

This Old House

Editors' Picks

Our favorite furnishings to brighten your home

Easy cottage projects

- > Simple wall paneling
- > Furniture finishes with patina
- > Vintage-look coatrack

15 cozy window seat ideas
p. 80

SEPTEMBER 2012 | THISOLDHOUSE.COM

**CREATIVE
IDEAS FOR**
built-ins,
beadboard,
painted floors,
and sunny
gardens



POWER
HUNGRY
NOT
THIRSTY

RAM 1500

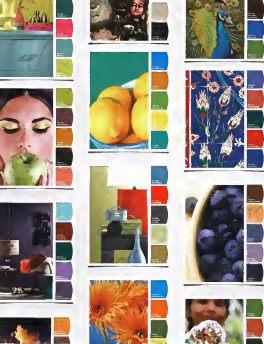
ONLY RAM GETS

20 MPG
Hwy

WITH EVERY ENGINE ACROSS THE ENTIRE LIGHT-DUTY LINEUP

INCLUDES A 5-YEAR/50,000-MILE POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY

GUTS·GLORY  RAM



CHIP IT!

by



Sherwin-Williams

Now you can turn any picture, on any website, into a palette pulled from more than 1,999 Sherwin-Williams paint colors. To get started, visit letschipt.it.com

Join us on



FROM OUR TABLE TO YOURS

We're very passionate about what we do. We love our work, we love our land and we want to keep it in the family for generations. And that's something people can feel good about.

Rich Roth
ix Ranch
Montana

Mustard Pepper Beef Steaks

A ROTH FAMILY COOKOUT CLASSIC MUSTARD PEPPER BEEF STEAKS

Total in-cup time: 30 minutes

Ingredients

4 boneless beef top loin tri-tip steaks
cut 1 1/2 inch thick (about 2 1/2 to 3 pounds)
Salt, to taste

Main Ingredients

1/4 cup Dijon-style mustard
2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
8 large olives, pitted, minced
1 teaspoon Dijon-style mustard

Makes 8 servings

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Season steaks with salt and pepper. Grill steaks over medium heat on preheated grill for 11 to 14 minutes (140°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally. Brush steaks with mustard during last 10 minutes of grilling.

FOR MORE LEAN RECIPES, LOVE BEEF ON FACEBOOK. [facebook.com/leanbeef](https://www.facebook.com/leanbeef)



Product of the Beef Council

COTTAGE STYLE SPECIAL

idea file

- 25 **before + after kitchen**
A cramped space gets a total revamp with extra room to move sunny cabinets and add a corkboard floor
- 29 **before + after bedroom**
Bright, cluttered suite is transformed into a lackuster guest room
- 33 **budget redo**
A messy coat closet becomes an open organized drop spot
- 43 **planning a cottage garden**
Creates an eclectic, inviting outdoor space with our tips
- 53 **Photoshop redo**
A gable-roofed parlor and lush garden boost a Cape Cod's curb appeal
- 60 **true to form**
Period style renovations restore a 1913 Craftsman bungalow's vintage character
- 68 **cheery charms**
Colorful casual furniture and accessories get a classic trend update
- 72 **cozy by design**
From built-ins to plank walls to painted floors, TCM highlights the classic elements of cottage style
- upgrades**
- 74 **build it or buy it**
Upcycled storage accessories
- 37 **shop smarter**
Board-and-batten
- 80 **all about**
Window seats

42
PLANNING
A COTTAGE
GARDEN



72
COZY BY
DESIGN



60
TRUE TO
FORM

on the cover



ON 34, 49 Easy cottage projects
60 Editors' picks
72, 77, 82 Creative ideas

Covers inspired by **THE COTTAGE STYLE**
by **THE COTTAGE STYLE**



1-2-3-4-5-6 along with 10 essential nutrients. Now that's a love story.
Get the "Pete Steaks with Wild Rice Baby Peppers" recipe at BeetIt.com/BeetIt.com.

© 2012 by The Beet Group





19

HOME SOLUTIONS

Give boring kitchen cabinets a boost with four simple fixes, like this bright and cheery open-shelf treatment.



55

WEEKEND REMODEL



49

HOME CENTER PROJECT

home solutions

- 19 Use paint to give your white the plunk paneled look. 10 uses for pipe insulation. Keep-ventilate furniture in shape. Turn a clutter into an inspirational board. 12 9 kitchen cabinet makeovers and more

how-to projects

- 39 paint ideas: Make paint and sandpaper are all you need to age wood furniture to perfection
49 home center project: Build a wall-mounted coat rack with 10 minutes and contractor Tom Silva's step-by-step
53 weekend remodel: Our how-to for installing a custom runner will step up your staircase's style

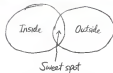
ask this old house

- 69 Q + A: Replace door weather stripping, preserve and protect exposed wood beams, control slugs and snails, get a break strike, test polyurethane finish, board and batten basics, make a luminous living safe, and more
89 step-by-step: Hang a flat-screen TV
94 TOOL tested: Pressure washers
98 Norm's tricks of the trade: Safely remove old cabinet hinges

in every issue

- 11 letter from This Old House reader mail
12 thisoldhouse.com
14 checklist: Easy ways to improve your home right now
110 directory
118 save this old house

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIPPA L. KAPLAN/ISTOCK



Life remodeled begins with windows and doors that are just right. Bring the outside in. And vice versa. With expertly crafted, impeccably finished Marvin Patio Doors. Create the ultimate combination of aesthetics and energy efficiency. It's all part of four generations of innovation and craftsmanship backed by an unwavering commitment to service and support from local retailers. Choose and design windows and doors for your project with our new Product Finder and Designer tools.

Only at myMarvin.com/tools



MARVIN
WINDOWS AND DOORS

Built around you™

LOCK No. 7,226

The sound that says Olivia and her sleepover friends need not be afraid of dragons tonight.

Drinking up is just one part of a sleepover. Keeping dragons at bay is another. Fortunately, Kwikset® locks with SmartKey® re-key technology offer the highest level of residential security available and are virtually unpickable. In fact, one could even say they're the smartest locks on the block. Peace of mind comes standard with Kwikset. Visit Kwikset.com/TOH, and you'll see why THE BEST SECURITY IS SMART SECURITY.



Kwikset

©2012 Kwikset Corporation. All rights reserved. Kwikset and SmartKey are registered trademarks of Kwikset Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

readermail

July's 100% Reader-Created Issue was a hit—especially with the readers whose hard work offered inspiration on every page. Our Reader Remodel Contest curb-appeal winners shared their celebration (if not a bite of the fabulous cake, below). A few readers questioned the ethical implications of one Cheapeake Hall of Fame caper, while others let us know why they consider TOH a keeper come renewal time.

Edible garden

Dawn [Peters] and I had a party to celebrate our house's appearance in TOH magazine ("One-Room Wonder," July 2012, page 84) and my birthday. She surprised me with an awesome birthday cake created by our friend, Kim Moore. The cake design was based on photos of our pasture (fenced beehive garden). [See it at thisoldhouse.com/g2D12-2.] It was a hard cake to cut because it was simply amazing! People are still talking about it, and I know that I will never forget it. Thanks again to TOH for selecting us as the reader-appeal winners at this year's Reader



Remodel Contest—you inspired a great cake and a wonderful occasion!
—DANNAWEE BLOOMINGTON, IL

Pebble runtimes, beware

I was eager to read "Cheap-Face Screaming from" in your July 2012 Cheapeake Hall of Fame (page 62), where a reader describes being too

cheap to pay \$30 per square foot for pebbles for his spa bathroom and instead mixed stone from a lake. He took vital habitat for aquatic life—habitat that took thousands of years to form. What if everyone did this to our rivers and lakes? Please go to the lumberyard or quarry and buy tumbled stones, and leave the river and lake beds where they belong in the rivers and lakes.

—MICHELLE TREMBLAY BOSCHARD IN IL

TOH makes the cut

I have subscribed to many magazines over the years, and I am currently piling them down. So many are simply filled with page after page of ads and very little real content. But your magazine is one that I will be renewing. Thank you for having pages and pages of useful content. I appreciate it.

