

This Old House

custom
**crown
molding**
made easy

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make the most of your yard

13 smart patio designs

**9 ways to grow
veggies anywhere**

**15 outdoor
lighting ideas**

**Budget-
smart
cottage
kitchen**
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and fun *projects for your family*



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- Over 200 pages of bathroom makeovers, including before and after photos
- Layouts designed to maximize comfort and functionality
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- Inspiring photo galleries of a variety of finished rooms
- Tips and advice from This Old House experts

15 Great Ideas That Mom, Dad, and Kids Can Build and Enjoy!

What's Inside:

- Easy step-by-step instructions and full-color photos
- Valuable building skills and safety tips
- Great pro advice from This Old House
- Special access to templates and step-by-step videos on thisoldhouse.com
- Bonus pages with fun ideas and helpful tips



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Put Your Windows to the Test

If your windows fail to pass this simple problem-detection checklist, it's a sign they probably need replacing.

Sometimes it's clear when your windows are failing. The glass cracks, they're stuck shut or there are puddles of water on the sills. They show gaps, leaks or noise in your house. But if you're not sure, there are other less obvious indicators your windows may need replacing.

Look for These Telltale Signs

- Your windows are single-pane (and therefore, not very energy efficient).
- Your double-pane windows are cold to the touch on cold days.
- Frost around the windows on the interior of the house is piling up (a sign that proper seals may be allowing moisture to build back outside).
- Frost, ice or condensation builds up on the view for glass/painted by inadequate insulation that allows a low-quality insulation from heat loss cold air).
- Your screens are old and discolored or your exterior windows are old and mismatched.

Try These Simple Tests

- Hold a lighted candle at window edges. If it flickers, you've got drafts.
- Tap the frame with a flat blade screwdriver. If it pushes only into the wood, it's a sign of decay.
- Standing outside the window, place a flat light around the entire window frame. Excessive leakage can see light coming through, you've got rot or could better.

If your windows suffer from any of these problems, it's up to you. Marvin can help you decide which replacement option is best for your home. Whether you're looking for greater energy efficiency, better noise reduction, or a more modern look, Marvin has a solution. Marvin has a solution. Marvin has a solution.

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Marvin can help you choose solutions after an endless variety of choices to design all-weather dual wood exterior, screen glass and hardware finishes to give you the look you want.



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letter (from This Old House)

DIY's real rewards

Oh, man, with the lounge chair, and the cocktail, and the warm spring air, it might look like I'm relaxed. But don't let the picture fool you. If I could actually get out of the chair, you'd see a man walk like a duck that has a slipped disk and shivers up his spine.

And then there'd be the moaning from the park, which would probably sound something like the harping of a mule with pneumonia.

But I'm getting ahead of the story. Let me start at the beginning, which is really the end—the end of my youth and vigor and possibly of being able to get a reward without one of those Rascal scooters that are advertised to generate as dopamine TV.

As usual, it all involved a DIY project.

"We have to do something about the backyard," my wife said to me, which meant I, me, myself had to do something about the backyard. That something was to somehow turn a muddy patch of weeds under our maple tree into a space that wouldn't be a nuisance and might actually be useful.

As so often happens in these cases, I got a grand idea. Actually, grand might be the wrong word; *disaster* might be the right word, but instead let's just say it was *creatively ambitious*. My overly ambitious idea was that I'd be able to install a new gravel patio in just one Saturday.

Anyway, pulling up the weeds went okay, so did laying down the landscape fabric, though, much to my chagrin, I am at leasting myself up to a headache. I should have known that 25 yards of landscape mesh would be far more complicated. The real problem, though, was carrying the very heavy 60-pound bags of 1/4-inch pea gravel from the curb, up the front stairs, through the house, and down the back stairs.

Indeed, I did it. And I did it in that one day. Anyway, three 60-pound bags. That's two-and-a-half platters of gravel. Which is a lot. And so now as I sit down, I know that's where I had to stay.

All of which brings me to the point of this letter: Check out "Building Blocks for a Perfect Patio," on page 80. You'll find lots of inspiration—including some for a gravel patio like mine—if you, too, "have to do something about the backyard."

Of course, given my experience, I'd recommend hiring someone to do it for you. Or at the very least giving yourself a couple of Saturdays to finish the job. And a cocktail. And a cocktail. And, just to be safe, maybe a week's worth of such dips.



THREE THINGS I LEARNED FROM THIS ISSUE

1. **How you can turn your foreman into a friend.** [p. 30]
2. **How hanging a vintage paneled door over your head can help you sleep in style.** [p. 65]
3. **How you can pause a wall and give one of your rooms a textured touch of class.** [p. 58]

Scott Ouellette
SCOTT OUELLETTE, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com

help us!

What if you like *This Old House* so much you want to help us make it better? Send us your ideas and suggestions to help@thisoldhouse.com or call 1-800-541-0000.

readermail

It's often the little things that bring homeowners the most dismay—and the most satisfaction when a solution is achieved. Readers responded eagerly to our recent issues' myriad fix-it tricks by adding one of their own or sharing their glee at finding a long-sought answer to a problem. Many also commiserated with our editor's latest lament on his remodel.

Resolving construction

In "10 Uses: Ceramic Tile," number 3, "Create a portable work surface" in Home Solutions (March). To add more protection when using a long-life glue, I add 3M self-stick floor-coat grids under each corner of the ceramic tile. That way it won't scratch a wood tabletop or floor.

—JANOLLE P. BROOKLYN, N.J.

Door problems solved

In our "52 Little DIY Fixes" (March), I'm sending your prizes for Tip 15, which detailed a fix for doors that swing open or closed on their own.

Since a remodel two years ago, I

have lived with a door in a narrow hallway that would not stay against the wall. I banged it any hard I could, into the edge-mold baseboard I could count. What I really do want, I'm sure, is that with any new, longer, straighter, and the door now stays wherever we put it—bumped!

—MELANIE LUTHEGGER, MOORE, ARIZONA

Spray-painted faucets

In "A Bath Remodel for Only \$439," (March), there is a photo of sink tape that have been painted. I've never used it. Can you please tell

me how this was done—and will it last? I want to redo some of my taps instead of buying new ones. Thanks for your great magazine.

—SARAH JANE CLUMPTON, BYE MALE

The editors reply: For details on the process, read homeowner Rosette's blog post about this project at thisoldhouse.com/home. A paint refresh won't match the durability of replating, but with proper prep, and if the taps are cleaned and bled carefully, this trick might help postpone replacement by a few years.

Everybody's old house

Editor Scott Orzechuk's lamentation on the perpetually unfinished state in which his home lingers (March) had us nodding all the way through. Seen there: Scott, you are, refreshingly, one of us, doing your best to deal with everything else life throws your way while pursuing the elusive ideal of a 100-percent completed home. The way to go is not to wait until you're ready to quit and really live from the often slow and circuitous process of getting there.

—KIMMIE KILPATRICK, NORTHVILLE, MICH.

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Like-new sconces for \$6

—JENNIFER GIBSON, SANBARA, CALIF.

In the January/February Home Solutions was a piece on painting items with specialty paints [see thisoldhouse.com/solutions]. Our house had seven wall sconces, worn outdoor sconces [one seen at left]. Similar new ones were \$30 each but a can of spray paint only \$6. My husband removed (and later rehanged) the fixtures, I used a wire brush and sandpaper to clean them before painting. They look wonderful! Your little tip saved us at least \$200. I am 67, retired, and this project was fun and something I am proud of.

GET THAT SUMMERTIME FEELING



checklist { May 2011 }

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

□ Stop weeds early

All topped herbicide kills off weed seeds just waiting to hijack your lawn and garden. It's the best way to prevent them from growing.

1. After it rains, and the soil feels crumbly, use a heavy-handed circle or long-handled sprayer to apply without straining your back.
2. In beds, add a 2-inch layer of certified weed-free mulch to block sunlight from germinating seeds.
3. On lawns, sprinkle on a pre-emergent weed preventer like Preen to keep seeds from forming roots.



□ What's on your checklist?

"I'd be seeing Althea, Great purple hyacinth, and I'd take good care of the plants, I should have a 200 pound pound by late September!"

—Chris Woodville, Houston, TX

E-mail us your ideas at checklist@theoldhouse.com.

□ Document your garden

As planting gets under way, be sure to chronicle your successes and failures in a journal.

Sketch your flower beds, mapping out where and when you planted each type of plant. Note sun exposures, and snap photos throughout the season to create a reference log for next year. Or try an online service like PlantJotter (plantjotter.com), which will organize your records for a small fee.



TOH TIP

□ Play it safe

Help prevent injuries and losses during outdoor playtime by getting down on your hands and knees, and jungle gym in good shape. Tighten fasteners and file down or buff sharp edges. Replace frayed ropes and corroded chains, then mulch the ground with a dust of fresh wood or wood chips.



□ Inspect the roof

Now that the skies have finally cleared, it's time to deal with damage caused by an extreme winter. Instead of risking a tumble off a ladder, ask neighbors to let you scope out your roof from their top-floor windows. Use binoculars to check for buckles, blisters, or missing shingles, and debris around chimneys, pipes, and gutters. Spot a problem? Call a professional roofer. For more damage-control tips, visit theoldhouse.com/bonus.



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2011
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Neighborhoods

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Old House Neighborhoods contest



**A DIVERSITY
OF STYLES**
A brick rowhouse
with a clay tile
roof (LEFT)
echoes grand
Tudor (BELOW)
are two examples
of the historic
houses here.
Students from
nearby Calvin
College help
maintain a local
park (BOTTOM)

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best of Grand
Rapids' old
house

Heritage Hill, Grand Rapids, Michigan

- Houses dating back to 1844
- A thriving college town
- Great for gardeners

THE NEIGHBORHOOD One of the largest National Historic Districts in the country, and adjacent to downtown Grand Rapids, Heritage Hill is a leafy urban neighborhood known for its array of architectural styles from Tudor Revivals to a couple of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Prairie-style homes. Many houses here were almost lost because of some ill-conceived urban renewal plans in the 1960s. Fortunately, residents fought back, saving their neighborhood from the bulldozer and introducing streetscape improvements and block watch programs that helped give this community a new sense of pride. This pride continues to this day thanks to an annual House Tour, which takes place May 21 and 22. Along with houses, manicured gardens are celebrated here, especially in late July, when a public garden tour gives owners a chance to show off their horticultural skills. **THE HOUSES** The 1,300 homes here include Italianates, Queen Annes, Greek Revivals, and Colonial Revivals,



among others. Millions in need of a lot of TLC sell for around \$200,000, but if you seek something more turnkey, a restored three-bedroom 1886 Fisk Waterman was recently listed for about \$250,000.

WHY BUY HERE? Home to several colleges and universities, including Grand Valley State and Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids is a young city with a strong arts and culture component. In Heritage Hill, you can grab the former castle of a lumber baron or wealthy judge, and walk to work in the city's center for what amounts to pocket change in other places.

—GILLIAN BIRTH

Book Reports Today



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Cub Cadet

cubcadet.com/uk

home solutions

Edited by Jessica Doddrell Fisher

inside

10 USES

STARTER KIT

FURNITURE MOVERS

MORE



4 SMART IDEAS

Salvaged mirror

To give your bath remodel one-of-a-kind character, incorporate a vintage score. Here, a dresser mirror was reborn as a built-in over a double vanity. Because there was an odd bit of wall between windows, the homeowners fastened the piece to a sheet of painted plywood, then screwed the wood to the wall so that the mirror's bottom rested on the counter. On a larger wall, you could simply secure the mirror with steel cleats, find them at rockler.com | A clear coat protects the weathered paint finish. The all-white color scheme and the piece's curved wall flared base help reinforce the built-in effect.



COURTESY: JENNIFER HARRIS FOR THE KITCHEN

painter's 5-in-1

You've seen this multitasking tool before, but do you know all that it can do? Read on to discover the many traditional ways you can put it to work—plus a few extra, unexpected ideas

1 Patch wallboard

Scrub spackling or joint compound with the blade just as you would with a putty knife. **Bonus:** Apply glue with the blade during a repair.

2 Remove worn finishes

Scrape away peeling wallpaper and paint with the blade. **Bonus:** Got a mess? Use the blade to remove dried wax from furniture or stickers from glass.



3 Open a can

Pry open paint cans with the flat edge opposite the tool's point. **Bonus:** This edge also comes in handy for pulling heavy-duty staples from shipping boxes.



4

4 Adhere tape

Run the wide flat edge along painter's tape to eliminate air bubbles. **Bonus:** This also works on vinyl tile on decals and contact paper.

5 Hammer a nail

Use the metal end cap to tap in fasteners. **Bonus:** After painting, seal the newly fitted lid with the part.

6 Clean joints

Scrape out old paint and caulk from joints. **Bonus:** Outside, it removes weeds between pavers.

7 Chip away layers

Remove old coats of paint by placing the blade down and carefully striking the tool's metal end with a mallet. **Bonus:** If the blade is sharp enough, you can chip away wood.

8 Wipe rollers

Slide the semi-circular cap over a



10

roller to remove paint from the nap. **Bonus:** You can also use it to smooth wood filler on tapered balusters.

9 Pry off molding

Wedge the blade's metal edge between molding and the wall to pull the molding free. **Bonus:** When removing, insert the blade under old tiles to pry them up.

10 Pull fasteners Use the small hole that's in the center of the handle of many 5-in-1s to tug out nails. **Bonus:** It can loosen a stubborn glue cap. —KENNETH ST. MARCO

more 10 uses

For more ways to use this tool, visit thisoldhouse.com/10uses



Well, here's one deal: Now you can be powerful and efficient at the same time. With 250 horsepower, the new Ti-VCT V6 in the all-new Explorer delivers best-in-class power.* You also get best-in-class V6 highway fuel economy.** How nice is that? Join the conversation at ford.com/2013explorer.



