

freshHOME
Easy Ideas For Hands-On People

EASY Projects

**DIY in
a day!**

- *chair gilding*
- *wall stencils*
- *bookcase
makeover*
- *cube seats*
- *living wreath*

**10
RULES
FOR
PERFECT
RESULTS**

Cool window box p.28



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EASY Projects

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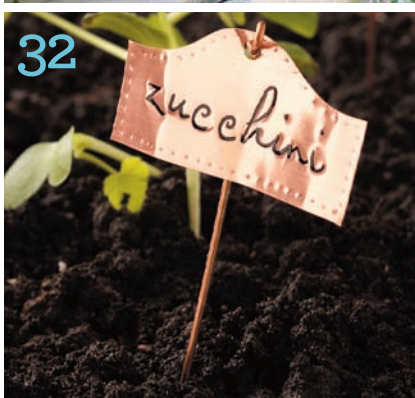
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10 Rules for Perfect Projects

Whether painting a wall or putting in a new paver patio, make tackling a project—even an easy one—into a fun and positive experience with these simple guidelines.

1 More is more. Most projects take longer and cost more than expected. So the moment you have a handle on the price tag and duration, add at least 25 percent more. If you account for it right up front, you will avoid the pain that comes with being behind and broke.

2 Be realistic. Do you have the hours? Do you have the skill set? These are important questions to ask yourself as you embark on a new project. If you have the time and know-how to take on only part of a task, there's nothing wrong with hiring a professional for the rest.

3 Prepare for failure. Yes, you read that right. It's not going to come out exactly as you envision it. Remember that you can redo it. So even before you start, have a Plan B in place—and expect to use it.

4 Divide the duties. When working with a partner, take on jobs to suit your skills. For example, one can build the headboard, the other upholster it. Be honest with yourself when it comes to what you can handle and what is best handing over.

5 Chill out. If you're in a hurry, you're asking for trouble. Tackle projects when you're relaxed and have the time. Also, know when your stress levels are nearing their limit, and make it a point to have a "time out" or two before you blow.

6 Consider renting. Whether it's a renovation, painting a wall or fence installation, many DIY projects need the odd special tool. While buying equipment may be a good investment, it sometimes is not financially feasible, especially for one-off projects. So consider renting instead. Many home improvement stores have tool rental departments and offer items that range from a compound miter saw to drywall lifters.

7 Check your supplies. When starting a project, be sure you have everything on the supplies list close at hand. Don't even think of starting the work if items are missing. Keep everything neatly organized and prep as much as you can beforehand.

8 Play nice. If you and your significant other are tag teaming a project, keep hearts and hearth intact by keeping the mood light. Give each other funny or naughty nicknames to hurl during times of frustration. And always remember to compliment each other's work from time to time. But offer praise only when you mean it. Insincerity is easy to spot.

9 Prepare for the end. When you're done hauling, painting, caulking or sanding (and then cleaning up the mess you made), make time for some fun! Enjoy a glass of wine, crank the tunes or treat yourself (you too, guys!) to a manicure. Your amazing accomplishment deserves a sweet reward.

10

Make it yours. Sure, sometimes you have to follow a plan, but always try adding your own personal touch to a project when you can. Paint is often the easiest way to do so, but there's so much variety in the market when it comes to other materials (wood, hardware, etc.), too, that it's easy to take something from standard to signature.

COST \$25
SKILL Easy
TIME 3 hours

Stencils Made Simple

Stencils add a personal touch to your home decor.

