About 20-30 minutes, depending on the frame size

THE STEPS:

1. Pour a bit of the tacky adhesive on to a paper plate. Dip the paint brush in the adhesive and then brush 3-6 inches on the picture frame (photo #1). It has the consistency of a very thin glue.



2. After brushing on the adhesive, wait 2 minutes to allow the adhesive to "cure". Then, sprinkle the leaf flecks over the area with the adhesive (photo #2).



*Crafty
Clue!*

Keep your hands free of the adhesive as you do this, otherwise flecks will stick to your fingers.

(Note: If you are using sheets of gold leaf instead of gold flecks, simply place the sheet down directly on the area that has been brushed.)

3. After you have sprinkled enough leaf to sufficiently cover the area, use your index finger to tap the leaf into the frame (photo #3). Use moderate to heavy pressure as you tap. You'll see the flakes flatten and adhere directly to the frame.



4. After you have tapped over the entire area, use your index finger to “burnish” the leaf by rubbing back and forth very quickly (photo #4). You also can use the back of a spoon as a burnisher. As you burnish, the flecks that did not adhere to the frame will brush away.

4.



(Note: If you are using gold leaf sheets instead of flecks, the process is the same. You will notice that the leaf flecks from the sheet breaks off into flecks as you burnish.)

5.

5. Repeat these steps to cover the rest of the frame with the leaf (photo #5).

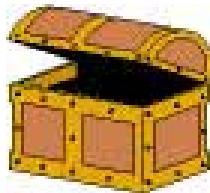


...and that's how easy it is to gild a picture frame!



While a gilded picture frame is perfect for framing photographs or fine art, why not create art of your own?

Here, you'll find the steps to create this fanciful paper art design. The techniques used to create this deceptively simple creation are based on a paper art called “teabag folding.”



Ancient Wisdom

The art of “teabag folding” is similar to Japanese origami, but it originated in the Netherlands. The techniques date back to the early 19th century when young girls played with the wrappings of tea bags to make designs.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Eight 2" squares of paper in contrasting colors (four of each)
- Four 1" squares of paper in a third color
- Any white glue (We like [Aleene's Tacky Glue](#) by Duncan)
- [Krylon 18 KT Gold Leafing pen](#) (available at craft and art stores)
- 1 piece of decorative paper, the same size as the frame's opening
- Double-stick tape (*optional*)
- Charm or jewelry piece (*optional*)
- Glue gun (*to adhere optional jewelry piece*)



(Clockwise from bottom left: 1" squares of copper paper, 2" squares of blue patterned paper, [Krylon gold leafing pen](#), [Aleene's Tacky Glue](#), glue gun, 2" squares of gold paper, jewelry piece.)

TIME NEEDED:

Approximately 20 minutes.

THE STEPS:

1. Take a 2" square and fold in half, lengthwise, so that you have an equilateral triangle (photo #1). Then unfold it and hold it with the non-patterned side up.
2. Using the crease you made with the preceding fold as a "center line", fold the bottom left corner so that the edge of the paper lines up with the center line (photo #2). Visualize that you are making the shape of a kite.
3. Now fold the right corner to the center line. The two opposite edges should be right next to one another on the center line. When you turn the piece over, you'll see that the paper now is in the shape of a kite (photo 3).



Repeat these steps to make "kites" out of all the 2" squares and smaller "kites" out of all the 1" squares.

4. Apply glue or double-stick tape to the back of the sheet of decorative paper, and then turn it over and attach it to the backing piece used in the frame (photo #4).



5. Using glue or double-stick tape, attach one large “kite” to the center of the paper. Then attach the remaining large “kites” so that the points join together in the center (photo #5).

Apply the glue or tape only at the points of the kites so that the papers “pop” up. This creates the three-dimensional nature of the piece.



6. After attaching all of the large “kites”, attach the smaller “kites” on four alternating large “kites” of contrasting color. Place the small “kites” so that the points join in the center (photo #6).



7. Use the Krylon 18KT Gold Leafing pen to make designs on the paper, such as swirls, polka dots, or other geometric shapes. (photo #7).

Use a glue gun to attach a charm, jewelry piece, or other object to the center of the design. In this example, the backing was removed from a daisy earring and the earring was attached to the design.



*Crafty
Clue!*

If there are any spots on the frame that didn't get covered with the gold leaf, you can use the Krylon leafing pen to “fill in” the areas.

8. Place the frame backing in the gilded frame. Since the art is three-dimensional, replacing the glass is not recommended.

If you like the look and protection of glass, use a shadow box, rather than a picture frame, to hold the art.