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Drive one

*City/City-Hwy/Fuel Economy: 2013 Explorer 250Ti V6 4x4. **2013 Explorer 250Ti V6 4x4. Highway fuel economy only. Actual mileage may vary.

+ UPKEEP

Spray it right

A power washer unleashes a stream of water powerful enough to blast dirt from decks, siding, and even brick. Tug the detergent closer—without damaging your material—checked the nozzle, and blow. Keep the nozzle 12 to 18 inches away and spray at a 90-degree angle. If you're using a cleaning solution, you'll need a special block tip (not shown) which produces a low-pressure spray. Merlot of a hose. —J.S.

Super tip
Use a power washer to clean the exterior of your house. It's a great way to get rid of dirt and grime.



Fine spray
Spray angle: 40 degrees
Use for rinsing windows, cars, and other relatively delicate surfaces. Low pressure and a wide distribution.

This nozzle best for the gentlest jobs.



Dirt blower
Spray angle: 25 degrees
Use for clearing gutters, siding, and other surfaces. The blower's air stream is powerful enough to blow dirt away.

When it comes to delicate materials, be gentle enough to pressure wash carefully.



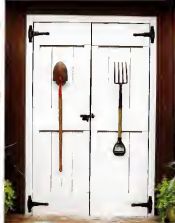
"Chisel" tip
Spray angle: 15 degrees
Use for heavy-duty cleaning on durable surfaces. Directed at a 45-degree angle and it can help remove peeling paint, grease, and mold.

peel, grease, and mold.



Concentrated stream
Spray angle: 0 degrees
Use for removing stains from concrete and other hard surfaces. This tip delivers a solid stream.

With this high-pressure stream, you're not just cleaning the surface, you're blasting away the dirt and grime.



+ OUTDOOR UPDATE

Show your tools the door

Get a handle on that jumble of rusty gardening spades and forks cluttering your garage or shed by turning a pair into out-of-the-ordinary door pulls. Simply center the tool on the door's surface, drill two holes about 6 inches apart on the back side of the wood handle, and screw to the door from the inside. Garden-variety pulls can't even compare. —J.S.F.



pro tip > Ready to fix those leaky patches in your lawn? Instead of digging, use a patching product. It's a mix of soil and grass seed that you can apply with a trowel. —J.S.

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4 PRODUCTS

Heavy-lifting helpers

Whether you're remodeling, painting, or just spring cleaning, you'll likely have to lift, slide, or flip bulky furniture and materials around your home. In honor of National Moving Month, we've rounded up a few essentials that lighten the load — by VERA ZILKA

TO MOVE...**sheets of plywood****GET THIS DONE****panel carrier**

This handy, ridged, L-shaped surface quickly clamps onto sheet goods so that you can lift them with one arm. Gentle Grippey. \$30. gentlegrippey.com

**a sofa****furniture sliders**

Place these discs under sofas, chairs, and other smooth plastic surfaces like you glue the base over carpet. The sliders are made of a soft, non-slip material. Sliders. \$8. lowes.com

**plate glass****suction handles**

Get a good grip on fragile goods (up to 200 pounds) with this handle. It's built from a vacuum seal when fastened to nonporous surfaces. Handle on Demand. \$12. fastrip.com

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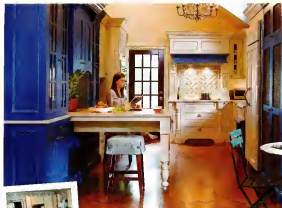


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before + after:
kitchen

Pro-style function, plenty of polish

More space plus attention to detail turned a hemmed-in cooking space into a high performer with sophisticated country charm. by JESSICA LAWRENCE • Photography by ANDREW DORFMAN



[before]

Before A low ceiling, busy wallpaper and not enough prep space made the dated kitchen feel cramped.
After Raising the ceiling, connecting adjacent spaces and warming up the color led to more functional swilling room for Loren Camps (above) and her family.

Renovations that begin small often have a way of growing. When avid cook Loren Camps and her husband, Christopher, undertook the redo of the narrow kitchen in their 1960s raised ranch in Katonah, New York, they usually envisioned a fresh look and new appliances. But along the way, with a nudge from interior designer Debra Geller, the plan expanded. To add height and length, Geller suggested raising the ceiling and absorbing the dining room, which would be relocated, to make room for a sitting area. She gave the kitchen a traditional "unfused" look with a hunch and paucity made from custom cabinets in Provencal blue and a peninsula with a country-table profile. Crown molding, corbels, and potting under the room while suggesting vintage French furniture, and together with wide-plank oak floors, a glass chandelier, and a cozy sofa make the high-functioning space a parsonage place, too. Originally it "wasn't planned for hanging out," says Loren. "Now it is."

► Crown molding, together with the strong horizontal lines of the island, help ground the vaulted ceiling. Courtesy: Wolf

► Concrete tile backsplashes inspired the color scheme. The other varying shapes, sizes, and textures of glassy finishes add texture. The: Exotic Concrete



after

Annexing the dining room nearly doubled the square footage, making the eating-dressed eaters-to-dish

before

The low ceiling (8'6") of the 252 square-foot, single-level house.



tips on trim

Learn all about crown molding here to help you in application of the crown molding.

2. Installed a custom butch

To store tableware and/or a peninsula that has drawers for spices and cutting. The peninsula also provides extra prep space and a second sink.

1. Annexed the dining room

To add about 140 square feet, allowing a better layout and room for hanging out.



3. Reworked the windows, replacing one over the sink with two sliding windows to make room for the bridge and pantry, and replacing two in the former dining room.

4. Moved the fridge to allow space for double wall ovens and also full-height cabinets. Sink and range kept their old spots to maintain plumbing layout.

5. Put in a pantry unit to store provisions and visually define the butch space.

COURTESY: WOLF

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the key details

• **The built-in hatch**, made from custom cabinets, is integrated into the peninsula with marble slab that has an elegant finish. Use stools to prepare the open look. *Chris Ward, Designer, New England Stone Concepts and stools, Debra Keller Interior Design*

• **The paneled fridge** has sculptural with metal appliances pulls that add to its finished look. *Fridge pulls, BH International Inc.*



pro tip

BEHAVIORAL ARTISTS
DESIGNER PRODUCTIONS, NY

"Instead of an island, maximize space in a narrow room with a multipurpose peninsula, with drawers for storage plus space for meal prep and gathering."



Wavy-glass fronts reinforce the built-in look in vintage look.

• **Turned legs**, a drawer with a lip and a scalloped apron. *Switch address table on the built-in plan the free-standing peninsula table is a secondary table. Cabinet pulls and pulls, Debra Keller Interior Design*



• **The deep-footed pantry**, with drawers kept handy make one door has wire mesh fronts suggesting another traditional glass. *The table, Debra Keller Interior Design*

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Prescription Lyrica is not for everyone. Tell your doctor right away about any serious allergic reaction that causes swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue, throat or neck or any trouble breathing or that affects your voice. Lyrica may cause suicidal thoughts or actions in a very small number of people. Call your doctor right away if you have new or worsening depression, suicidal thoughts or actions, or unusual changes in mood or behavior. Lyrica may cause swelling of your hands, legs and feet. Some of the most common side effects of Lyrica are dizziness and sleepiness. Do not drive or work with machinery until you know how Lyrica affects you. Other common side effects are blurry vision, weight gain, trouble concentrating, dry mouth, and feeling "high." Also, tell your doctor right away about muscle pain along with feeling sick and dizziness, or any changes in your eyelids, including blurry vision or any pain along with your vision. You may have a higher chance of swelling, lightheadedness or feeling dizzy if you are also taking certain diabetes or high blood pressure medicines. Do not drink alcohol while taking Lyrica. You may have more dizziness and sleepiness if you take Lyrica with alcohol, narcotic pain medicines, or medicines for anxiety. If you have had a drug or alcohol problem, you may be more likely to misuse Lyrica. Tell your doctor if you are planning to father a child. Talk with your doctor before you stop taking Lyrica or any other prescription medication.

Please see Important Facts Brief Summary on adjacent page

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IMPORTANT FACTS



(LEER-uh-kah)

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT LYRICA

LYRICA may cause serious, even life-threatening, allergic reactions. Stop taking LYRICA and call your doctor right away if you have any signs of a serious allergic reaction:

- Swelling of your face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue, throat or neck
- Have any trouble breathing
- Rash, hives (raised bumps) or blisters

Use other analgesic drugs. LYRICA may cause suicidal thoughts or actions in a very small number of people, about 1 in 500. Call your doctor right away if you have any symptoms, especially if they are new, worse or worry you, including:

- New or worsening depression
- Suicidal thoughts or actions
- Unusual changes in mood or behavior

Do not stop LYRICA without first talking with your doctor. LYRICA may cause swelling of your hands, legs, and feet. This swelling can be a serious problem with people with heart problems.

LYRICA may cause dizziness or sleepiness. Do not drive a car, work with machines, or do other dangerous things until you know how LYRICA affects you. Ask your doctor when it is okay to do these things.

ABOUT LYRICA

LYRICA is a prescription medicine used in adults 18 years and older to treat:

- Pain from chronic nerve pain that happens with diabetes or that follows injury of the back
- Pain from nerve pain that happens with other serious problems
- Fibromyalgia (pain all over your body)
- What should NOT be taken with LYRICA:
- Anytime when it is illegal to operate a vehicle with LYRICA.

BEFORE STARTING LYRICA

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have had depression, mood problems or suicidal thoughts or behavior
- Have or had kidney problems or diabetes
- Have heart problems, including heart failure
- Have a bleeding problem or a low blood platelet count
- Have alcohol poisoning, alcoholism, abuse drugs or alcohol in the past
- Have ever had swelling of your face, mouth, tongue, lips, gums, neck, or throat (angioedema)
- Plan to father a child. It is not known if problems seen in animal studies can happen in humans
- Are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding. It is not known if LYRICA will harm your unborn baby.

You and your doctor should decide whether you should take LYRICA or breast-feed, but not both.

Tell your doctor about all your medicines. Include over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LYRICA and other medicines may affect each other causing side effects. Especially tell your doctor if you:

- Are taking cimetidine (Tagamet) or ranitidine (Zantac). You may have a higher chance for swelling and hives.

BEFORE STARTING LYRICA, continued

- Are taking (or taking) "Antacids" (antacids and medicine) or "Antacid" (antacids) for indigestion. You may have a higher chance of weight gain or swelling of your hands or feet.
- Are taking your medicine (such as aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen) for surgery (such as hip surgery). You may have a higher chance for bleeding and dizziness.
- Any medicine that makes you sleepy.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LYRICA

LYRICA may cause serious side effects, including:

- See "Important Safety Information About LYRICA."
- Severe pain, numbness, pain, numbness or weakness after, with, before, and after surgery.
- Trouble breathing, including sleep apnea.
- Weight gain. Weight gain may be a first sign of a heart and can be serious for people with heart problems.
- Feeling "floaty"

If you have any of these symptoms, tell your doctor right away. The most common side effects of LYRICA are:

- Dizziness
- Trouble concentrating
- Blurred vision
- Swelling of hands and feet
- Nausea, vomiting
- Dry mouth

If you have diabetes, you should go to your doctor to get your skin checked while taking LYRICA, and tell your doctor if you have or skin problems.

HOW TO TAKE LYRICA

- Take LYRICA exactly as your doctor tells you. Your doctor will tell you how much to take and when to take it.
- Take LYRICA at the same time each day.
- Take LYRICA with or without food.

Don't:

- Drive a car or use machines if you feel dizzy or sleepy while taking LYRICA.
- Drink alcohol or use other medicines that make you sleepy while taking LYRICA.
- Change the dose or stop LYRICA, only if your doctor tells you to.

You may have headaches, nausea, dizziness, or trouble sleeping if you stop taking LYRICA suddenly.

Start any new medicines without first talking to your doctor.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist. This is only a brief summary of important information.
- Go to www.lyrica.com or call 1-800-499-7332 (1-800-4LYRICA).

Learn more about LYRICA. Visit www.lyrica.com or call 1-800-499-7332 (1-800-4LYRICA).

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A cheerful kitchen makeover for \$935

A coat of paint and other cosmetic upgrades refresh a bungalow cook space. BY NATALIE KOSKOWSKI



[Before]

the project tally

Removed cabinet doors	\$0
Replaced the cabinet boxes a crisp white that pops against now sky-blue walls and black-painted laminate counters	\$125
Added decorative adhesive-backed paper to the backs of the upper cabinets	\$10
Exposed/shore panels for the lower cabinets	\$10
Pull new satin nickel pulls on the cabinet drawers	\$18
Installed new solid-flush island	\$15
Removed the vinyl floor, covered a wallpaper stenciler to take up the top paper underneath	\$15
Stained and polyurethaned the original hardwood floor	\$35
Added black top island and cut for extra prep and storage space	\$400
New window lift, front rubber, base molding	\$50

TOTAL **\$935**

In some spaces, surface changes can make a huge impact. When Michelle Merzburger bought her 1935 bungalow in Durham, North Carolina, she loved the size of the kitchen. "But otherwise," she says, "it was just dingy, disgusting, and dated." With no budget for a complete redo, the interior designer decided to use simple, low-cost touches to give the room a new look and highlight original details, such as hardwood floors and the scalloped wood valance above the sink window. "I felt like I needed to maintain the integrity of the house," she says.