But don't just think of them as repeating patterns along the top of your walls. Stencils can be used in so many ways, from tabletop artwork to a fanciful flourish on a door. That's the great thing about them: They are entirely versatile and unique, not to mention easy to create. Here's how to make your own:

Stencil Creation How-To

What You Need

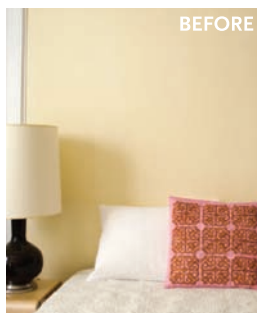
Fine-tip Sharpie
Mylar sheets (found at art supply stores) or any other transparent plastic sheet, such as presentation covers from your office supply store

Exacto knife
Flat-ended stencil brush (we suggest at least two sizes)

Latex paint
Paper towels
Painter's tape

Optional:
Cutting mat

Hole punch
Level
Repositionable stencil spray adhesive
Craft sponge brush



Once you determine the size of stencil that you need, it's all about coming up with a design. Draw your own or find an existing design you love. Look at wallpapers, fabrics or design clip-art books. If you've never stenciled before, consider a simple pattern such as the one we show, which was found in a clip-art book. We photocopied the image and increased the size until we were happy with the scale. Then do as follows:



Trend Alert!

Taking a traditional stencil and blowing it up to 10 times its size turns a dated look into something completely contemporary. To test, play with the scale and pattern on your computer first, or sketch it on a piece of paper before you transfer it to a wall.

1 Place a Mylar or plastic sheet on top of the image.

2 Trace the image with a Sharpie marker.

3 Identify which of the spaces in the stencil should be cut away; we call those “black” spaces. The remaining parts of the stencil, which block the paint from being applied, are the “white” spaces. The key rule: All of the white spaces must be one piece in order for the stencil to

stay intact. If you have white spaces that are an “island,” meaning that they are completely surrounded by black space, you must create a bridge. That way the stencil will remain as one piece. You can color in the bridge space on your final surface after you’re done stenciling.

4 Fill in the black spaces with your Sharpie.

5 Place the Mylar sheet onto a safe cut-

ting surface such as a self-healing mat. Cut out all black areas with an Exacto knife.

6 If your stencil is to be a repeating pattern, create registration marks with a hole punch in each of the four corners.



Stencil Painting How-To

With stencil in hand, it’s time to think color. Do you want a bold statement? Then go with a high-contrast color. For less drama, use a color a few shades lighter or darker than the color on the surface to be stenciled. Here’s how to proceed for a stencil design to be repeated in a horizontal row along the top of a single wall:

1 Establish the horizontal center of your wall and mark with a pencil right below the ceiling.

2 Center your stencil under this mark. Use a level to make sure it is exactly even. Adhere with painter’s tape or spray adhesive.

3 Place additional pieces of tape on the wall under your registration holes. By painting the holes onto the tape, you’ll have removable registration marks for the stencil’s next positioning.

4 Dip your brush into your well-mixed paint, then dab the brush on a dry paper towel to remove most of the paint. You don’t need a lot of paint to cover the surface.

5 Make sure your stencil is flat to the wall. Tap—don’t brush—the paint with the flat end of the brush over the cutout (“black”) spaces of the stencil until the pattern is evenly applied.

6 If you are painting a second color, wait a few moments to let the first color dry (by using the tapping method, the first coat is thin and drying time is short), then apply the second color to the appropriate “black” spaces.

7 When painting is done, wait a few moments, then remove the stencil. Immediately adhere it next to the first transfer, using the registration marks to align it correctly. Repeat the painting process.

8 Continue to the end of the wall, then return to the center and repeat the process in the other direction.

COST \$50
SKILL Easy
TIME 1½ days

Staircase Face-Lift

Bored with the look of your staircase?

Then step things up with this creative option. Decals are available in more designs and colors than ever before. Even better: They can be peeled off later without damaging the painted surface, and then reapplied elsewhere!

Staircase Decal How-To

What You Need

Large wall decal

Paint and paintbrush

Oil-based paint and fine paintbrush

1 Start by finding a wall-decal retailer.

Order a large wall decal that you can cut into several pieces.

2 Apply a fresh coat

of paint to your stairs, and let dry thoroughly.

3 Cut the design to fit and attach.

4 If necessary, use a fine paintbrush and an oil-based paint in the same color as the decal to touch up any joints or fill out the design. And that's it: a stairway that's heaven!



Easy Buy

TIP

Decals are easy to find online. Some of our favorite retailers include *modernwallgraphics.com* and *target.com*.



