

RUST NEVER SLEEPS:

Repurposed Junk

CENTERPIECES & VASES



BY LAURA KRUGER

Rusty old cans, vintage paper, discarded old frames: These are just a few of my favorite things!

Have you ever said to yourself, “I just can’t throw that away — I can make something out of that!” Well, this is a statement I usually say on a daily basis. I may not know what I will use each piece for, but you better believe it’s going home with me and someday I will be pulling it out to make something awesome! My mother once told me that she gets a kick out of getting in my car; she says she’s always intrigued by what I’ve picked up along the way. You see, I’ve been collecting rusty bits here and there, so there always seems to be a variety of items on the little dash shelf by the clock. Every once in awhile I bring them inside and add them to my box of goodies. I had a mixed-media project that had been lingering in the back of my mind. I already knew I was going to call it “Rust Never Sleeps.” I was sure I would get to it someday.

So on my endless pursuit of organized awesomeness (and on a tight budget), I started saving cans — ordinary soup cans, black olive cans, broth cans, etc. I just looked at one of the cans and thought, “Hmm, there has to be something I can make with this!” And up spoke my internal organizer, “Put some old paper on them! Use them for storage!”

Of course I am not the originator of this brilliant idea; many before me have used cans for all sorts of things. I just played around a bit to come up with other ideas. I attached some to scraps of old wood, beautifully patinated silver trays, frames — whatever I had on hand. When you never throw anything away, you accumulate. And as long as you stay organized, your friends cannot call you a hoarder. When people find out that I never throw anything away, they say, “Boy, you must be a hoarder.” My response is always, “No, I am an organized collector!” A wonderful added bonus is that I am reducing the amount of disposed items, aka trash. Reusing products so they stay out of the landfills is a beautiful thing. →





Rusty old cans, vintage paper, discarded old frames: These are just a few of my favorite things!

One day, while I was painting a frame as a base for some cans, one of my favorite candles burned out. I remember thinking I hate losing the last of the wax. There had to be something I could do with it other than putting it in one of those wax melters. I thought to myself, “What would happen if I melted the wax and painted it on the cans?” It worked perfectly, and added another element to the organizer. It smelled so good!.

supplies

- Cans
- Candle wax
- Chip brush
- Craft knife: (X-ACTO)
- Decoupage medium: (Plaid - Mod Podge)
- Embellishments: vintage lace, jewelry
- Old frames
- Paints
- Patterned paper: vintage; store-bought; scrapbook
- Screws, washers & nuts
- Silver platters
- Small pot
- Tape: transparent
- Wooden blocks (optional)

technique

Make sure to use a cans that have been opened from the side; you don't want any sharp edges. I used cans that are different sizes, but if you'd like, they can all be the same. Gather up patterned paper. If you're lucky to find some really cool old freezer cans like the ones shown here, skip the paper altogether. Decide what to attach the cans to: a platter, a piece of wood, and so on. Then paint, distress and age the cans.

If you'd like to elevate the tray, grab some old wooden blocks, paint them and use them as feet.

Use the technique you feel most comfortable with to



attach the paper to the cans. Sometimes I use scraps of double-sided adhesive, sometimes transparent tape, and sometimes decoupage medium. It just depends on the paper. Wrap the cans and let them dry.

If you like the wax idea, melt any leftover wax and, using a chip brush, paint the wax onto the surface of the cans. This can be very messy, so make sure to cover a surface with newspaper or scraps of cardboard, and let the cans dry. Attach the cans to a platter or frame, using screws with washers and nuts or stronghold adhesive to secure the project. ♦

tips

- Drop an old glass jar to fit inside one of the cans to hold beautiful fresh flowers.
- You can cut scraps of old wool to lay down in the bottom of the cans to offer more protection to any fragile items you may want to put inside your cans.
- Put some great music on, and have fun designing your new and budget-friendly organizational system!



Laura Kruger works at Hobby Lobby, and is a graphic designer and a vintage enthusiast. She resides in Crestline, Ohio. To see more of her work, visit her shop on Etsy, thevintagepaperbird.etsy.com. She also welcomes email at lmk6786etsy@gmail.com.

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stay out of landfills is a
beautiful thing.