Depending on the colors that you use, teabag folding art can work in just about any decorating style. To give you an idea of the diverse looks of teabag folding, here are some examples of designs that have been placed in shadow boxes:



Marney's Memo

Now that you've got the techniques for gilding a picture frame, you may want to experiment with adding gold leaf to other items. Here are my favorite ideas:

- Gilding a banister
 - Adding gold leaf to the counter edging in a kitchen or bathroom. Just top with two coats of waterproof polyurethane to protect it
 - Gilding a headboard
 - Using a paint brush, "paint" shapes or designs with the Duo adhesive and then apply the gold leaf. The leaf will stick only to the areas you painted.
 - Gilding the edges of a window sill
 - Gilding door knobs
 - Gilding select sections on dining room chairs to highlight curves or other attractive features
 - Gilding designs on wood flooring
 - Gilding curtain tiebacks
 - Gilding the edge of a hearth
 - Buying unfinished cornice moldings and gilding them; then place where the top of a wall meets the ceiling
 - Gilding drawer pulls
 - Gilding the base of a lamp
 - Gilding a chair rail or base molding
 - Highlighting specific curves or shapes in wallpaper by covering them with gold leaf
 - Gilding the edge of a coffee or side table
 - Gilding the ceiling (an exotic way to reflect light in a small bathroom)
 - Gilding office supplies for use in a unique home office
-

Project 17: Fine Art Dresser & Mosaic Mirror



A plain dresser undergoes a transformation from boring...



to beachy!

With this project, you'll transform a ho-hum dresser into a fabulous work of art! Our design is a stunning seascape that will whisk you off to tranquility in your bedroom. But the project can be adapted for absolutely any decor...just check our greatly varied suggestions at the end of this project!

To achieve this inspiring, fun look we painted and distressed the dresser, decoupled an art poster on the drawers, and created a frame around the mirror made of beach glass and marbles.

The dresser we started with (above left) was unfinished wood, but you can also use one made of wood that has been previously painted or stained. In fact, if you forgo the "distressing" part of the project, you can even use dressers made from non-wood materials, such as formica, acrylic, or laminate. If you don't have a dresser handy, you can buy one inexpensively at a thrift store.

This entire project can be done for \$20 or less! Compare that \$350 and up for custom-designed, hand painted dressers on the market!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- “Clear Pool” paint by [BEHR](#), satin finish
- Household paintbrush
- Jar of Vaseline/petroleum jelly
- Knife or paint scraper
- Art poster with desired image, in desired size (Ours is from [Portal Publications](#) and is the right size to be centered directly in the middle of six drawers, as shown on the previous page. Another option is to select a poster that covers the drawers completely, as shown in this example, right.)
- Ruler with metal edge
- Scissors or X-acto knife
- Masking tape
- Decoupage medium in matte finish (We recommend [Mod Podge](#) by Plaid Enterprises. You’ll use less than half of an 8 oz. jar, but it’s a far better value to buy a larger size and save it for other projects.)
- 2 sponge brushes (1” or 2” - one for applying the paint in small areas, and one to use with the decoupage medium)
- Optional:* polyurethane varnish and brush



From left to right: poster (from [Portal Publications](#)), Vaseline, [Mod Podge](#) by Plaid Enterprises, scissors, sponge brush, knife, metal-edged ruler, masking tape, household paintbrush.



In this example, an art poster completely covers the four vertical dresser drawers.

For the mirror frame:

- Bits of beach glass and flat marbles (We used clear and sea green beach glass, and clear, blue, and sea green flat marbles, all purchased at [A.C. Moore](#))
- Glue gun



Marbles and beach glass frame a mirror with glimmers of the ocean.

TIME NEEDED:

About 2.5 hours, including drying time.

THE STEPS:

1. After cleaning the dresser surface of dust and dirt, use your finger to apply Vaseline on areas of the dresser that you want to resist the paint, for a “distressed” look. Distressing (also called “antiquing”) is a technique that gives the impression that a piece of furniture is old and weathered. A naturally distressed piece of furniture usually chips its paint along the edges of the piece, so edges are a natural spot for applying the Vaseline (photo #1). We rubbed the Vaseline on the edges of the dresser, and also applied some in jagged lines on the dresser’s top. Use your own judgement to determine the amount used and placement of the Vaseline resist, depending on how much paint you want to remove to distress the piece.



Crafty Clue!

Don't worry about applying Vaseline to the area of the drawers that will be covered by the poster. As a general rule of thumb, if you're not sure how much “distressing” you want to do, apply less Vaseline, rather than more. If you decide later that you want to further distress exposed areas, you will be able to do so, even if you didn't apply the Vaseline to those areas initially. The Vaseline just makes it a lot easier! But it's impossible to un-do the Vaseline resist once you've painted over it.



2. Use the household paintbrush to paint the dresser with a coat of Clear Pool paint (photo #2). Be sure to open the drawers to get to the areas that are hidden when the drawers are closed. A 1” sponge brush is great for getting coverage on these small areas - much easier than trying to squeeze a household paintbrush into these spots (photo #2a). Allow the dresser to dry fully (about 20-30 minutes).

2a.



Crafty Clue!

Keep the drawers slightly open as the paint dries (photo #2b). This ensures that the drawers won't dry stuck together!