Chair Glam

Gilding is the craft of applying thin layers of gold or silver leaf to a surface, a technique dating back to ancient Egypt. Traditionally, the surface was prepared using layers of gesso and rabbit skin glue. Today's modern materials allow you to use the same techniques, but make the task quicker, easier—and less smelly than the glues of the past.

Chair Gilding How-To

What You Need

- Sandpaper
- Oil-based primer and gloss paint
- Size (the glue used to attach metal leaf to wood)
- Metal leaf
- Cotton gloves
- Clear shellac
- Paintbrushes
- Soft artist brush

1 Prepare the chair.

Sand the chair lightly then apply two coats of oil-based primer/sealer. When dry, apply two coats of oil-based gloss paint. Red is often used as a base for gold, and black as a base for silver, but either color can be used.

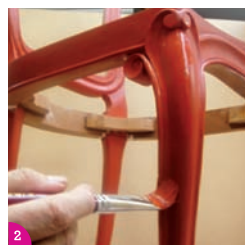
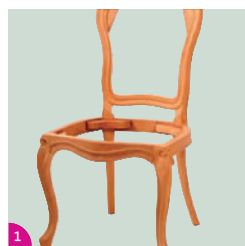
2 Create a sticky base.

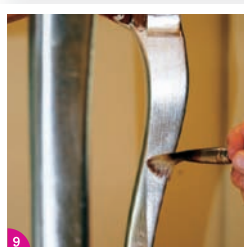
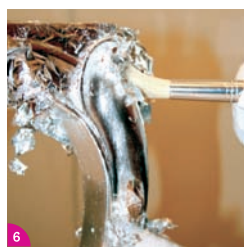
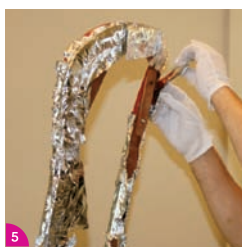
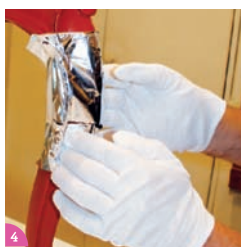
Apply the size in smooth, even strokes. It quickly becomes tacky as it dries. It's ready for leaf when your knuckle pressed lightly on the surface makes a clicking sound when removed.

3 Prepare the leaf.

Metal leaf comes separated by sheets of paper. Wear cotton gloves to prevent tarnishing and lift each leaf slowly with as little contact as possible. Don't crumple, fold or tear the sheet.

4 Apply the leaf. Carefully wrap a sheet around the leg of a chair, then





continue applying and overlapping sheets.

TIP: *Ease sheets onto the surface starting with one edge, rather than trying to position the whole sheet at one time.*

5 Wrap the entire frame. Continue wrapping the leaf around the frame until it's totally covered. Don't be concerned with the finish now; at this point it should resemble a poorly wrapped roast.

6 Smooth the leaf. Use a soft, round artist's brush to gently work the leaf into the nooks, crannies and hollows. Use a circular, dabbing motion for best results.

7 Burnish and fill gaps. Rub a gloved hand gently over the surface to remove surplus leaf. Use scrap pieces to fill areas where the base coat shows through.

8 Give the final burnish. Give the entire frame a final rubdown with a gloved hand to

create a shiny surface. Work slowly, continuing to patch any holes or gaps with scrap leaf.

9 Protect the surface. Use a brush to apply clear shellac over the entire surface. Begin at the top and work down, taking care to cover all areas.

Measure Before You Buy

Metal leaf is sold in single books of 25 leaves and packs of 20 books. Leaf sizes vary in size and thickness. To figure out how much leaf to buy, you'll need to estimate the surface area you want to cover. A book of 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch leaves will cover about 2 square feet; a book of 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sheets will cover 5 square feet.

TIP

COST \$35
SKILL Easy
TIME 30 min.

Laundry Room Shelf

This project will save you hours of ironing and organizing because you will be able to hang up your shirts and jackets as soon as they're out of the dryer. You'll also gain an out-of-the-way upper shelf to store all sorts of odds and ends.