Removing the glass slab doors from all the cabinets, Michelle left the upper boxes in open shelving for dishes and used a white-striped black fabric to create panels that had pots, pans, and bottles below. She also stained the scuffed white laminate counters and finished on all-based primer and black oil paint, then used bright blue paint on the walls. Most of the three-month-long, weekend-only project, though, was spent scraping up layers of vinyl and top paper to refresh the hardwood floors and stretch. A new butcher-block top island completed the revamp. "I take a lot, so I really enjoy being in such a bright, happy space," Michelle says. ■

2x2020 You can still eat your bread and be in the kitchen. All the white cabinets and appliances are the same. New paint, fabric panels, and island. Touches hardware give the room a colorful new look.

"I love my new hardwood floors! I only wish we would have put the hardwood in when we built the house 10 years ago. It's amazing how much better and brighter our house looks."

Actual Customer, Clayton, DE



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shopping

Ceramic penny-round tile

At once classic and understated, bold and graphic, these close-set circles can pack a big impact. by DANIELLE BLONDELL • Photography by ANDREW MCGRATH

They've been around for more than a century but never achieved the ubiquity of linoleum. Maybe that's why penny rounds have emerged as fresh design material today. Originally sold as face-mounted paper sheets and set into a sand-and-cement mortar that also served as the grout, easy-to-clean unglazed porcelain circles debuted in bedrooms and kitchens in the early 1900s. Simple black-and-white patterns quickly led to more colorful dots and flower designs that enhanced foyer floors.

Still prized as a no-slip surface underfoot, penny tile now has a color range that's ever wider. Extra rounds of firing lend porcelain versions a hardness with superior durability for high-traffic areas, ceramic styles—now much-misused or paired with glass dots for easy installation—are making a splash in backsplashes, shower walls, and fireplace surrounds. While the standard 1-inch size remains the standard, sizes do vary a bit (as noted). Here, 13 of our favorites.

vintage green

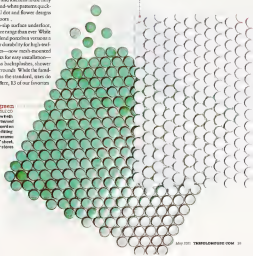
1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 1/4"

Try it in a strong new finish, where the flat, dark-colored green has a would-be camouflaged on-site variety and is easy to fit. Made in Glend, Kansas. Cost: \$8 per 12" x 12" sheet. merrill.com/for-homes

classic white

1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 1/4"

Try it in a spot-on period-style alternative to the classic white floor. Cut out a few dots at random right before a coffee and unexpected results for a custom look. Made in Glend, Kansas. Cost: \$7 per 12" x 12" sheet. homedepot.com



shopping

slate look

NOVA TILE CO.

Try it: On a fireplace surround or an office desk stand-in for stone slabs. Made of glass ceramic.

Cost: \$8 per 12" x 12" sheet; novatile.com for sales



high gloss

MEOLA TILE

Try it: Transition an accent wall or color for shower walls that is all white penny rounds. Made of glass porcelain.

Cost: \$7 per 12" x 12" sheet; meolatile.com

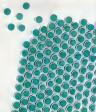


machine theme

AMERICAN UNIVERSAL CORP.

Try it: On the shower floor or tub surround for bold, repetitive look. Includes a master bath kit of glass ceramic.

Cost: \$8 per 12" x 12" sheet; au-til.com



beige blend

WESTON STONE & TILE

Try it: To play up warm earth tones in a Craftsman inspired space where white would seem stark. Made of glass ceramic.

Cost: \$14 per 12" x 12" sheet; westonstoneandtile.com



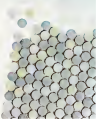
Rebate
TODAY! Save up to
20% off
on tile at
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and Tile

pastel pieces

WESTON CORP.

Try it: On the walls at kids' bath. The 1/2-inch round easily installed with no grout needed, so they'll grow with them. Made of glass porcelain.

Cost: \$20 per 12" x 12" sheet; westoncorporate.com for sales

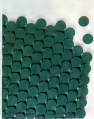


field of green

SATILE

Try it: Underfoot in a dining hall purified with a clean footprint. The matte 1 inch circles attract the eye. Made of fired glass porcelain.

Cost: \$7 per 24" x 24" sheet; satile.com for sales



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without swelling.
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Sheet: see tile.com



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TOMMY HILF
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Dishes of
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matte dots

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bath, as a
complement to
white tiled walls,
choose this tile
and you'll feel
like a queen.
Made of Glazed
porcelain
Cost: \$12 per
12" x 12" sheet
moderna.com

TILING TIPS

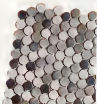
Before installation, penny rounds, keep the following in mind. JOINTS: If tiles are 1/2 inch wide, joints will be 1/4 inch wide, but today they're typically 1/8 inch wide. Larger tiles (12 inch x 12 inch) will have joints that are 1/4 inch wide. To avoid this, stagger joints to keep the size of the joints equal to the space between each tile. If you need to trim to a sheet to fit a space, use a utility knife.

GROUT: For a true period look, use light to medium gray grout. To make a more modern statement, pick up a shade in the tile itself. If you're using dark grout on light-colored tiles, coat them with a grout release first to prevent pigments from making to their surface.

MAINTENANCE: If white grout gets dirty after installation, apply a grout cleanser, let it sit, and scrub with a hard-bristle brush to break

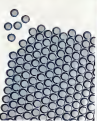
shades of gray

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Try it: Place in
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cool blues

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bathroom wall
This tile is made
of stone, so
it's durable.
Made of Glazed
porcelain
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To get your first full prescription free and to see an inhaler, visit ADVAIR.com or call 1-800-520-4197.

ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is approved for adults with COPD, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both.

You should only take 1 inhalation of ADVAIR twice a day. Higher doses will not provide additional benefits.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 FOR COPD:

- Do not use ADVAIR to treat sudden, severe symptoms of COPD. Always have a rescue inhaler medicine with you to treat sudden symptoms.
- Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS if you have severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.
- Do not use ADVAIR more often than prescribed. Do not take ADVAIR with other medicines that contain long-acting beta₂-agonists for any reason. Tell your doctor about medicines you take and about all of your medical conditions.
- ADVAIR can cause various side effects, including:
 - wheezing or asthma attacks. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a severe allergic reaction: rash, hives, swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue, or breathing problems.
 - sudden heartburn problems immediately after taking your medicine.
 - effects on heart: increased blood pressure, a fast and irregular heartbeat, chest pain.
 - effects on nervous system: dizziness, numbness.
 - reduced adrenal function (may result in loss of energy).
 - changes in blood sugar, potassium, certain types of white blood cells.
 - weakened immune system and a higher chance of infections. You should avoid exposure to chickenpox and measles, and if exposed, consult your healthcare provider without delay. Worsening

of existing tuberculosis, fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection, or sudden herpes simplex may occur.

-lower bone mineral density. This may be a problem for people who already have a higher chance of low bone density (osteoporosis).

eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts. You should have regular eye exams while using ADVAIR.

glaucoma. People with COPD have a higher chance of getting glaucoma. ADVAIR may increase the chance of getting glaucoma. Call your doctor if you notice any of the following symptoms: increase in tears, blurred vision, change in vision, color, focus, clarity, increased cough, increased breathing problems.

• Common side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 for COPD include: throat irritation, dry mouth, throat, throat irritation, headache and nose changes, and respiratory infections, headache and muscle and bone pain.

*Measured by a breathing test in people using ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 in the study. Taking ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 may also improve your breathing. Your results may vary. It is not known how safe ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is for people with COPD. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of Important Safety Information about ADVAIR DISKUS on adjacent page.



ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50
Became a part of us as we strive to cure COPD.

GlaxoSmithKline

Rustic French dining room

Warm, handcrafted materials mix with sleek factory-style finds to give this space a taste of the Gallic countryside. Here's how to assemble a similar setup at your home

By JESSICA DODDLE-PETER • Photographs by STEPHEN SAMST-ORRIS

A formal dining room doesn't always have to look so, well, formal. Just take a look at this farmhouse eating spot. Well-suited, mismatched furniture and eclectic accessories, in other words, offer a good setting for takeout pizza or a date for casual dinner parties. "The key is choosing furnishings you can easily change from time to time," says designer Stephen Saint-Onge, author of *No Place Like Home* (Wiley Publishing, 2011). With flexibility—and budget—in mind, Saint-Onge combined items the homeowners already had, such as the weathered table (in old barn door), with thrifty finds, like \$15 sawhorse legs. "Wicker and metal chairs can be used indoors and out, and convey the weathered elegance of a French country garden." This room is designed to grow—you can swap the light fixture, remove the wall rug, or switch up the art," Saint-Onge says. "That's part of what makes it so inviting." Here are some ideas for creating an equally cozy space in your house. ■

tray and glassware

At \$45, it's a splurge, but filled with colorful bottles and stacked bowls, this wicker tray negates the need for a centerpiece. Try www.southcoast.com. Glasses, \$4 each, www.potterybarn.com.

cotton chair

While it may be intended for indoor use only, this farmhouse-style outdoor wicker garden-sewing box, \$179 for two, burlanddesigns.com.

pattered wool pillow

Love reading a novel? Look no further than a kilim cushion made from remnants of handmade Turkish kilim rug. \$89, shirleylin.com.

get this look for less

adjustable pendant

Modeled after vintage Farrow workshop lights, this single-headed Edison fixture is made of painted copper and glass. \$129, potterybarn.com.

elegant flatware

Two everyday meals take special occasions with shiny, stainless-steel flatware. \$18 each, compendia.com.

distressed wood table

At New Seed Grapes, a local and prep work partners have a pair of handcrafted wooden tables to make a character-filled dining surface. Price: \$129. www.newseedgrapes.com.

industrial-style seat

A tough, functional frame makes this sleek perch—an affordable take on the classic French Tolix chair—sit more than the three most in the price with ease. \$79, www.2modern.com.

natural rug

Another the room with a textured and is made from natural fibers, such as wool. Budget-friendly style option. 6 by 12 foot rug. \$249, www.2modern.com.



Top: The Artisanal Project; Table: The Artisanal Project; Chair: The Artisanal Project; Rug: The Artisanal Project





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Outdoor rugs

They thrive outside but often invite themselves in. Below are two that share a color scheme while differing in look, feel, and price. By DEBORAH KALICHMAN • Photography by KRISTEN MACALE

Call it a trend. Rugs with indoor designs are popping up on the patio, and rugs designed to stand up to the elements are finding their way into the foyer. With these wash, plastic-fiber rugs rolling out in both directions, we've found one designed by Lora Minor (wash, looped pile) and a budget one (both are mold resistant and resistant to fading). Neither will be your forever rug, but that may be part of their appeal. For their surprising differences, read on.

High-End Trans-Ocean KAYELLA STRIPE RUG

Size: 9' x 12' Weight: 15 lbs.

+\$350

\$179+

Budget Trans-Ocean TROPIC STRIPE RUG

Size: 4'10" x 7'4" Weight: 15 lbs.

how it's made
Worlens in China use knitting yarns to loop polypropylene through a polyester backing, creating a looped pile. The rug is then treated with latex to hold the loops in place. A woven fabric border is on the back.

look and feel
The fiber blend allows more color variation and gives it a feel, a knicker rug. Tiny missing loops and breaks along the edges may be visible. However, it's flexible and slightly larger than it is. It's also less likely to shed.

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you want a wash, looped pile rug that's available and would look equally at home indoors.

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you want a knicker rug that resembles a woven material-fiber rug but is very easy to clean.

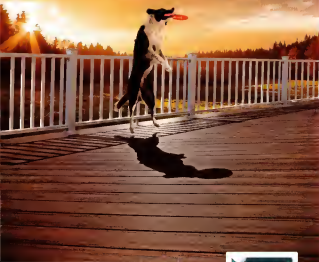
how it's made
Manufactured in Turkey using polypropylene. Covered in a woven fabric. The edges are not looped, so the rug may be used on slippery floors.

look and feel
The pile is not as high as the other rug. It's light, with no fringes. It's a bit more like a woven fabric that creates a more natural effect than the other rug. It's a bit more like a woven fabric that creates a more natural effect than the other rug. It's a bit more like a woven fabric that creates a more natural effect than the other rug.

CARE
Can be vacuumed and spot-cleaned or washed with soap water and rinsed down. Taken some time to dry—hanging it over a line. Bring it back to its original color with a brush.

CARE
Can be vacuumed, wash-cleaned, or washed down. Rinsed off its long pile. Rinsed off its long pile. Rinsed off its long pile.

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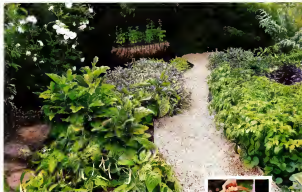


PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

landscaping

Grow fruits and veggies anywhere

With smart strategies, you can raise your own harvest in any size outdoor space. **By JENNIFER KIRWAN**



You don't need a backyard farm to enjoy the tangy flavor of just-picked blueberries or the juicy sweetness of vine-ripened tomatoes still warm from the sun. Serengeti right, and you can grow a lot of food in a tiny space, even in full view of your neighbors. "The first thing is to change your mind-set," says Rosalind Greary, whose experiences with edible plants in her suburban Los Altos, California, front yard led her to write the classic *Edible Landscaping*, which was recently updated and renamed, "Think about growing edible plants in new places." They don't need to hide in the backyard, for instance, especially if you choose fruit and vegetable varieties with ornamental similarities. Another insight: You don't need to grow food as farmers do. Instead of planting big crops that ripen all at once, tuck in a few seeds or transplants every few weeks so that there's a continuous food supply. You don't need long vegetable rows, either. Most edibles actually do better mixed in with different varieties or with flowering plants. Luckily, growing methods that work best for plants also mesh nicely with ways to grow a lot of food in a small space.



grow your own
TOP: Squash, eggplant, zucchini, basil, arugula, and a container of mixed leafy greens. Bottom: A basket of fresh green leafy vegetables, likely arugula or similar salad greens.