3. After the dresser is fully dry, the next step is to use a knife or paint scraper to scrape the paint off the areas to which you applied Vaseline. Push the blade of the knife across the wood (*pushing the knife away from you, for safety*). To remove paint from the edges of the dresser, simply place the knife so it is perpendicular with the edge, and press it upwards (photo #3). The paint will come off easily where you applied the Vaseline resist. For flat areas, press the blade to the surface at a slight angle, and push the knife away from you to lift the paint off (photo #3a). Repeat until the desired look is achieved. When you have finished scraping the paint, use a cloth to brush off all the paint peelings before moving on to the next step (photo #3b).

3.



3a.



3b.



Crafty Clue!

You can also “weather” areas that don't have the Vaseline resist - it just takes a little more effort and must be done with more care. In these cases, you will need to push the blade across the paint with more force in order to remove it. However, keep in mind that it is easy to cut into the wood when scraping the paint. This works fine if you don't mind permanent cuts in the wood - in fact, it can actually add to the distressed effect. But if you want to keep the wood in good condition, use extra care when scraping.

4. If your poster has a border that you do not wish to include in the decoupage design, or if you only want to use a section of it, trim the poster accordingly (photo #4).

4.



5. Determine exactly where you want the poster to cover the dresser drawers, and hold it in place with one piece of masking tape at the top of the poster (photo #5). If the tape is not a special low-tack tape (available at home improvement and art/craft supply stores), press it against your clothing a few times to remove some of its tackiness prior to putting it on the poster. To avoid tearing the poster, attach the tape to the dresser very lightly (do not press the tape down onto the poster or the surface). The tape simply holds the poster in place as you make the appropriate measurements for cutting the poster to fit the drawers.

5.



**Crafty
Clue!**

If you are placing your poster to cover several drawers, as in this example, here's an easy way to center it accurately. With a tape measure, measure the width of the drawers and determine the center point. In the case of this example, the center point was right where the two drawers meet...so we just "eyed" it, but other dressers may require a more precise measurement. Then, measure the width of the poster itself, and determine its horizontal center point. The center point for the poster goes directly over the center point for the dresser. Follow the same procedure to center the poster vertically on the dresser, as well.

6. Once you have taped the poster in the correct position on the dresser, lightly apply two pieces of tape in an L-shape on the outside of the upper-left corner of the poster, to mark the corner's location (photo #6). You'll be removing the poster to cut it, and this mark ensures that you'll put the top piece back in the correct positions. Again, just lay the tape on lightly, without pressing or smoothing it down. Repeat to mark the upper-right corner of the piece, as well.

6.



7. (Note: if your dresser consists of vertical drawers only, go to step #9.) Use the metal edge of the metal-edge ruler to make a vertical crease in the middle of the poster, right in between the two drawers (photo #7). Simply press the metal edge to the poster and move the ruler down the length of the poster with moderate pressure. This metal edge is the perfect way to crease a poster without actually cutting it, and it eliminates the need for marking the poster and cutting it away from the dresser. If necessary, go over the crease several times with the blade to make sure the crease is well-defined.

7.



8. Use your scissors to cut along the line where the crease is, while the poster is still taped to the dresser (photo #8). Alternatively, you can use an X-acto knife to make the cut, using the metal edge of the ruler as a straight edge to cut against.

8.



9. Use the metal edge to make a horizontal crease between two drawers stacked on top of one another (photo #9). If you do not have any drawers side by side, this will be the first crease you make, to mark where the poster will be cut to be attached to the individual drawers. If you have already cut the poster into two vertical halves, just work with the drawers on one of the halves, first. Press the metal edge to the poster and move the ruler from side to side between the drawers. This will crease the poster without actually cutting it. **Do not cut the poster, yet.** Repeat to make creases between the remaining drawers.

9.



**Crafty
Clue!**

When making your creases, aim to crease **directly in the middle** of the space between the two drawers. This allows for the slight “slack” in the paper that will be rolled over and under each drawer to provide a seamless look.

10. Remove the poster half that you are working on (or, if you are only dealing with vertical dresser drawers, remove the entire poster) and cut along the creases with scissors or an X-acto knife. You should then have the same number of pieces as you have drawers (photo #10).

10.



11. Use a sponge brush to apply Mod Podge liberally to the back of the piece that goes on the top drawer (photo #11) Be sure to brush it over all of the corners and edges to cover them well.

11.



Crafty Clue!

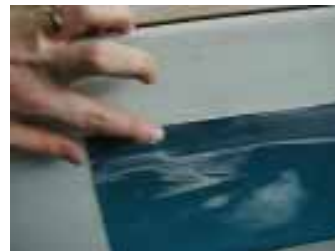
In earlier decoupage projects in this book, you applied Mod Podge directly to the surface, and then placed the thin napkins down on the Mod Podged surface. Since the poster paper is thick, it's more effective in this case to apply the Mod Podge directly to the paper, rather than to the surface.

12.



12. After applying Mod Podge to the back of the poster piece, you will place it directly to the dresser. Start with the upper left corner of the piece, and fit it right up against the "L" of tape you left as a marker (photo #12). Then move across the entire piece, pressing it down with your hands to remove any air bubbles as it is glued down.

12a.



Crafty Clue!

If you have trouble getting the edges of the piece to stay stay down, try brushing some Mod Podge on top of the poster (don't worry, it dries clear) and then using your finger to press the edges firmly down (photo #12a).