Laundry Shelf How-To

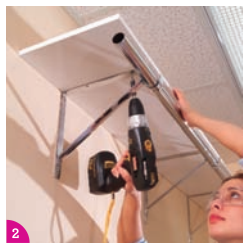
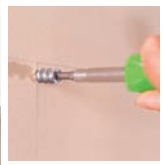
What You Need

- Measuring tape
- Level
- Drill with $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. bit
- Three standard closet rod brackets
- Closet rod
- Pre-cut 12-in.-deep melamine shelf
- Drywall anchors
- Two 2-in.-long screws
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. screws
- No. 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. sheet metal screws

1 Draw a level line about 78 in. above the floor and locate the studs behind the

drywall. Fasten at least two of your closet rod brackets into wall studs (4 ft. apart) and then center middle bracket with two 2-in.-long screws into wall anchors (inset). If rod comes with flange, attach to wall, as shown above.

2 Fasten your 12-in.-deep melamine shelf onto the tops of the brackets with $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. screws. Next, insert your closet rod, drill $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. holes into the rod, and secure it to the brackets with No. 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. sheet metal screws.





COST \$80 for 3
 SKILL Easy
 TIME 4 hours

Flash Cube Seating

Who couldn't use these simple cubes for extra seating or as handy end tables? This super-easy project consists of a trio of boxes made of 3/4-in. plywood. Precise measuring is the key to making a cube that comes together in a snap. The surface can be just about any material you desire. We used plastic laminate, but you might use wood veneer, carpet, linoleum, cloth, paint or contact paper. Or, upgrade to furniture-grade plywood, then stain and seal the natural wood.

Cube Seating How-To

What You Need

- Two 4-ft. x 8-ft. sheets of 3/4-in. AC plywood
- Drywall screws
- Covering of your choice (paint, contact paper, wallpaper, carpet, wood laminate)
- Twelve furniture glides
- Drill
- Table saw (or pay supplier to cut plywood to size)

Cutting list

PART	MATERIAL	SIZE	QTY.
Top	AC plywood	3/4 x 18 x 18	3
Bottom		3/4 x 18 x 18	3
Sides		3/4 x 16 1/2 x 18	6
Back		3/4 x 18 x 18	3
Front		3/4 x 18 x 18	3