← Plant in pots.

You can grow most veggies in containers, with caveats. Containers must be straight and have proper drainage. (This includes 5- to 8-inch-deep ones, not tooch-boddy.)

Craig says, "The soil dries out too fast." Heavy, overcast (and somewhat foggy) weather is not growing short legs a benefit, so other traits that result in overwatering are the shovels of an unshaded garage or shed. Avoid seedlings in shadow anything bigger than a half barrel, avoid putting up wheels before you plant. Struts your ribs, which have planting pockets on the sides, are great for marks as well as berries.

For soil bagged/container mixes work well. Don't use mixes labeled for starting seeds or growing specific kinds of plants—unless you're growing *Chadler* rice, when the high acidity of a *rhododendron* cornmeal mix is perfect.

Look for apical cuticles, vegetable-garden plants affected by some nematodes (ryegrass root-knot), there are often apically flattened, bulbous, and terminal nodules.



- ← Create a raised bed.

A 1-foot-tall fence with a good top will serve against any out-faces acquiring, and the added elevation will help keep people from walking across a lawn, mowing the under-planting border-thrubs. A 1-foot-tall square metal rail, but adding dimensions to fit your space. Along a wall or fence for 2 feet in depth (a minimum to block out any noise at the threshold area). Green grass and shade and needs by staggered plants in all directions and in rows.

Or follow the advice of fellow gardener Will Bartholomew, author of the best-selling *Spent Pot Gardening: Overleaving Your Back Into 2 Square Foot Sections*, meaning a bed 4 feet on each side would have 16 sections. Plant and harvest each square individually, perhaps with a single tomato or an cabbage plant right in the middle. "It's like *mountain peaks*," says his brother or spouse, 4 inches apart or 2 to 4 to 4 radiators, or around 3 inches apart. Some are in the way of the weeds, splitting through the ground, the house of it is an easy way to feed a family and keep the garden from getting too crowded.



Grow up where you can. →

[illegible]

Mounting pots in wall brackets, and leaf overhangs also save vertical space. If your basil isn't doing so well in a small area or against a wall, place pots that have a tilted plastic sheet

There are also newangled vertical growing systems madeof recirculating systems that support green roofs. Options range from plastic grid systems with angled planting, with perlite-specific, can't-to products made of metal mesh (see www.horticulture.com) to fully-packed that look like shoe storage systems (see verticaland.net and phitosystems.co.uk). Just make sure you understand where excess water will drain to that you don't end up causing problems.



Blend in with flowers. →

Maybe you have outdoor space but it's already entirely landscaped. To grow food, look at other creative solutions among the unsavannahs in places like this where deer live. Have a shrub that's berries in the winter? Switch to a blueberry bush—it's also good in winter but fresh fruit in summer. Grow cold-tolerant peaches such as El Dorado grow just 3 feet high or take cold-tolerant apple trees can grow substrate for existing shrubs. It's a present-to-future. The thing is new, difficult to grow but

[illegible]

In general, abiotic variables that keep an area from becoming a *Halimolobos* life zone include, in general, a forest or a bare NW-facing slope, much as before, species-rich life and third plus the largest leaves, and yellowish small-scale variations in color. ■



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Soften stripes with stippling

Use tinted glaze and stiff bristles to add a suede-like effect to painted walls.

By DEB HAGEMAN • Photography WENDELL T. VORON

Stippling lightens the impact of color with the paint equivalent of a pumice bath. It's done by "pouncing" a densely bristled brush on moist glaze, lifting off speckles and creating a finely dotted pattern. You could say it gives the color a lovely haircut.

It can also soften the look of a graphic pattern. For the stripes shown here, decorative painter David Luss started with white walls and marked off 4-inch-wide stripes using 2-inch-wide painter's tape. Working in sections about 4 feet wide, she rolled on a mix of equal parts gray latex paint and clear glaze; the glaze lightens the pure color about two shades and adds luminosity (as well as extra working time). Then, before the glaze had a chance to dry, she used a stippling brush in a pouncing motion to lift off micro-dots of color, allowing some of the base coat to show through and giving the stripes a subtly mottled look. Between sections, she wiped excess glaze off the brush with a rag to prevent buildup. While the glaze was still tacky, she came the tape too close to snap when stripes that contrast with the bands of suede-like color. The result: a subtle, sophisticated look. ■

essential tool

Look for a brush that has a large, wide head of stiff natural bristles. Puffy stippling brush: \$39. (Photo: John Jones)



Paint: Benjamin Moore's Super White (base coat) and Behr's Silver Thread mixed with Farrow & Ball's Glaze

paint
ideas



Are you living with chronic osteoarthritis pain or chronic low back pain?



Cymbalta can help.

Cymbalta is now approved by the FDA for the management of chronic musculoskeletal pain in people with chronic osteoarthritis pain and chronic low back pain.

There is good news.

When taken once a day, every day, Cymbalta can help significantly reduce your chronic osteoarthritis pain or chronic low back pain. It is a non-narcotic, non-NSAID prescription medicine.

Did you know that your body has a natural pain-suppressing system that can help regulate the amount of pain you feel?

Although the exact way that Cymbalta works to reduce chronic osteoarthritis pain or chronic low back pain is unknown, it is believed that Cymbalta helps lessen pain by enhancing the body's natural pain-suppressing system by increasing the activity of serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain and spinal cord.

Visit cymbalta.com or call 1-877-CYMBALTA to learn more. Ask your doctor about Cymbalta.

Cymbalta is approved for the management of chronic musculoskeletal pain in people with chronic osteoarthritis pain and chronic low back pain.

Important Safety Information About Cymbalta

The most important information you should know about Cymbalta:

Antidepressants can increase suicidal thoughts and behaviors in children, teens, and young adults. Suicide is a known risk of depression and some other psychiatric disorders. Call your doctor right away if you have new or worsening depressive symptoms, unusual changes in behavior, or thoughts of suicide. Be especially observant within the first few months of treatment or after a change in dose. Approved only for adults 18 and over.

Cymbalta® (duloxetine HCl) is not for everyone.

Do not take Cymbalta if you:

- have recently taken a type of antidepressant called Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor (MAOI) or tricyclic antidepressant
- have uncontrolled narrow-angle glaucoma (increased eye pressure)

Talk with your healthcare provider:

- about all your medical conditions, including kidney or liver problems, glaucoma, diabetes, seizures, or if you have bipolar disorder. Cymbalta may worsen a type of glaucoma or diabetes.
- if you have itching, right upper belly pain, dark urine, yellow skin/eyes, or unexplained flu-like symptoms while taking Cymbalta, which may be signs of liver problems. Severe liver problems, sometimes fatal, have been reported.
- about your alcohol use.

- about all your medicines, including those for migraine, to address a potentially life-threatening condition. Symptoms may include high fever, confusion, and stiff muscles.
- if you are taking MAOI pain relievers, aspirin, or blood thinners. Use with Cymbalta may increase bleeding risk.
- before stopping Cymbalta or changing your dose.
- if you experience dizziness or lightheadedness upon standing while taking Cymbalta. This is likely to occur in the first week or when increasing the dose, but may occur at any time during treatment.
- about your blood pressure. Cymbalta can increase your blood pressure. Your healthcare provider should check your blood pressure prior to and while taking Cymbalta.
- if you experience headache, weakness, confusion, problems concentrating, memory problems, or feel unsteady while taking Cymbalta, which may be signs of low sodium levels.
- if you develop problems with urine flow while taking Cymbalta.
- if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during therapy, or are breast-feeding.

Most common side effects of Cymbalta (this is not a complete list):

- nausea, dry mouth, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, drowsiness, decreased appetite, and increased sweating.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Other safety information about Cymbalta:

Cymbalta may cause sleepiness and dizziness. Until you know how Cymbalta affects you, you should not drive a car or operate hazardous machinery.

How to take Cymbalta:

Take Cymbalta exactly as directed by your healthcare provider. Cymbalta should be taken by mouth. Do not open, break or chew tablets. It must be swallowed whole. Cymbalta can be taken with or without food.

DD CCM-A (S) 10CNOV10

See back page for additional information For Patients About Cymbalta, including Boxed Warning.



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Distance from harvest to table?
About 40 feet.

Potting bench

This handy piece of outdoor furniture will serve as headquarters for your gardening gear
by JENNIFER HARRIS • Photographs by THEMAID / ISTOCK

Even if you love gardening, re-potting plants or dividing flats can feel like a real chore if you have no storage for supplies in the dark corners of the garage. Pick them on a dedicated workstation, however, and you'll never waste time leaving them down again. Our simple, three-tier potting bench features a wire mesh backing that keeps your favorite hand tools right at your fingertips. If you plan to leave it outdoors, make sure you build it from cedar or exterior-grade lumber. An indoor bench should get a weather-resistant finish, at the very least, to prevent water, soil, and fertilizer from damaging the surface. And for those of you who don't want to DIY this project, we have good news: There are potting benches on the market that suit all budgets. Just make sure the one you buy has a work surface at a comfortable height for you. Once you start using it, you'll wonder how you ever did without this green thumb's staple.



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build it •

Add more shelves or adjust the height of the work surface to make this bench just right for you.

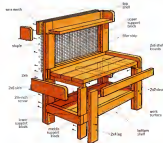
3. Make the work surface. Use a saw to cut the curved profiles on the side pieces. Join the frame together with the bottom edge flush. Secure cleats along the sides of the frame and another spanning the middle of the frame, all flush with the bottom edges. Secure the shelf boards to the cleats.

Cost: \$55 for pressure-treated lumber; \$200 for cedar

Time: 2 hours

Craftability: Easy to moderate. The cuts and assembly are fairly simple, but there are lots of pieces to put together.

1. **Make the bottom shelf.** Screw the shelf's inner together. Secure clients in the sides and across the middle of the frame. Finish with the bottom edge, as in Step 1. Secure the shelf boards to the clients.
2. **Attach the legs.** Screw in a longer support block to the legs. Prop up the bottom shelf on the blocks and secure it to the legs. Screw the middle support blocks to the legs. Rest it on the work surface on the blocks and secure it to the legs. Secure the upper support blocks to the legs.
3. **Insert the top shelf.** Lift the curved gratings or the shelf's sides. Screw the sides to the shelf. Slide the back of the shelf so that it fits snugly between the legs and against it. Start the shelf on the upper support blocks.
4. **Attach the wire mesh.** Secure a wire strip to the back side of the work surface frame, between the legs. Slide the wire mesh to the back of the bench. Finally, secure it along over the mesh to hold the top shelf in place. Find all helpful links and instructions needed for this bench at benchworks.com/bench



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Anglo Nordic, Founder

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salvage
style

Wood interior doors

Swap out your plain hollow-cores for vintage-solid wood doors, or creatively repurpose the paneled beauties to give interiors a bit of classic style.

By AMY H. BLUMENFELD • Photography by KYLE LEE & JESSIE ZEN

One of the easiest ways to sell a new house from an old one is by its interior doors. Open one and give it a good knuckle-cupping.

Doors in houses built before 1940 are typically made of solid wood, whether oak, maple, chestnut, or mahogany. They've got bell, and they make a satisfying thump when you knock. They also have sturdy rails and rails that frame handsome panels in a variety of configurations, depending on the house's architectural style.

Compare that with new, hollow doors—made of veneered plywood or fiberglass with a simulated wood grain pattern—which tend to be lightweight, noisy, and bear about as much detail as an ironing board.

That is not to say that all houses built in the past 60 years have characterless hollow doors. Some newer houses do have the good stuff. It's just that solid wood doors in anything other than paint-grade pine are hard to come by these days. To get them, you often have to put in a custom order with a mill shop or



Photo: iStockphoto.com/James

specialty door manufacturers, pay more (or miss out!) costs as much as far home-center hollow-core, and wait several for delivery.

Or you could hit the salvage yard, where you'll find sawn-up wood of period doors, many made from old-growth timber, typically starting at about \$60 each. Otherwise you can get enough matching doors to outfit an entire house, just by paying to strip old paint (using precautions to guard against lead) and do a little carpentry, either to trim down or build up the doors to size them for your particular openings.

Of course, rehanging old doors in jacks is just one of myriad ways to use them. Among my favorite-ever reuse reuse projects is to rip a series of doors on their sides to serve as wainscoting along interior walls, a trick I learned from Brad Koral of *Discovery Architectural Antiques in Guatemala, Texas*.

A single door can be used as a platform for a hanging chandelier suspended by chains, a fun idea that *The Old House reader Kadee Kuchaw* put into action as a way to create extra seating on the porch of her home in Old Idaho, Tennessee (see it at theoldhouse.com/bruno). A door can also double as a bulletin board in a home office. Simply glue cork sheets to the recessed panels for tacking notes. Or, brush the panels with blackboard paint for kids to doodle on.

For my own door "upcycling" project, I made a stylish wall-hung headboard with built-in sconces that serve as reading lamps. Follow along for the how-to. ■

more salvage ideas

► Salvage wood makes a great choice for shabby-chic parts of the house, such as the headboard.

STEP-BY-STEP

Turn a door into a headboard

Panel configuration is the first factor to consider when shopping for a door to convert. Be sure to pick one with evenly spaced squares or rectangles that are the same size and shape. That way, when you turn the door on its side, the design will be symmetrical. Craftsman-style five-panel doors with rectangles stacked one on top of the other like ladder rungs are ideal, as are Art Deco-style doors with a single recessed panel in the center. (Choose a ladder-type door in oak from The Gamewell Depot in New York City (gamewelldepot.com).

