



**MAX  
McMURDO**  
Talks exclusively about  
the inspiration behind  
his new upcycling book

# Reloved

THE CREATIVE GUIDE TO UPCYCLING YOUR HOME

## Child's play

MAKE A SIMPLE DEN FROM  
TWO DISCARDED PALLETS

## ROOMS IN BLOOM

SHABBY-CHIC EXPERT  
RACHEL ASHWELL ON HOW  
TO STYLE YOUR INTERIOR  
WITH FLOWERS

### WEEKEND UPCYCLES

- ♥ Butterfly decoupage table
- ♥ Colour-wash crate shelves
- ♥ Tin can plant pots

## Bright & beautiful

DISCOVER A SUSSEX HOME  
PACKED WITH BRAZILIAN COLOUR



### BOTTLE UP

Easy projects to make today



### WASHDAY BLUES

Stencilled laundry basket



### MOORISH STYLE

Quick vinyl mirror makeover



### EVERLASTING ROSES

Turn old maps into bouquets

ISSUE 63

53



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# JANOME

# Welcome...



I find that nothing lifts a room more than a display of beautiful blooms, whether it's a carefully put together bouquet from a florist or an assortment of cuttings gathered fresh from my garden. If you're after floral inspiration, turn to page 39 where shabby-chic stylist Rachel Ashwell has ideas for creating natural arrangements to complement vintage-style rooms, for looks to emulate in your own home. Then head over to our projects section and raid your recycling to make a simple wall-mounted flower display (page 70), stylish tin can plant pots (page 63) or a posy of pretty paper roses (page 80).

This month we're also looking at ways to brighten up your bathroom, from a stunning stencilled laundry box (page 91) to a mirrored cabinet revamped with the application of Moorish-style vinyl shapes (page 54), plus pretty storage ideas using wine crates (page 82) or an old wicker basket (page 88).

And with spring on the way, what better excuse could you have for pulling the kids away from their tablets and into the garden, than making our easy-peasy cover project pallet tent, courtesy of upcycling supremo Max McMurdo.

Don't forget to show us what you've been working on, and you could be featured on our Reloved by You page next month!

Lou Butt, Editor



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Cover images

Child's play (main): Brent Darby  
Bottle up: Shutterstock  
Washday blues: Nicolette Tabram  
Moorish style: Andy Greenacre  
Everlasting roses: Claire Armstrong



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INSPIRATION

CREATE A STATEMENT WALL WITH FLORAL STILL LIFE GREY WALLPAPER FROM WOODCHIP & MAGNOLIA. OR MAKE YOUR OWN VERSION BY GATHERING A COLLECTION OF OLD PRINTS IN ORNATE FRAMES AND PAINTING THE LOWER SECTION WITH BRIGHT TESTER POTS.

# Reloved Contents

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Combining a riot of clashing colours from across her palette, Annie decorates an unusual seat

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## THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

© Alexandra Joseph



**JU DE PAULA**

**22** 'I love Frida Kahlo – all her layers, bold colours and over-the-top style. She's a massive influence on my work'



**DEBBIE VON GRABLER-CROZIER**

**63** 'Craft and upcycling go hand in hand. I love the way nothing goes to waste'

© Ruth Taylor Photography



**CHLOE HARDISTY**

**73** 'I love making and the challenge of decorating my house on a budget'

**Win!**

TICKETS TO THE HANDMADE FAIR PAGE 9



# Reloved Creative Hub

NEWS ♥ EVENTS ♥ PRODUCTS



The Restorers: Craig Hughes (upholsterer), Alex Webster (French polisher), Carl Brine (electrician) and Gavin Bartlett (restorer).



Photography © Discovery Communications



## TRASH TO TREASURE

DREW PRITCHARD AND HIS TEAM OF EXPERT RESTORERS ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER SERIES OF *SALVAGE HUNTERS*

Fans of TV show *Salvage Hunters* will want to tune in to the new series starting in April, as modern-day treasure hunter Drew Pritchard tracks down old and rare pieces that can be given a new lease of life. You may have seen the show's crack team of restorers before, repairing and refining Drew's finds, but for the first time, *Salvage Hunters: The Restorers* will be going behind the scenes to see what it really takes to transform junk into gems.

The brand-new series is packed with process, craftsmanship and expert techniques, following the skilled restorers working at Drew's base in Conwy, north Wales, as well as the work of specialist artisans including blacksmiths and sculptors.

Drew is one of Britain's leading architectural salvage dealers, travelling the length and

breadth of the country in search of weird and wonderful objects. 'I absolutely love my job,' says Drew. 'I've always been drawn to collecting junk and even as a child I had boxes of stuff that I found, from hubcaps to badges. My parents even built me a shed to keep it all in!'

In each episode, Drew hands over the neglected items to Rebecca Pritchard, who oversees the expert team while also delving into the rich history of each piece, exploring how it was originally made, where the materials came from, and why it became the must-have object of its time. Viewers will see a huge variety of pieces restored, including a period fireplace, an original Louis Vuitton trunk and a model of the iconic Steamboat Willie.

But Drew admits he has a soft spot for the Eames chair restored on the show. 'That is

Drew discusses the restoration process with French polisher Alex Webster.



You'll have to tune in to see what becomes of this old waltzer seat.



Drew's own Eames chair gets the restoration treatment.

actually my own chair,' he says. 'I bought it on *Salvage Hunters* about five years ago and I've hung on to it as it's actually a very rare model. It's wonderful to see it beautifully restored and back in my home.'

● *Salvage Hunters: The Restorers* premieres exclusively in the UK on Quest, 9pm, 4 April.



## A LOVELY CRAFTERNOON OUT

The Handmade Fair, hosted by Kirstie Allsopp, is heading to Bowood House and Gardens in Wiltshire (22–24 June) for the very first time. The programme includes live ‘craft-offs’ with the experts, Q&As and demonstrations from well-known makers, plus creative workshops where visitors can learn new skills, including needle felting, calligraphy, wirework and Indian block printing, to name just a few.

Kirstie will top the bill on Friday, followed by Liz Earle, skincare specialist and founder of the

multi-award winning Fairtrade jewellery range Fair & Fine, and gardening expert Sarah Raven. Kirstie says: ‘The Handmade Fair at Bowood is a fabulous way for craft enthusiasts and lovers of all things handmade to get a little taste of everything. So come along, meet like-minded people, and get inspired to build on an existing skill or ignite a brand new passion!’

● For information or to book tickets, go to [www.thehandmadefair.com/bowood](http://www.thehandmadefair.com/bowood).

### Win!

Reloved has five pairs of tickets to The Handmade Fair at Bowood House and Gardens on 22–24 June. To enter the draw, simply go to [www.relovedmag.co.uk/competitions](http://www.relovedmag.co.uk/competitions). Entries must be received by 26 April 2018.



## CLASSICAL CUSHIONS



Looking for a quirky finishing touch? We love this classical architecture-inspired cushion range created by interior designer Claire Rendall, who has designed for the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, Lord Bath at Longleat House and for the BBC’s *DIY SOS* show.

Inspired by her travels and love of photography, the cushions feature images such as a set of gates at a chateau on the Loire to a stone centaur, or details of the Palazzo Giusti in Verona. You can choose from square or rectangular cushions in blue and sepia-style photography on linen or herringbone fabric finishes, or hot colours on soft velvet. Plus, look out for a collection on waterproof fabric coming soon – perfect for the garden this summer.

Claire’s designs show how photography can be used to create unique home accessories, so don’t let your favourite pics languish on your laptop – be inspired to get creative!

● The range is available at [www.clairerendall.com](http://www.clairerendall.com).





## Beautiful creatures

### RECYCLED FABRICS BECOME A CANVAS FOR WILDLIFE-INSPIRED ARTWORKS

With a lifelong passion for drawing and a textiles design degree under her belt, it was a beginner's falconry course that made Emily Smalley realise she wanted to focus her embroidery work on the natural world.

'I spent a lot of time studying birds of prey and realised they each have their own character,' she says. 'In fact, my most adventurous piece was a bird of prey-themed embroidered canvas I created for Melbourne Festival's Emerging Talent Award in 2014; it was the largest embroidery I'd ever attempted and I started it only three weeks before the deadline! My work featured the peregrine falcons of Derby Cathedral and the three stages of a peregrine's life. Amazingly, it won runner-up prize.'

Working at Banks Mills Studios in Derby, where she also runs workshops, Emily uses free-motion embroidery and hand screen-printing to bring her illustrations to life on both paper and textiles, tackling everything from an elaborate Japanese-inspired peacock wall hanging to pet portraits.

A love of fabric comes with the job and she admits she's become something of a hoarder. 'I often recycle old clothes, and as a way to keep my work more individual I buy fabric from end-of-roll sales and charity shops,' she says. 'It means my work is genuinely a limited edition or a one-off piece, and that just adds to the specialness of it. My aim is to produce beautiful quality items that will hopefully be treasured for a long time.'

She's also sourced materials in some unexpected places. 'Umbrella fabric is probably one of the most unusual materials I've used. It's very hardwearing and you can find some lovely prints on broken brollies that would otherwise go in the bin. I would normally use this fabric for things like purse linings – the pattern makes a nice surprise when you open the bag.'

● Emily is opening her studio doors for Derbyshire Open Arts event (26–28 May) and will be exhibiting at The British Falconry and Raptor Fair in Helmsley, North Yorkshire (23–24 June). For event details or to visit her Etsy shop, go to [www.emilysmalley.co.uk](http://www.emilysmalley.co.uk).





### Pitch perfect

A well-loved classic from Farrow & Ball's original range, the milder Off-Black No. 57 shade is more flattering next to adjacent colours than a strong or true black. For a stylish chalky matt finish on interior walls, go for the estate emulsion.

- £45 for 2.5 litres from Farrow & Ball.



### Light industry

Statement pendant lighting is a great way to add a contemporary splash of black, that you can match with other accessories.

- Caravaggio P2 light in gloss black, £301 from [www.rume.co.uk](http://www.rume.co.uk).



### Get a leg up

Pair up a reclaimed door, or a waxed scaffold board top, with these stunning legs.

- Black 'A' design legs, prices from £80 at [www.wickedhairpins.com](http://www.wickedhairpins.com).



### Black on tap

This bold monochrome bathroom look is easy to achieve, with matt black tap detailing paired with simple but effective black grouting with white tiles.

- Vogue 4-tap bath/shower mixer, £205 from [www.frontlinebathrooms.co.uk](http://www.frontlinebathrooms.co.uk).



## Back to black

MONOCHROME GETS A SOFT, COSIER UPDATE.



### Zigzags & zebras

You can't beat a new cushion for a quick update – splurge on the cool chevrons of the Missoni Home Varsavia cushion, or for a budget buy go for a stripy number in cut velvet from Dunelm.

- Missoni cushion, £152 from Amara; Savannah stripe, £18 from Dunelm.



### Softly, softly

The new monochrome is softer, mixing black with lighter greys and neutrals, with a pop of mustard to lift the look.

- Accessories all from M&Co, prices from £5.



### Bah, humbug!

For when you want to make a real style statement, this black-and-white striped Omedelbar wallpaper packs a punch for a feature wall.

- £6 for 10 metres from IKEA.



### Map it out

These custom-made ceramic vintage-map tiles put a personal spin on your kitchen or bathroom. Choose your map location and create a unique kitchen splashback or feature wall in the downstairs loo.

- Prices start at £49 from Love Maps On at [www.notonthehighstreet.com](http://www.notonthehighstreet.com).

### Well handled

Black cabinets are tipped as the kitchen trend to watch, but a complete black paint makeover isn't for everyone. However, you'll find that monochrome-print knobs work well with cupboards of all colours.

- £1.79 each from Knobbles & Bobbles.



# Reloved Creative Hub

## SEW SIMPLE DECOUPAGE

To celebrate 90 years at the forefront of sewing inspiration, Simplicity has launched a gorgeous collection of gifts and accessories featuring vintage pattern artwork. The wrapping paper features the classic Simplicity pattern illustrations, and would be perfect for a decoupage project – especially for a vintage sewing table!

● £8.99 for a pack of two rolls, from [www.simplicitynewlook.com](http://www.simplicitynewlook.com).



## CHALK THIS WAY

Created to be affordable yet durable, Presiman Designs Chalk Effect Furniture Paint comes in 11 beautiful colours, from on-trend greys to vibrant red, blue, yellow and green, and they can be mixed to produce a rainbow of shades too. With a carefully selected blend of minerals to create a perfect finish, these budget-friendly paints come in 500ml (£9.50) and 1-litre tins (£14.50) from the Presiman Designs shop on Etsy.



The Cuprinol Garden Shades range comes in a dazzling array of colours, from pretty Coral Splash to stylish Urban Slate, and can be used to transform everything from tired wooden furniture and sheds to grubby stone and terracotta plant pots.

● Choose your colour at [www.cuprinol.co.uk](http://www.cuprinol.co.uk).

## GARDEN INSPIRATION

IT'S SPRING – THE PERFECT TIME TO UPDATE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE READY TO ENJOY THROUGHOUT THE WARMER MONTHS AHEAD.

We love to see waste plastic saved from landfill – this terracotta-look Amsterdam Ecopot by Cornwall-based eco-brand A Short Walk is made from recycled PET bottles. Just add blooms to brighten up your patio.

● £11.95 from [www.notonthehighstreet.com](http://www.notonthehighstreet.com).



For keen gardeners, these upcycled vintage silver spoons make beautiful herb markers for your veg plot or individual pots, and each one is unique.

● £14.95 from [www.annabeljames.co.uk](http://www.annabeljames.co.uk).



**BLOG WATCH**



**DESIGN SIXTY NINE**

A relative newcomer to the world of interior blogging, art and design lecturer Malcolm Begg started his Design Sixty Nine blog in February 2017 to document the restoration of his new house in Aberdeen, which happened to be number 69. 'I fell in love with my home the minute I stepped over the threshold,' says Malcolm. 'The décor was dated, but it was clear the place had been loved.'

Mixing old and new to stunning effect, his distinctive style has already earned him the Blogger's Choice accolade in the Amara Interior Blog Awards. 'When it comes to my style, I love the contrast of simple, clean lines, with decorative Victorian styling.'

Finding inspiration in his surroundings, Malcolm says projects can be driven by anything from the simple necessity of needing a new storage solution, to finding the perfect vase in a charity shop. 'Upcycling is a huge part of being budget conscious,' he says. 'A cheap chest of drawers can be transformed with some vintage eBay legs and handles. Learning a skill can save cash too. I made my lined roman blind by following an online tutorial. What should've cost over £150, only cost £30. My most recent upcycling project was creating a bathroom washstand from an old record cabinet bought on Gumtree for £20. I found a huge marble tile, discounted to just £15, which is now the top.'

When it comes to learning new skills, Malcolm admits he likes to take the 'dive in head first' approach, and says he wants his



blog to be honest and share the steep learning curve that comes with a renovation project. 'I often see makeovers where it just "happens". I want to walk the reader through my process, by visualising every aspect. I do this through use of drawing, so that the reader can see what my intentions are. Sometimes this doesn't go to plan, but that's okay. I think it's important that people know that making mistakes is an important part of learning, and getting to an even better finish.'

[www.designsixtynine.co.uk](http://www.designsixtynine.co.uk)



The dated landing (below right), transformed with a picture gallery and cool monochrome styling (above).



Malcolm's finished panelled hallway, and his original design sketch (right).





## A touch of glass

'It was love at first sight,' says Jackie Birchall of Purple Urchin, remembering her first stained-glass evening class. 'I loved making the Tiffany-style glass using copper foil and solder, rather than lead.' She says she enjoys the challenge of cutting the glass just right. 'It's the most thrilling aspect of this craft. I often hold my breath whilst I snap the glass apart, and if it breaks the wrong way, well, it becomes something else!'

Jackie makes pieces ranging from freestanding panels to 3D designs, such as flowers and terrariums, as well as more complex commissions based on photographs of special places, wildlife or even pets. 'I love to upcycle, so I've also been using spoons to make dragonflies, lightbulbs to make bees, marbles to make flowers and hummingbirds, and



now I'm working with spark plugs to create butterflies.'