—LIZZY TROUSON BY E MAIL

Correction

■ In Photoshop Peaks, August 2012, the price for the SalVino Roofscapes polymer shingles should be \$2.95 per square-foot. Our apologies for the fact-checking error.

how to
reuse

The editors of real TOH, itself, think you should write to The Old House magazine, 220 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001. Include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

reader
project
of the
month



Westport chair

DOUG HARRIS, KANSAS CITY, MO

I checked specialty lumberyards all over Kansas City and could not find the Westport cedar boards called for in the June 2012 Weekend Remodel. So I adjusted the plans slightly by using three 1x4 deck boards for the back, two for the arms, and two for the rear legs. It's a fantastic-looking chair. Great project!



letter { from This Old House }

How a redo deadline is born

Have questions, though I don't know if anyone can answer them. The first: Why did my brother decide to remodel his kitchen six weeks before his pregnant wife's due date?

I tried to ask my brother that when he distracted me to help, and before I could even finish the question, he yelled, "Because I'm nesting, that's why!" I told him nesting was something that pregnant women did, not men whose babies might make them look pregnant.

Didn't matter. After I dodged the hammer he tossed at me, we both got to work on the rebuilding, at our usual slow pace. Just to put that pace into perspective: There was one Saturday not long ago, while redoing his basement, when we added a grand total of one dot. We spent the rest of the day looking at it. This is a well-known phenomenon at our family.

So it came as a serious wake-up call when, at 8 (for holy) minus four weeks and counting, and with the kitchen only revised and drywalled, we learned his wife had a condition that might require an early delivery—as in the next few days early!

We looked into high gear, and while it was at first unclear that we were working faster, we were definitely snapping at each other at twice the normal rate. On the first Saturday, we replaced a window, added a washer and dryer, and hung the upper cabinets. During the next week, my sister-in-law convinced me to get dry reports, but the floor tile arrived, and my brother installed it over two nights and grouted it on a third. And the next weekend, with the help of our uncle Joe, we moved a gas line and heat registers and installed all the lower cabinets and the appliances.

It was something of a miracle: a new kitchen, save the professional installation of the countertops, in only three or four full working days. Some might think it's also a miracle that just as we were finishing up, late that Saturday, my sister-in-law heard from her midwife: Surprising news! The baby soon came back and things had improved—she wouldn't need to be an early delivery!

And that brings me to question number two: Just how closer is my sister-in-law? Was there really a condition? Or was it just a diabolically brilliant scheme to achieve what my brother and I could never figure out how to do ourselves: finish a project on time? We'll never know. She and the baby aren't talking.

Scott Chelmsford
SCOTT.CHELMSTFORD@TOH.COM

—Oh, and before I forget, question number three: What does this Letter From TOH have to do with the theme of this month's issue, cottage style? Nothing, other than to serve as an emotional anvil. Whereas my brother's remodel was forced, fast, and innocent, cottage is relaxing. The very word itself is comforting. Attached is nothing, and that thing goes better: cottage fires, cottage pies, cottage pudding, cottage cheese...well, not cottage cheese—no one likes cottage cheese—but you get the idea. I hope you enjoy the issue.



Have you tried TOH on tablet yet?

Thousands of print subscribers have begun to

get This Old House free on the iPad, Kindle Fire, and Nook Color. Beginning with this issue, there's even more reason to download our app: The tablet edition contains exclusive content, including bonus images for the "Cozy by Design" story, on page 72, and a video tour of the home featured in the Save This Old House column. It's fast, easy, and free to download, and you won't find it anywhere else. Check it out and let me know what you think.

11 FEET OF STANDOUT. YOU CAN COUNT ON IT.



STANLEY
FatMax

STANLEY FATMAX® TAPE RULE
WITH ELEVEN FEET OF STANDOUT
Superior rugged Tough, durable "Black Armor" coating at hook and "Myler" film on work length protects markings

STANLEY

stanleytools.com



PROJECT
OF THE WEEK

HOW TO INSTALL A MEDICINE CABINET



It's hard to have an uncluttered bathroom when your sink is always crowded with toothbrushes, toiletries, and accessories. Eliminate morning ritual chaos by installing a medicine cabinet—a simple project you can complete in an afternoon. We suggest a recessed model, which tucks securely and discreetly into the wall easily.

Most recessed medicine cabinets come preassembled; you just cut a hole in the wall and create a wood frame into which the cabinet slides. The payoff? A smart bathroom upgrade with a beautiful new mirror and storage space.

You'll find a huge selection of tools to help with this or any home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For easy how-to instructions and a list of the tools and materials you'll need, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

thisoldhouse.com

Get Ready for Back-to-School!



3 Ways to a Perfect Homework Station

- make room to work
- banish distractions
- organize supplies



thisoldhouse.com/sep2012

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

[pinterest.com/thisoldhouse](https://www.pinterest.com/thisoldhouse)

[@thisoldhouse](https://twitter.com/thisoldhouse)

ADVERTISEMENT

This Old House® on your tablet

FREE
for print
subscribers



BONUS

content and exclusive videos for extra inspiration found only in the tablet edition

STEP-BY-STEP

instructions and solutions for every home project and budget

ACCESS

on your iPad®, Kindle Fire, NOOK Tablet™ and on Android™ tablets via Next Issue™



thisoldhouse.com/allaccess

This is a photograph of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Kindle Fire is a trademark of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. NOOK is a registered trademark of Barnes & Noble Inc. NOOK Tablet and NOOK are trademarks of Barnes & Noble Inc. This Old House is a trademark of This Old House Ventures, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.



Would you like this to be yours?

FIND THE RIGHT PRO NEAR YOU

>> NKBA.org/ProSearch

NKBA
National Kitchen & Bath Association

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NKBA. STYLING: JESSICA HARRIS. PHOTOGRAPHY: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

☐ Prep your lawn for autumn

Keep grass vibrant and unscathed beneath fall's leaves by gradually lowering your mower's height to 2 inches (or shorter and you risk damaging the roots, giving them a weaker grip on the soil). Rest the mower on a flat surface and measure the blade's height; adjust a bit before each mowing for a few weeks until you reach 2 inches.



☐ What's on your checklist?



"I'm going to inspect the structure to make sure critters haven't turned it into an open house, then replace the old roof-vent screens to keep them out."

—David Hunt, Garden Grove, Calif.
E-mail us your ideas at checklist@thickhouse.com.

{ September.2012 } checklist

☒ Feed the birds

It may still be warm, but our feathered friends are already sorting out where to get their winter-brown meals. Make your yard an avian haven by installing a seed feeder filled with bird-safe seed varieties, such as black oil sunflower seeds, millet, or cracked corn. To foil scavenging squirrels, place pole-mounted feeders at least 10 feet from trees and install a cone-shaped baffle beneath each one, or choose hanging feeders that have weight-sensitive perches or are mounted inside cages.



☐ Clean bath-vent fans

They've been working overtime, given summer's humidity and constant post-yard-workshovers. The how-to: Switch off the power, then remove the cover and wash it with dish soap. Use a damp rag to wipe the fan blades clean. Dry all parts before replacing the cover, to keep water from corroding the wires.

TOP TIP



☐ Say thanks to tradespeople

September 21 is National Tradesweek Day. Show your appreciation for your plumber, electrician, or roofer with a thank-you note (and prompt payment when the work is done to your satisfaction). For those who gave you exemplary service, write a recommendation or post one on a review website. Kind words are always welcome.

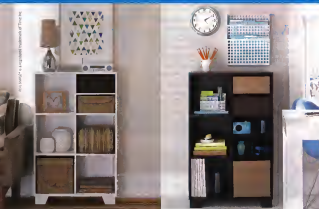
☐ Repair blistered paint

The good news: You completed all your summer paint projects. The not-so-good: High temperatures and strong weather can cause paint to bubble or blister, even after it's dry. If you spot air pockets, don't assume you need a whole do-over. Scrape and sand down until the bulk is smooth, then apply a primer over the damaged areas before brushing up as needed.



REAL SIMPLE

[SOLUTIONS]



Storage + System

Introducing our new mix-and-match line of modular units and accessories that makes organizing your home easier.

[6-CUBE ORGANIZER IN WHITE AND ESPRESSO]



STOCKED AT SELECT STORES

BED BATH & BEYOND

SEE THE WHOLE LINE AT BEDBATHANDBEYOND.COM/REALSIMPLE

[6-CUBE ORGANIZER]

[4-CUBE ORGANIZER]

[ESPRESSO BINOM]

home solutions

Edited by Amy Roberts

inside

10 USES

CREATIVE REUSE

KITCHEN UPGRADE

MORE



Get a paneled look with paint

Giving a room cottage style is as easy as painting brush to wall. To create faux planking, space stripes 6 to 10 inches apart, using the room's scale as your guide; for a wainscot-like effect, add vertical lines below an existing (or new) chair rail. Your most important tools for getting them all just right: some good painter's tape, a plastic putty knife for smoothing tape to place to prevent seepage at the edges, a 6-foot level, to be sure lines are straight, and patience. Diligent prep leads to top-notch results. For a detailed how-to on this type of painting project, visit theoldhouse.com/sep2012.

PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER/ISTOCK.COM

Pipe insulation

Once your plumbing is snugly wrapped, don't let leftover material go down the tubes. Use the flexible foam sleeves in any of these handy ways

1 Pad a step stool.

Protect walls from accidental dings by using insulation to cushion a stool's too-handled and other parts that may cause damage.

2 Shield a sapling.

Before staking a young tree, wrap a length of foam around its trunk as a barrier to prevent wire from cutting into the bark.



3 Sheathe a saw.

Slide a length of insulation over the blade of a chainsaw to protect the teeth—and your fingers—when it's stored.



4 Make a grip more comfortable.

For a better hold on yard tools, such as shovels or shovels, cushion the handles with sections of insulation, secured with adhesive if necessary.

5 Anchor trash bags in place.

Slip the bag into the can by securing it to the rim with a few foam sleeves.

6 Smooth a slipcover.

To pull fabric taut, place a long piece of insulation atop the slipcover along where the back and the

seal meet, and push the foam down into the seam. No more wrinkles!

7 Cinch cords.

Cut a 2-inch-long piece of foam and use it to hold a coiled extension cord for storage.

8 Pack a box in a pinch.

Don't have packing peanuts? Insulation left



interior pieces or cut into chunks, makes great padding for keeping a contents from jostling.

9 Store tarps.

Tie up a tarp cloth by using a 2-foot section of insulation as a spool. Fold the cloth lengthwise to the length of the insulation, then tuck the end into the slit before rolling up.

10 Prop up paintbrushes.

Slip insulation over a paint tray's edge. Cut notches back brush handles so the bristles stay out of the paint.

—AMANDA SMITH/ISTOCK

more 10 uses
Find more smart uses for a KILZ 2 Primer in this issue
www.kilz.com

DON'T TELL HIM THAT PRIMING FIRST ISN'T NECESSARY ANYMORE.

Pros do it right.
Pros start with
KILZ® primer.



Now home is the biggest investment you'll ever make. So it deserves the best solutions for its toughest challenges. For covering stains or bold colors, pro painters understand that a separate coat of primer followed by a quality topcoat provides the best results possible—and often at a lower cost than two coats of paint. Pros know that starting with a precoat of KILZ® primer is the secret to solid coverage and a durable finish. KILZ primer...the problem solver that your home deserves.

KILZ
www.kilz.com



Smart care for vintage pieces

Some folks love to make period furnishings feel even older, as if they were looking new while retaining their authentic charm. If you fall into the latter camp, take these cues from veteran sponsor Patrick van der Vorst, founder of Value My Stuff/Vintagestuff.com, which offers expert valuations for under \$10.

Let stained wood show its age. Dining tables often rub away the finish, while chairs show age on the front legs. Dry-dust often, but also polish surface of wood just twice a year.

Reupholster with care. Unsurprisingly, 180-year-old chairs might look a little shabby. It's fine to cover up the fabric—but leave it intact beneath the new material, to preserve the item's integrity. If the upholstery isn't original, don't do it along with the frame.

Research before reupholstering. If you plan that a chair is to be reupholstered, check historical resources to find materials and finishes that are period-appropriate.

—GILLY BARTH

Shutter turned idea board

When you're hanging a photo, why hide other useful bits and pieces on the same nail as the photo? Put photos in display on a clipped-on wood shutter, and you can reference and add to your collection easily. (You don't have a shutter, no problem: I have a shutter ready for display on my desk.)

When you're hanging a photo, why hide other useful bits and pieces on the same nail as the photo? Put photos in display on a clipped-on wood shutter, and you can reference and add to your collection easily. (You don't have a shutter, no problem: I have a shutter ready for display on my desk.)

Simple. (I don't know how to hang it, but I can show you how to hang it.)

—KYLE CLARK

Keep a patio set high and dry

JOFF reader Steve Levine of Renton, Washington, came up with a clever way to stash his outdoor table and chairs in the garage without taking up floor space. To stick 'em up like there does drill a hole through each table leg. 4 inches up. Screw a 1/2-inch eyebolt into each one and secure with a nut. Loosen the ceiling joists, and lay four slotted angle brackets long enough to span two of them. Align the brackets with where the table legs will go, and secure each bracket to two joists with two 1/2-inch lag screws. Use a 4 1/2-inch double-headed snaphook to secure each leg's eyebolt to a bracket. "Of course, you'd never do this with a glass table," Steve says. "But mine is a sturdy one." —GARY CALAMAND

Easy cabinet makeovers

Stretch the life of dated or too-humdrum cupboards by giving them a low-cost, high-impact makeover inspired here left. These simple projects can be done in a weekend and pack enough punch to give the entire room a brand-new personality. —MIGAN BAKER

country style special

Open shelving

Drill cabinet doors to create more shelves. Remove hardware from bottom to top, then push screws into wall with wood filler. (Wenatchee, sand smooth, prime, and paint. For instructions, visit thisoldhouse.com/sep2013.)



Interior curtains

Make walls windows by adding curtain to glass-front cabinets. Put fabric in 1-inch pleats before stapling the top and bottom to the inside of the door. Clean the middle with matching neutral drapes.



Painted borders

Make walls and cabinets look like they have a border—without a dose of bold color. Use crisp lines, use painter's tape to mark edges and areas of 100-100-100 border on each door or drawer front. See how painting.



Door curtains

Delicate curtains add character and charm. Tie the curtains onto the door and use a drill and a jig to cut it out. Sand edges until smooth, then prime and paint. Or go hardware-free. Get the look with paint and stencil at your choice.



Prepare yourself for the feeling of more water.

H2OINMETIC™ SHOWERHEADS

Delta H₂Oinetic™ Technology reshapes water into a unique wave pattern – giving you the feeling of more water, without using more water. Another way Delta is more than just a shower. For more information, visit deltafaucets.com/H2Oinetic



Added function and lots more charm

A minor size adjustment plus major changes in style and layout make this kitchen a better fit for the house—and the family who uses it. **by JEROME BALLOVIN** • Photographs by JOE SCHNEIDER

When a 75-year-old house loses its soul, few things are more gratifying than getting it back. That's how Nadine Wiener felt after erasing all evidence of her 1937 crash, in Long Beach, California. "Before, it was claustrophobic and dark, with a dreadful fluorescent ceiling fixture right in the middle," recalls Nadine, who is an enthusiastic cook. Working with designer Dana Joast and general contractor Thomas Cole, she set in motion a six-week redo that improved the room's size and function as well as its cottage spirit. Says Cole, "We scrapped it down to the bones," then inserted a small laundry room, added insulation, and repaired the ceiling. He also installed a Dutch door that Nadine had bought for \$50 years earlier and stored, like a hope chest, Jones ditched our seven layout options; ultimately Nadine opted to keep the space to open as possible by widening the passageway to the dining room and setting it off with a small peninsula. "It's a nice place to sit and have a cup of coffee," says Nadine, "and the children love to eat there in the morning. It's my favorite spot."

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE SCHNEIDER; STYLING: SARAH FORD

before The 1930s left behind dark cabinets, stark grouted tile countertops, and dingy floors.

after Clear cabinets in sunny yellow get a boost from a high-contrast black-and-white floor. Tinsy Luce and Alex gravitate to the little peninsula.



cottage
style
special

before

before+after: kitchen

4 **Durable solid-surface** countertops mimic soapstone and provide a sophisticated contrast to cream-white subway tile and yellow Shaker-style cabinets. Counter top: GSI Navyjet Tile Overlay

4 **The peninsula's** turned-wood pedestal adds a strong design element while leaving space for stools.



before

The tiny 543-square-foot space was claustrophobic, with shopped-ap prep space and no place to sit down.



after

Adding 55 square feet allowed the homeowners to move and the layout went from frantic to serene. The space was also opened up more to the dining room, creating a spot for the peninsula.

1 **Took down a wall** to open the laundry area and put the fridge and a new pantry into the largest prep space.

2 **Shifted a doorway** to improve traffic flow and create a place for the wall ovens.

3 **Widened the passage** to the dining room for a more open connection, making room for a peninsula and stools.



4 **Replaced the exterior door** with a salvaged Dutch door, which features a break-in and French neighbors.