measurements in inches

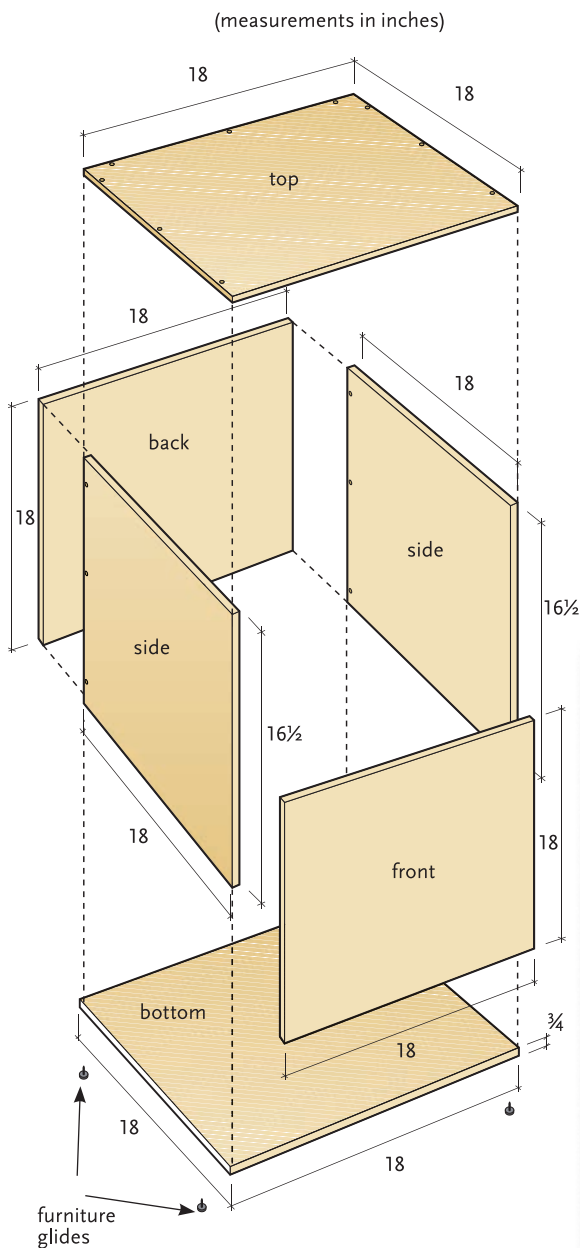
1 Cut the plywood

to size as shown in the cutting list. If you don't have access to a table

saw, pay your local home center or lumberyard to cut the pieces for you. Be as accurate with your cuts as possible.

2 Assemble the cubes

using wood glue and 1 5/8-in. drywall screws. Predrill the holes to prevent



splitting. Once the cubes are assembled, lightly sand the surfaces to dull the sharp edges.

3 Apply paint, contact paper or your covering of choice. Plastic laminate and wood veneers are attractive but are tricky to work with because they require the use of contact cement. Most DIYers will find it easier to cover the cubes with vinyl, carpet, contact paper or paint. Have fun and be creative!

4 Add the 12 furniture glides. Affix four furniture glides to the bottom of each cube to protect the floor and cube from damage.

Grading Plywood TIP

The sides of a sheet of plywood are graded separately for quality: from A (best quality, well-sanded with few, if any blemishes) to D (lowest quality, with cracks and large knotholes). The A grade is usable for making furniture; D grade is strictly for unseen structural usage in building construction. Our project calls for AC plywood, meaning you will get the top-grade for the “show” side of your cube and a rougher, C-grade surface for the inside of the cube.

COST \$25
SKILL Easy
TIME 1 hour

Modern Wall Boxes

Make these lightweight boxes to free up counter space and organize your kitchen goodies.

Wall Box How-To

What You Need

Circular saw
1x4s
Wood glue
4d finish nails
¼-in. plywood
½-in. brads
Sandpaper
Primer, paint and paintbrush
Picture-hanging brackets

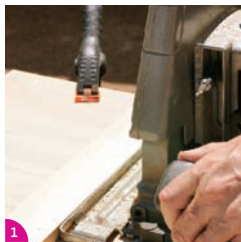
1 Cut the parts. Use a circular saw to cut 1x4s to length, based on the desired size of your wall boxes. Our large box is 9 in. wide and 12 in. tall.

2 Build the boxes. Use wood glue and 4d finish nails to assemble the boxes. Cut ¼-in. plywood to the required size and

secure it to the back with glue and ½-in. brads.

3 Sand, paint and hang. When the glue is dry, sand all surfaces, then prime and paint. To hang the boxes, secure two picture hanger brackets to the back, then hang your spice boxes on nails driven into the wall.

PHOTOS: ROBERT REICHENFELD





COST | 25¢ and up
(per sq. ft. for paper)
SKILL | Easy
TIME | 2 hours

Bookcase Makeover

Contact paper belongs in the kitchen, right? Wrong.

Today it comes in so many colors and patterns that you can use it to decorate bookcases, shelves and other surfaces throughout the house—even whole walls. In this simple project, we took a standard-issue Ikea Expedit bookcase and added loads of personality to it. The project is inexpensive and easy to do.

Bookcase Makeover How-To

What You Need

Bookcase shelving
Contact paper
Ruler
Scissors
Utility knife

1 Cut paper for three sides. Measure a cubby-hole, then cut a piece of shelf paper the length of two sides and the bottom.

2 Position paper. Position the paper (backing still in place) in the cubby. Use a ruler

to make sharp creases where the bottom meets the sides; you'll wind up with a square-bottom "U".

3 Apply paper. With the paper still in position, peel a few inches of backing from one end of the paper and press the sticky side to the upper corner of the cubby. Slowly peel off the backing while you press the paper; work down one side, across the bottom, then up the other side. Four hands will do a better job than two.