● Find more of Jackie's work at [www.purpleurchin.online](http://www.purpleurchin.online).



## Cath's cans

Bringing upcycling to the food industry, Heinz is celebrating Cath Kidston's 25th birthday with a design takeover of its iconic soup cans. Heinz Cream of Tomato (launched in 1910) and Classic Vegetable (introduced in the 1930s), which have remained largely unchanged, will have a fresh spring look, sporting Cath Kidston's spot and Bramley Sprig floral prints. Grab one while you can – we think they'll look so pretty in the kitchen as storage pots or herb planters!



## SOUK STYLE

Fancy creating a touch of Moroccan magic in your home? We love this gorgeous tile pattern stencil in a fresh teal shade, which captures the beauty of North African tile design without the grouting! The stencils are available in a range of sizes, so you can create a tile effect in small areas such as kitchen splashbacks, or go larger for wall or floor decoration.

● Prices start from £8.49 at [www.idealstencils.co.uk](http://www.idealstencils.co.uk).



## LOVE WOOD WORKSHOPS

The Somerset Bodgers are running a series of woodworking courses from April to July at the National Trust's Tyntesfield property in North Somerset, giving people a chance to learn traditional woodcraft skills and make beautiful handmade pieces to take away, including a Celtic three-legged backstool and a carved wooden spoon. You can get the whole family involved in this wonderful craft at a fun green woodworking day, while new for 2018 is the one-leg stool workshop.

● For details, prices and to book, call 01275 461900.



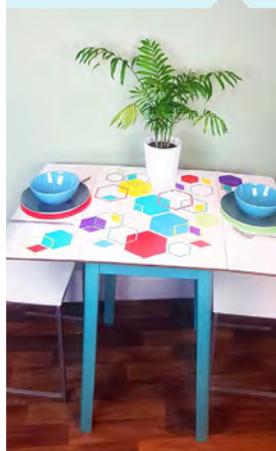
## Bags of fun

We love it when readers get creative, so we couldn't resist sharing this bag by Elaina Sanches – made from the cover of this very magazine! 'This is the first bag I've made using a magazine cover,' says Elaina. 'I love trying new crafts and I'd describe my style as a combination of shabby-chic vintage and Victoriana. I'm originally from Brazil, although I've lived in the UK for a long time, and making bags from magazines is popular over there.'

● Find Elaina on Facebook at Elaina's Shabby Chic Designer Home Decoration.

## ERRATA

In Nicky Cash's Colour Pop Kitchen Table project in issue 52, the materials list specified Pinty Plus Aqua Spray Paint in Mint Turquoise Gloss – but this should have been Pinty Plus Evolution Gloss in Mint Turquoise.



# DIARY

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THE COMING MONTHS

**9 April**

### Drop-in rag rugging workshops

ARLINGTON COURT, DEVON

Artist Deborah Hastings will be showing how to make beautiful creations from scraps of material. Find out the basics for free, or make one of her fun designs to take home.

For more information, call 01271 850296



**28–29 April**

### Newbury Antiques & Collectors Fair

NEWBURY SHOWGROUND, BERKSHIRE

A favourite location for filming BBC's *Bargain Hunt*, this weekend fair offers free parking, great facilities and a wide range of browsing and buying opportunities.

[www.iacf.co.uk](http://www.iacf.co.uk)

**28–29 April**

### Wonderwool Wales

ROYAL WELSH SHOWGROUND, BUILTH WELLS

The annual extravaganza of wool and natural fibres is back, with stalls, special exhibitions, demos and workshops. Book now for a chance to learn new skills such as crochet, felting, weaving and more.

[www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk](http://www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk)

**5–13 May**

### Grand Designs Live

LONDON, EXCEL

Based on the Channel 4 series and presented by Kevin McCloud, this event is perfect for anyone planning a self-build, a renovation or any home improvements. Visitors can access expert advice, discover new product launches and meet specialist exhibitors.

[www.granddesignslive.com](http://www.granddesignslive.com)

**26–27 May**

### DIY for beginners workshop

THE MAKERSHED AT ST PAUL'S LEARNING CENTRE, BRISTOL

If you'd love to give upcycling a go or tackle a few projects around the home, this workshop will give you the basic skills to get started, from using hand tools and power drills to putting up hooks, pictures and shelves, and repairing plasterwork.

[www.themakershedbristol.co.uk](http://www.themakershedbristol.co.uk)



# Reloved by you

Show us what you've revamped and if you're our star upcycler you'll win a copy of *Annie Sloan Paints Everything*.

## Royal makeover

'This Victorian duchess dressing table was painted in a Chalk Paint mix of Duck Egg and Old White by Annie Sloan. Next a Versailles and Duck Egg mix was layered and blended onto the piece, then wet and dry distressed. I picked out the edges in Burgundy and highlights were added using Gold Gilding Wax, before the whole piece was aged with dark wax.'

SHARON PITTS



BEFORE

♥ We're starting to see these ornate dressing tables come up at auction quite regularly. For those not in mint condition, a paint upcycle is the perfect way to update them.

## Top table

'My inspiration for this side table came from the metallic decorations in the shops at Christmas. I wanted to make this ornate table jump right off the page, so to achieve this look I used Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan in Paris Grey and Rust-Oleum's metallic gold furniture paint, finishing it off with dark wax to give it an aged look.'

RACHAEL DOBSON



♥ A touch of gold always lifts a piece, and you've picked out the details to take this elegant table from beautiful to stunning.

## Radio gaga

'This old radiogram had sentimental value, so I was asked to repurpose it but keep the external look unchanged. I removed the radio parts before cutting the front panel to create a door. The inside was painted using General Finishes Lamp Black and the final touch was to install LED lights inside the cabinet, so they could be visible through the old radio panel.'

WANDA McKENNA



BEFORE

♥ We love how you've kept the design integrity of this piece of furniture, while enhancing it with subtle details, such as the internal lights.

## SHARE YOUR UPCYCLES

We love to see what you've been working on! Share your 'before' and 'after' shots the following ways:

-  RelovedMag
-  RelovedMag
-  Reloved\_Magazine
-  [contact@tailormadepublishing.co.uk](mailto:contact@tailormadepublishing.co.uk)



BEFORE



## Queen of hearts

'I made this dining set as a wedding gift. After looking for Alice in Wonderland fabric I discovered artist Tanya Hall, who agreed to resize and personalise her work to be printed on fire-retardant velvet. To complement the fabric, I used my own Presiman Designs Chalky Effect Furniture Paint for the body of the chairs.'

ANGELA WILLIAMS

♥ What a fantastic statement this dining set makes! We love how each chair back depicts a different Lewis Carroll character.



NEW ESSEX  
ANNIE SLOAN STOCKIST

## KNIGHT DESIGN INTERIORS

Paint studio



Design Studio, Studio 7 and G3, Hylands Estate, London Road,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 8WQ Tel: 01245 266000  
[WWW.KNIGHTKNIGHT.COM](http://WWW.KNIGHTKNIGHT.COM)

# HAYGEN



*'Inspiring a life in style'*

Voted a top London boutique by *Time Out Magazine*, HAYGEN is a stunning lifestyle store selling contemporary and design led home ware, gifts and fashion. We stock the full Chalk Paint™ range, a decorative paint by Annie Sloan and run a workshop once a month in central London starting again March 2018.

Book now online, in store or by phone.



114 Islington High Street | London | N1 8EG 0207 226 9528  
[www.haygenshop.com](http://www.haygenshop.com)

## Tomlinsons, Dulwich

[www.rigbyandmac.com](http://www.rigbyandmac.com)

A pretty and vintage style shop with new homeware and unusual decorative pieces from France and Scandinavia. Tomlinsons stocks a wide range of Chalk Paint™, a decorative paint by Annie Sloan & runs workshops, please drop by or check online to see how these fantastic paints can transform your home.



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/rigbyandmac

tomlinsons, 89 Dulwich Village, London SE21 7BJ  
Tel: 020 8299 1260 Email: [customercare@rigbyandmac.com](mailto:customercare@rigbyandmac.com)

ALSO  
IN  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



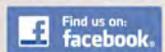
Village Chic are based in the East Midlands so accessible to all who wish to visit their showrooms in Sileby which sells Chalk Paint™ & Fabrics by Annie Sloan. Also providing an excellent range of French Style Furniture, Lighting and Accessories.

VISIT US AT OUR SHOWROOM IN  
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[www.villagechic.co.uk](http://www.villagechic.co.uk)

8 High Street, Sileby, Leicestershire LE12 7RX

Tel: 01509 812035 Email: [sales@villagechic.co.uk](mailto:sales@villagechic.co.uk)



# Annie Sloan

## Paint and colour expert

Inspired by Pakistani truck art, Annie combines a profusion of bold, clashing colours from her palette to decorate a traditional Asian swing seat.

I love it when spring is in full swing. Nature's array of floral colour, whether wild or carefully curated, is a breath of fresh air after months of wintry grey. So beautiful is the display in my garden, as well as the hedgerows that mark my journey to work, that I can't help but want to transfer the shades I see to furniture. And recently, one piece in particular has allowed me to explore a whole range of bright shades from the Chalk Paint palette, while also embracing a colourful art form that I've admired for over 40 years.

I recently met with my friend Mahmood and he told me he had a jhoola – a traditional swinging seat – which was intricately carved with a flower and leaf design. Knowing what I do, he asked if I'd like to give it a colourful makeover. Of course, I jumped at the chance!

Across Asia, jhoolas are often the centrepiece at parties, weddings and events where the guests of honour will sit and be photographed. These swinging seats are also widely featured in homes. Taking the theme of celebration, as I looked at the floral

carvings I was reminded of my time as a hippy art student back in the 1970s when I discovered Pakistani truck art. I love how these lorries have been beautifully painted and embellished with elaborate details and vivid colours. The owners of these trucks will often spend lots of money customising their vehicles with brightly painted wood carvings, historical scenes, portraits of film stars, flowers, careful calligraphy and even reminders of their own home towns to give them comfort while thousands of miles away on the road.

### A RIOT OF COLOUR

With the painted trucks as my inspiration, I had a vision of how the jhoola was going to look – a joyful riot of clashing colours. So that the bright shades would really pop, I applied a neutral, dark base of Chalk Paint in Aubusson Blue to the frame. Then I picked out the flowers and foliage and other details in individual colours, using shades direct from my range and mixing some to achieve even brighter colours – reds, pinks, yellows and greens.

Mouldings on the seat back and central cross-section were picked out in Antibes Green, creating a beautiful outline which really accentuates the shapes and brings out



the leaf carvings painted in the same shade. As a finishing touch – and seeing as this is a special piece – I couldn't resist adding a touch of my Gold Gilding Wax to highlight the swing hinges at the top. Once the painting was complete, I made sure I protected all that painstaking work by applying my Clear Chalk Paint Wax over the surface of the piece.

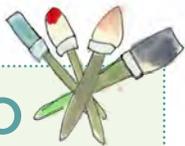
Obviously the jhoola is meant to be sat on, so I added some comfort in a custom-made seat pad and covered it with my Emile & Graphite Coloured Linen. A frayed edge softens the hard line of the seat and complements the Bilbao cushions made from Aubusson & Provence and English Yellow & Antibes Green linens. The beauty of my Coloured Linens is that they are each designed to complement my paint palette, for the perfect finish to any project.

Although I realise you're unlikely to find yourself upcycling a jhoola, I hope these ideas will spark your imagination when you find yourself with a carved piece of furniture, to celebrate those details with a rainbow of colour. 

### HAVE A GO

Inspired by Annie's glorious use of colour? The Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan range is made in the UK and comprises 37 decorative and historic shades which combine well to provide a larger colour palette. Chalk Paint is available from Annie Sloan stockists – located in the UK and across the world – and online.

For a Colour Card or further info, call 01865 803168, email [paint@anniesloan.com](mailto:paint@anniesloan.com) or visit the website at [www.anniesloan.com](http://www.anniesloan.com).



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*'As I looked at the floral carvings, I was reminded of my time as a hippy art student when I discovered Pakistani truck art'*



All images © Annieshan.com unless otherwise stated

# Reloved Bookshelf

## THIS MONTH WE'VE BEEN READING ABOUT...

How to decorate with flea market bargains, displaying hanging plants with the art of kokedama, discovering the muted style behind the i gigi interiors store and making jewellery from found items.

Photography © Debi Treloar



## FLEA MARKET STYLE

**AUTHORS:** Emily Chalmers, with words by Ali Hanan

**PUBLISHER:** Ryland Peters & Small

**PRICE:** £16.99

We can't resist looking around a flea market, car-boot sale or charity shop in the hope of finding some hidden treasure, or a unique piece to upcycle and add style to a room. Whether it's an old mirror in need of a spruce up, silk scarves which can be turned into cushions or old tins to create an eclectic display, there's always something that can tug at the purse strings.

Split into two halves, the first part of this book focuses on the useful things you're likely to come across in chapters focusing on furniture, ceramics and glass, lighting and kitchenware. Part two of the book enters the

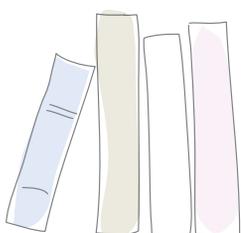
homes of flea market stylists and reveals how they have upcycled and put their collections together in room-centred chapters covering relaxing, sleeping, cooking, bathing and work spaces.

First published in 2005, this revised edition has been updated with today's interior style in mind. As the authors say, 'beautiful things never go out of style' and this book encourages you to champion the imperfections and marks left by previous owners, such a coffee-cup ring on a side table, or dent in a cupboard door and to embrace them as endearing features.



## READER OFFER

*Flea Market Style* is available to *Reloved* readers for the special price of £11.99, including p&p. To order, call 01256 302699 and quote code NT2.





## HANGING KOKEDAMA

**AUTHOR:** Coraleigh Parker  
**PUBLISHER:** Jacqui Small  
**PRICE:** £20



The art of kokedama has evolved from a style of bonsai and is, in a nutshell, the displaying of potless plants which have been bound in a unique soil mixture, moss and string. There's something rather beautiful about the way these rustic-looking hanging plants complement upcycled and contemporary interiors. Author Coraleigh Parker talks of the calming effect of creating these versatile living balls, and takes you through all you need to know to make your own, and offers ideas of the types of plant that would be perfect for all types of environment. What's more, they're easy to take care of, perfect if you lead a busy life.



## A LIFE LESS ORDINARY: INTERIORS AND INSPIRATIONS

**AUTHORS:** Zoe Ellison and Alex Legendre  
**PUBLISHER:** CICO Books  
**PRICE:** £25

In 2013 Zoe Ellison and Alex Legendre opened the doors to *i gigi*, an interiors store in the south coast town of Brighton. The shop is beautifully arranged with vintage and salvaged items and is an extension of Zoe and Alex's own style. *A Life Less Ordinary* chronicles how the pair came together by fate, the ethos behind the shop, and looks into their individual homes where they showcase their muted colour palette, reclaimed furniture and antique ephemera, with styling tips and care advice along the way. The shop and both houses are beautifully shot, with this coffee-table tome interleaved with tracing paper inserts and note cards you can send to friends.



## THE BIG BOOK OF JEWELRY MAKING

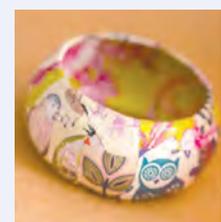
**PUBLISHER:** GMC  
**PRICE:** £14.99



Pulling together some of the best jewellery designs from top designers such as Tansy Wilson, Sian Hamilton and Melanie Blaikie, this book is

packed with a glittering array of 75 gorgeous projects. From necklaces and bracelets, to cufflinks and headbands, there are plenty of accessories to choose from.

Jewellery is the perfect upcycler's craft – whether you've got odd buttons, scraps of fabric, watch parts or even broken costume pieces, with a few simple techniques and a little bit of know-how from this book, you'll be inspired to create some stunning adornments from the step-by-step projects.