13. In order to achieve the seamless look for the dresser, you actually wrap the paper around the drawer edges. The progression of photos below demonstrates the easiest way to wrap the paper around the edges so that you don't have any bumps or major creases. *While the Mod Podge is still wet*, use the scissors to make a small cut at the corner of the piece (photo #13). This small slit will allow you to bed the upper portion of the paper around the side of the drawer so it lays down flat (photo #13a). Next, press remaining clipped corner down and around the corner of the drawer so that it lays flat (photo #13b). This easy method works every time! (If the edges aren't staying down, try our tip at the bottom of the previous page.)

13.



13a.



13b.



14. Use the sponge brush to apply a coat of Mod Podge on top of the piece (photo #14). This will seal the poster to the drawer. Be sure to coat the edges of the piece, and don't be afraid to get a bit of Mod Podge on the drawer, itself (it goes on white but dries clear).

14.



15. Repeat these steps to attach the next piece to the second drawer. Use the image itself as your guide to determine the right placement, but be sure to leave a bit of "slack" in the top of the piece, which you will use to wrap the piece around the top of the second drawer (photo #15).

15.



16. Once you have finished the left side of the dresser (photo #16), repeat steps 10-15 to cut and adhere the pieces of the right side of the poster.

16.



17. After both sides of the poster have been decoupage to the dresser, you can distress the dresser further (using the directions given previously) to achieve the desired look (photo #17).

17.



18. To create the shimmering mirror frame out of beach glass and flat marbles, simply use a glue gun to apply glue to each item (photo #18), and then immediately press the glued item to the edge of the mirror (photo #18a).

This goes very quickly, and the result is quite impressive (photo #18b)!

18.



18a.



18b.





Marney's Memo

The nifty thing about this project is the effect created when you break up a poster into multiple sections. The image of the poster remains intact, even when you pull the drawers in and out! Typically associated with *tromp l'oeil* (French for "trick of the eye") hand painted furniture, you've just seen how YOU can create this effect with an art poster from your local poster store or gift shop! Do you have an image in mind but can't find it in poster-size? No problem! Just take it to your local copy shop, and ask them to blow it up to poster size.

Here are some more ideas on how to decorate by decouping posters to furniture:

- Cut a poster into sections and decoupage it to the insides of shelves in a bookshelf. The effect will be quite appealing, especially if the shelves contain objects of small size, so the poster can be admired.
- Decouping a poster to bookshelves can be especially dramatic when applied to sets of cubby holes. Consider bringing children's book illustrations (or even YOUR child's own drawings) to the copy shop to blow up to poster size, and then lining cubby holes in his or her room with a continuous image that flows from one cubby to the next.
- One of my favorite ideas is to make a color copy of a piece of fabric I use in a room, ask the copy shop to blow it up, and decoupage the fabric pattern to the insides of shelves, or to drawers on a coffee table. For this technique, it's best to select a fabric with a unique design that you can "line up" as you position multiple pieces cut from the poster-sized print. This creates the seamless look we've been talking about.
- Consider blowing up photographs or personal momentos (postcards, souvenirs, etc.) and decouping them to dressers, cabinets, or shelves in casual rooms, such as bedrooms or dens. It's a wonderful way to personalize your living space!

Project 18: Checkerboard Counter Edging Tiles

One of the latest trends in kitchen decor is to line counter edging with ceramic tiles. Like a backsplash, these tiles punctuate the room with a bit of customized pizzazz.

This is the perfect project if you want to give your kitchen a dramatic face lift, but you have a limited budget. As everyone knows, having tiles put in professionally can be really expensive. No problem, just go to the home improvement store, right? Well, at the home improvement store, these small tiles cost about \$1.50 each. Doesn't sound like much until you add up how many you'll need to cover the entire counter!

Our tiles, made with polymer clay, cost about \$0.17 a tile. An entire kitchen (around 200 tiles) costs **about \$35, as opposed to about \$300** if you did it the do-it-yourself way with ready-made tiles. And you'll save even more money if you were planning to have professionals install your tiles!

Plus, there's another added benefit! Working with clay is extremely relaxing, a highly enjoyable process. It's better than therapy! 😊



Playful checkerboard tiles add a sense of fun and frolic to this kitchen.



These tiles look cute as a button, and if made following our instructions, are as durable as ceramic tiles!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Polymer clay in two colors (We highly recommend [Sculpey III](#) by Sculpey.) *See instructions below to determine how many packages you need to buy.*
- Clay blade or slicer (We recommend Sculpey's [Super Slicer](#).)
- Epoxy glue OR adhesive caulk (We highly recommend Tile Perfect's All-in-One Ceramic Tile Adhesive and Caulk, available at [Home Depot](#) and other home improvement stores.)
- Premium durable varnish (We highly recommend [Varathane Diamond Wood Floor Finish \(Water Base\)](#) by Flecto...for reasons to be explained later)
- Clean cutting mat or cutting board that will not be used for food
- Aluminum tray that is not needed for food



Clockwise from bottom left: aluminum tray, Tile Perfect's All-in-One Ceramic Tile Adhesive and Caulk, Five-Minute Epoxy glue, cutting mat, [Super Slicer](#) by Sculpey, Sculpey III polymer clay.