4 Cut and position top paper. Measure the top of the cubby, cut the paper to fit, then press it in place, making sure to line up any patterns.

5 Trim excess paper. Finally, take your utility knife and, using the front and back edges of the cubbies as a guide, trim the edges of the paper flush with the edges of the shelf.



Finishing Touches

As we have shown here, it isn't necessary to apply paper to all sides of your bookshelf. You can make a big impact just lining the interior surfaces. If you have a shelving unit with a closed back, apply paper to the interior back surface only, creating a background of color for your collectibles.

If your bookcase is unfinished or has a veneer, be sure to sand the surface first or the paper won't stick. Or, you can use a contact adhesive and apply it to both the shelf and the paper.

TIP



COST \$150
SKILL Easy
TIME 6 hours



Outdoor Sideboard

Refresh a patio or deck with this decorative buffet.

Set against a lattice backdrop and cleverly crafted from two birdbaths, two large pots and a plank, it's the perfect place to set dishes or munchies at your next get-together.

Sideboard How-To

What You Need

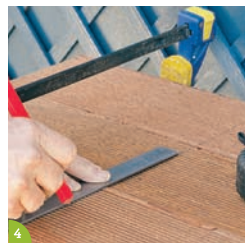
Wood or PVC lattice panels
Exterior paint, if using wood
Drill
Plastic anchors
Screws
Exterior construction adhesive
Two birdbath bases
Two large terra-cotta pots
Cedar plank

1 Paint the lattice. Use scraps of wood to elevate the cedar or treated wood lattice panels. Then apply two coats of exterior paint either by brushing or spraying. For easier maintenance, consider using PVC lattice panels.

2 Secure in place. For securing to concrete walls, position the lattice, then drill mounting holes in the lattice and concrete. Remove the lattice, tap plastic anchors into the wall, and secure with screws. For wood walls, simply screw the lattice to the wall.

3 Build the display table. Apply exterior construction adhesive to the tops and bottoms of two birdbath bases, position them on inverted pots, set the birdbath tops in place and let the adhesive dry overnight. For stability, cut a “backer board” to fit snugly into the bowl of each birdbath.

4 Complete the table. Buy a wide teak or cedar board (or glue several narrower boards together side by side). Set this plank over the birdbath assemblies, mark the location of the backer boards, remove the plank and backer boards, then secure them to one another. Set the plank back in place, nestling the backer boards into the birdbath bowls.



COST \$20
SKILL Easy
TIME 3 hours
plus drying



Multicolored Mosaic

Embellish an ordinary terra-cotta pot with eye-catching bits and pieces you might already have on hand. If you have a little space outside that needs a splash of color, it's sure to do the trick. Just follow these simple instructions to create your easy, inexpensive, one-of-a-kind masterpiece.

Mosaic Pot How-To

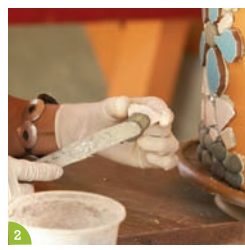
What You Need

Terra-cotta pot
Tile, smooth stones, glass beads, broken china, etc.
Hammer
Chalk
Nipper (optional)
Polymer-fortified thin-set mortar
Butter knife
Sanded grout
Gloves
Wire brush
Cloth

1 Wrap a tile in a cloth, glaze side down, and strike it with a hammer. Lay out the pieces on a flat surface to work out the design, then chalk the design layout onto the pot. Shape tile pieces with a nipper if desired.

2 Mix a polymer-fortified thin-set mortar with water until it's the consistency of peanut butter. Spread on a tile piece with butter knife and stick the tile to the pot, leaving a ¼-in. space between pieces for grout. Use larger items first, then fill in the background. Let set overnight.

3 Mix the grout with water to the consistency of peanut butter. Wearing gloves, slather the grout liberally over the pot's surface, rubbing it into the spaces. Wipe off excess with cloth. Brush off grout from stones with a wire brush, then rub with cloth to eliminate any brush marks.