All  
things

# *bright and beautiful*

When she moved to the UK from her native Brazil, interior designer Ju de Paula was keen to flood her home with colours reminiscent of her native country, teaching herself new skills along the way.

Words by Cassie Fairy, photography by Alexandra Joseph from [www.ajcreative.style](http://www.ajcreative.style)

MY  
*Reloved*  
HOME





'I wanted to go bold in our entrance hall, so I chose this cobalt blue wallpaper and upholstered the vintage wing chair in the same colour, to add some depth. Emerald green is my favourite colour, so it was the perfect addition to the scheme.'



When Ju de Paula first landed in Britain for a short break in London, the South American interior designer had no idea that this would be the country she'd call home for the next 12 years. She was so enamoured by the city that, upon her return to Brazil, she wasted no time in selling her car and packing her bags. Within two weeks, Ju began her new life in England, albeit without knowing anyone and speaking very little English. And with her she brought her passion for colour, a 'bit of a thing' for flowers, and an instinct for creating personality-filled interiors.

Meeting her husband Kam within her first month in the UK cemented her decision to settle in the country. 'I think it was destiny!' Ju recalls. The couple lived together in a small two-bedroom flat in central London until their children, Jasmin and Zak, were born. In search of a quieter way of life in West Sussex, they viewed over 30 properties before discovering their current home.

'It was love at first sight!' says Ju. 'The house needed a lot of TLC but it had bags of potential.' The property was designed to replicate an old farmhouse, so even though it was a relatively new build, Ju could already imagine the features and colours she could add to the rooms. 'As soon as we had our offer accepted, I started the design process. I was just so 



'Kam gave me this pair of vintage cocktail chairs from eBay as a birthday present and I reupholstered them in these gorgeous fabrics from Designers Guild.'



'This wallpaper from Designers Guild is everything! It was an investment and I really don't regret it. It never fails to put a smile on my face.'



*'I adore how our rooms have turned out. Our home is filled with one-off pieces made with lots of love - and I'm the crazy lady who hugs her furniture!'*

excited that I couldn't wait any longer! I wanted our home to look refreshing, gorgeous and original but it also had to be budget-friendly, without looking cheap.'

## FROM FRIDA KAHLO TO FREecycle

Like many of us, Ju turned to the internet for advice and ideas on how to decorate her home on a budget. 'I needed to find creative ways to achieve what I had in mind, without spending a fortune. I learned lots of new skills from Pinterest and YouTube, such as painting, wallpapering, upholstering, sewing and upcycling. The project I'm most proud of is the pair of vintage cocktail chairs in our living room. They came from eBay and I watched tutorials to learn how to reupholster them in vibrant fabrics from Designers Guild. Now, I too have a blog where I share interior design tips and DIY tutorials. I feel like I'm returning the favour!'

Ju managed to cut costs by recycling materials and furniture, which gave her a little extra budget to play with when choosing her statement floral wallpaper. Her biggest money-saving bargain was the dining room sideboard (pictured right). 'It's a gorgeous solid vintage piece that I got for just £20! It was very dark and sad, but after some paint it became the star of the room. I also love Freecycle. I got some amazing free furniture that would have gone into a skip if I hadn't rescued it.'

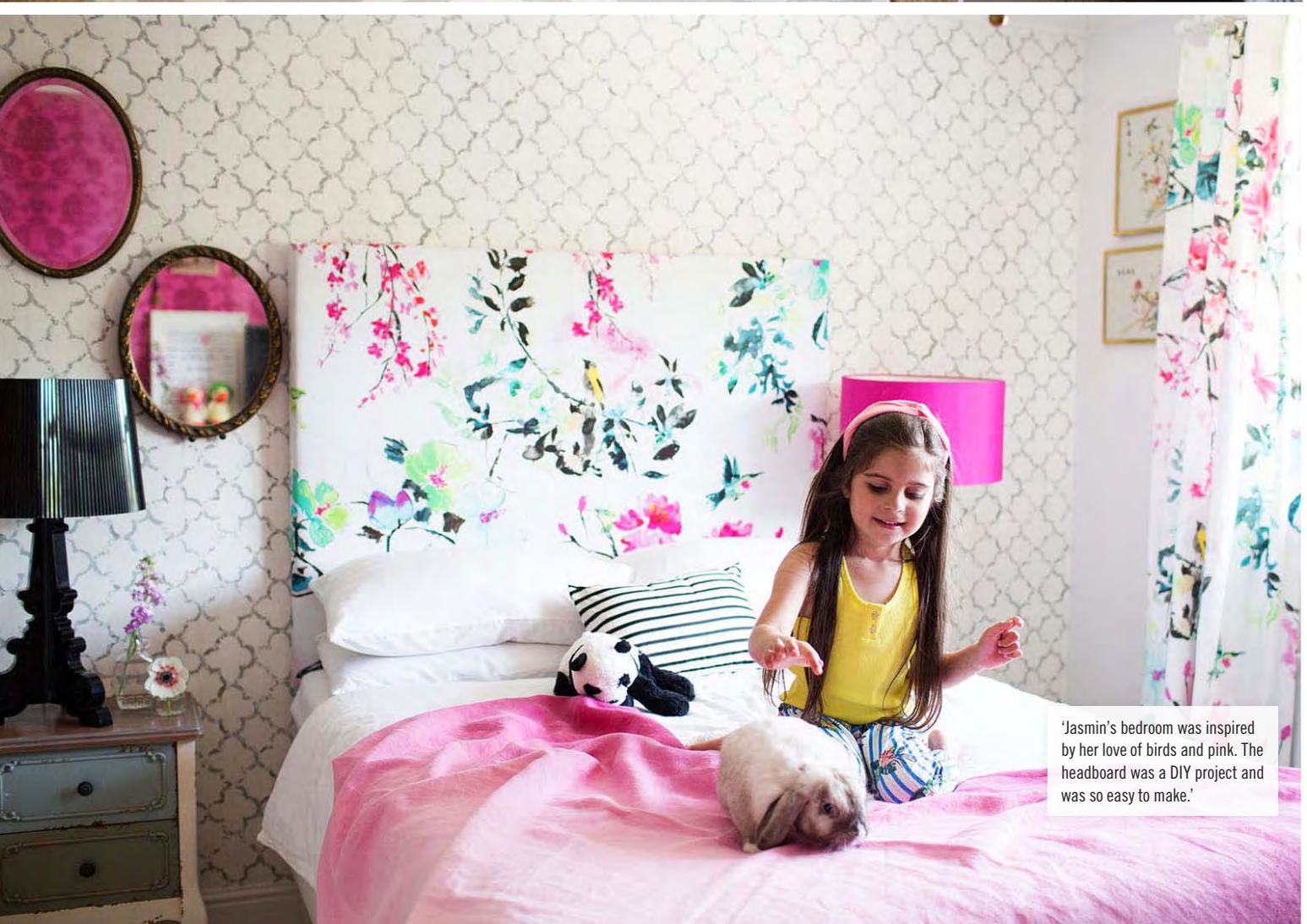
With her love of tropical designs and vibrant colours it's no wonder that Ju cites Mexican artist Frida Kahlo as one of her inspirations. 'I love all her layers, bold colours and over-the-top style. She's a massive influence on my work.' This explains why Ju's office is packed full of tassels, plants, textures and florals. 'It's my favourite space in the house; it's my sanctuary. I waited a long time for it and I just love spending time there. It's not just a place to work, I also get inspired by the 🖌️

'My cloakroom makeover cost less than £100. I particularly love the contrast between the wallpaper and the gold mirror from a charity shop.'





'We wanted Zak's room to feel cool and masculine, but to connect with the rest of our colourful home too, so I added a splash of colour with the swivel chair.'



'Jasmin's bedroom was inspired by her love of birds and pink. The headboard was a DIY project and was so easy to make.'

'This dining room sideboard was a bargain flea-market find, which I painted with white chalk paint. Kam helped me to choose this wallpaper; it's so colourful and relaxing at the same time.'



colours and patterns. I love it so much I even do my Pilates in there every morning on the woven pink rug!

Ju describes DIY and crafting as her therapy. 'It's so easy and relaxing to paint a piece of furniture and it really is a great opportunity to create something unique to you and your home. I just love the ritual of putting my hair up, turning

the music on and getting carried away with the paint and brushes.' Ju puts her love of messy projects down to her childhood in Brazil. 'I grew up in a very colourful house and my mum was always crafting, upcycling, sewing and singing very loudly. I loved it. It made the house a happy place, always buzzing with energy. Now, I'm just the same, and I adore how our rooms

have turned out. Our home is filled with one-off pieces made with lots of love – and I'm the crazy lady who hugs her furniture!'

## SOULFUL INTERIORS

The most challenging part of decorating her home was finding the time to do it. Ju and her family needed to live in the house while



### CHOOSE A MOOD

Before deciding on any colour for your home, make sure you understand what your room needs and how you want it to feel, as colours have the power to evoke emotions and sensations. Also, always test the colour in the space that it will be used, because the way it catches the light can completely transform how the colour looks.

### PICK TWO CONTRASTING COLOURS

If you want to create a colourful scheme but are not sure how to do it, a good tip is to start with two contrasting colours. Pick your first colour, then the second contrasting colour (like pink and green, for example). Decide which colour you would like to feature more, because if you use them both in the same proportion, they will fight for attention and cancel each other out. Then you can start introducing one tone at a time into the mix. For example, if you choose pink as your first colour and green as your second one, you can then slowly start introducing purples and golds.

### USE COLOUR TO CREATE OR REDUCE SPACE

Dark or bright colours tend to advance, while light or dim colours tend to recede. So you can open up a space if you paint the back wall or the ceiling in a lighter, softer colour, or you can make a space feel more intimate by bringing the walls forward if you paint them in a dark or bright colour.

## JU'S TIPS FOR WORKING WITH COLOUR



**ADD A LITTLE YELLOW** Small touches of yellow around your home bring the sunshine in and lift up the mood of your space. Think lampshades, cushions, a chest of drawers. But use it in small doses as yellow is a bit overwhelming if used on a large scale. Plus, it's a warm colour that tends to make rooms feel smaller, so if you're decorating a small room, stay away from yellow walls!



**DON'T BE AFRAID OF COLOUR** Colour is your friend and it can make your space look happier, bigger, brighter, calmer and more sophisticated. With colour you can make ceilings appear higher, walls come forward or move backwards, hide imperfections, create focal points and lots more. You need to choose how you want your space to look and feel, and colour will create a solid base for it to happen.

'I wanted to make our guest room feel like a walk in the garden. I made the headboard myself – it really makes a lovely focal point to the room – and kept the walls simple with parchment wallpaper, so the headboard could really stand out.'





'The fireplace used to be brown and dominate the room, so I decided to paint it white to help bounce the light around and highlight the bricks' texture.'

decorating work was carried out, so she had to take the design process room by room. Now that most spaces have been given an injection of colour and a splash of pattern, Ju can't quite believe the transformation. 'It's amazing to see how a bit of paint, some furniture, accessories and creativity can completely transform a space and create a whole new vibe for it. Our home is ready to be lived in, enjoyed and to become the backdrop for new memories.'

After all that hard work, Ju began proudly sharing photos of her upcycled house online. Shortly after joining Instagram, she began to

receive requests from people around the world asking if she could design their interiors. 'Even though I couldn't physically travel to each of these countries, I still wanted to be able to help them by showing them what they could do.' Her followers' messages inspired Ju to begin sharing her tips on her Blueberry Living & Co blog and to create an online course called the Design & Bloom Project.

'The course is a step-by-step programme where I get to inspire, guide and support people in connecting the dots their own way to tell their personal story through their home,' she explains. 'My students love it as it helps them

to get clarity about their personal style and to discover exactly what to do to create a home they love. The size of your budget doesn't matter. Upcycling is a big part of Blueberry Living & Co, as I believe in originality and soulful interiors, and I can't think of a better way to add it to a space than incorporating some unique pieces that you've upcycled yourself.' 

**FIND OUT MORE**

Discover more of Ju's vibrant styling and get details about the new e-course at [www.blueberryliving.co](http://www.blueberryliving.co).



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# MAX McMURDO

## UPCYCLING GURU

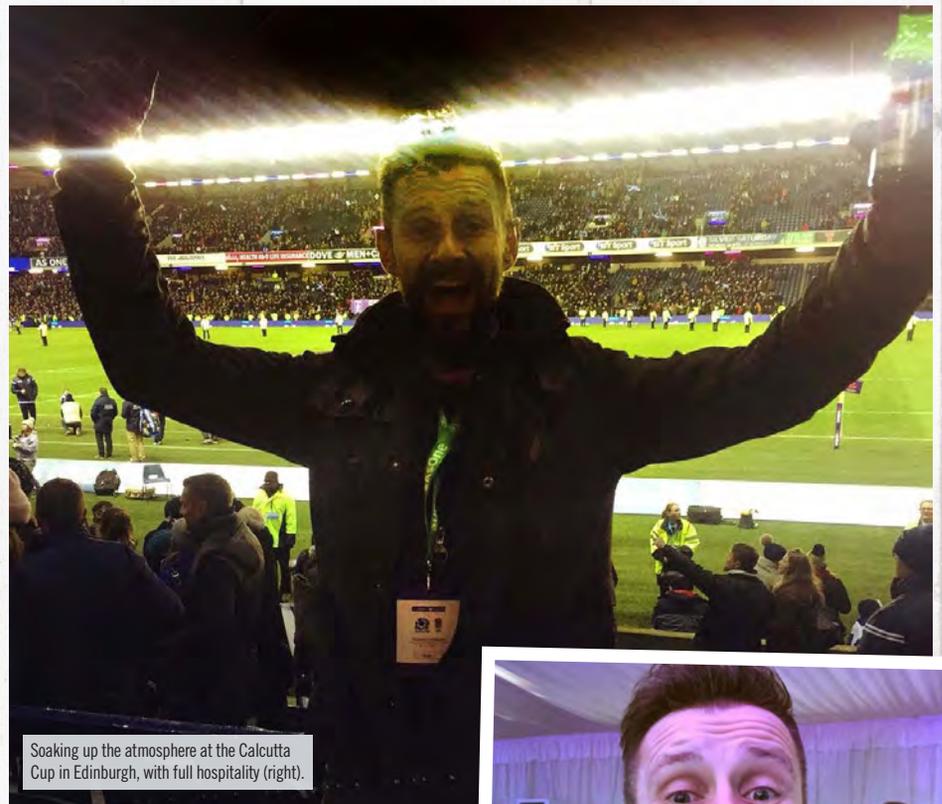
There's much to celebrate, as Max enjoys watching his beloved home nation win the Calcutta Cup, and gives us a sneak peek of his new upcycling book, just launched.



**A**s you may have surmised from my surname, love of natty tartan bow-ties or my thrifty nature, I am actually Scottish. This is always very disappointing for Scottish call centres when they ask to speak to Mr McMurdo and I answer in soft, southern tones! Seeing as I didn't really celebrate my 40th birthday last year and as it's my mate's 40th this month, we decided to head to Edinburgh for the Six Nations rugby championship to watch Scotland versus England, known as the Calcutta Cup. The kilt was looked out, jersey ironed and I even invested in a new flat cap from M&S – surely a true sign that I'm in my fifth decade. We treated ourselves to full hospitality – yes, this did involve a free bar, hence the picture after the game! The rest is history... quite literally.

And if that wasn't enough excitement, I've had another reason to celebrate this month as my latest book, *Upcycling Outdoors*, has just been launched. Now nobody – including myself – thought I'd ever be a published author, but being asked to write a second book on upcycling is just bonkers! Writing books is not as easy as it sounds – and no, I didn't have a ghostwriter, I really do know that many words! It's hard work putting it all together, but such a buzz when you finally see all those ideas in print and photographed so beautifully.