MEMO BOARDS WITH Magnetic Charm

BY L. KATHERINE ROBERTS

For many years I worked as an artist and administrator for non-profit theaters. One of the marketing tools those organizations utilized was promotional magnets. The miniature magnetized billboards could be easily attached to refrigerator doors, publicizing seasonal offerings on a daily basis. Since that time, I've received similar event calendars from charitable groups in my community. And ever the bowerbird, I've tucked them away, convinced an idea for their reuse would eventually arise. Recently, that assumption proved to be true; although, I was a bit surprised by the creative recycling they inspired.

I was actually playing with ideas for collaged cards when I came upon a few promotional magnets among my card blanks. I'm not sure why, but their very appearance set me on this project trail. Before long, many of the items I'd gathered for card-making were redirected and utilized for these pieces, which I envisioned as small memo boards or static substrates for design experimentation. All that was required for their crafting was a bit of paste, paper, and planning.

As with all collages, these pieces were made by cutting, positioning, and gluing an assortment of vintage and found items into various arrangements. As I worked, a few personal favorites found their way into the creative mix. Some of those included Russian book pages I'd found while traveling, a strip of French paper purchased from Stampington & Company's French Flea Market Sale, and a red wax seal I retrieved from a dear friend's correspondence. I purposefully kept my selections limited and the layouts simple so any miscellany added at a later date would not cause undue chaos within the original designs. →







Initially, the pieces were meant to be unframed so they could be attached to any metal surface; however, after the collaging process, the corners of the magnet sheets began to curl. Although further curing and pressing may have addressed the issue, I decided to attach the collaged magnets to foamcore and insert them into two frames I had on hand. In the end, I preferred this approach, which not only strengthened the magnetized surfaces but also provided an interesting juxtaposition between the contemporary metal frames and vintage papers I'd utilized.

After completing the pieces, I tested the magnetic strength of the memo boards by placing a number of objects on their surfaces, and some bonded more securely than others. To address this issue, I used some round miniature magnets, both singularly and affixed to alligator and binder clips, to improve adhesion. This allowed me to attach an array of items, all of which supplied a bit of creative charm upon the project's completion.

supplies

- Baby wipes
- Brayer *
- Craft knife
- Ephemera: book pages; stamps; cigar bands; labels; wax seal *
- Foamcore
- Glue
- Handcrafted paper
- Hardware: nuts; scrapbook extensions; alligator clips; binder clips (Advantus - ideology)
- Mechanical pencil
- Metal frames
- Metal ruler/ Lip-edged ruler
- Miniature magnets
- Mounting squares
- Paintbrush *
- Photo mats: white
- Promotional magnets/ Magnetic sheets
- Rotary cutter & mat

technique

If possible, strip the paper layer off the front of the promotional magnet. Apply glue to the magnet and add new papers to cover the exposed surface. Use a brayer to smooth the layers. Adhere additional ephemera until satisfied.

Cut a piece of foamcore to fit into the frame. Mount the collaged magnet onto the foamcore. (If the collaged magnet is smaller than the mat, adhere additional papers to the foamcore, overlapping the edges of the collaged magnet.) Use mounting squares to attach the mat to the foamcore. Insert the matted collage into the frame. If needed, place additional foamcore behind the collage to stabilize it within the frame. Attach a wax seal with glue. Affix additional miscellany to the magnetized area with miniature magnets. →