5 **Added prep and cleanup space** with easy reach of the sink, microwave, fridge and pantry.

4 **Reeded-glass fronts** and crown molding contribute to the custom cabinets' vintage look.



7 **A custom pullout** near the countertop keeps spices and condiments where they're needed. Cabinets: Nelson's Cabinets



pro advice

DENA JONES LONGRASH CALP

"Ask the countertop fabricator to make a matching window-sill to go over the sink. It'll be splash-proof and one of those accents people notice."



4 **The generous apron sink** offers a perfect beach—also has plenty of room for pots, pans, etc. Sink, light: Forest Farms



7 **A broom closet**, which caps the reworked entry, is wide and shelter for easy access. (Shopside) Crafts

4 **The Dutch door** was painted to match a piece of vintage Flinstewarts. Nearby prep space incorporates a niche for the microwave and open shelves with pull-out baskets for pots and pans. Pull-out baskets: Rev-A-Shelf

THIS OLD HOUSE TV

AIRING NOW: THE BARRINGTON PROJECT

Tune in to watch the renovation of a 1925 seaside cottage in Rhode Island.



For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/tv/schedule

Sponsored by PBS



From catchall to orderly retreat

A multitasking guest room gets a little help from space-maximizing built-ins by MEGAN BAUER • Photography by MARK LEBMAN

before + after:
bedroom

cottage
style
special



A bedroom without a closet is bad enough. For when it also falls short on workspace and creature comforts, you've got issues. Just ask Larry and Donna Russo, whose home, in Oceanide, California, had a guest room with plenty of potential but not enough function. "We wanted to have a space where Donna could work on her sewing projects, and visitors could relax and watch TV," says Larry. Plus, they needed storage because the one closet had been annexed by an adjacent bath. Designer Beth Syron found the fix: custom built-ins, including a platform bed, drawers for clothes and linens, a hidden wire TV mount, and a desk fit for a sewing machine or a laptop. Assembled off-site and installed over sawn oak floors, the built-ins look as if they came with the room, thanks to matching French crests molding on the walls and cabinets. Bookshelves, built-in pull, and glass-front doors give the space a charming bed-and-breakfast look. "Whatever we don't have a place for we store back here," says Larry. "And then, of course, we leave some drawers available for our guests."



Before The here-there space had suffered with a clutter and little storage room. **After** Built-in bed-closet built-ins have an understated cottage vibe, along with drawers for clothing and linens, and open shelves for books and keepsakes.



4 Drawers in the bed platform have full-extension slides that can handle 100 pounds. Photo: Pottery Barn



4 The rightstands have curved bases and recessed footrests to give them the look of traditional furniture. Dream-styled scones add a soft glow; the tasklights below them are reader-friendly. Sources: Lumina-Paid



4 The built-in desk has a hole that controls cords. Shave from the back of cabinets and offer a peek at the headboard mode.

built-in basics
Recreate the look of built-in bookshelves at these sites
www.hgtv.com

after

The 160-square-foot space had an outdoor "fayer" and was about 10 feet deep.



1. Rebuilt the wall where the closet was located by the adjacent bath.

2. Opened up the room by shortening a wall that jutted past the entry.

3. Added cabinets to dresser storage, with niches for the TV and its components.



4. Built in a bed with drawers, a to-the-ceiling headboard and rightstands topped with open shelving.

5. Created a niche zone with a desk big enough for sewing and surfing the Web.



homeowner tip
LARRY BURNS, OCEANVIEW, CALIF.

"To achieve a hidden-wire look without damaging built-ins, once they're in place, have an electrician shove outlets and cables closer to where you'll need them before the cabinetmakers arrive."



7 Headboard panels evoke of modern design. The headboard is a vintage-style bookshelf for the platform bed. Like the cabinets, they were sealed with white lacquer for a smooth surface that's easy to wipe down.



Cats everywhere are having a hard time smelling their litter boxes.



freshstep.com

A mudroom built-in for \$470

Opening up a builder-grade closet and installing custom shelving creates a zone that organizes the whole family. BY MARIAN BAKER



Sometimes standard issue just doesn't cut it. At Shelley and Cason Smith's Salt Lake City home, five years with an mudroom and three kids under the age of 7 had turned the poorly lit, inaccessible foyer closet into a hazard. "It took my trampling over coats and haphazard falling aside for me to say something had to be done," Shelley says. So, over one week, the wannabe DIYers removed the door and 2½ feet of wall next to it to create an open alcove in the closet's existing footprint. Cason installed a medium-density fiberboard (MDF) bench hanging on a shelf of 2x4s and trussing with molding—perfect for pulling on shoes. He built cubbies framed with stretch and hand-out curved dividers for mail and schoolwork, leaving room at the top for baskets to hold lightbulbs, batteries, and the like. They lined the alcove with horizontal beadboard and finished it with casing and interior paint. Two lightweight, kid-friendly poplar boxes hide everything's stored. "We wanted something functional but beautiful, since it's in our front entry," Shelley says. "Now we all have a place to stop and drop." ■

PHOTO: KELLY BAKER

**budget
redo**



before The dark, hard-to-reach closet interior made storage a hassle. **after** A sturdy built-in creates a clean spot and tight-organizing necessities.

the project tally

Removed the closet door and opened the wall.	\$0
Built shelves, cubbies, and a custom MDF bench.	\$176
Added slightly damaged precast stone at 50 percent off for the custom cushion. Then had a repair man from Jo Ann's install them.	\$70
Installed beadboard door casing and fresh molding.	\$77
Made the poplar crates for storing shoes.	\$51
Finished everything with leftover paint.	\$0
Added sturdy IKEA hooks for coats and bags.	\$5
Painted the cubbies with wire baskets from Day for retail and schoolwork, and straw baskets from Pier 1 for hiding household necessities.	\$30
total	\$470

Upholstered storage ottoman

Use plywood, foam, and fabric to create a custom piece, or select a ready-made version. **by AMANDA BENTLEY** • Photography by LAURA MOSS

cottage style special

The ottoman has had a long history of multifunctionality. It served as extra seating in early American households that had tight quarters and tight budgets. Today, versatile with endless designs, like the handsome example at right, push the utility even further. It's the perfect place to stash blankets or extra books, and the geometric design of the upholstered makes a bold statement.

If you're thinking of buying one, look for lots of other life or home safety hedges. If you'd rather have the satisfaction and creative control of building your own piece, your primary materials will be birch plywood, 2-inch-thick high-density foam, and—the most variable expense—a fabric of your liking. Customize the upholstery to fit your household decor or needs: stain resistant for pets and children, or suede for a luxury feel. And vary the height and style of the off-the-rack legs to complement existing furniture. Whether you build or buy, kick up your feet and enjoy your new focal point.

get more info

Find a tutorial as well as materials to build an ottoman for this price at thefirsttime.com/sep2012

Shawn Tolson
Storage Ottoman
Dorset Green, \$445,
bulldesigns.com

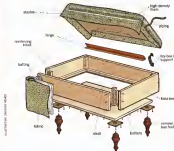


build it

Follow the online cut list to size the plywood, then construct the ottoman and upholster it

Cost: \$200–\$300
Time: 8–10 hours
Difficulty: Moderate. It's easy to build, but upholstering requires time and patience.

- 1. Build the base.** Cut 1/2-inch birch plywood for the base, top, and bottom. Glue and clamp the four sides together to form the base box, then drill pilot holes and secure the pieces with screws. Cut L-shaped cleats and install them around the base's interior. Notch above the bottom edge. Attach reinforcing pine blocks to each inside corner. Glue, drill, and screw the bottom piece to the cleats.
- 2. Upholster the base.** Cut batting and upholstery to wrap the base. Coat the back of the fabric with fast-drying spray adhesive, and stick the batting onto it. Spray the batting and, starting at the center rear of the base, wrap the material around the sides and overlap it at the casually W-inch. Fold the material over the top and bottom, and staple it in place.
- 3. Upholster the lid.** Trim 2-inch-thick high-density foam to cover the lid, and use spray adhesive to stick it all but the perimeter to the plywood. Then spray the foam's edges with adhesive and fold them down to meet the plywood. Wrap the top in fabric and staple it to the underside. Starting at the rear seam, line the perimeter with piping and staple it in place.
- 4. Add the top and feet.** Join the upholstered top to the base with a continuous hinge and a lay board support. Attach four 5-inch maple corner bun feet, painted or stained to your taste. —JENNIFER



build it or buy it

buy it

Pick a size, then choose upholstery options to suit your budget and style

\$100

the basic model Two generous compartments make it easy to store and separate games from blankets. jennypen.com



\$173

the mid-range model Tufted seating and no-fluff trim enhance the classic appeal of this practical plastic team room.