Door height is also key; most are between 70 and 96 inches. While you might be lucky enough to find a match for a standard 76-inch-wide king-size bed, for anything smaller you'll have to cut one down. For my 60-inch queen bed, I trimmed from the top and bottom to convert the door's proportions.

1 **Cost:** About \$300 for the door, screws, and 7 feet of crown
Time: 1 day
Difficulty: Moderate. Making the crown for the crown molding is the hardest part.

Hang your headboard using a French cleat. Learn how at theoldhouse.com/bruno



1 **Measure the door** to determine how thick you'll need to trim off. Use a combination square to trace the outlines.



2 **Slice off the overage** using a circular saw. To create a guide fence for the new piece, a straightedge alongside your outlines and clamp it to the door.



3 **Finish holes.** To fill the void in the edge of the door where the lock used to be, tap in a wood scrap. For the surface holes, make a matching plug out of glue mixed with sawdust left over from your efforts. Spread with a putty knife.



4 **Sand the surface.** For stripped doors like mine, remove splinters and round rough edges with a random-orbit sander. For painted ones, first remove the old finish with a liquid stripper; dry stripping can minimize toxic lead dust into the air.



5 **Cut crown for the top.** Mark the length of the door's feet on a strip of solid crown molding. Cut to size, cutting the end at 45-degree angles. Use the utility to create decorative returns for the door's outside edges.

6 **Secure the crown.** Square a bevel of glue on the crown's back side and press into place. Reinforce the bond by tapping in finishing nails about every 4 inches. Insert a bond roller to speed the process.

7 **Seal the wood.** To restore the door's luster and highlight the grain pattern, apply a natural furniture polish like Old-Craftsmen's Lemon Oil with Linseed Wax (\$7, amazon.com).

8 **Install the sconces.** Mark where you want the fixtures to be. Find a drill driver with a paddle bit, and bore holes through which to fish wires. Secure the sconces' back plates to the door using the screws provided, and hook up the lights. Now hang your new headboard.

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One room, three smart designs

They may be built around the same elements—sofa, table, shelves, and fireplace—but each of these sophisticated decorating schemes has an updated style all its own.
By KRISTINA DOUGLAS-PEPPER

A vintage home doesn't always have to boast a traditional interior. Consider the space here and on the following pages: These versions of the same living room in a century-old Victorian, the designs look anything but used. Fresh colors, textures, and furniture—a contemporary pale blue sofa in one room, a classic deepwood option in another—give each setup a unique personality. They also highlight the room's best assets: "Wonderful light, an elegant fireplace, and grand ceilings," says interior designer Jo Ann Ables of J. Stephens Interiors, in Bernardsville, New Jersey. Read on to learn more about what makes each space work so well.



The starting point: A fireplace by a simple fireplace. This reading area opens itself up to many variations.



Softer than shelling out for a primo wood rug, this room brings active change with a simple white cotton rug.

Garden fresh

An unexpected mix of colors and sharp shapes defines this reading area, giving it a youthful vibe.

1. neutral wall

Soft, warm, and peaceful, the wall's color is a perfect backdrop for the room's other elements.

2. clean-lined sofa

Contemporary in style, the sofa's clean lines and light blue color make it a perfect fit for the room's other elements.

3. metal and glass coffee table

The table's simple design and chrome finish make it a perfect fit for the room's other elements.

4. ladder-style shelves

The shelves' simple design and light blue color make them a perfect fit for the room's other elements.

5. botanical curtains

The curtains' simple design and light blue color make them a perfect fit for the room's other elements.

This resin's hardened outer palette of strength, rust, and mahogany gives the form earthy human light surroundings.



white They can look about stark, admits Afton, but crisp white walls serve as the ultimate blank slate for any design scheme.

2. *abilyred.org* *A. abilyred.org* makes it easy to search up the link of this classic seat. "Trye subilipertem or dep hie loadd wurmth," says Aikson Simetris shown. *Wormh* is a crowdsource of the year.

II. Featheredrug
Layered with irregular
feathered fibers, a
very thick (heavy)
crust of very
fine barbs.

4. Ladder shelf
Write the unit used out on the previous page for its backboard. Design reeffers it blends right in with the warm white finish here.

Leaf-print curtains A leafy line put ferns into the room's decor and onto accessories. Similar to clover.
Dunlop D3044 303
Furn. Intec.
dunlopinteriors.com

Lucy Well!

The fireplace itself has coals in the order-making area," says Pugh, especially when ordered in the morning.

2. cushy sofa The profile of the seat helps balance the irregularly shaped cushions throughout the room.

3. circular coffee table Roundout otherwise traditional furnishings with this high-glass surface on slender steel legs. Similar to shown: round coffee table, Ikea.com

4. *Allen Danksbury* The stars abhor the tall story and hooded rats in a city with the traditional central city. Addison For a bright surprise, just the inside of the street is well-known street 1885.

E. graphica maritima A strong pattern
having a complete row of scales and 1 row of
scales on girth. Similar to *spina*. Zebrafish
and blue and white cichlid marlin, etc. ■



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MEAL WITH CABBAGE



A better facade for a farmhouse

Adding details and color gives this charming, modest home more curb appeal

By DEBORAH KROGMAN • Photo illustration by HOWARD CRITAL



Before

When you own a four-apex, you can't tickle every project at once, as Gretchen Fitzmaurice of Sherwood, Ohio, knows all too well. "We've been so busy renovating the interior of our 1904 farmhouse that we've neglected the dull exterior," she told *This Old House*.

To give her a few ideas, we asked architect Marsha Topham of CG&S Design/Build, in Akron, Texas, what she'd change about Gretchen's house. Her first move: Ditch the uninviting enclosed porch. "It's not original to the house, and it isn't as great a shape as a porch," she explains. "An open porch and wider stairway would make this house much more welcoming and complement its simple lines." To add detail to the facade, Topham also suggests installing board-and-batten siding on the second story and using beaver towneek around the windows and foundation, all tied together with a paint job that highlights these new features. New windows and a back walkway would complete the transformation. "We'll love to work toward that look, right down to the paint colors," says Gretchen. ■



Stone veneer, new paint and porch opening all disguise a less-than-ideal foundation

Finishing touches

Stake it out a straight forward house with eclectic but traditional accents drawn from different eras



bracket

The Craftsman uses farmhouse with the porch a happy column Wholehouse-Milwaukee 1/2



seecoe

This section inspired features a copy of the entry Trench, 10/02



paint

Tones of grayish green play up the features of the siding. Inexpensive More: \$10 per gallon



shutter

With multiple styles and color options, these help unify the windows. Budget: \$10 per pair

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Install three-piece crown molding

Layer stock moldings onto a box beam to create a budget-friendly custom profile

By JENNIFER STAPLETON • Photography: MICHAEL T. SPENCER

Cost: about \$350 for a 10-by-10 bathroom

Time: 12 hours

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult. Mitered and coped joints require exacting cuts.

A common decorative flourish for wood-paneled homes, crown molding enriches a space by forming an eye-catching transition between the walls and ceiling. But if your ceilings are high or your room has generous moldings around windows and doorsways, a single strip of crown molding might get lost overhead. To get the right effect, you could opt to use a larger-profile molding, says The Old House restoration specialist Mark Powers. “But you’ll pay a hefty price for larger profiles,” he says. “So lower the cost without sacrificing aesthetics. Mark came up with a way to create a simple L-shaped bull beam first, then attach crown moldings to the faces and miter for a handsome, budget-appropriate result. A buddy to help you make cuts and lift the bulky pieces into place, and in just a couple of days, you’ll have pulled off a room transformation that not draw all eyes upward.”

Upper crown molding: General Grafton
Crown base: PROCEDES France
Base: Crown Color of California
Crown: Crown Color of California
Lower crown molding: ARBORCOAT 2.4-inch crown, Benjamin Moore



For complete instructions, turn the page

2. Build the half beams

A. Cut the joints and attach ceiling strips. Measure lengths of rafters and end truss and soft boards to use. If the fascia has a decorative edge, enter the ends of the boards to make the edges match up. The soffits should be mitered but make the ribs across their width so that the long joints will rest on the wall for extra support and the short boards will end on the wall for extra corners. Then level the ends after fascia to get their thicknesses to follow the style of the soffits.

Next you'll add ceiling strips to keep the attachment of the fascia and soffits square. Cut 1x4 strips for the finished run. On the back of each fascia, draw a line 1/2 inch from the decorative edge so that there's room for a bead when the soffits are mitered. Use wood glue and 1 1/2-inch screws at the six predrilled holes along the line.

B. Join the soffit and fascia. Apply glue along the seam between the strip and the fascia on the side with the decorative edge. Set the soffit in place. Drive 1 1/2-inch nails through the soffit into the fascia.

C. Attach a clamping block. This will help get the half-beam attachment. Place a clamping block on the back side of the soffit to clamp against the raft edge as shown and attach it with 1 1/2-inch screws. Repeat these steps for the remaining half beams.



2

Tip: When attaching the ceiling strip, use these upside end first and hold the strip to the line as you drive nails along the strip's length. This technique will prevent any misaligned bowing on the strip.



3

3. Install the half beams

A. Put up the half beams. Count the pint holes every 12 to 16 inches through the fascia and soffit. Lift the half beams into place and drive 2-inch screws through the plate holes and into the studs. Once you added 1/4 inch to the mitering block in Step 1a, clear well imperfections there may be gaps between the beam and the walls or ceiling. These will be covered when mitering is finished. Repeat for the adjoining half beam. Connect the beams by driving 1 1/2-inch screws through the end of the second beam (soffit) into the first beam's fascia for the finished run. Repeat for the remaining half beams.

B. Attach backing blocks for new parallel to the joints. Go to homedepot.com/bona to learn how to size and cut the blocks. Glue the blocks in place and drive 2-inch nails through them and into the beam and ceiling with the angled sides facing out.

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4. Cut the molding for inside corners

You'll begin with the upper crown molding. For detailed instructions on attaching the fence, setting the molding to the saw and making cuts, visit thisoldhouse.com/basics.

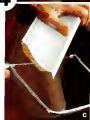
A. Cut the crown molding. Mark the molding's installation, putting a wider square to square out at the end of each cut. An inside corner is formed when a crown end abuts the face of a square cut piece that closed ends in the corner of the room. For slight fit, use a rule with two coped cuts. (An outside corner is formed from two outside mitered ends; you'll make those cuts in Step 6.)

Before making cuts, hot glue a photo scale to your saw deck to help the molding stay in place. To prepare the end of a molding for coping, you'll give it an open miter cut to expose the profile's face. When using a square miter saw, always position the molding square down on the surface that the miter cut will be backward.

When you're done cutting the upper molding, pull off the horizontal fence and secure a new one to the saw for the lower molding to account for its different profile.

B. Prepare the miter for coping. Hold a pencil with the lead end along against the coping mitered face while making. Denote the edge of the profile as shown.

C. Cope the ends. With a coping saw, carefully back-saw the molding, following its profile as shown.



Tip: Always cut the exposed end of a piece of molding **fast**, then cut the repetitive end of the board to length. That way, if your cope cut isn't perfect, you can make it without wasting the piece.

5. Install an inside corner

A. Install the first rail. On the fence, mark where the lower edge of the upper molding should fall. Position the first rail of molding along this line and hold it square out and against the corner. Drive 2-inch nails through the molding and into the fencings. Then drive 2-inch nails through the molding and into the joints or backing blocks. Don't add nails within the last few feet of the coped end; in case adjustments are needed while the adjoining rail is installed.

B. Install an inside corner. But the coped end of the rail requires a miter cut against the face of the square rail end you just installed. If needed, add shims to make a tight joint between the pieces. Drive nails next to each other through the joint to secure the pieces, and nail the rest of the molding in place as you did in Step 5A. Repeat all steps for lower crown molding, setting it both well and tight.



Event Spotlight

The Los Angeles Project Wins



The CM House TV series "Hollywood" in 2001, looking a crowd in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles. Although the homeowners loved this interactive HGTV Spanish Revival, their friends were quickly enjoying it. Taking care to preserve its charm and aged detail, the TOH team expanded the home and updated its systems to create a more efficient and generous living space.



A great track: the remodeled home shines on the way, bright and spacious new kitchen and master bath.

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Building Blocks for a Perfect

PATIO

The experts at **This Old House** give pointers on picking the right surface to suit your patio's function, its surroundings, and your budget

BY JEANNE HUBER

Creating a new living area outdoors is a whole lot easier than adding one indoors. Sure, you've got to furnish both. But in the backyard, there's no fussing with walls, ceilings, doors, or windows. All you really need is a floor. ■ That's why one of the first steps in planning a new patio is deciding which material to put underfoot, typically brick, concrete, stone, or gravel. The surface you choose plays

a huge role in establishing not only the style of your patio but also its cost, whether you can build it yourself, and how you'll care for it over the long term.

■ Follow along to learn which patio material is right for you, get guidance on coming up with a design, and find installation tips for cost-conscious DIYers.

Curving concrete

Stamped and tinted to resemble stone, this poured concrete patio follows the contours of planting beds. Creating such curves with rebar requires complicated cuts. *Smaller shows:* Stamped this feature encased concrete. \$11 to \$12 per square foot installed. www.thisoldhouse.com for a pro near you.