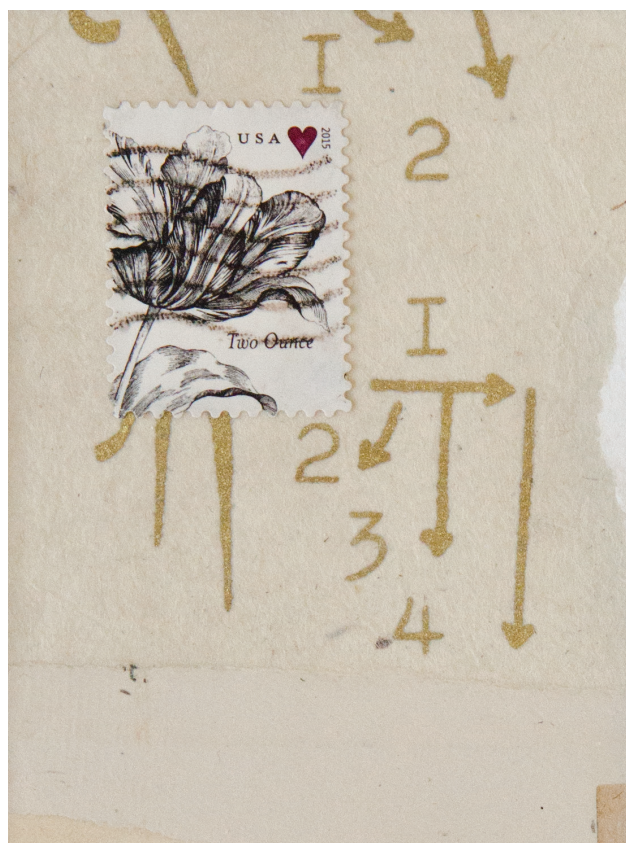




tips

- Free promotional magnets can be found in numerous locations, including businesses, cultural institutions, and, occasionally, on telephone book covers.
- Use lightweight papers to cover the magnetic surfaces. Heavier papers can lessen or eliminate the magnetic properties.
- Instead of attaching your favorite inspirational messages to the memo boards, consider collaging them onto an assortment of miniature magnets, which can be placed throughout your home and office.
- Magnetized alligator clips, made by placing a miniature magnet on the back of the clip, can be used to attach small water vials to your board, creating mini-vases for a flower or two (See the Winter 2018 Issue of *Somerset Life* for examples and instructions).

The handcrafted items and collage art L. Katherine Roberts produces are fashioned to be simple and intimate in nature. She thoroughly enjoys sharing both the process and inspiration for their crafting through written publications and her online journal, thegoldenmaiden.blogspot.com.





A HOME FOR SEWING SUPPLIES

by Melony Bradley

MY NEW ART SPACE IS SHORT ON FLOOR SPACE

but has plenty of vertical room on the wall. After carefully evaluating how I could make the most of what I had to work with, I decided to create some wall organizers. First on the list was something to house essential sewing supplies or things I use most often in sewing projects, such as inkpads and glue. I find myself constantly looking for scissors, simple patterns, fabric-marking pens, needles ... the list goes on. I thought: Why not use my excess fabric to create a wall hanging with pockets to store everything?

I adore flour-sack towels — a pack of half a dozen or so costs next to nothing. Yet, the crisp white fabric lends itself to so many possibilities. It's a blank white surface waiting to be transformed into something fantastic. You can find them at any discount department store. I have created an advent calendar, kitchen curtains, and even pillow coverings from flour-sack towels. When I found myself with extra towels in my fabric stash, deciding what to use to make this organizer was a no-brainer. I had the idea to create a long, skinny piece so I could maximize my space. By stacking two towels together, I was able to make a sturdy and functional home decor piece to gather my sewing supplies. ➡

SUPPLIES

- Acrylic paint: Aqua Sky (DecoArt - Americana)
- Batting: quilt, fusible
- Buttons
- Embellishments
- Fabric scraps
- Flour-sack towels: (2)
- Fusible web
- Glue: Fabri-Tac (Beacon)
- Inkpad: (Tsukineko - StazOn)
- Iron & pressing surface
- Jute
- Paintbrush/Foam brush
- Rotary fabric cutter & cutting surface
- Rubber stamps: alphabet
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Wooden dowel
- Wool felt: white