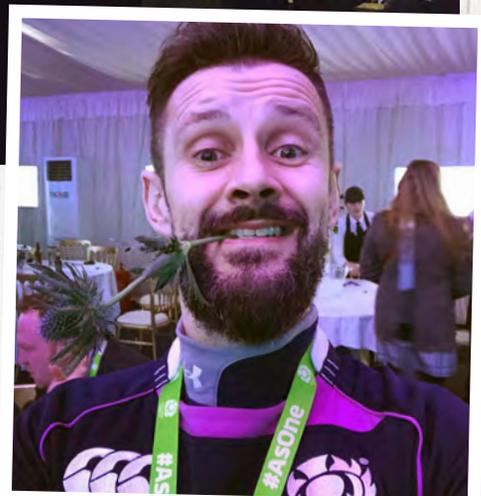
Some of the projects were completely new for this book, while some had been in my head for a while. My only prerequisite when signing with the publishers was that we would combine all of the makes at the end in one



Soaking up the atmosphere at the Calcutta Cup in Edinburgh, with full hospitality (right).

fairytale-style Alice in Wonderland room set. I think this has to be my favourite image from the book (see page 37). Other ideas were more unique to the waste items we discovered during the shoot, such as the birdcage lamp which was actually owned by the book's mastermind, Jo Copestick – without whom neither of my books would exist.

It's always challenging trying to find new tips and techniques, especially when I gave



Hot off the press, it's great to see all that hard work come together in a beautiful book.



A vertical planter made from guttering – the perfect project for small gardens.

© Brent Darby

© Brent Darby



*'Nobody – including myself – thought I'd ever be a published author, but being asked to write a second book on upcycling is just bonkers!'*



A bicycle picnic box complete with a handy table for a stylish alfresco lunch.

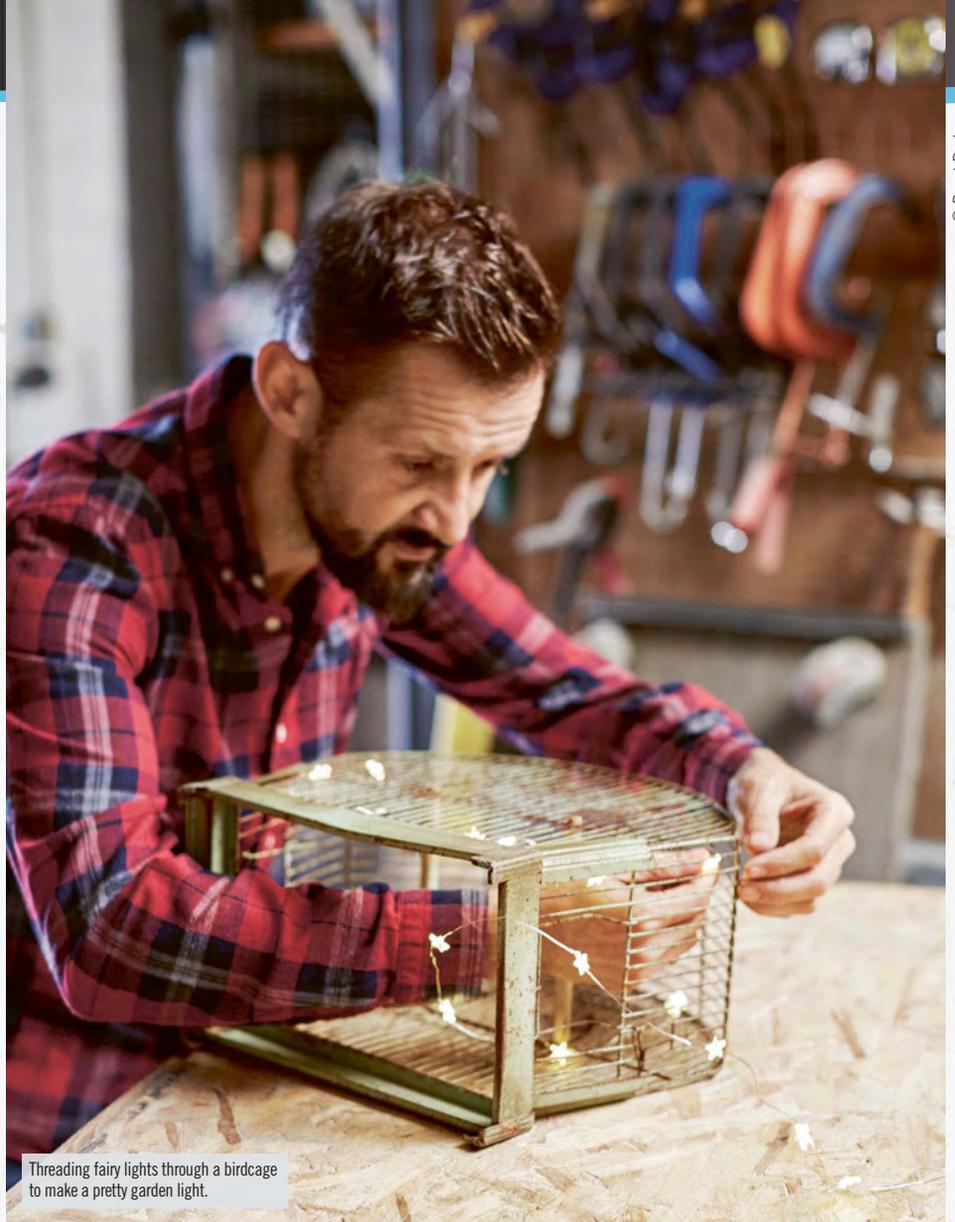
© Brent Darby

everything I had in the first book. So this was a great excuse to explore the world of painting a little bit deeper by experimenting with Frenchic paint, their awesome Crackle Glaze and Finishing Coat to create a stunning outdoor planter from an old chest of drawers, which shows the incredible finishes and textures we can now achieve indoors or out.

I must confess that there was one item that was a bit self-indulgent. I needed a planter on

the back wall of my houseboat to cover all that grey shipping container metal, which isn't the prettiest. So I decided to create something for the book which I could possibly take home to use afterwards. The guttering planter is an easy way to create a living wall with a slight nautical reference in the form of the knotted rope, while looking suitably contemporary with those all-important succulents, or even planted up with trailing strawberries for an edible summer treat. And now all we need is some lovely spring weather to encourage us to get outside...

So why did I feel the need to open this month's column discussing sport and what on earth has rugby got to do with upcycling? Absolutely nothing, actually, but it does have everything to do with life and running a small upcycling business. Sometimes the ball doesn't bounce your way, but next time it bobbles you've still got to want it and predict the bounce, like Huw Jones did in that historic game. And just because things have not gone to plan for 10 long years doesn't mean your dreams are out of reach; passion, combined with skill, is ultimately unstoppable. Running a small business can be really tough at times, but hard work pays off eventually. Like Finn Russell's games against Wales and France, he didn't shy away – if anything he came out fighting harder than ever – and as the final whistle blew he silenced his critics, receiving 'man of the match'. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Threading fairy lights through a birdcage to make a pretty garden light.

© Brent Darby



© Brent Darby

### CHILD'S PLAY

My favourite make in the book has to be the pallet play tent, as it's just so simple, using only two pallets, nails and fabric. It's a great project to build with your kids and could be reinvented time and time again into a magical little den for them to enjoy. Turn to page 76 to find the full step-by-step instructions.

**READER OFFER**  
 Readers can order *Upcycling Outdoors* at the special price of £15, with free UK p&p. To order, call 01903 828503, quoting ref QPG 489. Offer ends 30 June 2018.



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# Blooming marvellous

With cherry trees in blossom and woodlands carpeted with bluebells, get inspired by bringing beautiful flower arrangements into the home – both fresh and decorative – to complement upcycled and vintage-style furniture.

Words by Rachel Ashwell, photography by Amy Neunsinger

## Floral welcome

The entrance to this house acts, by happenstance, as a thoroughfare and parking place for flowers and a variety of vessels coming in and going out. It is often in those fluid moments in time that a symphony of beauty transpires. And speaking of beauty, the antique *carreaux de ciment* tiles were sourced from The Antique Floor Company, based in France.



*Reclaimed wood makes a beautiful bathboard.*

### **Sweet and simple**

In the bathroom, a casual jug of wild geraniums and scabious, and a plank of wood found on a country walk.



### Flower power

Floral everything contained in this hallway nook: vintage wallpaper, a floral painted chest, a fine Capodimonte bud vase, an oil pastel painting, and an explosion of lilac in a decorated pot. It's the themed palette that stops it from looking chaotic.

*Distress white chalk paint and add flowers freehand.*



*Painting the dining table, bench and chairs the same colour creates uniformity. Distress and rub with dark wax to create age.*

## Lighter shade of pale

This dining space and kitchen celebrate the pale palette, here toned in with pale grey complemented with the distressed green of the dresser. The homemade sturdy bench is softened with faded floral mushy cushions, and the mix-and-match feel of the floral displays: a mix of David Austin roses, sweet peas, clematis, and peonies.





### **Pretty posies**

There are some wonderful floral touches in this bathroom, apart from the faded red hibiscus and scabious flowers in jam jars on the windowsill and bath rack. A quiet wow of a pink glass doorknob and floor tiles from Fired Earth add a restrained stylised touch. All eyes, of course, are drawn to the amazing crochet café curtain. The walls are painted in Green Ground by Farrow & Ball.



*Give depth to wardrobe doors by painting a scalloped panel, bordered by gilding on the trim. Use decoupage to add a delicate bouquet.*

### **A touch of gold**

A child's bedroom, delightfully whimsical. The wallpaper is by Robert Kime. 1940s in its inspiration, busy but restrained, and does a good job of counterbalancing the frills.



### Eclectic styling

There is a lovely hodgepodge whimsy to the living room in this small cottage. The balance and character of low ceilings, large windows, and wonky beams combined with a smoky moody palette, explosive large-scale paintings, and furniture gathered from nearby antique markets, some unified by painting them in shades of grey. The raw wooden floors and hints of black décor defy any sugary sweetness. A bucketful of hydrangeas, peonies, strawflowers and Queen Anne's lace is a visual symphony.

*Pick one accent colour to upholster a statement piece and make it the focal point of the room.*





## A little romance

This sitting room is a cosy, comfortable space. The darker shade wall behind the mirror, gives the room a focal point. A jug of just-about-over-the-edge cabbage roses in two shades of pink is the perfect embellishment. Another treasure that lives here on a temporary basis is a Tunisian birdcage with a cluster of dried roses: a little art piece, a past and future heirloom. 



Taken from  
**Rachel Ashwell:**  
**My Floral Affair,**  
£25, published  
by CICO Books.



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# Reloved Back issues

Have you missed the perfect project? Take a look at our back issues which are packed full of upcycling advice, tips and tricks.



## MAKE:

- ♥ Pallet potting table
- ♥ Macramé dreamcatcher
- ♥ IKEA hack side table
- ♥ Tyre footstool
- ♥ Mosaic plant pot
- ♥ And lots more...

## READ:

- ♥ Ideas for turning your garden shed into a desirable sanctuary
- ♥ Max McMurdo reveals his new 'work wife'
- ♥ Reinventing macramé for modern interiors
- ♥ Be charmed by a coastal colonial home with British and American accents

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45



## MAKE:

- ♥ Wool weave jelly baskets
- ♥ Ombre-effect chest of drawers
- ♥ Botanical stencilled bedlinen
- ♥ Reclaimed plank headboard
- ♥ Crazy-patch shirt quilt
- ♥ And lots more...

## READ:

- ♥ Discover holiday places to stay with a retro or upcycled vibe
- ♥ Max McMurdo creates a 'wheeli'r clever bath for a studio-style home
- ♥ An insider's guide to browsing and buying at French flea markets
- ♥ Visit Gillian Harris's wool craft studio

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## MAKE:

- ♥ Painted botanical drawers
- ♥ Macramé plant display
- ♥ Lloyd Loom chair update
- ♥ Copper pipe magazine rack
- ♥ Contemporary stencilled pine
- ♥ And lots more...

## READ:

- ♥ How to create a greenhouse from salvaged windows
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ISSUE  
42







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# ♥ MAKE IT IN APRIL ♥

Spring is in the air with upcycling ideas to bring flowers, butterflies and botanicals into your home, plus stylish bathroom storage revamps from Moorish to shabby-chic.



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Debbie von Grabler-Crozier



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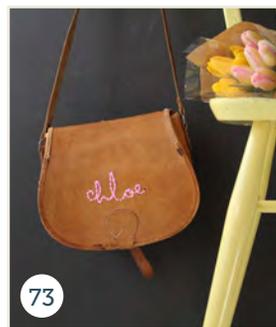
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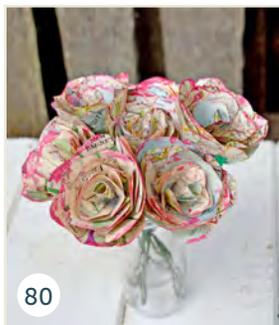
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Nicolette Tabram

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**brother**  
at your side

**ScanCut**

# PATTERNED BATHROOM CABINET



**BEFORE**



**MATERIALS**

Personalise a functional 'off the shelf' mirrored cabinet with a splash of colour created with self-adhesive vinyl and a handy craft cutter.

Project by Cassie Fairy, photography by Andy Greenacre

## YOU WILL NEED

- Brother ScanNCut CM900
- Vinyl Warehouse self-adhesive matt vinyl in Turquoise 366, Sky Blue 358, Cobalt Blue 359, Mid Blue 354 and Metallic Gold 391
- Middle-tack adhesive mat, 30 x 30cm (12 x 12in)
- A mirrored cabinet
- Lint-free cloth

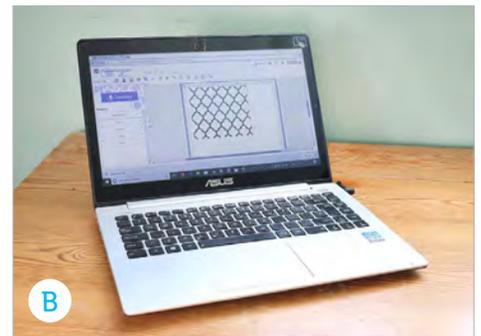
**1** Turn on the ScanNCut and press the 'Home' button to auto-connect to the WiFi (A). Choose a shape or pattern from the built-in collection in the 'Pattern' section or search for a free downloadable pattern online (I used the Quatrefoi pattern from [www.freesvgs.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.freesvgs.blogspot.co.uk)). Make sure you're using a scalable vector graphic (SVG) file as this can be resized without causing pixilation around the edges, ensuring a smooth cut.

**2** Import the SVG file into the ScanNCut Canvas Workspace program (B). Adjust the size if needed and, when you're happy with the pattern, click 'Download' to transfer it to the ScanNCut. Click 'ScanNCut Transfer', and on the ScanNCut screen click the cloud transfer button to retrieve the pattern from Canvas Workspace (C).

**3** Cut a piece of vinyl to fit onto the adhesive cutting mat (D). Peel the protective film off the mat and press the vinyl onto the tacky surface (E). Use the spatula tool to smooth out any bubbles. Load the mat into the ScanNCut by pressing the 'Mat' button then click 'Scan'.



**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



**E**



**F**

**4** The scanned piece of vinyl will show on the ScanNCut screen and you can use the stylus to drag and reposition the pattern to make sure it's within the piece of vinyl (F). Check the blade depth and speed settings to suit the vinyl you're using. Press 'Cut', then 

## SOURCE IT

You can find out more about the range of Brother ScanNCut home craft cutters at [www.brotherscanncut.co.uk](http://www.brotherscanncut.co.uk).



**ALTERNATIVELY...**

Make a template of the shape you want to use out of cardboard. Trace around it onto sheets of vinyl and carefully cut them out with sharp scissors.