\$211

the luxury model Customized comfy seating, this bright bench also comes in black or red if you prefer a pop of color; wayfair.com



My hardwood floor business has relied on Bona for 11 years due to the high quality products they offer. Bona products are extremely durable, easy to use and ensure the best results on any job.

The G-E ELINGUARD® certified Bona System gives my crew the assurance that we are protecting our health on the job and giving our customers the confirmation that they are protecting their family and the environment.

Bryan Rathbun
Sales, Hardwood Floors, Inc.
Wood Floor Installation



Bona

When the Wood Matters

As the experts, **Bona** has committed over 60 years exclusively to effective and safe hardwood floor care products. **Bona** has solutions to care for your floors no matter what their condition. From daily maintenance to deep clean, from recoating to full sand and finish, you can rely on **Bona** for every step in the life of your hardwood floor. Visit MyBonaHome.com to locate a Bona Certified Craftsman, find product information and view our website.

Family matters. Home matters.
When the wood matters. Home



Official
Handcaved
Floor Care
Partner of
the NFL

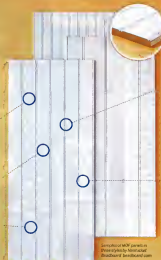
www.MylBorgHome.com

Bonashop
smarter

But will it handle hard knocks?

Nothing adds cottage flavor faster than beadboard, and sheet goods go up quickly. Here's how to choose the right material for your space. BY CHERILYN BELLINGER • Photographs by ANDREW M. CALE

Old-fashioned heartboard went up back by back, building a rough natty web with a lot of character. But the masonry is hard on wood, causing boards to pop and point to crack. Quick-install plywood panels solve that problem but can't take a deep head. Which brings us to panels made of medium-density fiber board, or MDF—wood fiber and resin, in various proportions, melted under pressure. These sturdy, ready-to-paint sheets, typically 4 feet high and 8 feet wide, can be nailed to back like the real thing. But before you gather your tools and put in an order, here are five things to consider.



High quality
papers are
carefully vetted
to ensure crisp
pictures that
inspire individual
learning.

4

DIY tip: If you're starting from scratch, 1/4-inch panels can go right under the framing, reducing the need to build up a subfloor and save time by immediately installing insulation over drywall. 1/2-inch is also easier to work—*as an outside corner, say—than 3/4-inch.*

5

Repair it right
MDF is about as tough as oak, but like wood it can absorb liquid and swell. Small holes, such as from a nail, can be filled with a polyester auto body filler such as Bondo, which cures fast and sands smooth.

1 Choose a style

For a traditional farmhouse look, try 24-inch V-bead (near right) or 1½-inch V-bead (top). Wider "boards" tend to look less busy in a large space. There are still-contemporary styles, too, such as randomly-width V-bead (like right).

2

Check out the profile
For the most convincing look and best durability, choose parents at least 10 feet apart with deep, olive-colored heads. Get names before you commit.

3

Consider the application
Furalls in-situ will should be especially formulated for modulus resistance to potholes and other outdoor areas; you'll need exterior-grade Shearboard or PVC.

Copyright © 2007 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This book is published by Pearson Education, Inc., 501 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Three steps to a timeworn look

If you can paint and sand, you can faux-age wood furniture. Here's how

By EGO HAGGEMAN • Photographs WENDIE T. WENIG

You're probably worn blue jeans that came already broken in from the factory, complete with bald spots at all the right places. Turns out you can take a similar approach to giving wood furniture an aged finish—fast. But instead of pumice stones and bleach, some water paint and a little sandpaper do the trick. The trick is to put down two coats of color—daily a light one followed by a darker one—then selectively sand the edges, corners, and contours where natural wear would occur, revealing the paler base coat. Sand a little more to reveal glimpses of sanded wood to further the effect.

Here, *Decorative painter legend* Lene used the technique to add depth and interest to a big black armoire. “It would be when those are fresh details, like molding, which suggest the piece has a past,” she points out. In other words, it’s easy to make an armoire mirror look timeless but less convincing to use a streamlined Parsons table with a feed with a distressed painted finish.

Another place? There’s no need to pop the surface before you start painting. Any imperfections that could cause the paint to flake off will only add to the piece’s authentic history—as fake as it may be.

rubbed the right way

Two coats and less than a day of paint—Lene’s Sarah’s new White Buffalo—cover the exterior of this armoire. Sanding the finish in spots lets the lighter one show through.

Cost: About \$50

Time: 4 hours over three days

Difficulty: Easy (but requires basic painting and sanding)

cottage
style
special



1. Finish the interior. Wipe down the inside with a damp cloth to remove any dust or dirt. If it's really grimy, use a degreaser. Cover the inside of the doors and cabinet with primer, using a disposable chip brush and short, even strokes. Keep the brush pretty dry; you want the undercoat to peek through to give the interior a clean yet worn appearance.



2. Paint both sides. Using a chip brush, paint the entire exterior with a light base coat color in a flat finish. Go in the direction of the grain, but you don't need to be too fussy about the brushstrokes. Once the base coat is dry, lightly apply a darker top coat again in a flat finish. Be careful not to overload the brush.



3. Sand to finish. Wait two days to allow the paint to dry completely. Using a medium-grit sanding sponge, scuff corners, edges, and details where the piece would naturally show wear, letting the underlying layer of paint—and even a bit of raw wood—peek through in spots. Continue until you get the distressed look you want. ■

▶
**another
easy
how-to**

Learn to make the three-day oil-chasing painting of Woodhouse paint/sep02

PHOTOS: WENDIE T. WENIG

Tip: Unless the piece is destined for a damp location, such as a bathroom or a laundry room, don't clear-coat the painted finish. Any added sheen just takes away from the aged look.



You said it far better than we ever could.

We invited a select group of TDH HomeTeam panelists to try FrogTape® brand painter's tape treated with PaintBlock® Technology, and the results speak for themselves.

I used this delicate surface to prep the walls to get crisp lines for an accent wall. I really liked how it performed!

— Zach G., Minneapolis, MN



FrogTape is the best tape we've used; we were very pleased with the results.

— Catherine & Eric S., Ames, IA

The lines are really crisp and straight. I'll buy it again.

— Bobbi S., Danvers, MN

My kitchen has needed painting for a few years so I'm glad it's done. FrogTape made the job easier and as a bonus, I don't have stray yellow paint marks on my brown cabinets.

— Tracy N., Garding, AL



For more ideas and inspiration, visit FrogTape.com

Keeps Paint Out. Keeps Lines Sharp.®



FrogTape® is the only painter's tape treated with PaintBlock® Technology. PaintBlock forms a micro-barrier that seals the edges of the tape, preventing paint bleed. Visit FrogTape.com to see PaintBlock in action, get painting tips and more!



FrogTape.com
877-FROGTAPE
(376-4827)



©2014 The Home Depot, LLC. 37058447

Planning a cottage garden

Now's the time to sketch out your plan for beautiful results next spring. Here's how to get started. **by Susan M. Smith**

A cottage garden, says, *Come in, wander, stay awhile*. It's free-wheeling, a bit formal, generous, not snug. Its abundance may be what you notice first. Vines climb up peach poles, roses twist across arbors, flowers overflow their beds in the company of herbs and other edibles. "Cottage gardens are personal and embracing," says Lisa Masoley, a Santa Monica, California, designer who has created quite a few. "They're bursting with color, and their happy chaos complements the character of the house, often within the confines of a tiny lot." She adds that almost any style of home can get a charm boost from traditional cottage plants: old-fashioned hollyhocks and delphiniums, iris and hyacinths, carnations and peonies, selected, of course, for local growing conditions and displayed in mass.



classic components

ABOVE: White climbing roses and leafy green vines scramble up a porch's perils, while pots of rampant, extraordinary pink, the stars of a cottage garden created by Santa Monica, California, designer Lisa Masoley. **LEFT:** A rustic stone retaining wall edges a bed overflowing with fragrant, colorful and varied



twig structures

Old grapevines are woven into rustic twig trellises, garden gates and arch that support Joseph's Coat climbing roses and 'Ranger's Red' grapevines that have heart-shaped leaves.

and rambling flower stems. Natural, rustic materials—painted wood, bent willow, even branched bamboo—set this purpose, as long as they harmonize with the house. Designs for freestanding gates, too, which, in keeping with the cottage, are often welcoming and low, making access rather than discouraging a approach.