This spacious patio is built to last with a zigzagging herringbone pattern that helps lead the bricks in place. Used for centuries on both porches and paths, herringbone is also the traditional choice for more formal landscapes and heavier styles. You can make the path in with any rectangular brick or paver. But if you're really eye-catching with these long ones, we find with their narrow edges facing up. Similar to how PavingStony.com's antique stone costs \$24.99 per square foot. pavingstony.com

HOW IT'S DONE
The patented surface gets the attention (and thermal credit) for its. A plus: putting insulation to what Ken Leonard & Sons, a sturdy base layer topped with stone dust. Polyurethane seal fills the joints between panels.



Figure 1

[illegible]

The beauty of a freestanding pergola, like this one, is you don't have to anchor it to the house or move gutters. That said, here are a few things to consider:

Footings: Posts are typically sunk 2 to 3 feet deep, depending on the person's height, and set in tamped gravel. A skirted base (shown) provides a finished look.

Materials: Options for posts, rafters, and joists include treated lumber (look for white solid stain), easy-care vinyl-clad aluminum, and composite made from recast plastic. Shade fabrics provide some protection from the sun, but for more coverage you can add a canopy of leafy vines or climbing roses (phew!).

[illegible]

A photograph of a garden patio area. In the foreground, there is a paved patio with a small table and four chairs. To the left, a stone staircase leads up to a grassy area. Various plants and flowers are visible throughout the garden.

The new high-technology is releasing wall coverings made with the smooth blue stone on this ultra-soft paper. Adding even more interest are the various soft papers and textures of colors, including shades of blue, gray and purple. The paper is made fit so tightly that the surfaces smooth enough to look out a characteristic for the fireplace. To learn how to install a new blue stone paper check out EkoStone.com/Install. Smaller booklets: [PAJ-Color-Adhesive-Carb-Masonry-\\$5.75](http://PAJ-Color-Adhesive-Carb-Masonry-$5.75) are available from thebluestone.com.

Askew deck chairs worked well in this public-house: the left are broad enough to open the wide, gravel-filled drains in a rough Regency style. Because the bottom face of each stone underlaid as much as the top, new tiles like this takes time and skill to install. You need to select each piece individually; you can't just spread a layer of bedding over and crushed gravel into it and set the pavers on top, as you can when using smooth stones of uniform thickness. Similar to stone, Corian Rosewhite semi-quartzite underlaid:

3.3 to 3.5 per square foot. www.centre.com



Abstract
 Journal of Management
 and Organization,
 1998, 4(1), 1-10.



This patio features a fountain with a cliff finish, created by splitting the stone into natural layers. The rough, real bumble made of branch joints, used were just as easily as if they had been from a garden bush. Simply add a few more. The relatively wide gaps between flagstones are placed with a spring theme. This post-laying look, growing groundcover, doesn't require mowing or much watering, and slowly applied leaf litter. Additive grass or foliage grows up in late spring. Blooming flowers in shades of lavender, white, or red. Similar to some, *Aucuba-Solida flagstone*, 13 to 25 per square foot, discounts center.

- Green crack fillers are more salicifiable than mortar and help soften the look of stone. The following plants thrive in most parts of the country and prefer full or partial sun. Find them online at highcountrygardens.com.

- Thymus minus
- Spanish sandwort
- Turkish speedwell
- Creek yarrow
- Miniature meadow daisy*
- Thyme leaf speedwell

^a must be clearly and neatly shown.

THE ART OF THE

Seamless Addition

With a smart design and careful craftsmanship, the owners of the latest **TOD TV PROJECT** add square footage without sacrificing their house's modest scale or period style

BY KETH PANDOLF • PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA ROWEN • STYLING BY DARYLEAGLE

WHAT THEY HAD

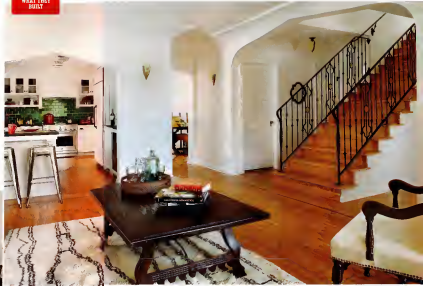


WHAT THEY DID



old meets new

The living and dining rooms were nearly untouched (LIFT). A new family room (LIFT) blends in with the old space by incorporating their architecture's textures and finishes. Modern-style arched openings, doors and moldings, art, white plaster walls, and white wood floors.



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"NO MATTER WHAT STYLE YOUR HOUSE IS, the trick for any addition is to make it appear as if it were always there," says *The Old House* master carpenter Norm Ableson. It's a challenge he and the rest of the crew helped tackle on the latest *TOD TV* project, a 1930s bungalow in Los Angeles's densely built-in Los Feliz neighborhood.

Of course, some houses' features are easier to re-create than others. The owners' 1,500-square-foot two-bedroom, one-bath house, bought before they were married and had two children, was a Spanish

The painted addition in the back of the house fits right in, thanks to careful stucco work and red clay barrel tiles that were salvaged during demolition and installed on the new roof's visible perimeter.

Colonel: Reviel with lots of attractive features, like over ceilings and Moorish-style arches and openings. The more clear Art Deco influences, too, in the bedrooms and kitchen. A low-slung renovation featuring I have talked at the complex's design for an updated kitchen, more family space, and extra bedrooms and baths that would blend in with the existing house. They might have even a ramped flat and flat with they say the right site. He seemed to say anywhere on each side, and facing a steep local code limiting the addition footprint to 750 square feet, where would the new rooms go?

Lack of the project's constraints, Los Angeles-based Elmore Forest Design + Build, has found regular customers here. "This firm specializes in Southern California vernacular style, so they've got the right skills, expertise, and willingness for this type of renovation," says Moss. Their small footprint, two-story addition gives Karkand-Mary the space they're seeking, and with some help from interior designer Rachel Mann, each room puts the period's essence to the test. "We love it," says Kark.

Keep reading to learn how he and Mary intermingled original and new elements to create a timeless find for their family's home.



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[illegible]

o vintage-modern kitchen Homeowners Karl Albrecht and Mary Elise (JAN 1997) wanted to blend the period feel of their existing Upper Meriden (CT) house. To improve the floor plan, they extended the rear porch a few feet and opened it up via an arched entry to the breakfast room, adding a new entry to the entry's small library and the range wall (JAN 07). The kitchen and bathroom took the room apart "messy" but the new "modern" kitchen, including upper cabinets, island, and decorative brackets and a new planter, was a great first step. Art Deco-inspired light fixtures, wall-to-wall chrome faucet.

Homenages Karl Moser and Miro Eisel
Eisel's existing *Malheur* (2017). To improve
revel and exposed it up via an analogy to the
small library to add the range wall (2018)
and "mass intelligence" looking at the upper
and setting a planker framework. Art Demo-
2018.

The original bedrooms and bath in the back of the house were turned off to make way for the two-story addition, which packs in four bedrooms, three baths, a family room, and a patio, with enough space left over to enlarge the kitchen.



IRON RAILINGS Instead of having all the pieces hand forged, Wart and Macy ordered 12-inch railings from a catalog and tapped a local iron shop to weld on extra decorative details. "Adding these finishing touches was more affordable than making the railings entirely from scratch," says Paula Bradley of J.O.M. Design, which did the ironwork.

ROOF TILE The original handmade clay roof tiles are one-of-a-kind, and not all of them could be saved when the back of the house was torn down. So the parts of the roof that can't be seen from the street are covered with factory-made clay tiles in the same color and shape.

PLASTER WALLS AND DOVE CEILINGS Kurt and Mary fit their remodeler's idea of the complete renovation. These features, though, Home Front could have spared it. Apply plaster over metal lath for the walls, they went with a common time-saving method instead, lath-and-trim plaster over sheetrock, a special drywall made for this purpose. And instead of building out framing to make the covers, the contractor layed plaster on top of precasted 24-in. panels that were glued to the walls. Installed over these technologies is the old-fashioned time between two lath.



100

• **better in back**

The rear of the house, a non-mandolitic (AHTVL), got a boost from the edition's period-inspired elements (TQHT). Decorative iron railings, end terrace walls, tile-infused rustic stucco, and the ground-level patios, framed by a double-timbered screen, the front porch.



● **sweet sleeping spot**

o sweet sleeping spot The newmaster bedframe (M207) is only about half the size of the old one. It's light and sleek, with a feathered curve that's fitting a big space. Mary (a well-known) doesn't share her long, thin bed with Mary. Making it small allowed space for another bedframe and a new floor, which is now a nursery, but will one day be a home office. The couple's living is now below features. As a Jiffy being involved in the park, they've added a new size and a new online, new design, and a new design, and a new design, and a new design.



bold, airy, and relaxed. In the side hall, bedrooms (B12-B15) also suit Karl and Mary's taste. For their newmaster bath, they went with a contemporary palette of soft greens and white, adding freuders and accent tile that evokes classic Art Deco motifs (P1007). They also opted to bring in the Spanish Colonial revival style by using wicker for the frame of the toilet, showers, and tub showers (P1070M). The writers give each of these spaces children's and primary while putting the bathroom in with the adjacent master bedrooms.



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Living large in a small space

Seven strategies for turning a not-so-big yard into a series of beautiful, useful outdoor rooms



colorful containers
Pots of cosmos, impatiens, bellis, asterisks, dianthus, grass, and purple flowering espagnole bring life to the stone wall.



By Shirley Barnes
Photographs by Linda Oyama Bryan
Produced by Colette Bonson

MOST EVENINGS, when the weather is warm, George Kinsella arrives home from work and heads straight to his backyard pool to unwind. "I love the sound of the water falling and feeling the jets," he says, adding to the three guests he's been up to just last. "It's really relaxing."

Kinsella wanted seven years to redo his little daily pleasure. It took five years for him and his wife, Susan, to remodel their 1940s Chicago-area home. Once the house was finally finished, they could concentrate on the landscape, which presented a few challenges. A worn wood deck claimed half the backyard, a 3-foot-deep tiled 4-inches from the back door to the end of the lot, and George had a long list of what he wanted in the tight 33-by-37-foot space: the pool, of course; a dining area with room for a grill; places for lounging and entertaining his family and friends; a putting green, and an outdoor spa. Out front, he wanted a spot to sit and watch his four teenage sons race a ball around.

George, who owns a landscape firm, set with his designers to sketch out a plan. This has crew began to gradually



multi-level outdoor living
A patio for dining is the heart of a gardenable yard. Here, the house of George and Susan Kinsella is the center. The company of a window above the pool is part of the design, and a new lawn provides a perfect backdrop.

transform the yard, the back one summer and the front the next, firing up the work between chest jobs.

Today, George marvels that he put everything he wanted on his small property, yet it doesn't feel cramped. "It's a cozy space," he says. "But people say 'I hate coze!' when they walk into the backyard. They are blown away by how much is going on." Here are some of the design strategies he and his team used to turn a once featureless space into a lush, varied landscape.

1. Work back to front

On a narrow lot like this one, with limited access points, it's important to decide what the backyard's most important elements will be and start there. This will keep major earth-moving equipment and foot traffic from mangling finished landscaping out front. For George, a good-size pond with a waterfall was pretty number one. So the plan called for a dramatic two-tier waterfall to start in one corner of the yard and flow along a 15-foot curve that empties into a pond 15 feet long and 7 feet across at its widest points. As soil was excavated for the pond, it was mounded up behind the basin to create the base for the waterfall; the pond liner was hidden with granite boulders and limestone cacti, which were softened with patches of plants. The water feature can be seen from every spot in the backyard and from inside the house.

2. Think in layers

The other main-hive on George and Sheri's lot was a patio for outdoor dining just steps from the kitchen—easy on the sun, where the yard sloped down and away from the house. The resulting dining patio of tumbled concrete pavers steps down via three wide stone slabs of limestone outcropping to a smaller patio paved with sanding that hugs the water's edge. Using different levels for the patios creates separate garden rooms: the steep-down transition from one area to another helps make the small space feel more expansive. Additional features that George wanted were nestled in alongside the main elements. A growing garden flanked a house between the pond and garage, a hot tub perks out from under the branches of a tree adjacent to the upper patio, and a grill sits outside just outside the kitchen door.

3. Make features do double duty

Designing elements that have more than one use adds value in a small yard. The driveway was set with attractive pavers that essentially transform the area in front of the coach-house-style garage into another patio. When hosting their large extended family and friends, the couple can use the space to set up a bar and tables. "This has helped us entertain as easily as 100 people here," says George.

The plan

While the lot measures 60 by 250 feet, the driveway and garage left a backyard area about 33 by 57 feet to work with. Though the landscape design is dominated by the two elevated patios and the pond, spots for putting and chipping and an outdoor spa are discreetly tucked in. In front, the lawn was not back to create a beautiful patio with lush borders and easy seating. Below is a plan of the yard showing the photographer's view of the house.



patio for sitting and dining

Water seating offers a place to relax on the patio near the pond. Three steps up to a smaller patio for outdoor dining, with a grill just a few feet from the kitchen door.

see all 21 varieties
For a complete and free plan, visit www.earthlink.net/landscape

A landscape by George & Sheri

plant power

In-curved, an evergreen plant, grows at the pond's edge. The purple-blue flowers open in late summer.

Similarly, a low, curved, stone veneer wall along the upper patio defines the eating area while no blossoms creep doubles as casual seating. Sheri also uses the wall as a shelf for colorful containers all year long, changing the plantings to reflect the seasons. Annual flowering plants cheer up the patio in spring, summer, and fall are switched out for evergreen hedges and trees in winter. The free-proof flangeless containers weather the elements without problem. When guests arrive, the plants can be moved to make space to set out trays of drinks or bars of snacks in party time.