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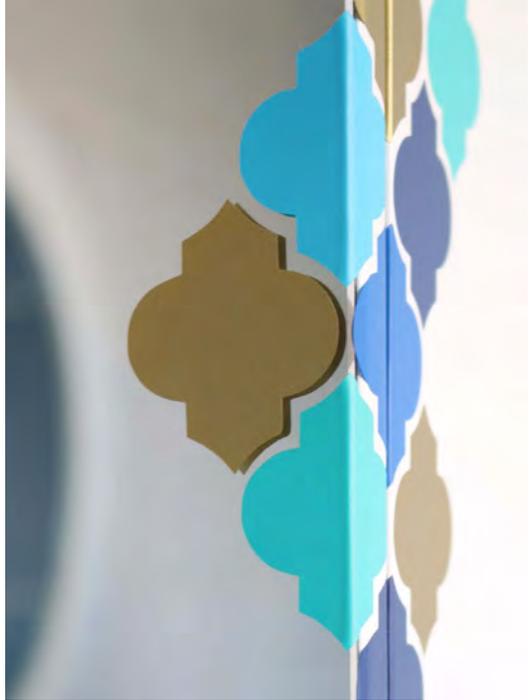
**brother**  
at your side

**Scan & Cut**

### TOP TIP

#### GET CREATIVE!

This method of adding pattern using self-adhesive vinyl can be used on a variety of furniture items and you can use any pattern you like to add colour to wooden, melamine, glass or metal surfaces.



'Start' and the blade will begin cutting the pattern. When the pattern cutting is complete, use the spatula tool to remove the vinyl from the mat and put the protective film back onto it (G).

**5** Clean the mirrored cabinet with soap and water and allow to dry. If you're decorating

a new cabinet, give it a wipe over with a lint-free cloth to remove any dust.

**6** Use the spatula tool to remove each vinyl shape from the backing paper (H). Start at one corner of the cabinet and apply the vinyl shapes, working your way along the edges and

alternating colours as you go (I and J). Be sure to leave a small gap between the shapes, so that the white frame and mirror show through and create an 'outline' of the pattern.

**7** When you reach a join at the edge of the mirror, place the shape into the pattern as

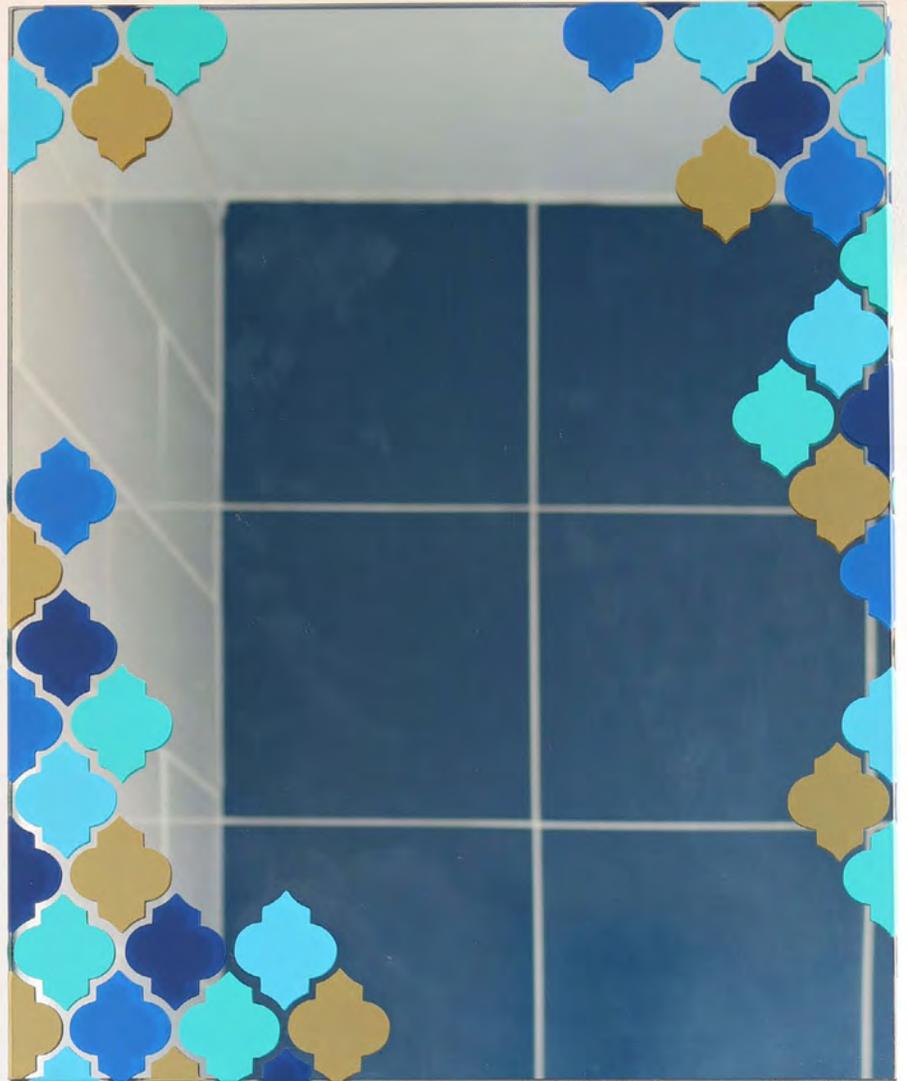


*'I chose a Moorish-inspired pattern to create a spa-like Turkish bath feeling at home'*



usual and fold over the edge of the mirror, onto the inside of the cabinet. With the door closed, create the second half of the pattern by lining up a shape in the same colour (K), then open the door and stick the rest of the shape to the inside (L).

**8** Continue adding to the pattern until you are happy with the spread of the design. I added a few extra shapes to break up the straight edges and make the finish around the mirror look more random.



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# LLOYD LOOM BASKET

Update a vintage Lloyd Loom-style lidded basket and make it work as a spare seat by adding an upholstered top.

Project and photography  
by Kate Beavis



BEFORE



## YOU WILL NEED

- Vintage laundry basket
- Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan in Greek Blue
- Paint brush
- Annie Sloan Gilding Wax in Copper
- Lint-free cloth
- Piece of plywood, for the lid
- Saw
- Seat foam, 2.5cm (1in) thick, for the lid
- Strong glue
- Old embroidered tablecloth
- Dressmaker's scissors
- Staple gun

**1** Clean the laundry basket inside and out to remove any surface dust. Apply the paint all over the basket and the underside of the lid, using a dry brush technique by dipping your brush in the paint and wiping off the excess. This method gives a distressed look; if you want a perfect finish I would suggest using a chalk spray paint. Leave to dry. Apply a second coat of paint and leave to dry.

**2** Apply a little of the gilding wax to the cloth and slowly rub into the paint (A). A small amount goes a long way, so use it sparingly.

**3** Cut out a piece of plywood to match the size of the lid, using the saw (B). Cut the seat foam into the same shape, using the wood cut previously as a template (C). Stick these two together using a strong glue. Leave to dry.

**4** Choose which area of the tablecloth you want to use. I decided to position the floral embroidery slightly off-centre. Cut the fabric 7.5cm (3in) larger all around than the seat pad.

**5** Place the tablecloth on a flat surface with the wrong side facing upwards, then put the pad, foam-side down, on top. Wrap the sides of the tablecloth over the foam and wood and pull tightly to avoid any wrinkles. Staple this into position along each side, positioning the staples as near to the edge as possible (D).

**6** Fold the corners over and gently pull in the side edges to cover the foam without forming large folds. This takes a bit of patience. Staple into position (E). Cut off any excess fabric using the scissors and glue the seat pad to the top of the wicker basket.

## TOP TIP

### PRETTY AS A PICTURE

I also used the excess tablecloth fabric to create a wall hanging using an embroidery hoop.



## ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Kate Beavis is the author of *Style Your Modern Vintage Home*, a buying, styling and restoring guide focusing on the 1920s to 1990s. She also writes a regular blog, is a freelance writer and business consultant, and director of the award-winning Magpie Wedding national fairs showcasing everything for the vintage bride.

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## TOP TIP

### MATERIAL GAINS

Upholster the top cushion in any fabric you like. Oilcloth is particularly practical for a family bathroom.

## SOURCE IT

A good staple gun is an essential piece of equipment in an upcycler's toolkit. The one used in this project is available from Silverline Tools at [www.silverlinetools.com](http://www.silverlinetools.com).



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# ONE CAN, THREE WAYS

Empty food tins can be turned into fabulous little containers for potted herbs, kitchen utensils or craft supplies – and this project is a great stash-buster too!

Project and photography by Debbie von Grabler-Crozier



## YOU WILL NEED

### PAPER-COVERED CAN

- Tin can with label removed
- Pretty paper, 10 x 25cm (4 x 10in)
- Hot glue gun
- Black vinyl
- Die cutter and alphabet dies in a small scale

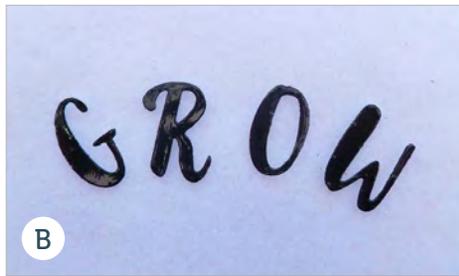
### FELT APPLIQUÉ CAN

- Tin can with label removed
- Piece of felt, 10 x 30cm (4 x 12in)
- Basic sewing supplies
- Water-soluble marker
- Small scraps of coloured felt
- Glue stick
- Sewing machine
- Black thread
- Wooden button

### CROCHET CAN

- Tin can with label removed
- Scrap of leather in a light colour
- Hole punch for leather
- Alphabet stamp set
- Black ink
- Turquoise embroidery thread
- 16mm (2/3in) black and white ribbon
- Plain unbleached parcel string
- 4mm crochet hook
- Hot glue gun

*'These little pots make great gifts and something fun to sell at craft markets or fairs'*



### PAPER-COVERED CAN

**1** A regular-sized can needs a piece of paper about 10 x 25cm (4 x 10in) which gives it a decent overlap. If yours is shorter or wider, measure the height from top to bottom then measure around the circumference, and add a couple of centimetres for the paper to overlap. Hot glue the paper around the can (A).

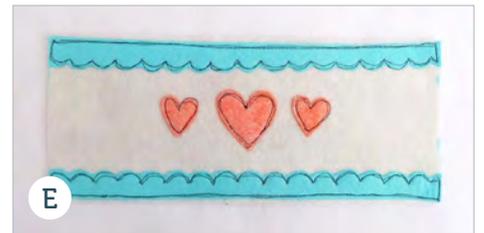
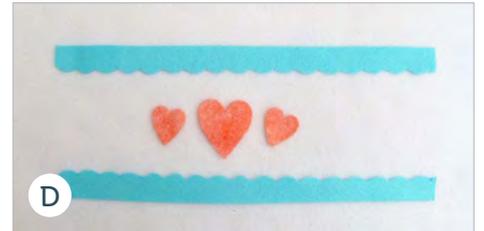
**2** Decide on the words you want on the can and cut your letters from the black vinyl using a die cutter (B). If you haven't got a die cutter, print a word on paper to use as a template and cut out with sharp scissors.

**3** Find the centre of the can, peel the backing off the vinyl and firmly stick the letters to the tin (C). Place them on the vertical centre with half the letters on each side of this

## TOP TIP

### A WAY WITH WORDS

When choosing words for your paper-covered tin, consider what the can will be used for. Don't make the words too big or too long. If they reach around the side of the can, they will be difficult to read and lose their impact. Think short, punchy and stacked on top of one another. It also looks much better if you add your letters in a joyously haphazard way, rather than attempting perfection.

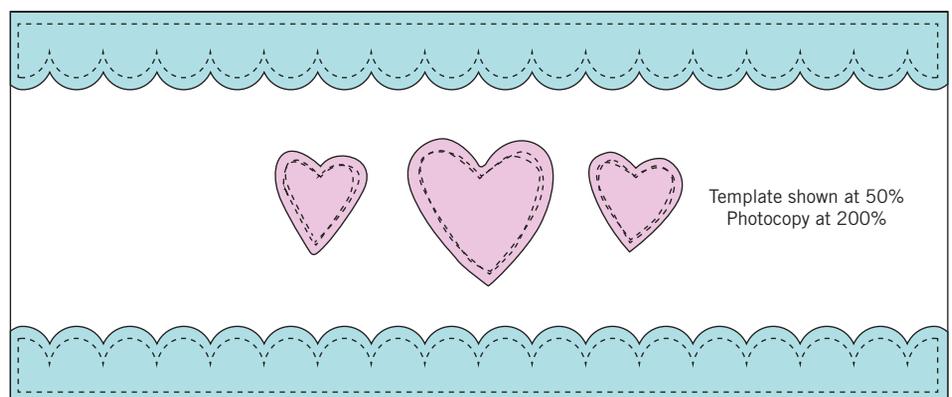


line. If your word has an odd number of letters, the middle letter goes on the centre line. For an even number, the two middle letters go each side of the vertical centre.

### FELT APPLIQUÉ CAN

**1** Draw a rectangle on your main piece of felt measuring 10 x 25cm (4 x 10in). If you have a different-sized can, measure the height and circumference, and add 2cm (3/4in) to the circumference for a back seam. Trace and cut out two small hearts, one large heart and two scalloped strips using the template. Use the glue to stick the pieces in place (D).

**2** Set your sewing machine up for free-motion embroidery (check your manual for specifics) and, using the black thread,



← 25cm (9 3/4in) →



embroider the appliqué pieces (E). Go over some areas twice to emphasise them and don't be too neat. Consider using a small embroidery hoop to help you with the technique.

**3** Attach the button to the centre heart (F). Sew the back of the felt sleeve to form a tube, so it can be slipped onto the can. Resize it if necessary, so it fits snugly without glue.

### CROCHET CAN

**1** Begin by making the label. Cut a piece of leather to measure 2.5 x 8cm (1 x 3in). Use a hole punch to make two holes in each end (G).

**2** Use your alphabet stamp and black ink to stamp your chosen word, again working from the centre outwards (H). If you doubt your freehand letter-setting abilities, make no attempt at neatness! Use the turquoise thread to stitch the label to the middle of the black and white ribbon (I).

**3** Crochet the can cover. Begin with a chain long enough to go around the can. Join with a slip stitch to make a ring (J). Crochet in any stitch you fancy (I used a double crochet) until you have a tube which fits the can. Try it on for size (K), then fasten off.



### TOP TIP

#### IT'S A WRAP

Can't crochet? Then wrap! Use a slow-drying glue and apply this to the can covering a small area at a time, then wind the yarn closely from bottom to top. This will give a similar finished look.



### ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Debbie von Grabler-Crozier has been a professional craft writer for over 20 years and contributes regularly to magazines, as well as having written several books. She believes craft and upcycling go hand in hand, and loves the way nothing goes to waste.

[www.sallyandcraftyvamp.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.sallyandcraftyvamp.blogspot.co.uk)

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**4** Hot glue the ribbon and leather label around the middle of the can. At the back, fold the raw edge over and glue it down to neaten and prevent the ribbon fraying.

# BUTTERFLY SIDE TABLE

A plain pine table can become the star of a room with a coat of eye-catching paint and simple napkin decoupage.

Project by Fransie Snyman, photography by Kenneth Irvine, Fancy Shmancy

## YOU WILL NEED

- Side table
- 1000- and 220-grit sandpaper
- Damp cloth
- Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Provence
- Paint brushes
- 2 napkins with butterfly motif (or image of your choice)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Mod Podge glue
- Black permanent marker
- Mod Podge Satin or varnish



**1** Sand the table with 220-grit sandpaper to remove the worst marks and wipe it with a damp cloth to remove any dust.

**2** Apply at least two coats of chalk paint to the entire table and allow to dry completely after each layer.

**3** Carefully and neatly cut out the butterfly motifs, cutting off the feelers. Arrange the butterflies on the tabletop and mark their positions lightly in pencil.

**4** Use Mod Podge glue to fix each butterfly in place. Use your fingers to smooth out any air bubbles; work very carefully to prevent tearing the napkin. Cover the butterflies in the glue and allow to dry.

**5** Draw the feelers back on the butterflies using a black permanent marker. Apply four layers of Mod Podge Satin or varnish in different directions (from top to bottom and from left to right) over the entire tabletop. Allow each layer to dry completely before applying the next.

**6** Sand the tabletop with 1000-grit sandpaper until it is smooth and dull. Apply four more layers of Mod Podge Satin or varnish as before and apply one layer to the rest of the table, including the legs.