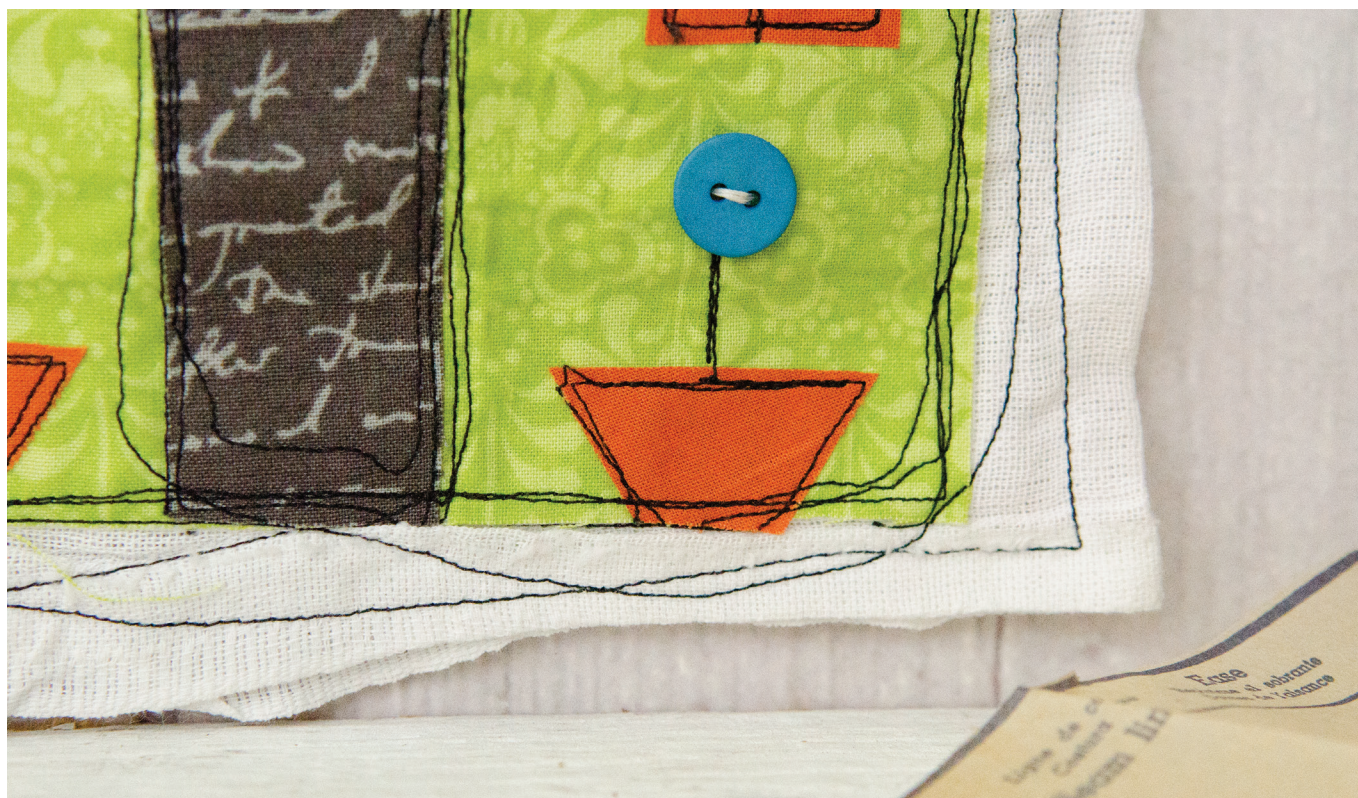




IT'S A BLANK
WHITE SURFACE
WAITING TO BE
TRANSFORMED
INTO SOMETHING
FANTASTIC.

TECHNIQUE

I started this piece by fusing various fabric scraps to fusible quilt batting and fusible web with an iron. I used the larger scraps with the batting so I could make the pockets from them, and used the smaller fabric scraps for the fusible web. Reinforcing the fabrics with batting creates pockets that will withstand the constant push and pull from frequent use. I used white muslin and fusible web specifically for the smaller pieces so I could use them for the stamped labels and patterned scraps for windows and doors.



Before sewing the towels together, I measured them and decided to divide the surface into six blocks, since I needed at least that many pockets to gather my sewing supplies. Of course, pockets in house shapes made perfect sense for this project since creating them is so easy. Using a rotary cutter I created houses in various sizes depending on what I needed to store in the pockets. For needles, a smaller, thinner house makes sense. For patterns, maybe something a little wider would be best.

Before adhering each house shape to the surface, I used some embellishments to give each house its own unique personality. I used buttons and free-motion stitching with black thread to add character. Stamped and fused muslin served as labels. Little windows and doors embellished with black threads also added dimension. I secured each house shape to the surface with stitches sewn in the bottom three sides to create pockets.

For a hanger, I decided to use a dowel and jute because I knew I would be storing some heavier items, such as scissors. Also, a dowel hanger allows for a little bit of flexibility for hanging the organizer on a wall. I created a very simple narrow pocket at the top so the painted dowel could be inserted easily. Natural jute tied to the top ends of the dowel finished this simple home decor piece. Next up on the list for my creative space is a panel that houses my office supplies. No reason not to maximize all this vertical space I have!

TIP

- The button and embellishments can be adhered with glue or with a needle and thread. If you use a needle and thread, make sure you sew them before forming the pockets.

Melony Bradley is a mixed-media artist who loves all things home decor, vintage, recycled, colorful, and fun. She is a frequent contributor to Stampington & Company publications and welcomes questions and comments at melonybradley@msn.com. More of her work can be seen in her Etsy shop, melonybradley.etsy.com, or at 365daysofcrafts.com.