4. Add warmth with the right light

George wanted a fire pit that he could see from all over the backyard, so rather than opt for a five-foot fireplace, he took a cue from the local cove. In a corner just off the upper patio, he created a grade-level river-rock-over-paved "fire" ringed with granite boulders and furnished with a firewood grate for logs. The simple setup gets used year-round, grilling one shoreline has become a traditional Christmas treat. During a January event at the summer, Sheri might switch out the stone grate for a container of flowers.

Functioned as well as beautiful, outdoor lighting gives a magical quality to the yard at night and extends the use of the space into the evening hours. Lights are hidden under the top edges of the stone wall and steps, and recessed into pathways for safe strolling after dark. Spotlights angled upward accent the specimen trees and add drama. Lighted cups in the putting green even call out for a few practice shots.



campfire style

A stone veneer wall, with granite boulders for a rustic fire pit.



pleasant surprise
Thanks to the plants, the walkway and yard along the house are a pleasant surprise.

soften hard edges

Plants can soften the hard edges of a house and create a warm, inviting look. By adding plants to the garden, the house looks softer and more welcoming.



F



vibrant foliage

Plants with vibrant foliage, such as Japanese forest grass, can add a pop of color to the garden.



5 Use paths to tie spaces together

Paths for strolling and exploring help tie together the separate areas of the yard. Decomposed granite walkways curve around the patio and pond, providing a delightful touch of color and texture that looks like a natural extension of the landscape. Instead of using concrete, the path was made of decomposed granite with wide joints for ground cover. The path got heavy traffic that never gave the plants a chance to become established and led to muddy footprints inside the house. Sealed limestone was removed and replaced with a 4-inch layer of decomposed granite over a 3-inch gravel base.

6 Reimagine the front lawn

The traditional swath of green in front provides a place for kids and dogs to play, sure, but strategic landscaping can make the area work even harder. The "Kissell" front patio of our house is a warm welcome and offers a vantage point for the parents to see their four baseball-loving teenage boys play catch. "Tale sitting on the side of the entry offers us a view to relax and enjoy watching the kids. It's also a great place to sit for morning guests, and, come fall, George and Susan love to sit here to greet our guests on the porch. The porch railing was replaced with the same tumbled pavers as in back to tie all the landscape together."

7 Be strategic with plants

The landscape planting plan involves several varieties of easy-care plants. Perennials planted in the front beds come back every year and quickly grow to fill empty space. Plants with varying leaf sizes and textures and colors. The wide leaves of grass, blue, and variegated hostas contrast with Japanese forest grass's wispy, chartreuse foliage. Flowering shrubs such as hydrangeas and viburnums provide color during the growing season and then turn rich red and burgundy in autumn. Small ornamental trees, including redbud, serviceberry, Japanese maple, and river birch, add spring flowers and contrasting bark and foliage—all while screening the views of neighboring houses. Groundcovers such as sedum and pachyramphus fill in quickly and soften the look of so much stone. Container gardens provide an easy-to-change, movable feast of color, offering a lot of versatility in a small space. In summer, lush foliage plants, including variegated arisaema, coleus, creeping jenny, chartreuse sweet potato vine, supergrass fern, and grassy leaved sweet flag, brighten the patio with eye-catching foliage. Most last into the fall for a long, almost effortless season of continuous color.

ALL ABOUT

Landscape lighting

Our experts explain what it takes to put your property in the best light after the sun goes down. By *Jill Gorman*

You've pulled out all the stops to make your home and yard look first-rate. So why let that hard work disappear at nightfall when, with a flick of a switch and some strategically placed landscape lights, you can still lack the darkness and put it all on display? Done right, landscape lighting makes the best of what you've put by highlighting your home's architectural features and drawing attention to prized plantings and trees.

Most landscape lighting today is low-voltage, and with good reason. Unlike 120-volt systems, it's safer to work with and less costly to install. And though low-voltage lights receive one-tenth the power, thanks to a step-down transformer, there's no limit to the effects they can achieve, from dramatic moonlight beamed down from a tree canopy to a subtle glow that washes over a low garden wall.

Mean that just picking the right hardware, a pleasing lighting scheme is also about strategy. On the following pages we cover both ends of the equation, from explaining the different types of fixtures and bulbs to showing you where to place them for maximum impact. Combine that with loads of tips for a money-saving DIY installation, and it won't be long before you'll be looking forward to moonrise.

What's in a low-voltage system

Landscape lighting typically relies on stepped-down power from your house.

Transformer
Reduces 120-volt household current to a safer 12 volts.

Bulbs
Delivers a soft, long-lived glow, and lower wattage means less electricity usage.

Fixture housing
Protects bulbs from elements and helps direct light beam.

Wiring
Carries current to light through buried conduits.



Underfoot trees and around big trees define the house's profile in making good use of the atmosphere around this house.

VITALS

DIY or hire a pro?
Homeowners can install a simple system as a weekend. For the most stunning effects, go with a landscape lighting specialist familiar with the various fixtures and ways to arrange them.



What's it cost?
Individual fixtures start around \$20. Cables run 70 cents per foot, and a transformer can be had for \$200. A 30-light system installed by a pro typically starts at \$2,000 to \$2,500.

How much upkeep?
Keep fixtures free of leaves and debris to prevent them from overheating. Replace burned-out bulbs immediately so that others on the circuit aren't subject to the shortening voltage overload.

How long will they last?
Most entry-level fixtures and transformers range from one to 10 years, but fixtures made of brass, copper, or stainless steel should shine indefinitely.

Types of lights

There's a specific fixture for each task, whether the job is uplighting a tree or bathing your home's facade in a warm glow.



well

The well light is a small, cylindrical, black metal fixture that is installed in the ground to illuminate a specific area like a flower bed or garden path. It is available with either flood or twinkle bulbs. **SHOW LK300SL** well light by Bahco with 20-watt halogen, \$33, bahco.com



bullet

These versatile, compact fixtures are often filled with bullet halogen or LED bulbs. They're great for precisely lighting house features, tree trunks, and garden structures. **SHOW LV700** spotlight by Bahco with 20-watt halogen, \$33, bahco.com



downlight

These fixtures, often called nightcapers and installed in the ground, are often filled with bullet halogen or LED bulbs. They're great for precisely lighting house features, tree trunks, and garden structures. **SHOW LV700** spotlight by Bahco with 20-watt halogen, \$33, bahco.com

garden

Available in sizes of 18- to 24-inch, garden lights are often filled with bullet halogen or LED bulbs. They're great for precisely lighting house features, tree trunks, and garden structures. **SHOW LV700** spotlight by Bahco with 20-watt halogen, \$33, bahco.com



wash

These are used to illuminate large areas like lawns, patios, and garden paths. **SHOW Landscape LED** by Bahco with 4-watt LED, \$45, bahco-lighting.com

flood

Typically with a wider beam than a bullet—40 degrees or more—flood lights are often used to illuminate large areas like lawns, patios, and garden paths. **SHOW Landscape LED** by Bahco with 4-watt LED, \$45, bahco-lighting.com



How to map out your plan

If you don't want to let a finger go with a pen (find one through ahp.com), the website of the Association of Outdoor Lighting Professionals (AOLP) has a lot of information. But homeowners will also want a little of the know-how and experience a pro can provide by following the advice of Mark Pasteris, owner of Connecticut's Landscape Lighting in Acton, Massachusetts. Here are his top design tips:

• **Trees** (well, bullet, or flood, and downlight). When aiming ground lights straight up into foliage, be sure to aim the beam in light. If you don't, the uplighters will look like glowing UFOs. When illuminating foliage from above, place two 20-watt downlight fixtures at a tree's base and point them so that their beams do not cross.

• **Planting beds** (garden). Place fixtures no closer than 20 feet apart. "You want pools of light to guide your eye from one plant to the next, not create major illuminations."

• **Home facade** (bullet and well). Fit bulb set lights with bulbs that have 12-degree beam spreads, and aim them at the corners of your house or architectural details, so the washlights can fill in the space between them.

• **Garden walls** (well, bullet, or flood). Place fixtures close to the base of the wall so the light is directed upward.

• **Focal points** (flood, bullet, or well). Highlight an element that deserves attention—such as a fountain, a tree, a wing, or a statue—by using two or more light at it. The crossing beams reduce the harsh shadows that form when only one shines on an object.

For more outdoor lighting design ideas, visit ahp.com or contact the design guide The Landscape Lighting Book by Janet Lennox Sawyer.

Tips for DIYers

If you're up for digging trenches, you can save big by installing your own lighting. Here's what you need to know

- 1. Where to buy?** All the components you need are available online at sites such as landscapelightworks.com or



Low-voltage outdoor Drop wire must be buried at least 6 inches deep. A plastic spike (shown) makes the fixture (left) in the ground. Similar to solvent-fused plastic walk light, spike costs \$12. www.theflight.com

Should you pay more for LEDs?

With no filament to break or burn out, LEDs can last 40,000 hours, approximately 20 years of regular use, compared with just two years for halogen bulbs. LEDs are also extremely efficient, sipping 1 to 12 watts of power versus 20 to 60 watts for halogens. That means lower installation costs due to smaller transformers and cables, lower operating costs, and reduced maintenance, for up to a 50-percent savings over halogen systems in the course of 15 years.

But LEDs have their drawbacks, chiefly their high initial cost—about \$40 per bulb, compared with \$5 for a similar halogen. Also, many LEDs have a cold blue light with a color temperature around 6,000 K (kelvins). Look instead for a warm-color temperature, about 3,000 K. And don't forget to look at light output, in lumens, to make sure you're getting enough brightness. LED performance is improving, but it still lags behind that of halogens. Dimmable output is the biggest knock against solar-powered fixtures, which abuse LEDs. They might have enough glow to define a garden-edge, but not to light up your house.

Get this look

A wash of light from carefully placed fixtures creates stunning focal points in the midst of darkness

• Lighting facade

Upset at fading outdoor lights placed close to a house? The Foundation House at Berkeley uses a more appealing architectural alternative. Here, they are lined at sturdy points in the facade. Also shown, contemporary Shown infrared directional lights with 20-watt halos, \$64 each, www.uniquelighting.com



• Lighting garden

To maximize durability when garden fixtures must be taller than the plantings, such as in this example, that you want to showcase. Similar to shown, Farlight Tuxedo Series LPH-101 with 10-watt bulb, \$120 each, www.benroter.com



• Illuminating trees

To do less than 20 feet tall, use only a couple of 20-watt halos. A 30-foot tree may require three to five uplights at 30 to 60 watts apiece. Similar to shown, Bulbless second lights with 20-watt halos, \$40 each, www.benroter.com



• Lighting landscape

The front of the house isn't the only place to use linear uplights. Here, they illuminate the landscape and warm-up the night. Shown, Farlight Tuxedo wall light with 12-watt LED strip, \$105 each, and Trillium's downlight with 20-watt halos, \$64 each, www.uniquelighting.com



• Lighting paths

Because you can't just dig up a full row, sometimes you need some extra dimensions. In addition to providing light to guide, a border of three recessed lights to define the stone path in this second garden plan. Shown, Linear downlight with 20-watt halos, \$64 each, www.uniquelighting.com



Light pollution

We are alone skywatchers for the bright lights that some studies show can disrupt night-migrating birds, which are slow to migrate. But what about your yard's future? The likely vertigo for those are your neighbors, who get unwanted glare through windows. While leaving landscape lights on at night guarantees homeowners a sense of security, they come at the expense of those around them, says Thomas M. Wilkins, chief of design in Portland, Oregon, and a member of the International Dark Sky Association. "If you're not awake and enjoying your lights, turn them off," he says. —GILLIAN BARTH



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ask this oldhouse

inside

CRACKED PATIO

POST REMOVAL

NOISY SHOWERHEAD

MORE



48

tips, tricks, and answers to your home-improvement questions

Q How can I make sure my window boxes are getting enough water?

—TOMMY L. ANDERSON

A Window boxes dry out fast, so they need frequent watering. And not enough that the boxes rot. Start with heavy feed drains, and fill them with a lightweight sandier mix, and less kind of peat moss, perlite, and water-absorbing polymers is best. Then, depending on the weather and our experience, water twice or twice a day to keep the roots evenly moist. Self-watering planters (which are perfect for that task). —TOMMY L. ANDERSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICTOR SCHWAGER

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I bought a Japanese saw for cutting molding and trim, but I can't get it to cut very well. Is there a special technique for using this kind of saw?

—DANIEL HALL, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.



For precise cuts, make sure the teeth are facing the right way. The teeth on the left are for rip cuts, while the teeth on the right are for cross cuts.

Norm Abram replies: Japanese saws cut differently from Western saws, so they do require a different sawing technique. Unlike Western saws, which cut when you push them into the wood, a Japanese saw cuts only on the pull stroke. That means the blade can be much thinner because it doesn't have to resist the pushing motion. Put that together with very sharp teeth and you have a lightweight saw that's great for making very smooth, very precise cuts in molding. I've used these saws for everything from cutting inside balusters to blades for furniture parts.

To get the best results, first make sure the teeth are suitable for the type of cut you want to make. Blades with lots of very teeth are best for cuts across the wood grain, blades with fewer, bigger teeth are best for cuts made with the grain.

Now get a correct grip on the handle. Place your index finger on top of the handle pointing toward the blade, and keep your forearm broad up with the length of the saw. To begin a cut, place the blade at the corner of the wood that's away from you, tilt the handle up for a bit, and pull the saw toward you for a full stroke. The pressure of the saw against the work should be minimal, just enough to hold the teeth against

the wood. At the end of the stroke, loosen that pressure and push the blade back through the cut. Pull back again and repeat the cycle, but gradually bring the saw to a more horizontal position as the cut gets deeper. Continue sawing until you have completed the cut.