## TOP TIP

### CLEVER CRAFTING

Mod Podge is the perfect medium for decoupage projects. An all-in-one water-based glue, sealant and varnish, it allows you to sand your designs to create a super-smooth surface.

*'Pretty and hardwearing, this decoupage table would be ideal for displaying plants in a conservatory'*



Project taken from  
**Decoupage Your Home**,  
£12.99, published by  
Search Press.

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# SWEETIE JAR TERRARIUM

Fashion a beautiful piece of living art with this miniature indoor oasis of cacti and driftwood.

Project by Anna Bauer and Noam Levy, photography by Rebecca Genet



## YOU WILL NEED

- Glass jar (about 19cm/7½in diameter, 19cm/7½in high), without lid
- 2 *Pilosocereus azureus* (bluetorch cactus)
- 1 *Rebutia*
- Measuring cup
- 75ml (2½fl oz) filtered water
- 600ml (1 pint) red volcanic stone
- 2 handfuls of fine gravel, grey
- 3 handfuls of fine gravel, black
- 5 handfuls of medium gravel, white
- 400ml (15fl oz) planting mix (200ml/7fl oz of each potting soil for indoor plants and sand)
- Pencil
- Rose pruning gloves or a sheet of paper
- Plant mister or fresh sponge
- 2 granite pebbles
- 2 pieces of driftwood

**1** Carefully clean the interior and exterior of the jar. Soak the base of the plants in filtered water for 5 minutes so that the root ball is well moistened.

**2** Gently pour an even layer of the red volcanic stone into the bottom of the jar. Be careful not to damage the glass.

**3** Pour the fine grey and black gravels and a handful of the white gravel in layers around the inside edge of the jar. Pour the planting mix evenly over the volcanic stones and gravels, making a bed about 3cm (1¼in) deep.

**4** Make three small wells in the soil where you want to put the plants, deep enough for the roots. To unpot the cacti, push on the root ball with a pencil to avoid the spines.

*'Large jars like this one can be picked up at car-boot sales for pennies'*

## TOP TIP

### AFTER CARE

These plants cannot be pruned. After several years, they may have to be moved to a larger container.

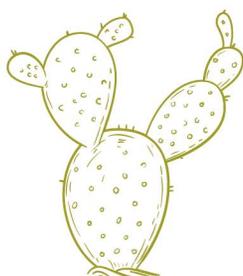
Take hold of each cactus with the gloves or by rolling the cactus in paper (to avoid the spines), then gently loosen the roots. Place the plants in the wells and fill in the soil, pressing the plants in gently, and then tamp down the soil around them.

**5** Water the soil evenly at the foot of the plants with filtered water, using a plant mister (or soak a sponge and gently squeeze it over the soil).

**6** Lay the rest of the white and black gravel on the soil. Add the pebbles and the driftwood. Place the terrarium in a bright place out of direct sunlight.



Project taken from **Terrarium: 33 Glass Gardens to Make Your Own**, £18.99, published by Abrams and Chronicle.



## MATERIALS TO CREATE YOUR TERRARIUM

Besides the principal species and companion plants, the terrarium includes other elements of vegetation, as well as stones and mineral materials, decorative as well as constituents of the ecosystem. Most of these can be found at nurseries and garden centres, or craft stores.

**RED VOLCANIC STONE (POZZOLANA STONE)** Red-coloured, porous volcanic rock, 'red lava rock', 'red pumice stone', or 'pozzolana stone', it can be used as a soil substrate to drain excess water. May be substituted with other pumice stone, clay pebbles, or other small gravels.

**FINE GRAVELS** Very finely crushed gravel (less than 3mm/¼in) improves drainage and is also used to cover the soil. It can be sprinkled along the edges of the terrarium to create the effect of natural geologic strata, or it can be used decoratively to cover the surface of the soil, between the mosses.

**MEDIUM GRAVELS** Medium-fine crushed gravel (about 6mm/¼in) offers the same properties as fine gravels, and creates a variety of textures for the soils in the terrarium.

**GRANITE PEBBLES** Decorative highlights for the surface layer of the terrarium, placed between mosses in wet terrariums. Dark pebbles change colour when watered, creating blue striations. Some granite pebbles are a lighter shade and rounder.

**DRIFTWOOD** On the seashore or along the banks of a river, you can find pieces of wood sculpted and polished by the water.

**SOILS** Plants vary in their requirements for soil types. Some need an acidic soil for their roots to grow, others need a base or neutral soil type. Soil mixes allow for substrates adapted to plants' needs. It's best to use more than one soil amendment, enriching the growing medium with a range of properties.

**ACIDIC PLANTING MIX/ERICACEOUS COMPOST** An acidic substrate lightened with sand; poor in nutrients.



# MOUNTED FLOWER DISPLAY

Get this season's pastel trend, by creating a rustic floral display using old bottles and scrap timber.

Words by Lou Butt

## YOU WILL NEED

- Scrap wood
- Sandpaper
- Dark furniture wax
- Lint-free cloth
- 3 bottles or jars
- Paint brush
- Chalk paint
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Drill
- 3 Jubilee clips, to hold your bottles/jars
- Screws
- Suitable wall fixings



*'A great little weekend project to add character to a living room or bedroom'*

**1** Give the piece of scrap wood a light sand to remove any rough edges. If your wood is quite pale, apply a coat of dark wax with a lint-free cloth to give it an aged look.

**2** Paint your bottles or jars with two coats of chalk paint, allowing the paint to fully dry between coats.

**3** Measure the height and length of your wood and mark the centre point. Now mark the centre of each half on either side of the first mark; you should have three evenly spaced marks to attach the jubilee clips.

**4** Decide how you would like to hang your flower display. Here it has been screwed to the wall; if you choose this method, drill the holes now. Alternatively, attach slotted mirror plates to the back of the wood.

**5** Open the Jubilee clips to the circumference of your bottles. On a hard surface, drill a hole in each one, ensuring that the opening mechanism is on the correct side. Screw the clips to the board, then insert the bottles and tighten the clips to hold them in place. Decorate with fake flowers and a bow of metallic thread, then hang on the wall for all to admire.



**ALTERNATIVELY...**  
Give your piece of scrap wood a wash with diluted chalk paint, and paint the bottles a contrasting colour.

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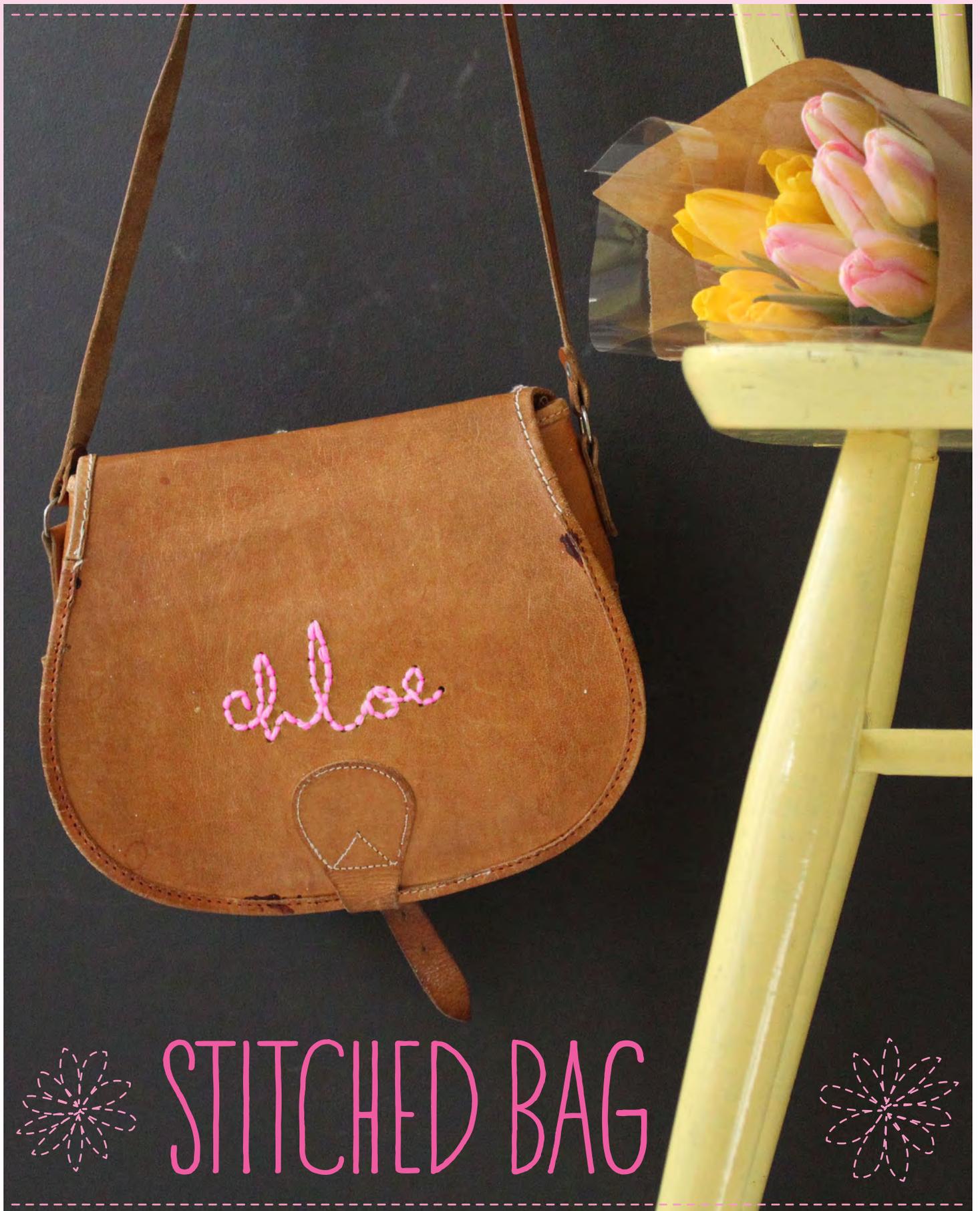
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Breathe new life into an old leather bag, personalising it with an embroidered word.

Project and photography by Chloe Hardisty



### YOU WILL NEED

- Old leather bag
- Paper and printer, or pen
- Washi tape
- Craft punch
- Tapestry needle and thread

### TOP TIP

#### BAG A BAG

You don't need to use a leather bag for this project – it could be any kind of imitation leather, plastic, anything that will punch without fraying. And you can use any kind of wool too – double knitting wool works just as well as tapestry thread.

1 Print out the word you would like to stitch onto your bag on a piece of paper, or you could just write it out freehand (A).

2 Stick your template onto the front of the bag with washi tape, positioning it ready for punching (B).

3 Using the craft punch, make holes about 1cm (3/8in) apart, following the lines of your template (C). I punched in two stages, taking out the paper with the first round then removing the leather with the second punch (D). If you have problems punching through the leather, just apply more pressure with the punch and give it a wiggle as you are making the holes.

4 Tie a knot at the end of a length of thread and stitch through the holes to make your word, using a backstitch (E and F). Knot your thread on the inside when you have finished.



© Ruth Taylor Photography

### ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Chloe Hardisty has always loved making and the challenge of decorating her house on a budget. She studied textile design and loves to use fabric and thread in her upcycles. She's inspired by bright colour combinations, the 1950s era and Scandinavian design.

[cottonclara.wordpress.com](http://cottonclara.wordpress.com)

[cottonclara](https://www.facebook.com/cottonclara)

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*"I had replaced this tatty handbag but couldn't bear to throw it away, so I dreamt up this simple revamp that makes me want to use it again!"*

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# PALLET PLAY TENT

Make a fun kid's den in the garden from just two pallets and an old bedsheet, turning it into a magical space with solar-powered lights and comfy cushions.

Project by Max McMurdo, photography by Brent Darby





### YOU WILL NEED

- 2 pallets of the same size
- Pallet breaker (or hammer and breaker bar)
- Hammer
- Nails
- Sandpaper
- Old bedsheet or large length of fabric

**1** Break up one of the pallets. Separate the wood on your pallet using either a pallet breaker or a hammer and breaker bar (A). Remove the nails by hammering them back through (you may have to straighten them first).

**2** To create a safe, strong structure you will need an A-frame at each end. Mark a pallet board width down from the top of the board to create a good overlap (B and C).

**3** Set two pieces of pallet together and nail them to create an A-frame for each end (D and E). Nail the bottoms to the corners of the pallet base (F).

### TOP TIP

#### SAFETY FIRST

Make sure that all old nails are removed and any really rough pallet wood is sanded smooth.





F



G



H

*'What could be better than helping your children create their own teepee out of reclaimed materials then watching them making it their own, enjoying the great outdoors with their friends'*

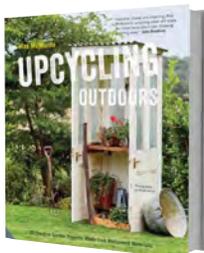
**4** To give additional strength to the structure and to support the fabric cover, nail a crossbar into place where the A-frames cross (G).

**5** Measure, mark and cut your fabric to size. Throw it over the crossbar and secure with nails at the bottom, pulling the fabric taut (H). Dress the interior with cushions and throws. Fairy lights can add glamour.

**TOP TIP**

**GO LARGE**

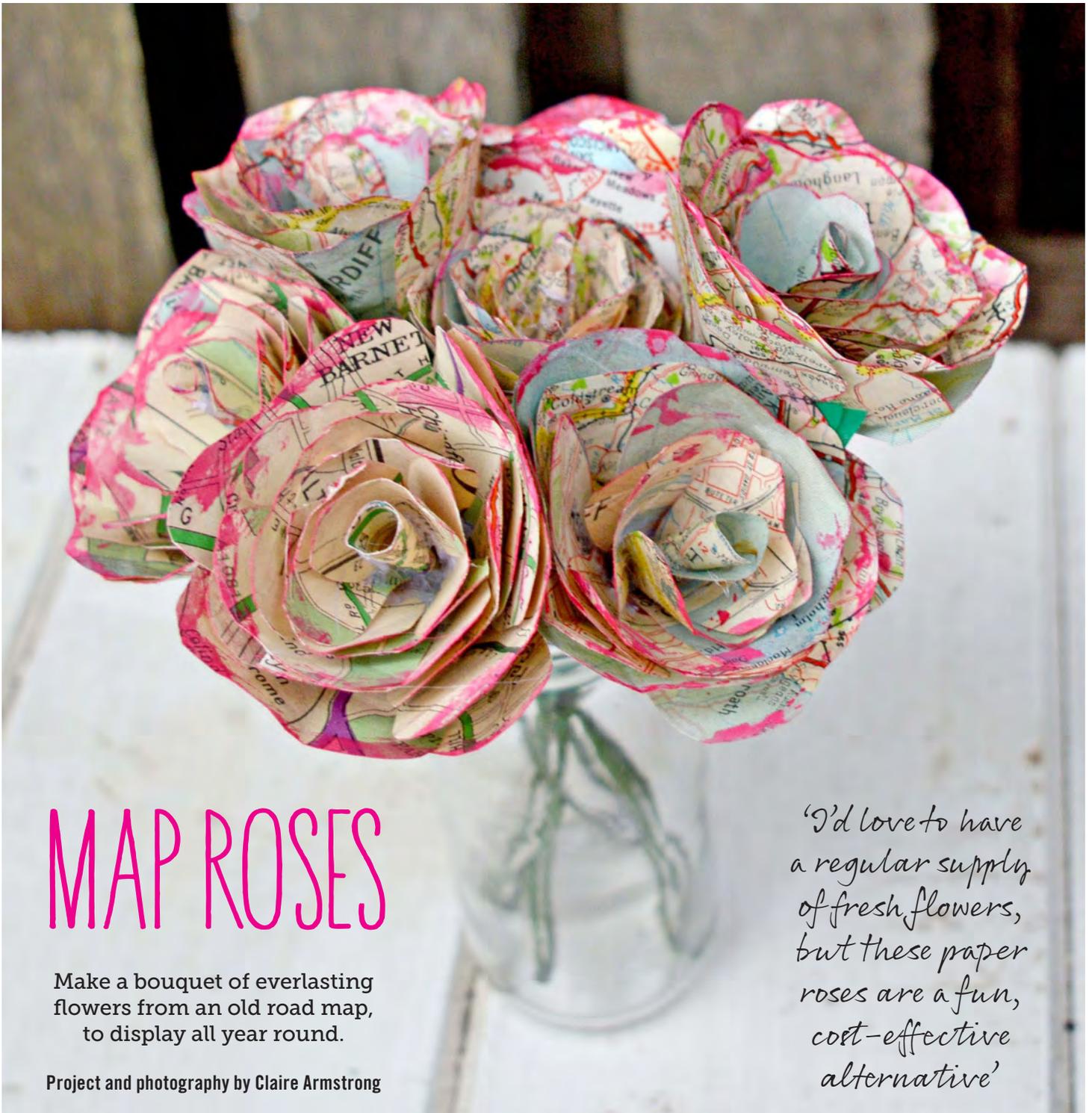
If you're a big kid you might consider creating a larger, adult-sized teepee using more than two pallets and a couple of bed sheets.