UPCYCLED T-shirt Baskets

BY TÜNDE BALÁZS

When my daughter was born in 2014, I wanted to make her a blanket, so I taught myself to crochet by watching online tutorials. I became totally hooked and have been crocheting ever since. From the outset my head was constantly buzzing with new ideas. I flooded my family, friends, and kids' teachers with crocheted gifts, and visited the local craft store frequently.

One day I saw a crocheted basket on display made with T-shirt yarn and loved the idea, especially because I could recycle our family's old clothes. I found some great tutorials online explaining how to make T-shirt yarn, so I picked out some old T-shirts and successfully made several balls. After a little trial and error, finding the perfect hook, and adjusting to the thick yarn, I fell in love. I was able to work with it very quickly and it created beautiful, stylish, modern items whilst giving a new purpose to our old clothes.

One of my first projects was, again, inspired by my daughter. She loves carrying around little toys, so I made her some toy baskets. They were so practical and pretty that I soon filled the house with baskets of all sizes. Introducing them in my Etsy shop was the natural next step. To keep up with demand, I started buying ready-made T-shirt yarn, which is produced in clothing factories from fabric remnants. This helps manufacturers reduce their waste, but yarn stock is fast changing. The variety of fabric composition, thickness, stretchiness, and color means the pattern, hook sizes, and tension need adjusting to suit each yarn. While this is challenging, I think it also adds to its charm. →







supplies

t-shirt yarn:

- Cotton T-shirts w/o side seams
- Fabric scissors

basket:

- Chunky T-shirt yarn: two colors, approx. 850 g/120 m
- Crochet hooks: size O (12-mm) & size N (10-mm); small hook for working in tails
- Scissors

technique

T-SHIRT YARN

For additional help, reference the illustration. Lay a T-shirt on a clean, flat surface. Cut off the bottom hem and the top part just under the sleeves; retain the middle rectangular part for the yarn. Cut the double layered fabric into 1½-inch horizontal strips, stopping 2 inches from the side each time. Re-fold the fabric so the uncut section (4 inches wide) is in the center with the cut strips on either side. Cut diagonally across the 4-inch section, from the top edge of the fabric to the bottom of the first strip, and then from top to bottom of the second strip; continue until you cut them all. You should now have a continuous fabric strip. Pull it through your fingers so the rough sides curl up. Roll the strip into a ball. Keep the unused parts, as they're perfect stuffing for soft toys or floor cushions.

CROCHETED BASKETS

This pattern is written in U.S. terms using the following abbreviations: single crochet (sc); slip stitch (ss); chain (ch); increase by working two sc in one stitch (inc).

BASE

With a size O crochet hook, make a magic circle. Round 1: work 8 sc in the magic circle, and join with a ss in first sc. Round 2: ch 1, starting in the same stitch. work 2 sc in each stitch around (inc 8 times), and join with ss in first sc. Round 3: ch 1, work 1 sc in same stitch, inc (1 sc, inc) repeat 6 times, and join with ss in first sc. Round 4: following rounds, increase 8 stitches evenly in each round. Carry on until you have the required size, join the last round, and cut the yarn, leaving a 3-inch tail. Work in the tails under the stitches.

SIDES

Change to a size N hook. To work on the sides of the basket, hold the base circle right side up. Round 1: just work in the top loop to create a clear edge. Join the yarn in the first sc of the previous round (last round of the circle) sc in the same stitch, sc around in each sc, and join with a ss in the first sc. Round 2: following rounds, working in both loops, ch 1, sc in same stitch, sc around, and join with a ss in first sc. Continue until you've almost reached the required height. For the last round, I find that the crab stitch makes it sturdier and creates a lovely finish; alternatively, work an extra round of sc, and then finish off with a round of ss for a straight edge. Cut the yarn, leaving a 3-inch tail. Work in the ends under the stitches. →