TIME NEEDED:

Varies dramatically, based on how many tiles you make and how quickly you work. (Once you get the hang of it, you can make about 60-70 tiles in an hour; additional time is needed to adhere the tiles to the counters.)

THE STEPS:

1. You'll need to measure your counter edge to determine how many packages of clay you need to purchase. Keep in mind that two packages (one of each color) makes twelve tiles, and each tile is approximately 2" wide.

2. Open one package of clay and place it on a clean cutting mat or cutting board. Sculpey clay blocks are pre-marked to be cut into four portions. Use the clay slicer to slice the clay directly on the cutting marks (photo #2). Use two hands and press straight down with firm pressure.



Crafty Clue!

Use a permanent marker to mark the dull side of the slicer. This way you'll know which side of this very sharp instrument is safe to hold. But make sure it's a permanent marker - otherwise the ink will transfer to the clay as you slice!

3. Now slice a block of the other color on the four marked lines (photo #3).

4. You should now have four rectangular blocks of each color. Stack two of each on top of one another, alternating colors (photo #4).

5. Turn the block so that the colors are lined up vertically. Slice horizontally into four strips, as shown (photo #5).

Crafty Clue!

It's important that these four strips are relatively of the same width. Make your first cut directly in half of the whole block, and then make the subsequent cuts at the halfway point between the first cut and the edge of the block.

6. You now have four strips, and each strip alternates four small squares of color. Flip two of the strips so that the four strips line up like a 2"x2" checkerboard (photo #6).

3.



4.



5.



6.



7. Cut the “checkerboard block” in half, right where the two middle lines of colored squares meet (photo #7).

7.



8. Take one of the two stacked blocks you just cut and place it on its long end. Slice it horizontally into thirds (photo #8).

8.



**Crafty
Clue!**

For slightly thicker tiles, slice this block directly in half, instead of in thirds.

9. You've just cut your first three tiles (photo #9). Return to the other stacked block you cut in step 7, and slice it in thirds as well. Then, return to the four remaining vertical blocks that you cut in steps 2 and 3. Repeat the previous steps to stack and slice them, until you have made twelve 1"x2" tiles from the two packages of clay.

9.



10. Place tiles on an aluminum tray that will not be used for food, and then bake the tiles according to the package instructions (Sculpey III requires 15 minutes per 1/4" thickness.)

**Crafty
Clue!**

You can test a tile to see if it has been baked by poking a fingernail on an inside corner to see if it leaves a mark. If it does not, the clay is sufficiently baked. Do not overbake!

11. Before adhering them to the counter edge, make sure that the tiles are completely cool to the touch. This usually takes about 30 minutes.

12. Use the caulk to adhere the tiles to the counter edge (photo #12). The product we recommend for this project, All-in-One Ceramic Tile Adhesive and Caulk by Tile Perfect, can be used as both the adhesive (to glue the tiles to the counter) and the caulk (to fill in small spaces between the tiles and the counter).

If you are using this product, apply a generous amount to the back of the tile and then press firmly onto the counter edge. Continue to apply all the tiles, and then allow the adhesive caulk to cure for 24 hours.

After 24 hours, you can use the same product to fill in any small spaces between the tiles and the counter (where the backs of the tiles are not completely flat). You should apply the caulk prior to applying the varnish (which is the next step). Squeeze a bit of caulk into the crevices and use a wet finger to rub across the area where the caulk has been applied.

An alternative to using a caulk product is to attach the tiles with a 5-Minute Epoxy glue (available at [Home Depot](#)). This is more time consuming because it requires that you hold each tile for 5 minutes before progressing to the next tile, but it is the strongest way to adhere the tiles.

13. After the tiles are adhered and the adhesion method has properly cured, the final step is to apply a varnish. Assuming that these tiles will be in a kitchen or bathroom, it's important to use a varnish that is 100% waterproof, mildew proof, and extremely durable. Our choice is actually a floor finish called [Varathane Diamond Wood Floor Finish \(Water Base\)](#) by Flecto, available at home improvement stores in the "Finishes" department. It has a UV protectant, it will never yellow, and the gloss finish shines the tiles so they look just exactly like ceramic or porcelain tiles. There certainly are other finishes but we find this choice to be far superior and, as a bonus, it is LESS expensive than specialty finishes manufactured by polymer clay companies.

12.



**So that's how you redo your kitchen "from scratch"!
Not bad for a weekend's work!**



Marney's Memo

This project presents the traditional red-and-white checkered look for the tiles, but remember that your options are wide open when it comes to selecting colors for your tiles!

Here are a few choices from Sculpey III clays that I put together -- I think these combos would make really great checkered tiles (and check out the [Sculpey Web site](#) for a full color chart...what colors would be perfect for YOUR kitchen or bathroom?)