Walls and hedges

While landscaper and house owner should always rule, with a cottage garden each supports the look and purpose of the other. Space is tight and every inch counts. So, more than just a backdrop, the cottage is another garden surface, ideal for overflowing window boxes and trellis for vines to climb. The garden in turn extends the house's lines outside, consistent in walls that echo its textures while enclosing areas for living. As a less-expensive alternative, Masoley recommends clipped hedges, which can define space and provide "home structure" for sprawling plants. To maintain order year-round, choose evergreen like boxwood, wax myrtle, or yew for hedging. Along with small trees and other shrubs, plant these early in the season to give them growing time.



painted pickets

Crisp white fencing encloses a home for a profusion of pink, Gerda Bremer roses, purple shrubby no-flower, and heavy pink evening primrose

Fences and gates

Historically, cottage plantings were enclosed to keep livestock out, and the picket fence is still a shorthand for an old-time "grandma's garden," separated from the street but visible—and friendly—to passers-by. A front fence screens the look of sprawling plants and supports tall

Informal pergola

Wood poles form a simple overhead structure that supports climbing vines and provides shade for a patio or garden. A gravel path leads to the entrance. While the vines are not yet in bloom, the structure is still a focal point.

Paths and pergolas

Even small landscapes can seem larger when broken into parts, says Mosley, adding variety and purpose to an everyday stroll. Cottage gardens are meant to be used, and walkways connect the pieces, linking one experience to the next. Informal paths work well and can carry through paving stones—gravel from a driveway, say, or flagstone from a patio. Vine-clad overhead structures, typical of this garden style, contribute romance and shelter as they point out special spots. A western arbor might show the way to a hidden bench; a trailing grape might wrap a pergola above a dining table. Inspired and shaped by the house, these vertical features add architectural richness outside.

Backbone plants

Think cottage, and certain old-time flowers come to mind, including roses, coneflowers, and phlox. But the list of what works is almost endless, and though blooms are meant, not everything needs flowers to be fitting. Consider where you live: In the dry Southwest, rose-shaped succulents make more sense than the thirsty fragrances you might favor in New York. Foliage is important, too—in varying tones, textures, and shapes, which persist when a blooming fades. Germanders, such as creeping Jenny, bellflowers, or lady's mantle, are ideal, especially in arid



Lattice arch

In this design, a wood fence and arbor offer a subtle backdrop that highlights the white blossoms of a hardy shrub and the pink flowers of a climbing rose.



Focal-point fountain

In this garden, a path of decomposed granite is lined with banks of flowering hedges and punctuated with a tiered fountain and pots of blooming gladioli.

more blooms

Discover our latest catalog garden tour of the month. www.hgtv.com/2012

planting weeds and reducing maintenance. For year-round interest, consider evergreens, such as dwarf conifers, in your mix, along with more-typical cottage perennials, such as peonies, columbines, and tree peonies. To extend the season, tack on annuals like violas and columbines. For greater impact, Mosley advises, group border plants in masses rather than ones and twos, and arrange so you can see them—don't put them in front, taller toward the back. Choosing a color theme, such as pink, purple, and white, or yellow and blue, keeps borders from getting overly busy.



exuberant plantings

ABOVE: An exuberant mix of columbines, iris, and roses sprawls beside a tiny cottage. RIGHT: Biennial bellflowers, an old-fashioned favorite, bloom in a cottage garden. To grow them when and where you want, skip and save the seed pods. Then plant in fall or early spring.



Ornamental edibles

A type of scarlet runner bean not only works as an ornament in a blooming border but also hark back to the early days of the cottage plot to feed the body and the soul. Mosley sees that time-honored combination as a solution to the well-worn contemporary gardener's conflict between wanting to grow food and wanting to have pretty flower beds. Since most edibles and blooming plants need sun, it's hard to reconcile making separate spaces for both, especially on a small lot. In the eclectic cottage garden, the look at home among edibles, while chard

can pick up the loose of daylilies, pulling the color palette together. Another way to work food in with an apple or pear espalier—on a wall or as a fence. One cautionary note: For fertilizer and pest control, use organic products if you have plants you plan to eat.

Decorative objects

Amid the tending beds around a cottage, sundials, birdhouses, and fountains can focus the eye, tell the mind, and make us smile. Mosley encourages people to have fun with such decoration but to use restraint so as not to complicate the picture. Plants themselves, she notes, can be ornaments. She often adds clipped boxwood globes, or garden balls, or in pots, as a living sculpture for sculpture. Such items can serve as a welcome foil for contemporary naturally untamed beauty. ■

veggie tapes

Fruit and vegetables grow side by side with colorful shrubs and flowers in typical cottage gardens. Here, weathered wood poles provide a climbing structure for scarlet runner beans.



WEBSITE

thisoldhouse.com



TWITTER

MOBILE WEBSITE

FACEBOOK

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

How do you do TOH?

This Old House is everywhere you are! Find all the inspiration, information, and entertainment you love about TOH wherever you go—to watch, to read, to search, and to share with friends.

BOOKS

MAGAZINE

The Old House

THIS OLD HOUSE TV

MAGAZINE TABLET EDITIONS

Pinterest

PINTEREST

pinterest.com/thisoldhouse

**Ask
House**

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE TV

Build a wall-mounted coatrack

No room for an entryway closet? No problem. Keep outerwear organized with this simple-to-build piece.

By JOSEPH TSCHUM Photograph by MICHELLE WOODS

Cost: \$50–\$60

Time: 2–4 hours plus
paint-drying time

Difficulty: Easy Cutting the
French cleat takes patience, but
assembly is quick and simple

A pileup of coats and jackets near the front door is never a well-coming sight. But if your house lacks a proper foyer or entryway, as many do, finding a spot to store this stuff can be a challenge. Our solution? Build a low-profile, cottage-inspired coatrack that takes up just a few feet of wall space. The Old House general contractor Tim Sims made this one from 1x4 lumber and embellished it with a couple strips of decorative, fluted door casing, available in a range of profiles and materials at home centers. Double coat hooks and wire storage baskets for holding mail, gloves, and miscellaneous outdoor storage space, and the board-and-batten-like design provides the underlying wall-faces and doors. Best of all, the price tag won't send you into sticker shock—we dare you to find an off-the-shelf coatrack that's this easy on the eyes for less.

cottage
style
special



For complete
instructions, turn
the page



Some choose to live on the coast.
Others choose to live *with* it.

Whether you live on the coast or simply embrace its way of life, the Coastal Living Collection is a comfortably serene lifestyle perfect for any escape.

FURNITURE • DECOR • OUTDOORS coastallivingcollection.com

DESIGNED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S JAMES HARRIS



We Make House Calls



Need Help With a Home Project?

Tell us about it at thisoldhouse.com/asktho for the chance to receive a house call from Tom, Richard, Roger, or Kevin. And tune in to Ask This Old House as we help homeowners like you tackle a wide range of home-improvement problems.

For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/trackschedule

Watch full-length current episodes at thisoldhouse.com/watchasktho

Ask
This Old
House

SPONSORED BY PBS PRESENTS MCGRAW

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

FRANK'S

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE HOME DEPOT

STANLEY

Perking up a plain Cape Cod

A revamped entry and a more detailed facade add polish to a basic box

BY DEBORAH BROCKMAN • STYLING BY HOWARD DREYFUS



(before)

For the past couple of years, Mark DiGiovanni has been slowly upgrading the corner of his 1934 Cape Cod, in Weymouth, Massachusetts. "But even with new siding and windows, it still looks undressed," he says. To help him, we asked architect Theodore Stankovic, of Beverly, Massachusetts, for ideas about enhancing its curb appeal.

"A simple, cottage-like house such as Mark's doesn't need radical changes," says Stankovic. "Adding detail to the facade and making the entry stronger locally point will boost its look substantially." His proposed entry features a gable roof with an exposed beam, supported by columns resting on shingle-sided walls that flank a paired wood landing. Water runs around the doors and windows, along with corner boards, frame boards, and water-table ones above the foundation, often using deflection. Flower boxes serve to visually lengthen the windows, which seem a bit short. Mark's ready to jump in and make these changes. "I never thought about adding trimwork, but it really does help make my house look complete—finally!" ■



The side door has larger panes of glass than the main door, buffering a more casual entry.