COST \$30
SKILL Easy
TIME 20 min.
plus drying

Funky Welcome Mat

Want a simple way to add personality and style to your front door? Try the oh-so-easy technique of reverse stenciling—essentially, blocking out where you don't want paint to cover—on a simple jute or coir outdoor mat.

Welcome Mat How-To

What You Need

Jute or coir outdoor mat

Cardboard

Scissors

Spray paint (we used black enamel spray paint on this project, but you can use any color or combination of colors)

1 Make the stencils.

Use a computer to print numbers 4 to 6 in. high, (or buy wooden ones from a crafts store), trace onto the cardboard and cut out with scissors. Draw circles on cardboard, using objects of differ-

ent sizes such as jars and bowls, and cut out. Attach stencils to mat with pins. Put on a drop cloth in a well-ventilated area.

2 Paint the mat. Spray with enamel paint in a circular motion until all areas are evenly covered. Let dry for two hours, then apply a second coat. In another two hours, remove the stencils carefully to avoid smudging the edges.





Trend Alert!

Coir mats are made from the husk and shell of coconuts—materials that not too long ago were considered waste. Today, eco-conscious textile designers appreciate its versatility and are using coir in lots of clever applications. Coir is harvested mostly in India and Sri Lanka, as is its more well-known counterpart, jute. In fact, jute plants are second only to cotton as the world's most harvested natural fiber. Jute and coir doormats are available widely and usually cost under \$25.



COST \$60
SKILL Easy
TIME 1 hour

Rustic Window Box

A window box should be as pretty as the plants that go inside. This project will make an attractive place to grow herbs for snipping and cooking. Scalloped lead sheeting dabbed with white vinegar gives your flower box a rustic, mottled look.

Window Box How-To

What You Need

Plain window box
(either buy one or
make your own)

Roll of lead flashing
(sold at roofing supply
stores or online)

Length of 1-in. x 1-in.
softwood batten

1¼-in. deck screws

Galvanized ¾-in. roofing
nails

Tin snips

Drill

Hammer

White vinegar

Herbs or flowers in
clay pots

Brackets to hang window
box (optional)

1 Measure the height of the box and the length of the front plus the two sides; you don't need to cover the back unless it will be visible. Use tin snips to cut a strip of lead a little longer than this so you can bend the surplus behind to make neat corners.

Flatten the lead flashing onto the box, using





a small flat piece of wood and a hammer, and nail it in place.

2 Cut three lengths of batten, two for the sides and one for the front. The scalloped frill will be fixed to these pieces.

Fix the battens around the top of the box. Drill holes through the box from inside and drive screws through the holes into the battens.

3 Cut the decorative scalloped trim (see helpful tips at bottom right) and nail this to the top of the front batten.

4 Snip notches out at the corners and bend the scalloped edge down. Then bend the strip around the corners and fold it over the top edges of the side battens. Tap smoothly into place, using a piece of wood and a hammer, and fix in place with nails driven into the tops of the battens.



5 To give the lead a weathered patina, dab white vinegar onto the surface with a cloth until you get a whitish, mottled effect. Paint the inside of the box if desired. The sage green used here would work well with terra-cotta pots filled

with herbs or flowers.

If using brackets, securely fix them to the wall and set the window box on them. Then drive screws up through the brackets into the base of the box to keep it firmly in place.

Working With Lead

TIP

- Use a large nail and a straightedge to score straight cutting lines in lead. Lead is soft and malleable, so you can bend back the offcut as you cut along the line with tin snips.
- For the scalloped edge, use an everyday can or jelly jar as a template and score the cutting lines with a nail. Cut the curves from the top down, making two cuts for each curve. Wear gloves to protect your hands.

Weekend Wreath

COST \$40
SKILL Easy
TIME 2 hours

Make a beautiful living wreath that showcases your favorite herbs in three easy steps!

Living Wreath How-To

What You Need

Ready-made sphagnum peat moss wreath (preferably with a hanger attached)

Basin or washtub

Topiary pins

Shears

Assorted herbs or flowers (we used chives, purple basil, sweet basil, Cuban oregano, feverfew and tricolor sage)

1 Half-fill a large basin

or tub with water and set it on a flat, sturdy surface. Dip the wreath inside and splash water on it. Let the wreath soak for a few seconds, until it's damp enough for planting. Don't let it get soggy.