Sculpey III in Turquoise and Blue Pearl



Sculpey III in Lemon and Mint



Sculpey III in Terra Cotta and Sweet Potato

And here's another idea: change the size of the blocks to make smaller or larger tiles!

For example, put several blocks of clay together to make tiles that are large enough for a backsplash. Or roll out very thin "logs" of clay to stack into checkerboard blocks and cut teeny tiny tiles, like the ones used here to line this small shelf (right)!



These tiny tiles measure about 1 cm, and are an adorable accent to a kitchen shelf.

Project 19: Whimsical Floorcloth

A fun and inexpensive alternative to area rugs is to make a floorcloth.

The project we show here is a fun, easy-to-do whimsical design, but that's only the tip of the iceberg! Check out the ideas at the end of this project to get a glimpse into the versatility of floorcloths.

You can make a floorcloth on vinyl "fabric", canvas fabric, or on the *back side* of vinyl flooring remnants. In this project, we painted directly on vinyl (purchased off the roll at a fabric store), but at the end of the project we've included instructions for preparing and painting on these other materials.

Area rugs can cost anywhere from \$40 to multiple thousands. **This project was completed for under \$20**, and it's a lot quicker than it looks! This is a great project for beginners...even if you've never picked up a paint brush before. If you can doodle, you can make this floorcloth!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Vinyl fabric cut to the desired size
- Acrylic craft paint in 6-7 bright colors
- Several artist's paint brushes of various sizes (a 1" flat brush, 1" sponge brush, and several small round detail brushes work well)
- A paper plate (or something else to use for a paint tray)
- Needlework floss or yarn (a pile of unused floss in disarray works great, or purchase 6-10 skeins in various colors at a craft or fabric store)
- Glue gun
- Polyurethane varnish



A fun and splashy floorcloth adds a touch of whimsy to a hallway.



Clockwise from bottom left: paper plate, paint brushes, acrylic craft paints, vinyl, pile of mismatched needlework floss, glue gun.

TIME NEEDED:

About 1-2 hours (including drying time), depending on the size of the floorcloth.

THE STEPS:

1. Cut the vinyl to the desired size. Our rug is 2 feet wide and 6 feet long. If you are painting on vinyl, you do not need to do anything to “finish” the edges - just make sure that you cut all edges in very straight lines.

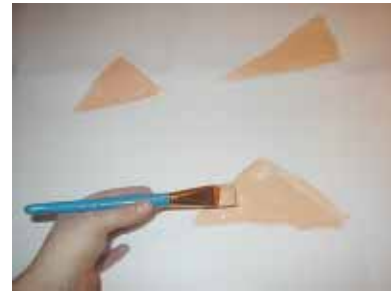
2. Select one color of paint and paint large triangles randomly across the floorcloth (photo #2).

The charm of this design is that all items are painted freehand, and they don't need to be perfect. Lines that aren't straight or circles that are a bit lopsided just add to the character of the final product. (Be sure to peruse the list at the end of this project for other design ideas for floorcloths).

3. Select a second color and paint large circles randomly across the floorcloth (photo #3).

4. Select a third color and create clusters of three stacked dots randomly across the floorcloth (photo #4).

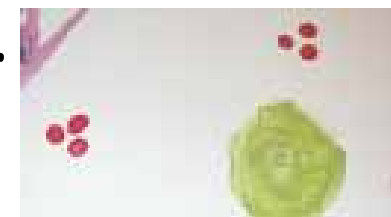
2.



3.



4.



4a.



**Crafty
Clue!**

To make perfect-every-time dots, dip the handle bottom of a round paint brush into paint, and press it on the floorcloth (photo #4a).

5. Select another color and paint large “zig zags” randomly across the floorcloth (photo #5).

5.



6. Step back and examine the floorcloth. Add other designs, where necessary, to create a balanced design with no blank spots that stand out (photo #6).

6.



7. While you are allowing the paint to dry, the next step is to create the “fringe” to be placed around the floorcloth’s edges. If you or someone you know has a pile of unused needlework floss or yarn, it is perfect for this project. Otherwise, you can purchase 6-10 skeins (the name for the rolls of floss) to use.

7.



Combine colors of floss or yarn and make multiple strands of combined colors, each about 10” long (photo #7). For this project, we created about 30 of these strands.

**Crafty
Clue!**

Save time by pulling floss from several skeins at once. Use one hand to grab the skeins and then use the other hand to firmly pull on the ends of the floss (photo #7a).

7a.



8. Fold each combined strand in half. Use the the glue gun to attach the folded point of each strand to the back of the floorcloth. To make this easy, you don’t even have to turn the floorcloth all the way over; just bend the edge up so you have access to the back (photo #8).

8.



9. To seal the floorcloth, apply a coat of polyurethane varnish to the side you painted and allow to dry. Depending on the look you want, you can select a glossy, semi-gloss, or matte finish for the varnish.



Sit 'n Summarize

As we mentioned earlier, there are other materials besides vinyl “fabric” with which you can make a floorcloth, including vinyl flooring and canvas. Each has its own considerations and benefits.