Project taken from **Upcycling Outdoors**, £20, published by Jacqui Small.

**READER OFFER**  
 Readers can order **Upcycling Outdoors** for the special price of £15, with free UK p&p. To order, call 01903 828503, quoting ref QPG 489. Offer ends 30 June 2018.





# MAP ROSES

Make a bouquet of everlasting flowers from an old road map, to display all year round.

Project and photography by Claire Armstrong

*'I'd love to have a regular supply of fresh flowers, but these paper roses are a fun, cost-effective alternative'*

## YOU WILL NEED

- Scissors
- Cardboard for the template
- Old road maps
- Pen or pencil
- Green floristry wire
- Green floristry tape
- Glue gun
- Green paper
- Red watercolour paint
- Paint brush

**1** Transfer the three petal templates to cardboard and cut them out. Place the petal template on top of your map, draw around it and cut out the shape (A). For each map rose you will need six small petals, six medium petals and six large petals.



## TOP TIP

### POSIES & PRESENTS

Map roses make a lovely decoration. You can display them individually in small bottles, and they also look very impressive gathered together in a bunch. A single map rose on its own makes a gorgeous gift topper, especially if you select maps from meaningful places for your recipient.



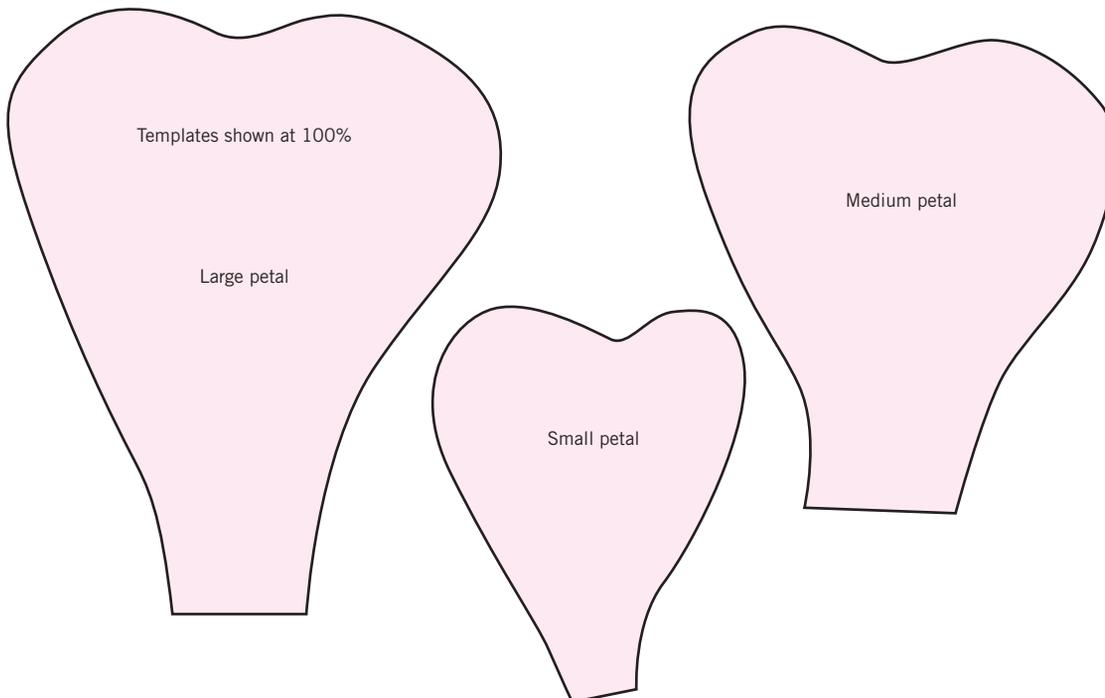
**2** Cut the floristry wire to the length you would like your rose stem to be, then wrap this wire with the green floristry tape (B).

**3** Take a small map petal and roll it up tight (C). Using a glue gun, stick the petal to the end of your green stem (D).

**4** Take another small petal and gently roll it in your hand to shape it into a slight curve. Dab a small amount of hot glue onto the base of the petal and stick this to your stem. Carry on with the remaining four small petals, overlapping them slightly as you go round (E).

**5** Next glue your medium-sized petals one by one onto the outside of the small petals, again overlapping as you go round (F). Repeat the process, but this time with the six large petals (G).

**6** To finish off your roses, stick a small leaf cut from green paper to the stem. Paint the edges of the rose petals with a small amount of red watercolour paint, to add a bit more colour to the maps (H).



### ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Claire Armstrong is a crafter, blogger and upcycler. Her blog, Pillarboxblue, is where she shares step-by-step craft and DIY tutorials, showing how simple it is to create something unique and personal for yourself, your home or even a loved one by working with the things around you.

- [www.pillarboxblue.com](http://www.pillarboxblue.com)
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# COLOUR-WASH CRATE SHELVES

Create some simple, on-trend bathroom shelving by upcycling spare wine boxes with a wash of colour.

Project and photography courtesy of Rust-Oleum

## YOU WILL NEED

- Wooden crates
- Pliers
- Rust-Oleum Colour Wash in Cloud Blue and Mint Sorbet
- Paint brush
- Electric screwdriver
- Screws



- 1 Ensure the surfaces to be painted are clean, dry and free from grease and contaminants. Using pliers, remove any staples from the outer edges of the boxes (A).
- 2 Give each wine crate a light coat of Colour Wash using Cloud Blue and Mint Sorbet, and leave to dry. For a more intense colour, add a second coat.
- 3 Screw the boxes together, alternating colours, then display your toiletries.

## SOURCE IT

Find your nearest stockist for Rust-Oleum Colour Wash at [www.makeityours.co.uk](http://www.makeityours.co.uk).

## TOP TIP

### CHATEAU CHIC

Make sure when you screw the boxes together that you can see the sides with any vineyard branding, for added interest.

*‘By adding beautiful translucent colour to bare or unpainted wood you can add texture, dimension and natural paint layers to your piece’*





# SALVAGE

## Sister

Charis Williams

Love Charis's reclamation-yard style? Soon you'll be able to acquire pieces from her new collection, or even learn how to take on a bit of salvage upcycling yourself with words of wisdom from the master.

**H**ello, you maniacal making machines! I've got a few really exciting things in the pipeline, which I think you'll be very interested in...

First, I keep being asked when I'll be teaching upcycling workshops – for some reason you guys don't get enough – crazy from me once a month here. So I'm now planning a series of

workshops, just for you. They'll be based in the Brighton area to begin with, but if you can't make it to this corner of the UK I'm also creating digital downloadable content to pass on my upcycling skills and tricks.

Second, I've been getting my creative head on and designing my first-ever collection of work which will be released in May 2018 to coincide with my birthday. (Well, why not. Beats counting

wrinkles.) This collection will consist of all sorts of useful and beautiful items from bowls to shelf brackets, drawer knobs and beyond. I really want to create pieces which I can readily replicate, so more of you can enjoy the Salvage Sister style in your home. All the items will still be painstakingly crafted by *moi*, and will be on sale on my website.

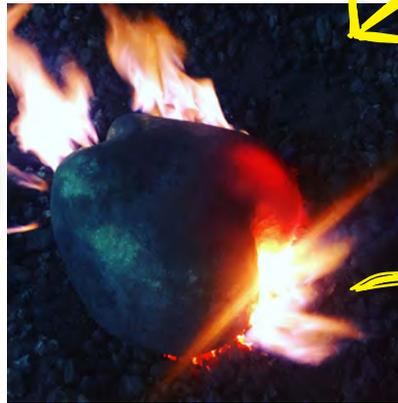
### Forging ahead

I couldn't wait to reveal the first offering to come out of the forge as part of my new range, so this month I'm giving you a little sneak preview of what might be in store. If you want to get first dibs on any more sneak previews and behind-the-scenes goss, such as where my workshops will be and how you can enroll, you've got to visit my website and join the mailing list – it's where all my most favourite people reside! You'll get the chance to have your say on some of the finishes and you'll get exclusive discounts that no one else will get unless they're part of my squad, actually that's quite a good name for you... 'Salvage Sister Squad'. I like it!



**'I WANT TO CREATE  
PIECES WHICH I CAN  
READILY REPLICATE,  
SO MORE OF YOU CAN  
ENJOY THE SALVAGE  
SISTER STYLE IN  
YOUR HOME'**

To craft my piece, I started off with a sheet of 3mm steel and used a plasma cutter to cut out an almost circular shape before heating and beating it into submission. I chose to use the gas forge over a conventional coal forge – which could cause the metal to overheat in one area resulting in a hole, whereas in a gas forge you heat the entire piece uniformly and it's a very controlled temperature. Even so, it was hard work because this piece of metal was a good 400mm across which is a pretty large piece of metal to manoeuvre about the workshop! Just the heat coming off it was enough to scorch the hairs on my arms, never mind what would happen if I accidentally touched it.

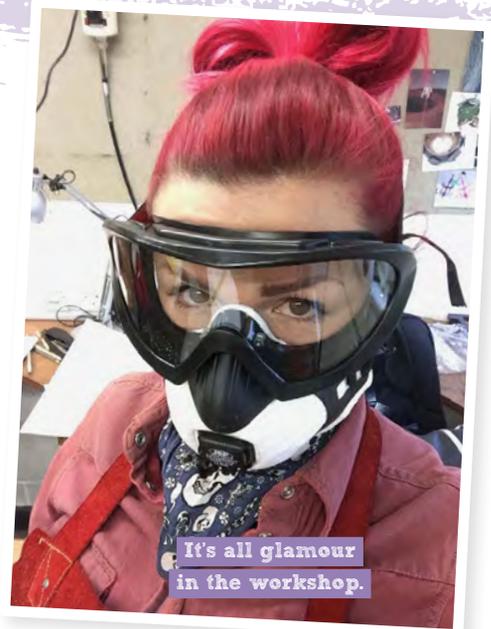


The inspiration for my 'fruit bowl' was this earlier apple design I made for my creative metalwork course.

### Apple of my eye

To start the doming process, I used a blacksmith's fly press before continuing with my hammer over a variety of domed and recessed hardy tools, to further create the shape I wanted. Slowly the circle started lurching out in some areas and squishing in at others. Have you guessed where this shape is going yet? Fans of my column will see the resemblance to a previous piece. Inspired by my earlier apple creation for the blacksmith module in my creative metalwork course, I had a burning desire (excuse the pun) to create a usable item in an apple shape. Of course, a large half apple lends itself perfectly to being a bowl, and as Ricky, one of my lecturers, pointed out, it makes a great 'fruit bowl'. Get it? The hammering and heating went on for what felt like an eternity... in actual fact it probably took two days. 🙌





It's all glamour in the workshop.

**FINISHED**



Once I was happy with the apple shape there was an ugly, raggedy edge all around the rim. To work on this, I welded a flat bar onto one side, that would be chopped off later on, so I could hold it in a vice while I used a massive 9-inch grinder to remove the unwanted edges.

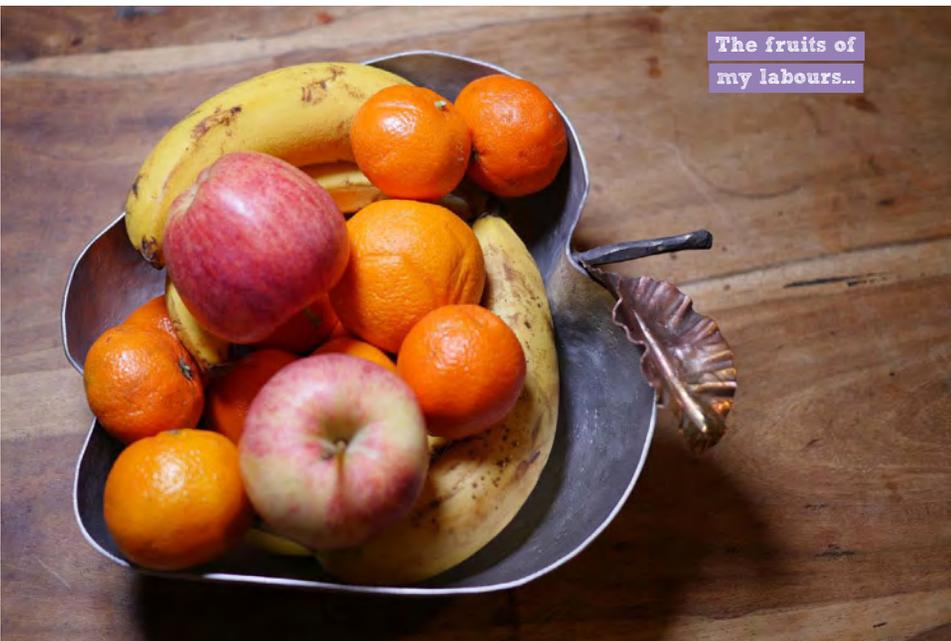
For the finishing touch, I cut a leaf shape out of some scrap copper and annealed it, before bending it over and over to create a leaf-like frill quality to the edges. Then it was time to clean it all up with the sandblaster. I've got quite into this

sandblasting business; it allows you to get into tight spaces, plus (and this is my favourite trait) it doesn't remove as much material as grinding which meant my steel sheet had less chance of forming a hole, and that meant less chance of me having a total meltdown. Which is always good, so I hear!

And there you have it. It's an apple fruit bowl, folks. What do you think? Don't forget to head over to my website and join my mailing list. I've just given the whole thing an epic makeover just for you!



My fab restyled website, where I'll be showing off my latest new creations for you to peruse.



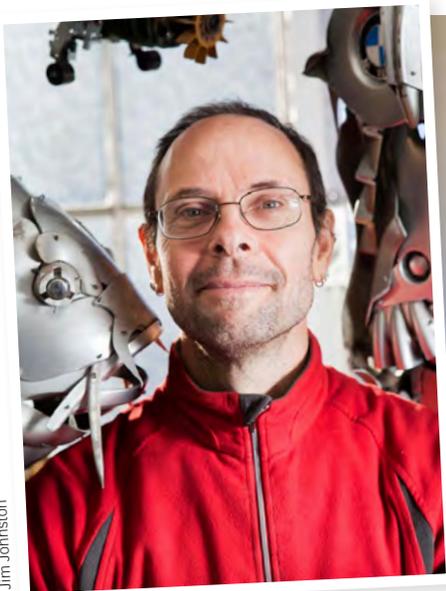
The fruits of my labours...

**ONCE A MONTH NOT ENOUGH?**

Stay up to date with the Salvage Sister's daily antics by finding her online, where you can learn all sorts of things from building your own workshop to making lamps and troughs. You can also watch her YouTube videos with top tips for finding freebies, as well as the latest tutorials.

- [www.salvagesister.co.uk](http://www.salvagesister.co.uk)
- Charis Williams**  
aka The Salvage Sister
- CharisWilliams**
- TheCharis**
- TheCharis777**
- CharisWilliams777**

© Jim Johnston



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Each month, Charis chats to an original artist working with upcycled materials.