If you'd like to make

your own wreath, just buy sphagnum peat moss and pack it into a wire form. That way, you can experiment with different shapes and sizes. Just make sure that the hanging hardware will support the weight of the finished wreath.

2 Before you begin

planting, arrange the plants according to color and size around the wreath. This gives you a good idea of the finished product.

When you're satisfied, use your thumbs to make small holes where you can insert the plants. In the wreath above,

chives were planted first because they occupy the outermost edge. Bushier herbs, such as basil and oregano, were added next. Continue to add plants until your wreath is full.

3 Secure plants with topiary pins.

The pins keep the plants in place and allow you to position foliage to help cover up bare spots. The plants grow while maintaining the shape of the wreath. Snip any unruly plants with shears, and hang your finished wreath on a wall or door. Planning to snip fresh herbs from it regularly? Display it near the kitchen.





COST \$30
SKILL Easy
TIME 20 min.



Copper Plant Markers

Finding plant markers that withstand the elements is a challenge. They should also be attractive, easy to make, inexpensive and reusable year after year. Is that too much to ask? Well, these markers deliver it all. They're so easy to make that you can crank out several in an afternoon.

Plant Markers How-To

What You Need

- 36-gauge copper sheets
- 12-gauge wire
- Paper
- Blunt-tipped pencil
- Extra-fine black paint marker
- Colored paint marker (optional)
- Transparent tape
- Clear enamel spray
- Craft scissors or tin snips
- Paper punch (optional)
- Side-cutting pliers
- Small rubber or plastic roller (optional)
- Soldering gun or mini-torch (larger torches are not recommended)
- Solder and flux
- Incombustible soldering surface
- Fine sandpaper, 220-grit
- Fine steel wool

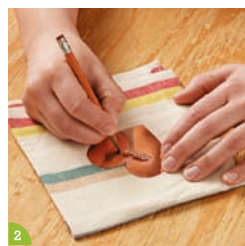
1 Draw your own paper shapes and cut about 1/8 in. larger than the edges. Tape them to the copper sheet metal. With scissors, cut the copper along the outline of each shape. Sand sharp edges. Punch any holes desired with a paper

punch. On a smooth surface, flatten each shape with a roller, rolling pin or even a glass bottle.

2 Place the copper shapes on a soft pad, such as a folded dish towel, and write plant names with a blunt pencil. Then go over the letters with a black paint marker to darken them. Decorate the edges if desired.

3 Clean shapes and wires with steel wool or sandpaper before soldering.

4 Cut wire with side-cutting pliers to desired length (the ones shown are 10 inches). Solder wire to the back of each marker. Apply flux first and heat until it bubbles. Then touch the solder to the side of the wire until it flows. Solder on both sides of the wire, holding the wire in place until it cools. Spray the markers with clear enamel to prevent tarnishing.





Make
It Yours

TIP

Customize your trellis with a colorful exterior paint or stain. Just be sure to do so before you put it in place.



COST \$10
SKILL Easy
TIME 30 min.

Wall Trellis

Instead of staring into a blank wall or fence, add color with this simple trellis filled with pots. You can change the look as often as you like—just unhook the pots and pop in fresh, seasonal plants.

Before you head to the store or hit the workshop to build your trellis, measure the area you want to cover. Then buy a trellis to suit the site, or cut one to fit. Just make sure the horizontal bars are sturdy enough to hold the weight of your potted plants.

Wall Trellis How-To

What You Need

- Wood trellis, cut as needed
- Clay pots, various sizes
- Galvanized wire
- Pliers
- Potting soil
- Plants or herbs of your choice

- 1 To make pot hangers,** bend a length of galvanized wire to fit snugly beneath each pot rim.
- 2 Twist one end of the wire** over itself and pinch tight with pliers, leaving one long end free for hanging.
- 3 Bend the long end of the wire** to make a hook that fits snugly over a horizontal trellis bar.



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