Vinyl “fabric” that can be purchased off the roll at a fabric store (usually in the home decor sections) is inexpensive, easy to paint on, and requires no extra preparation or “finishing”. Its downside is that it is the least durable of the options we’ll present here. It’s very thin and even with a foam rug pad underneath it, it tends to slide. If you use this type of floorcloth, you should use carpet tape to keep it from sliding and “bunching up”.

You can make a floorcloth from **vinyl flooring**, which can be found in remnants at home improvement stores. Apply the design to the back side of the flooring. Vinyl flooring is inexpensive, easy to cut, and easy to decorate. It’s also very durable because it is the heaviest of the three options. It typically stays in place very well and doesn’t “bunch up” when it is walked upon.

Canvas fabric is the material used in traditional floorcloths. There are several sources for purchasing canvas, and they all work equally well. It just depends on the texture and weight you prefer. You can buy artist’s canvas at art supply and craft stores, cotton canvas at fabric and craft stores, and heavy woven canvas at tent and boating equipment shops. Canvas is available in varying thread counts, and we recommend that you use a finer weave canvas for areas that will receive a lot of traffic, such as [Fredrix Floor Cloth Canvas](#). We highly recommend that you purchase a canvas that is pre-primed. That means that it is ready to accept paint. If your canvas is not pre-primed, you can prime it with an art primer such as gesso, but purchasing it pre-primed will save you time and hassle. If it is pre-primed, you can skip step #3 on the following page.

Usually, a canvas floorcloth resembles an area rug much more than a vinyl floorcloth. It also accepts special paint products (colored paint glazes, crackle mediums, etc.) that vinyl does not. If you want to imitate an oriental rug or create a faux finish, canvas is probably the most appropriate choice. Follow these instructions to prepare a canvas floorcloth:

(Sit 'n Summarize, continued)

1. Cut the canvas to the desired size, adding 1" hem allowance on all four sides.
2. Turn the hem edges under 1" and press with an iron, using the "cotton" setting. To make a nice tidy corner, cut out a 1" triangle at each corner so that the edges you fold under meet perfectly on the underside of the cloth (this is called a **mitered corner**). Apply fabric glue along each hem edge and adhere to the back of the cloth. Press with the iron again.
3. If the canvas is not pre-primed, at this point you should apply gesso or a neutral glazing medium to the entire surface of the floorcloth back. Let it dry and then apply it to the entire surface of the floorcloth front.
4. Apply paint to the canvas in your design. The canvas may buckle as you apply paint -- the best remedy against this is to iron the floorcloth between all stages of painting when the paint is dry. Apply 2-4 coats of polyurethane (or another specialty varnish) on the painted side when the design is complete. To keep it laying flat, you can even iron the floorcloth (highest heat, no steam) after the varnish is applied at the end. Just be sure that you *don't place the iron directly on the finish*. Use an old bed sheet or pillow case as a pressing cloth between the iron and floorcloth.

Aside from these three floorcloth options, there are some other floor coverings that accept paint, as well, including:

- **Woven rag rugs** usually accept paint well, but you need to test the rug on the back to see if the paint adheres. You can add 1-2 drops of vinegar to each teaspoon of paint used. This helps the paint adhere and set into the fabric better. After you have applied your painted design, spray the surface with a fabric stain repellent to prevent stains and dirt from damaging the surface.
- **Sisal rugs or carpets** are made from sisal, a woven natural fiber. Finely-woven sisal soaks up paint very well. You can purchase sisal area rugs, or have sisal carpeting cut to the desired size.
- **Woven straw mats** also accept paint well, and can lend themselves to interesting designs.



Marney's Memo

The whimsical design presented in this project is great because it is fast, easy, and fun. But if you're willing to put a bit more time into the project, you might consider some of these ideas for other floorcloth designs:

- You can use foam and rubber stamps to create a design on your floorcloth. Check out our e-book, *Creative Stamping for Walls & Furniture*, for loads of techniques. The possibilities are truly endless!
 - Peruse the stencil section of your local craft store and select a design that you love. There are many designs that are quite intricate with multiple overlays to create depth and shading.
 - Cut the floorcloth in a shape other than square or rectangular. For example, you could cut a large hexagon to create a "medallion" design placed in the center of a hallway or formal room.
 - Use regular masking tape to create a striped, plaid, or lattice design. Simply place strips of masking tape down on the floorcloth to "mask" off the areas that you do not want to receive the paint. When the paint dries, lift off the tape and you have perfectly straight lines with smooth edges. Vary the size of stripes in a striped or plaid design by varying the amount of space between the pieces of tape across the floorcloth.
 - Consult a book on painting faux finishes, and apply the finish to the floorcloth. Examples include faux marble, wood grain, and stone.
 - Create a "faux parquet" floor in a room by creating a floorcloth with a faux wood grain finish that matches the wood color of the floor on which the floorcloth will be placed. Include a stencilled design in a contrasting "wood" color. Possible designs include hexagons, diamonds, and compass points.
-

Project 20: Pearl & Caulk Faux Moldings

It has been said that the true beauty of a home's structure is in its details... so it's no wonder that moldings and customized trims are coveted by homeowners. We've got a way you can create unique moldings yourself, for very little time and money.