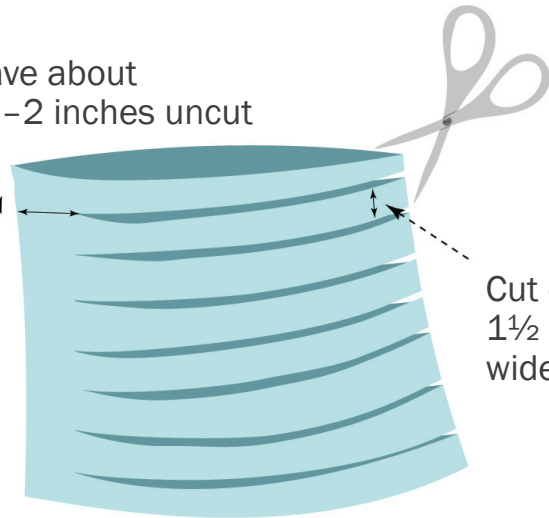
tips

- The basket supplies listed are for two nesting baskets: about 20-cm and 23-cm diameters.
- YouTube has great tutorials for the crab stitch, magic circle, and blocking.
- To join new yarn without visible knots, work the last sc leaving a 3-inch tail, and work the next sc with the new yarn also leaving a tail. Work over the new tail for the next few stitches. In the next round, work over the old tail for a few stitches.
- Plastic or metal hooks slide best with T-shirt yarn; wooden hooks tend to be stiffer.
- Dry-block your basket for 24 hours using a tight-fitting pot to give it the perfect shape.



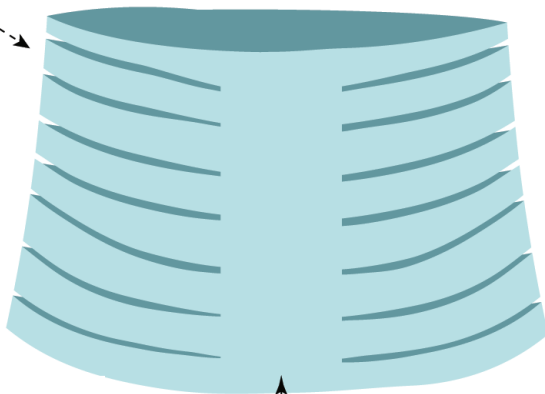


Leave about
1½–2 inches uncut



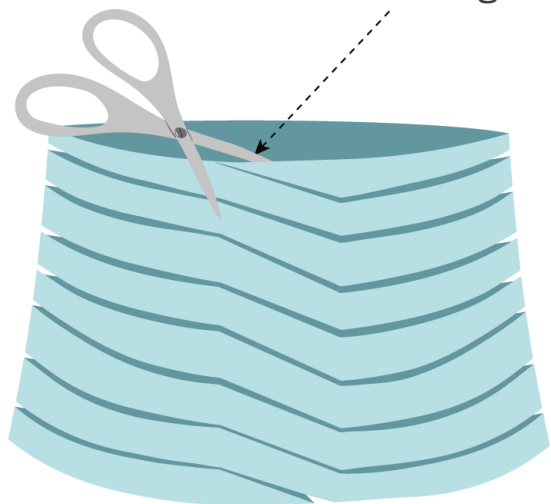
Cut cca.
1½ inch
wide strips

Fold the
T-shirt
like this



Uncut parts
should be
in the middle

Cut diagonally



Tünde Balázs lives in the U.K. with her husband and three children. Along with taking care of her children, she runs her small business called Pixie's Magic Hook. Her etsy shop can be found at [pixiesmagichook.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/pixiesmagichook). For help with the pattern or just to say hello, you can contact her on Facebook ([pixiesmagichook](https://www.facebook.com/pixiesmagichook)).