Finishing touches

Climate account add warmth, texture, and visual variety to gray-and-white palette. ▶



column
The tapered shape of this fluted column adds to the entry's small scale. \$866; from \$424



window box
Constructed of PVC, this one will weather any climate and offers an easy-to-access spot for colorful annuals. Hooks & Ladders, from \$230



door handle
A sturdy black-lever entry set with rubbed bronze is a handsome upgrade to any door. Westick, \$204



entry door
Rich wood complements the gray stained cedar siding and white trim. Simpson, from \$300

WANT A PHOTOSHOP REDO? Send snapshots to redo@thisoldhouse.com

DO THEY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



BROADWAY OR_BUST

Sunday nights, 8pm ET September 9-23



CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS

pbs.org/broadwayorbust



BROADWAY OR BUST IS A CO-PRODUCTION OF WGBH BOSTON AND LARCE K. SMULLEN IN ASSOCIATION WITH PBS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL THEATRE AWARD. FUNDING FOR THE SERIES IS PROVIDED BY PBS, THE GUNTER FOUNDATION.

weekend
remodel

Install a flat-weave cotton stair runner

Use a stock runner (or two) to add a splash of color and cushiony comfort to bare wood stairs. *by JOSEPH TREMBLE • Photographs by LAURA MCBEE*

Cost: \$375

Time: 6-8 hours

Difficulty: Easy installation goes smoothly quickly, but runners require a lot of sewing.

If you have plain old stairs, a runner can make a statement and soften your footprints. Runners made of woven cotton are affordable and easy to work with, and they range in style from beachy to baroque; here, we chose handwoven stripes to complement a cottage-style interior.

To simplify the job, *This Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers employed the waterfall method. The runner cascades from step to step, a look that suits the pattern and is more casual than tightly wrapping the treads. Follow along on the next page to spruce up your stairs.

Runner: Blue Heron Stripes
Powers/Cotton Supply Co. Inc.
runner: 36 inches by 28 feet
\$275. cottonsupplyco.com



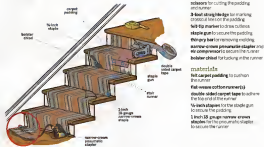
For a step-by-step guide to this project, visit remodelaholic.com.



Day-to-day timeline

SATURDAY MORNING Size and install the carpet padding (Steps 3–5).

SATURDAY AFTERNOON Slide down the snow (Steps 3-5)



trees

1994-1995

exhibited low sensitivity

scissors for cutting the padding and summer

3-foot straightedge for marking crosscut lines on the siding

but the market is down 10 percent.

starting from bottom of the paddles

© 2004 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 391–398

the compressor's secure tuner

materials

felt carpet padding to cushion

the summer

Flat-weave cotton runner(s)

double-sided carpet tape to adhere

It was 1994, and I was in the hospital, waiting for a heart transplant. I was 40 years old, and I had been diagnosed with a rare form of heart disease. I was in the hospital for 10 days, and I was waiting for a heart transplant. I was in the hospital for 10 days, and I was waiting for a heart transplant. I was in the hospital for 10 days, and I was waiting for a heart transplant.

Go inside anywhere for the simple gun.
In some, you find a machine.

2. Install the padding

4. Cut the padding to width. Slip a score line carpet padding under the runner just from the edge to form a smooth transition to the tread, as shown. Measure the difference and calculate how wide to cut the padding. Use a utility knife, use a chalk line to snap a outline along its length, and cut along the line. Then snap a string/ledge, pull into sections, and trim. Repeat this for the tread, using a utility knife.

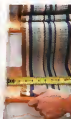
X. Taper the corners. Lay a section of road its back edge a fingertip beyond the foot, and wrap the foot over the soles. Mark the edges where they meet the car. Then draw lines at approximately 45 degrees to the foot edge. Snip off the corners, as shown. Use this section as a template to trace and turn the path for the streamers' steps.

C. Staple the padding to the steps. Center a section of padding on the bottom rail, leaving a small gap at the riser. Use a staple pull to secure. Drive five staples, working out in both directions from the middle of the back edge. Smooth out the padding and staple it five times along the foot, about 3 inch back from the nosing. Gently smooth it over the nosing, being careful not to stretch and pucker it and staple it to the nose, as shown.



The **Star** installing the padding at the bottom step. That way you'll have a built-in cushion to kneel on as you work your way up the stairs.

1



1. Determine the layout

A. Measure the steps. Measure the stair height and the total depth of one step. Multiply the stair height by the number of stairs and the tread depth by the number of treads. Add these two results together and tack on another foot for waste. To find the total length of one runner, if you need more than one, add 600 or 12 inches for overlap (the stairs where the runners meet).

3. Size the runner. Measure and mark the center line of the stone on the narrowest (lead) endline up the middle of the runner with the mark. (Conveniently, our runner has a string down the middle.) Use a tape measure to measure the reveal on each side to even (then mark the tread at each edge of the runner in pencil). Use a combination square to replicate the edge mark to the next level.

3



3. Start the runner

4. Tape the runner to the top chain. Remove any interfacing, molding, and apply a strip of double-staple carpet tape to the top runner. Press the finished end of the runner down under the top and all of the runner with approximate staples. Start at the middle and work out on both sides, stapling every 1/2 inch. Put two staples down each side. Use a brad to secure the runner firmly to the tape.

5. Tuck and staple. Use a brad to push the runner into the gap behind the padding, as shown. Leave the runner's edges with the pencil marks, and divide the 1/2-inch staple into the rug. Smooth the runner over the noosing of the next step, tuck into the gap and staple. Do not touch the runner or you may distort its pattern. Go on and use your knife to cut the end of the runner or the slats. If one runner covers your knee, skip to Step 6.



4



see how it's done

To watch a video of
this project, scan
the bar code with
your smartphone. Or
go to diyhowto.com/step002



4. Join two runners

A. Trim the first runner. As you near the end of the runner, spread it over the last tread, tuckers and tuck into the base of the riser with the bolster chisel. Measure the runner 2 inches beyond the back and trim it to length. Fold under the cut end, leaving about 1 inch of runner protruding from the step, and fold it in place with the bolster chisel, as shown.

B. Secure the first runner's end. Secure the fold to the tread with the pneumatic stapler as shown, working from the middle out.

C. Make the second runner. Set the factory finish edge of the second runner over the end of the first runner, as shown. There's no need to tuck it into the corner, but do be sure that the stripes on the two runners line up perfectly. Using the pneumatic stapler, drive staples at right angles down through the hemmed ends of both runners and into the tread. Continue to gently pull, tuck, and staple the second runner until you reach the bottom step.

5. End the runner

A. Trim the bottom end. Use the bolster chisel to crease the runner along the base of the bottom step. Take care not to stretch and give a full 1/2-inch margin and a straightedge to mark the runner. Cut it to length.

B. Tuck and staple the end. Fold under the end of the runner to the side. Pull it back and staple it along the bottom edge of the riser as shown. If the base of the runner is finished with molding, as ours was, tuck the runner right in along the top edge. When the runner exactly fits, you can easily take it up and do it over again.



5



PHOTOS: JAMES L. JOHNSON; STYLING: JESSICA JOHNSON; HAIR: JESSICA JOHNSON; MAKEUP: JESSICA JOHNSON



More runner styles

A striped stair runner is an easy way to make over one of your home's major architectural assets. The linear patterns keep the look uncluttered and the flat-weave material keeps it casual. Here are just three examples of the wide range of options you have to explore.

bright and colorful

Turn up the volume on a plain palette your attic or basement with playful colors, mixed textures and fun patterns. On Southwestern Cotton Rug, Davis & Adams, \$84 for a 30-inch-by-8-foot runner. davisandadams.com



historically inspired

Complement furnished bedrooms with a cotton runner made in the 19th century. Aerie Rustic Design, Reading Collection, Woodard & Greenleaf, \$349 for a 27-inch-by-8-foot runner. woodardgreenleaf.com

bold and graphic

Light and dark stripes get as loud and loud as you want. On the Gray Stripes, Campbell, \$199 for a 24-inch-by-8-foot runner. campbell.com

weekend remodel

House
blueprint



Angie's List Reviews You Can Trust

Angie's List has reliable reviews on the best local professionals for your home—yard and auto, and pet and health care. We plan to do more—and everything in between—than 1 million reviews check angieslist.com before they hire to ensure they get the best work and best price. Join today!

angieslist.com

Angie's list



Olympic® MAXIMUM® Stain • Sealant in One

Olympic® Maximum® Exterior Stain is a stain and sealant in a single can. Carry the ultra-durable water-proof, protect, and beautify your wood, all for a great price. It's no wonder people most of all Olympic® Stain. Learn more at olympic.com



TRUE to FORM



Over the years, this **century-old cottage** had lost its color and spark, until a **period-driven redo**—and many trips to the salvage yard—brought it back

by Deborah Baldwin • photographs by Ray Kachaturian
produced by Colette Scanlon • styling by Ceryl Bagin

cottage
style
special



setting the scene

LEFT The star of the show is a 1950s O'Keefe & Merritt stove, refinished to match a vintage-green dishwasher and finished by cabinet with a slanted easelboard door. **ABOVE** The new eating nook was designed to fit seamlessly into the circa-1913 bungalow while the builder's original floor and, for that matter, dishwasher (by Duff Cook Shop, Forest Hill, Florida) furnished a connection. Pendant light by Jay

E

VERY house has a story. Some homeowners are just better storytellers than others. When Eric Donovan and Chris Long leased their Venice, California, bungalow, they could almost hear its thin walls talk. Take us back to its salad days, it seemed to say, back when Venice and I were both new.