Easy faux moldings...

This quick, easy technique is a great way to add detailing to trims, baseboards, and ceiling joints.

Here, the molding has been added to the trim of a door frame, adding dimension and emphasis to the frame. **And this wonderful faux molding was created for under \$10.00!**



add definition to a doorway.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Enough faux pearls strings (found at craft stores) to cover your area
- Glue gun
- Caulk
- Roll of paper towels
- Container of water



Left to right: paper towels, faux pearls on strings, caulk, glue gun

TIME NEEDED:

Varies, depending the amount of space you are covering. The door frame in this example was completed in under 45 minutes.

THE STEPS:

1. Before purchasing the pearl strings, measure the area you want to cover, and decide how many strings you want to use for the width of the molding. In this project, three strings were placed side by side to create a molding that is about 1" wide.

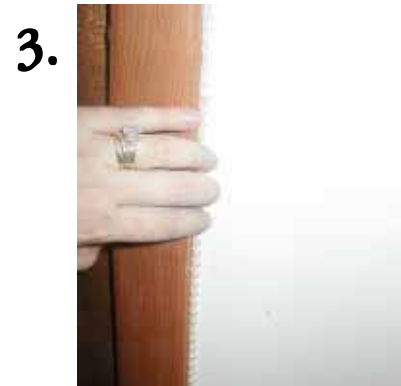
2. Use the glue gun to apply glue to the area on which the first row of pearls will be placed (photo #2).



Even if you are using a caulk that also acts as an adhesive, we recommend using a glue gun for this step, so that you don't have to wait 24 hours for the adhesive caulk to cure.

**Crafty
Clue!**

Work in areas of about 4"-6" at a time. This way, the glue won't harden by the time you press the pearls into it.



3. Immediately place the string of pearls directly on the glue, and press firmly so they adhere to the wall (photo #3).

4. Continue applying glue and pressing the pearls into the glue to complete the first string. Then add two (or your preferred number) of strings to the right of the first string, to build up the width of the molding (photo #4)



5. Squeeze a thick line of caulk directly on top of the lines of pearls (photo #5).

*Crafty
Clue!*

Some caulk is available in colors, such as Color Caulk Premium Tile, available at [Home Depot](#). Use colored caulk if you want the moldings to blend in with a colored wall, or if, for any other reason, you don't want the moldings to be white.

5.



6. First, wet your finger in the container of water, and smooth the caulk out over the pearls, "filling" the small crevices between the pearls, and smoothing the caulk so that it blends smoothly with the wall.

7.



7. Use a damp paper towel to continue to smooth the caulk over the surface of the pearls (photo #7). Change paper towels frequently, so you don't get caulk in unwanted places. Finally, use a wet paper towel to wipe excess caulk from the trim or wall.



Marney's Memo

Consider covering other items with caulk to create other wonderful moldings:

- Golf balls
- Small wooden blocks
- Christmas tree garlands of various shape
- Pieces of artificial fruit
- Costume jewelry pieces
- Seashells
- Stones and pebbles
- Crosses
- Twisted wires
- Round ornaments
- Rolls of staples
- Telephone cord
- Marbles
- Push pins

In Closing...

I hope you enjoyed these projects and that you'll come back to this book as a reference for years and years to come.

It doesn't stop here...in fact, this is only the beginning! You've now learned the basics to complete 20 projects. I hope my personal memos to you have helped you to discover that there is no end to the variations and twists you can add to each project to make it suitable for any room or any occasion. I encourage you to experiment and play with the projects in order to personalize them for your home.

The investment you made in this book will continue to grow as you come up with your own ideas that are born from these projects. Perhaps you'll even turn to this book at gift-giving time, making one-of-a-kind handmade gifts for family and friends to use in their homes. Or, who knows? Maybe one of these projects has inspired a whole new line of work for you, as you consider venturing into your own artistic business!

Whether you continue to dabble in home decor crafts, turn it into a serious vocational endeavor, or anywhere in between, the tools in this book will always be here for you.

The techniques in this book, partnered with YOUR imagination and love for decorating, are a guaranteed recipe for success.

Thank you for including me along on your journey...I really AM your biggest fan!

Best of luck to you!

Marney



Experience the pure joy of being surrounded by items you've created yourself!

NOTES

Now, It's Your Turn...😊

Hi -

Michael here.

I sincerely hope that *Quick & Stylish Decorative Crafts* has met your needs...

I've dedicated my company, ImagineQuest Information Products Inc., to creating high-quality e-products that will make it **easier than ever** for you to put lifestyle enhancing ideas into action.

But we're always looking to improve. We want the next edition of *Quick & Stylish Decorative Crafts* to be even better! That's why I'd love to hear from you.

Were there any **areas** of this book that you feel exceeded your expectations? Were there any that fell short? Go ahead, we really do love hearing the good, the bad, and the ugly. So...

Just click on this link to share your thoughts mjh@home-decorating-made-easy.com....

You'll be doing us and future readers a great service!

Thanks 😊