Diagram by Nóra Pásti



ELEGANT CORKBOARD

by Andrea Vigh

GROWING UP IN HUNGARY, MY LIFE

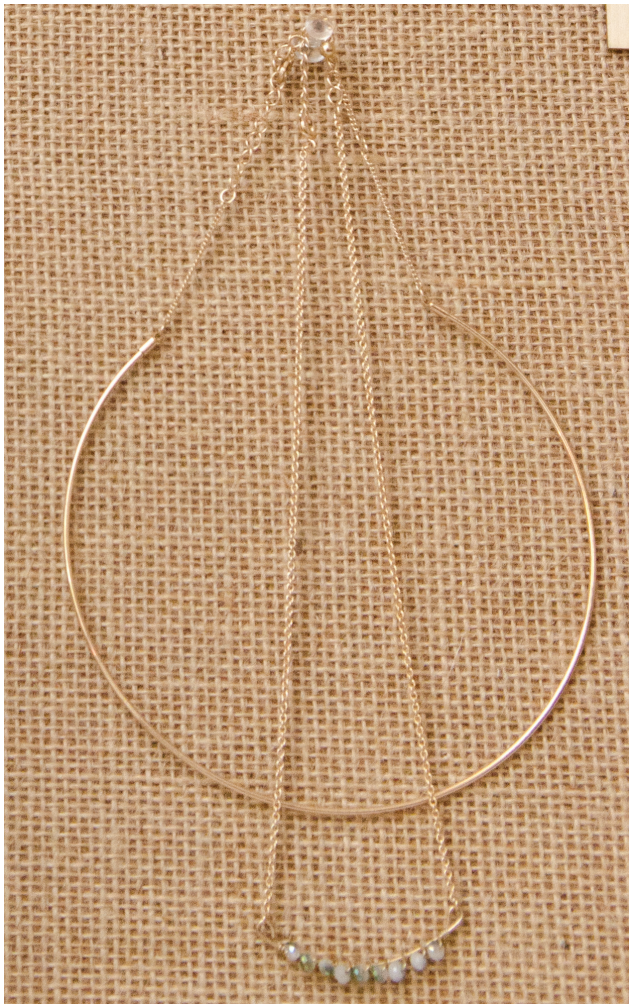
was profusely surrounded by the intricate, ornate style of structure and decor. It was and still is a very typical style in most Eastern European countries. As I grew up and decided to move to the United States, I did not understand then how much I would miss the understated elegance and comfort that style of decor provided me. After some time spent living my new life in Florida, I began to miss my home more and more. I found myself drawn to re-creating the decor I had been missing so much. This style is so close to my heart; it reminds me of home, great memories, and especially my father, who shares my passion — or, shall I say, from whom I got my passion from. I decided to begin my company inspired by the decor I love.

This particular corkboard is one of so many pieces that help me think fondly of the past and even create new memories since becoming a Florida resident. This corkboard is a great way to allow people to display memories, notes from loved ones, and pictures that deserve to be displayed in a pretty and stylish frame that fits within their home decor. It can even be used for displaying jewelry and sometimes serves as a great conversation starter!

The materials for this project were all chosen based on their quality, texture, and vintage-like appearance. The paint used on this project is a specially formulated chalky paint that I make exclusively in my shop. I have currently made this paint available in several colors for everyone to purchase and use for DIY projects.

I chose to make this corkboard because it is an attractive addition to anyone's home, office, wedding, or workplace. I love to work with large, ➡





ornate frames, and the piece shown here is an example of the largest frame I currently work with and offer for sale. It has been a constant seller on my Etsy site. I especially enjoy making them and hearing the feedback of those who have bought and loved their corkboard frames just as much as I loved making them.

SUPPLIES

- Burlap
- Chalk-finish paint:
Antique White
(youmatterdesigns.etsy.com)
- Clean rag & water
- Corkboard
- D-ring hangers
- Drill
- Furniture wax: clear
- Metallic paint: gold
- Multi-purpose spray
adhesive
- Paintbrushes
- Screws
- Wooden frame: ornate;
29¾" x 25¾" /desired size

TECHNIQUE

To make a corkboard like this one, I paint the frame gold and let it completely dry. Then I paint Antique White chalk paint over the gold paint. Just as the chalk paint becomes tacky, right before drying, I take a clean, wet rag and rub areas of the frame in a consistent motion until I reach the desired distressed look. Of course, the more distressed you want the frame, the more you rub. I then wait for the paint to dry completely, coat the frame with a clear furniture wax, and let dry. At that point the frame is done and set to the side so I can begin with the center corkboard section.

For the center section, I begin by cutting a 24" x 20" piece of corkboard (or a piece that matches the size of your frame) as well as a piece of natural burlap the same size. I spray the corkboard with adhesive, and immediately lay and smooth out the natural burlap over the top until they are adhered together with no air pockets or wrinkles. I set it aside until fully dry.

To assemble the frame corkboard, I place the frame upside down and place the center piece with the natural burlap side facedown. I drill screws sideways into the frame so they hold the center part in and does not fall out. Once done, I attach the D-ring for either horizontal or vertical hanging.

Andrea Vigh is a professional decorative painter living in Sarasota, Florida, who creates gorgeous shabby-chic and vintage-inspired home decor. You can view more of her creations or purchase her chalk-finish paint on her Etsy shop at youmatterdesigns.etsy.com. You can also follow her on Instagram and Pinterest (youmatterdesigns).

Instagram photo on corkboard is by Kaylin Warren. To view more of her photography and illustrations, follow her on Instagram (@kaylinkw).