One word of caution: Pull-saw cuts are incredibly sharp, so be sure to keep your fingers well away from the action. And to keep those teeth sharp, get a place ground over them whenever you put the saw away.

PAVERS OVER A CRACKED PATIO
Our 35-year-old concrete patio has developed severe cracks, and there are some sections that have sunk as much as 16 inches. Looking it up and removing it seems like a huge job. Can I just place pavers over the old concrete?

—NANCY FORBES, DUNDY, ILL.

Roger Cook replies: Laying the pavers in place would not be my first choice, because it doesn't solve the problem that caused it to sink in the first place. And laying pavers over concrete isn't as simple as it sounds.

For instance, you should hire an engineer to determine if the subgrade is stable. If it isn't, breaking up the patio is your only option. If it is stable, you'll have to seal the cracks and install a new edging in concrete along the patio's sides. The edging holds in the pavers' sand setting bed and prevents them from shifting. Also, if you have steps up to the patio, codes say the pavers must be below the first step by the height of the riser to prevent tripping. And if you have wood siding, keep at least a 2-inch gap beneath it. Sure, breaking up concrete is a



A Hydraulic bottle jack

B Smoothing sand for pavers

C Grout should be laid in between

D Or

FOR THE APPROX. 100,000



Damaged fence posts can be restored safely by installing some leverage, either with a hydraulic bottle jack or a long 2x6.

big job, but I think you'll find that it's not as time consuming as you imagine. Removing it will allow you to remedy any soil problems and properly prepare the surface for pavers or another concrete patio.

REMOVE FENCE POSTS

A tree fell in our cedar fence, and now some of the posts are leaning over. Can I simply push them back into position or should they be removed? How do I remove a post that's anchored in concrete?

—SCOTT AFFRAY, BIRMINGHAM, MISS.

Tom Silva replies: If the posts aren't damaged, go ahead and push them back, then tamp the soil firmly around each one to hold it in place. A long-handled sledge hammer is a good tool for doing this. But if the posts are damaged or broken, pull them out with a hydraulic bottle jack or a long lever

To use the bottle-jack method, add a piece of 2x6 to the side of the post just a bit higher above the ground than the length of the jack. Rest the jack on a strip of 2x6 to spread the load, then pump the jack up against the nailer on the post. It should just pop out of the concrete.

If you don't have a jack, use a lever. Nail a 2x6 strip to the side of the post, and place a center block about 1 foot from the post. Rest the edge of an 8- or 10-foot-long 2x6 on the block, and rock one end under the nailer. Push the lever down, and the post should come right up, maybe with the concrete attached.

REPAIR A SPLIT PORCH COLUMN

Three of our wooden porch columns have developed large splits. Is my porch roof going to collapse? Can the columns be repaired?

—JILL CLARK, TROY, N.Y.

Norm Abram replies: I don't think your porch is going to fall down, but you should deal with this problem as soon as you can.

Wood columns like yours are made of staves and glued together. The glue joint failed, probably because of moisture trapped inside the columns, and now, with nothing to stop the water from getting in, the other joints are likely to fail too. The columns will have to be removed so that they can be repaired. Here's how to go about it.

Jack up the roof slightly where it rests on a column, and support the roof temporarily with a 4x4 post. Now you can remove the column. Prance yourself and your soundings from the last post that's likely to be present, then scrape or sand down to the bare wood along the open joint.

Clean both sides of the joint with 80-grit sandpaper or a thin rasp, and spread a waterproof woodworking glue, such as Titebond III, on the mating surfaces. Pull the staves back together using band clamps placed about every foot or so along the column shaft. Use a damp cloth to wipe away glue that seeps out. After the glue dries, treat any bare wood with a water repellent. Finally, prime all the exterior surfaces—particularly the rod grain at the column's base—and as much of the inside of the column shaft as you can reach. When the primer dries, resand the column.

I suspect that the other columns are also going to fail, so this will probably require continuing maintenance. That's why you may want to consider replacing them with ones made of foam or fiberglass, which can't split and won't require much, if any, care.

Continued on page 122

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Use a wheelbarrow to transport soil to the bare spots, or simply to dump the soil into a wheelbarrow.

How can I fix my half-dead lawn, which is full of yellow patches, weeds, and bare spots? —THE SETON HURSTON, MAINE

Roger Cook replies: When a lawn is more than 50 percent dead—whether it's due to soil compaction, not getting enough water, being cut too short, or some other problem—it's easier to remove all the grass and start over with fresh seed.

The first step is to have the soil

tested by a local extension service to see if it needs amending. Once the test results are in, order the recommended soil amendments and compost. Then rent a soil cutter to slice up the old grass and a rotary tiller to fluff up the soil and blend in the amendments. With these tools, you can make an 1,800-square-foot lawn in a weekend.

Finally, spread fresh seed over the prepared soil and water it daily. You want the top layer of soil to stay evenly moist until the seeds germinate. By spring's end, your lawn should look as good as new.

Costs: \$285 for seed and compost; \$450 for tool rental.
Time: Two days.
Difficulty: Easy. Working the machines and spreading seed is heavy manual labor.

STEP-BY-STEP

Rejuvenate a dead lawn

1. Cut the sod

Using a sod cutter, slice through the grass-roots to make long strips of loose sod. These patches are difficult to turn, so make your cuts parallel to the lawn's longest edge, if possible. Cut as much of the lawn as you can with the cutter, and a hoe for tight spots near the house.



2. Remove the grass

Chop the long strips of sod into manageable 1- to 2-foot-long sections with a spade. Then snap them into a wheelbarrow and take them to your compost pile. Heavy-duty sections can be used to patch bare spots elsewhere in the yard.



3. Till the soil

Loosen up the top 2 to 4 inches of soil with a rotary tiller. For sandy or overcompacted soil, add a 1/2-inch layer with well-mixed peat. For heavily compacted soil, a rotary tiller is the better choice. Follow the same path as the sod cutter to minimize turns. One pass should be sufficient.



4. Spread compost

Order enough compost to cover the yard (and an extra one cubic yard per 320 square feet). Have it delivered or distribute it with a wheelbarrow. For heavy clay soils, spread 1 inch of sand along with compost to improve drainage. Broadcast it with the tiller.

5. Grade the soil

Smooth the lawn with a grading rake and mix the compost and amendments into the top 2 inches of soil until no large clumps remain. Start by holding the rake a couple inches lower to the ground so that the soil can blend and mix more thoroughly. Then lift the handle higher to rake the soil smooth. Take short strokes to prevent ruts and bumps.

6. Spread the seed

Using a spin-caster, distribute seeds at the amounts recommended by the seed test. Then broadcast fresh seed with a spreader set at its slowest opening. Overlap each pass by a few inches. Sweep the seeds into the soil with the back of a shovel. Finish by watering the seeds well. Water daily until the seeds sprout.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

 COVER I-JOISTS

Q I'd like to turn my basement into a finished living space with some partition walls. The first floor is framed with I-joists instead of traditional sawn lumber. Will this affect my project?

—LEWIS HALL, DOWNEY, N.Y.

Form 800a reprints: Unlike some joist, I-joist have a "web" made of plywood or oriented strand board (OSB), and two flanges attached to the web's top and bottom edges. The flanges are critical to the joist's strength, never cut, notch, or damage them in any way.

You can fasten drywall ceilings, suspended ceilings, and the tops of walls to the underside of the bottom flanges using nails or screws, but keep the following requirements in mind:

When working with screws and lags, always drill pilot holes first. With nails, size and spacing are crucial. For instance, 16d common nails, generally the largest

allowed), should be spaced no closer than 6 inches on center. Smaller nails may let you reduce spacing; check with the manufacturer for specifics.

Before nailing into the sides of a flange, check it for laminations that look like plywood. You can't nail or screw into the side of this type of flange because you'll split the lamination apart and irreparably weaken the joint.

If you run wiring or pipes through the joists, use the scored knockouts in the flange with, if they're not in the right place for your needs, contact the manufacturer to see what your options are.

 WHISTLING SHOWERHEAD

Q I installed a new showerhead a few weeks ago. It worked fine for a while, but now it starts to whistlle after the water runs for a couple of seconds. What's causing this problem and how can I fix it?

— ГЛАВНОЕ — ВРАТА ОТКРЫТЫ



D-4 NOISE OUT FLASHING

The polyethylene Dryfield captures water flowing down the edge of a roof and diverts it toward the gutter. Properly installed, this one-piece flashing prevents water from splashing on and damaging the side wall. t3.dryfield.com

Richard Trethoway replies: I suspect the "mass" you're hearing is caused by some sort of mass blockage in the water flow. Debris caught on the backside of the flow restrictor, a misaligned washer, or a bit of the Teflon tape that seals the threads on the

ed steps. How should we build
they have to be supported
out of footings?

— **INSTALLED COLLECTIONS IN V**

Test Sika ropes: Check your local building codes, but generally a deck isn't less than 30 inches off the ground isn't required to have railings, and steps with fewer than four risers aren't required to have a handrail. These steps won't be that heavy, so there's no need to go through all the trouble of pouring piers. Just build the new steps as platform stacked on top of one another, and set them on a base of 4x4s crated under.

Then, remove the existing steps, then dig a 12-inch-deep by 28-inch-wide trench around the deck where you want the steps to go. Line the trench with a filter fabric, dump in a 2-inch layer of the stone, and compact it with a hand tamper. Keep adding gravel in 2-inch layers, and compact each one with

you've filled and levelled the trench

Now build the platforms out of treated wood. To make sure the height of each one is the same, divide the distance between the surface of the deck and the ground by 3, which gives you a comfortable, constant 6-inch rise for each step. Make the base platform about 24 inches wide. Then build a second platform on top of the first, making it 12 inches wide. Just repeat the step platform to the lower one to prevent it from sliding, and you're done.

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Mini recip saws

With their rapid back and forth-sawing motion, reciprocating saws chew through nearly anything. This new breed of recip saw can be used one-handed to reach tight spots. Plumber Josh Clark used these four different models on the job to hack through wood framing, as well as copper, PVC and cast-iron pipe. ***Have the report — see page 46.**

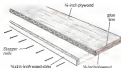


Norm's tricks of the trade



How do you keep shelves from sagging? The ones we're putting into our linen closet are 59 inches long and don't have any center support.

—SARAH LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



A To prevent sagging, I generally keep a shelf's length to 36 inches or less. But if it has to be longer, and it isn't possible to put in intermediate supports, I'll build the shelf in a way that it comes out super stiff. Here's how to do it.

First, glue two pieces of 1/4-inch hardwood plywood to each other. Next, cover the inside edge with a 1/4-inch-thick by 10-inch-wide strip of solid wood. Attach the strip with glue and 1-inch nails, making sure to stagger the nails above and below the joint line. After the glue dries, sand the strip flush with the plywood, and round over its edges. The largest shell I've made this way is 10 inches long and 2 1/2 inches across. It's a winner. ■

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Highly Adaptive Adjustably, these models of biomaterials reduce stiffness: its electronic brake slows down the blade after the trigger is released.

My two cents: The articulating body allowed me to use it under cabinets and in tight spaces between the walls. It was a little pumpy when

Special: 12 volts (30 ft. volts under load), 3-4 pounds, variable speed up to 3,000 strokes per minute, 1/4 in. stroke length, built in LED three-year battery warranty.



MILWAUKEE M8
HACKZALL

Page 5208, unclassified review

Highlight: Onboard power groups enabled battery life

My two-center: It is well balanced

Specs: 18 volts under load
4.1 pounds, variable-speed up to
3,000 strokes per minute, 1/4 inch
stroke length, built-in LED, five-year
lifetime warranty.



HITACHI CR100L

Price \$150 psychopowerbooks.com

Highlight: The lightest saw tested like two cuts. "It will balance for

Specs: 12 volts, CD 8 volts under load; 2.6 pounds; variable speed up to 2,700 strokes per minute; 14-inch stroke length; built-in LED lifetime battery warranty.



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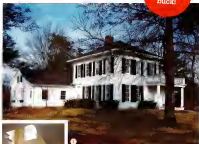
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Project: (Must be moved)
Location: Indianapolis
Contact: Chad Leinig, Indiana Landmarks, 317-439-4334

The history: Hidden behind a patch of trees on a residential side lot in Indianapolis, this empty three-story farmhouse was once home to Isaac Gordon. His father, John, built the place in the early 1850s. Isaac lived here with his wife and son. Isaac taught school during the winter, and farmed in the summer, raising pigs and fire-wool sheep. He was so good at tending to his honeybees that he was named president of the Indiana Bee-Keeper Association. During the Civil War, he served as the local draft-enrollment commissioner in 1860. Isaac said the house lost his son, who sold it a few years later. The house passed through several owners until 1937, when it was purchased by the Rasky family (they lived here until six years ago).

Why save it? The 13-room house retains its original oak, oak, and poplar millwork, as well as the lowered shutters that cover each original window. It is one of the few Indianapolis-area structures that predates the Civil War.

What it needs: A local realty company wants to develop the property and is working with a preservation group to find someone to restore the house. The place is in good shape, but it lacks and two bathrooms/condo-style updates and needs new plumbing, wiring and heating systems. Covenant will be attached to the sale to ensure the house's historic character and never, ever has to be moved again. —enr.com



2. The house style is a blend of Greek Revival and Federalist. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Though changes to the house's exterior are prohibited by covenant, restoring the rear garage, added in the 1930s, is optional. 3. The weathered oak now needs a new railing, but retains its original boards. 4. The new board-and-batten door has its original transom and sashlight. 5. The original wooden have blown glass panes.

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