### PTOLEMY ELRINGTON, HUBCAP ARTIST

#### CAN YOU TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO BE THE MASTER HUBCAP ARTISAN WE SEE TODAY?

I started way back in about 1990 collecting hubcaps from the side of the road. I wanted to do something with them because I thought it was such a waste that they were just lying there waiting for the council to throw them in landfill. Eventually I hit on the idea of making a suit of armour out of them. I started cutting them up, but then I saw shapes and form that reminded me of marine life. I made a fish, then a few more fish, hung them in a local café/gallery, got a website and it all took off from there.

#### I IMAGINE YOU GET THROUGH A GREAT DEAL OF HUBCAPS, AS EACH CREATURE IS SO DETAILED AND PERFECTLY FORMED.

I don't use as many as I like because I work in other materials as well – old shopping trolleys, scrap metal, as well as plastic car bumpers. Most of my materials I have to buy in (for commissioned work) but the hubcaps are all free. I find them on the roadside, clean them up and get cutting. I often get donations too; I've received 500 in the last six months. These come from ex-collectors, garages that are shutting down and occasionally friends who



spot them for me. There's a lot of rubbish out there ripe for the picking!

#### HOW DOES WORKING WITH SCRAP ITEMS INFLUENCE YOUR FINAL PIECE AND THE FABRICATION OF IT, AS OPPOSED TO WORKING WITH BRAND NEW MATERIAL?

New materials are rare for me, but when I do use them they are a joy to work with. They're usually clean, predictable and consistent. With used materials I not only have to risk my health in cleaning them properly, I also have to work my way around damage, take out all sorts of bits and pieces I don't need, and generally faff around to get to the sections that I want.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR OTHERS WHO WANT TO START CREATING WITH SCRAP MATERIAL?

Stick at it because the going is usually hard. Be true to yourself when indulging the creative process or you will lose direction and personal satisfaction. Don't cut corners or you'll end up doing twice as much work in the long run. Never be afraid to go back and cut into a piece to get it right. It should always look right to you.



Ignore people who are disparaging of your work – creative criticism is always welcome but negative opinion belongs in the bin.

If you want to see Ptolemy's work for yourself, he'll be at a few exhibitions this year. Follow him on Facebook at Hubcapcreatures to see if any more venues have been added:

- 12 May–14 October** Art in the Garden, Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire
- 18–28 May** Pilgrim's Way Artists Annual Exhibition, Tithe Barn, Lenham, Kent
- 2–17 June** Art & Soul Exhibition, Whitehanger, Haslemere, Surrey
- 21 July–1 September** Fisherton Mill Gallery, Salisbury, Wiltshire

# BATHROOM BASKET

A traditional wicker basket decorated in soft pastel shades and a remnant of fabric makes pretty storage for special soaps and toiletries.

Project by Juliet Bawden, photography by Antonia Attwood



## YOU WILL NEED

- Wicker shopping basket
- Paper, pen and scissors
- 50cm (19½in) fabric
- 1.20m (47¼in) bias binding
- Basic sewing supplies
- Masking tape
- Pinty Plus Chalk Spray Paint in Rose Garden and Ash Grey



**1** Before painting, clean your basket with a soft cloth and soapy water and leave to dry.

**2** Make a pattern for the basket lining. Push a piece of paper into the base of the basket, score around the inside and mark the outline with a pen to make the base pattern (A). Add a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance to your template and cut out. To make the template for the sides of the lining, measure the depth and circumference of the basket at the widest point, adding a 2cm (¾in) seam allowance.

**3** Pin the paper pattern onto the fabric and cut out the pieces (B). If the fabric isn't long enough to cut in one piece, then cut two sides but add a seam allowance for stitching them together. Cut the bias binding into six equal-sized lengths.

**4** If you're making the sides from two pieces, join them together first to make one long strip, then stitch to form a circle of fabric. Sew a length of gathering stitches along one edge of the circle, then pull up the stitches so it fits the base piece of fabric.

**5** With right sides facing, pin the gathers onto the base of the lining and stitch together, using a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance (C).

**6** Finish the top edge by turning it over by 6mm (¼in), then by 6mm (¼in) again. Pin then stitch. Fold the bias strips in half, then pin and stitch the folded end of each one around the top edge of the lining, at even intervals (D). 



## SOURCE IT

Visit [www.novasolspray.co.uk](http://www.novasolspray.co.uk) to find your nearest Pinty Plus stockist.



E



F

*'I love how a change of colour can turn a brown shopping basket into a gorgeous accessory for a shabby-chic interior'*

**TOP TIP**

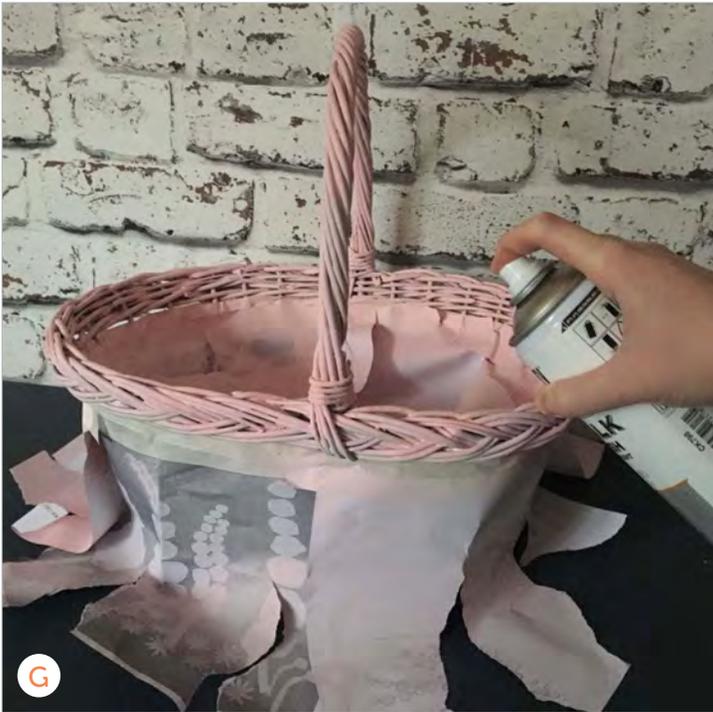
**SAFETY FIRST**

Always spray in a well-ventilated area and wear protective goggles and a facemask.

**TOP TIP**

**GREAT RESULTS**

It's better to use spray paint rather than a brush and tin when painting a wicker basket. You'll achieve a more even colour and it will dry quickly.



G



**7** Cover the handle and rim of the basket with masking tape (E). Following the manufacturer's instructions, spray the exposed parts of the basket in Ash Grey (F). Build up the colour in layers and leave to dry between coats. When the paint is dry, check all areas are covered. Spray it with a second coat, if needed.

**8** Remove the tape, then cover the inside and outside of the lower half of the basket, using masking tape and scrap paper. Spray the exposed areas with Rose Garden (G). When the basket is fully dry, place your lining inside and attach with the bias ties.



**ABOUT THE DESIGNER**

Juliet Bawden's real passion is textiles and particularly dyeing, and the way it can be used to transform and relove. Best known for her craft, style and design books, she also designs, makes and writes for magazines and online, and runs practical workshops for both corporate and educational clients.

- [www.creativecolour.org](http://www.creativecolour.org)
- [julietbawden](https://twitter.com/julietbawden)
- [creative\\_colour8](https://www.instagram.com/creative_colour8)



The combination of bamboo, indigo blue paint and a batik-style pattern give this simple laundry box a lovely southeast Asian vibe.

Project and photography  
by Nicolette Tabram

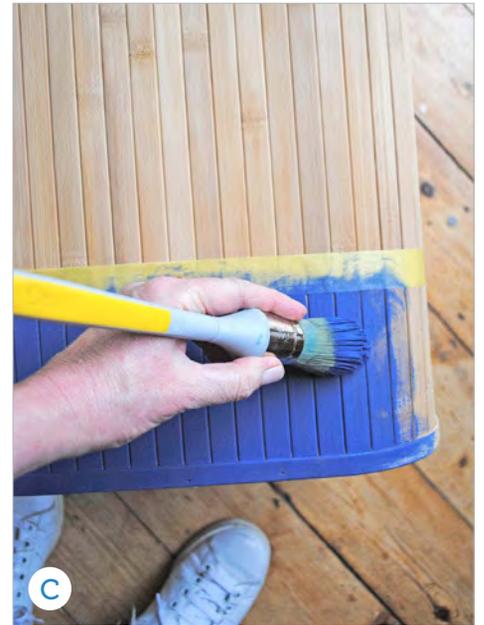
# BATIK-INSPIRED STENCILLED LAUNDRY BOX



A



B



C



D



E



F



BEFORE

MATERIALS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Nicolette Tabram Kota, Bukhara and Neemrana Stencils
- Spray adhesive
- Bamboo laundry box
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Low-tack tape
- Rust-Oleum Chalky Finish Furniture Paint in Ink Blue
- Paint brush
- Bristle stencil brush
- Nicolette Tabram Stencil Paint in Whitstable

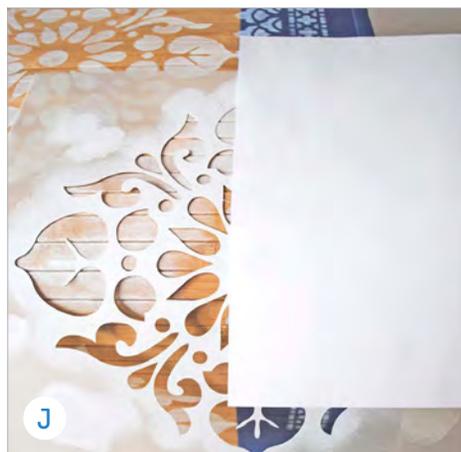
**1** Lightly coat the back of the stencils with the spray adhesive and set aside. Lay the box on one side, placing the Kota stencil roughly in the middle, then use a ruler or measure to locate the central point and adjust the position accordingly. Lightly mark the tips of the top and bottom shapes with a pencil and remove the stencil (A).

**2** Using the pencil mark as a guide, apply the low-tack tape around the top and bottom of the box (B). Measure at different points around the box to make sure that the tape is parallel to the top and bottom of the box.

**3** Apply the blue paint to the area below the tape at the bottom and above it at the top of the box, then carefully remove and discard the tape (C and D). Allow the paint to dry.

**4** Lay the Kota stencil in the original position using the pencil marks as a guide and smooth down (E). Dip the tip of the dry stencil brush into the white stencil paint, removing as much as possible on the side of the pot. With a small circular motion, apply the paint through the holes in the stencil, then repeat on all four sides of the box (F).

*‘This technique can be used on most laundry boxes with a hard surface, adapting the layout of the design to fit the dimensions of the box’*



**5** Place the Kota stencil in the centre of the lid and apply the paint, then position the stencil so that it overlaps each corner (G) and fill in the design.

**6** Position the Bukhara border stencil on the blue border at the top, with the tips of the shapes just overlapping onto the unpainted bamboo (H). Apply the design around all sides of the box, then repeat on the blue border at the bottom (remember to flip the direction of the stencil). Use the same process to apply the Neemrana border around the top and bottom of the box (I).

**7** With the box laying on one side, place the Kota stencil in position on one of the corners by bending it around the box (hold it in position with low-tack tape, if necessary). Mask the blue border by placing a piece of paper over

the top of the stencil, lining it up with the edge of the border (J). Fill in the pattern on each of the remaining corners.

### TOP TIP

#### BORDER CONTROL

In order to continue the border designs seamlessly around the box, lift the stencil and reposition with the shapes on the outer edge of the stencil, overlapping the last few shapes which have already been painted.

### SOURCE IT

All the stencilling materials featured here – including the stencils, brushes and paints – are available on Nicolette's website, at [www.nicolettetabram.co.uk](http://www.nicolettetabram.co.uk).



© Simon Whitmore

### ABOUT THE DESIGNER

With a love of pattern and all things decorative, Nicolette Tabram studied textile design at the Central School of Art, before going on to design for high street retailers, including Marks & Spencer and Monsoon. She runs her own business selling modern stencils and painted furniture, and has recently published her first book, *Modern Stencils* (CICO Books).

[www.nicolettetabram.co.uk](http://www.nicolettetabram.co.uk)

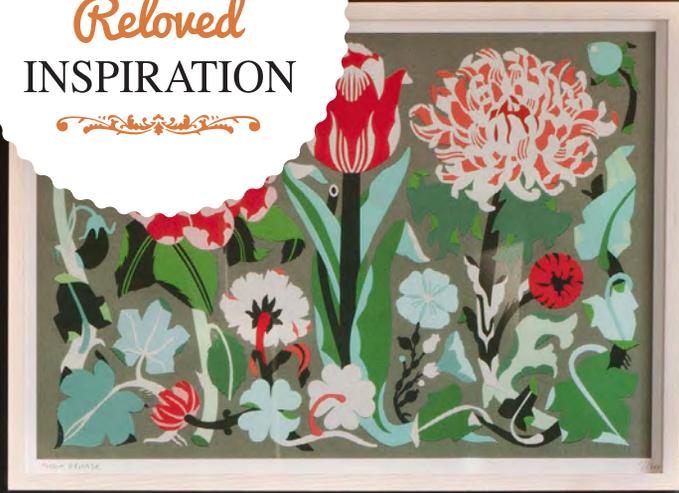
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Discover how appliqué and patchwork are the perfect way to use up fabric scraps. Plus, we show you how to bring colour to your garden with a collection of bright upcycling projects.

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# Living the dream

TURNING A PASSION FOR UPCYCLING INTO A BUSINESS.



## Debbie Carne, Alijoe Designs

After 35 years working in qualitative market research, Debbie Carne felt the pull to try something completely different. 'I was exploring creative options and started upcycling vintage plates as a hobby, having done a course on applying decals to ceramics,' Debbie recalls. 'I loved the idea of juxtaposing quirky imagery onto pretty vintage plates and experimented with some concepts.' These trials resulted in a witty, contemporary twist to the traditional decorative plate idea, using the original design of the plate as a framework for her creations.

Debbie is keen to ensure that her work is unique, and that no two pieces are the same, 'Each piece is a one-off in terms of the combination of imagery and plate, but I repeat

the imagery and am often asked to do just that on a particular colour or style of plate. I've built up a databank of copyright-free images that I either use as they are, or manipulate in some way.'

There are other makers on Etsy and eBay who are doing similar work, and Debbie enjoys seeing what they have created. 'There is some fabulous competition around but everyone has their own distinct style.' Although she does foresee one pitfall: 'My only concern is the UK running out of vintage plates!' For now, though, she is happy to rummage around car-boot sales and charity shops to source the ceramic canvas for her work.

While Debbie has a healthy following on Instagram where she promotes her plates, her website shopfront is also key to showcasing her work – past and present – and advertising live events where she has trade stands and is able to engage with her customers and take on private commissions.

One thing she does struggle with is the fact she hasn't got a formal training in art and ceramics. 'I'm not sure if I'll ever overcome that sense of imposter syndrome!' But as Debbie's business grows, so does her reputation. 'I'm very excited to have been invited by The Exhibitionist



Imperfections and broken plates are given a humorous twist.



**SECRETS TO DEBBIE'S SUCCESS**

**BRAND MATTERS** I think I have a recognisable style, but I always put my logo on the back of the plates too.

**MEET THE CUSTOMER** I find live events are incredibly important, not least to meet and engage with customers, get feedback and to literally 'see' the response.

**DIVERSIFY YOUR RANGE** I found a pottery in Stoke to work with and launched my first tableware range on white, fine bone china – Fisherman Plates – in August 2016. Excited by the response, the dessert range followed soon after. I sell it online and at some events.

**TAKE THE PLUNGE** I had a passion and bravely took a leap of faith in the belief it's never too late. It can be incredibly rewarding having a second life career that you didn't plan or train for!

Hotel in South Kensington to be their artist in residence through August and September.'

● Find more of Debbie's designs at [www.aliojedesigns.com](http://www.aliojedesigns.com).



All of Debbie's plates are stamped on the reverse with her logo.

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