Situated within easy driving distance of Pasadena, a birthplace of the American Craftsman movement, the circa 1913 bungalow had "all the basics, like the original fireplace and merrill, floors, and built-ins," Eric recalls. But none was where people's taste had tamped down as years past. The downstairs bath, for example, lost renovated in the 1970s, had all the personality of a Motel 6.

The couple decided not all back the years, aided by a general contractor with a name like something out of a Woody Allen movie and a commitment, as he put it, "to make the house what it wants to be."

Most renovations could care less about what the house wants, but Marc Moschler is not your average GC. His and Chris's not your typical suburban homeowners, either. She's a writer and voice-over actor, he's a producer and director for TV's *The Mentalist*, which features a crime-fighting psychic. A general contractor who doubles as a home mechanic was the perfect fit.

The couple had found their period piece white downstairs from a home nearby, where they raised two kids and took in two dogs and a cat. "A managinal!" says Eric, whose infectious enthusiasm for character-filled homes shows through in phone conversations that are so encouraging, it's hard to hang up. "Some people are foodies," she says. "I'm a house, with a sweet tooth for a mix of the century Craftsman."

Not that their reference was far and great. Back when the bungalow went up, on theilly outskirts of a town centered to use part Venice, Italy, and one part Coney Island, Brooklyn, it was more poor man than Craftsman. Having to replace the brick foundation with more earthquake-resistant concrete, Moschler says philosophically, meant chaffing out "530,000, and you don't see anything." The entrepreneur-like eagle eye—come to think of it, they still do—and one more were buckling the floor in the raccoon, a gabled space that had shored out as the front porch.

In order to make the one fireplace work without harming the stone surround, Moschler had to find a mason willing to



FLOOR PLANS

The 1,300-square-foot bungalow-mix gained least porching space—most in a sunroom—during its original heyday and much of the existing layout. On the first floor, a mudroom wall came down to create the eating nook. Upstairs, one wall was moved and another added to turn two bedrooms into a master bedroom with a walk-in closet and an adjacent bath.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



stoked funds

Vendors enter through the sunroom, where they are greeted by incandescent blue-train Posters, removed up rattan-lined new doors, and a weathered chandelier found on eBay. (For more: Home Goods)

shanty down the chimney, Santa Claus style. The upstairs felt like a perra oven, thanks to hot air trapped behind the western lower walls. Adding a hallway there seemed like a no-brainer and someone installed the rustic walls held no place to run pipes. "That was a complex operation," Eira says gravely of Mueschler's space exploration under the stairs.

But all the three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath house was no museum piece; it had plenty to elicit a jaded 21st-century eye. Along with the original fireplace, the living space boasted lofty cove ceilings and the original wood floor and built-ins, some topped with graceful tapered columns. While the picture window in front was surely more recent than early last century, other windows had these very glass. The roof was serviceable, the siding was sound, and the board-and-batten walls, while arguably a budget choice at the time, now qualified as a cool design element.

It's the upside you hear about most from Eira and Mueschler, who share an avid interest in the provenance of things, whether of a washer for an oversized toilet or floor tiles with a French pedigree.

Consider the drawn-out search for a kitchen faucet as old as the house. Roaming around on eBay, Eira found just the thing. But, once installed, it leaked like crazy, forcing Mueschler to find a later model. Then there's the quirky toilet in the guest bath: "That was a real find, on Craigslist," Eira says. "I drove an hour and a half away and picked it up for 10 bucks. Mom scraped paint off the tank and found out it's Bakelite. It's super rare."

Another previously cast-off toilet gained pride of place in the new master bath. When Mueschler scratched the surface of this one, he struck copper. With the paint stripped off, the tank was so handsome that Eira found herself ordering a copper tub from England to go with it.

early open plan
BELOW LEFT AND
RIGHT Original heart
ins and outswinging
refranchised with a
walnut stain, white
the living spaces and
along with the love
ceiling, help make
the revamped first floor
feel more open-plan.



back-in-time guest bath
LEFT AND BELOW The tub is bathed
the first floor "remodeled" in the
BPOC was a good choice and
refined with salvaged wood,
including an old door-guarded to pick
up the accents in the new her life
floor—and a corner sink with separate
cold and hot water taps. The tub filler
snapped up an eBay Tub. Guyer is
Portland Architectural Salvage
The American Restoration Inc.



curtains
slide up
The light-filled
second-floor
living has
its original
board-and-batten
built-in doors,
dressed up during
the redo with
salvage yard
pulleys.



Things like these aren't just home improvements, they're conversation pieces. Take the vintage O'Keefe & Maynor oven, which replaced the hoarse old Viking that was already there. The vintage cooker had belonged to Eira's mother and needed only a complete overhaul. Or the sunroom's faded tile, said to have been reclaimed from old French farmhouses. It has a dusty provenance—"Our daughter's name is Daisy," says Eira—and was tracked down through a firm living in Burgundy, who shipped it through Belgium and Amsterdam to San Pedro, California, "where U.S. Customs got all funny about it," says Eira, remembering a similar kerfuffle with the French tub.

She nabbed one cast-iron bed closer by, at a place in Malibu colorfully known as Catherine Ameyers. To channel the bungalow's past while making it fit for a 21st-century household, Mueschler replaced questionable upgrades with new as well as old parts. The stove is complemented by a retro-style fridge and a matching dishwasher, and heavy-duty countertops are trimmed in Duro black. Salvaged headboard—



complete with "lamps, lamps, and switches," Eise notes—became cabinet doors, finished with fresh paint and bear-up hardware.

Moschler also dropped in a modern-day sky-light over the first-floor bedroom and opened up the kitchen to add an eating nook. It's framed by a marble-topped peninsula with a convenient niche for the microwave. Laundry machines hide discreetly behind bathroom doors.

Second-floor flumm for the main first-floor bath, wickered osiers and an antique yard in nearby Orange and Princeton, includes not only that pre-flo-flo toilet but also an old tub, now primed to match the green accents in the new half-bath floor, and a corner sink with 1876—could it be the date—stamped on the back. Moschler popped in separate taps, which he lovingly dismantled to look even older.

To revive the second floor while maintaining its bungalow flavor, Moschler opted for blanket insulation and whole-bed attic fans. Alongside the copper tub and its salvaged-in backdrop he added a worn pedestal sink, elevated on a marble block to better serve 6-foot-1 Chris. Bringing in a vintage French tub faucet proved easier: It looked worse than the one in the kitchen had. "Eise said I thought the house was waiting with us," Moschler says, "but it was remarkable what it would not let us do."

In the end, everything came together remarkably well—even the cast pipes for the second-floor bath. "There was no one night where we needed to go get the drain line for the toilet," Moschler says. "It couldn't have gone 1 inch to the left or 3 inches to the right."

"Working on an old house, sure, there are always things that come up," he says, sounding pleased. "But the house kept making it possible."

Put another way, all you have to do is listen. ■



romancing the attic

LEFT: The master bedroom, tucked under the dormer kept its ceiling tongue-and-groove ceiling while gaining ventilation from wall blow-ups with painted trunks. **ABOVE:** The master bedroom's new freestanding source of heat uses gas. Steve Jabel



some notions

After eight months of work, Ben Newman and Chris Lutz, photographed at the head cheer with their dogs, Frodo and Deshird, kindly mention: "Each room I walk into," says Ben, "I think is my favorite."

new-old master bath
The new tub plays off a salvaged tile ceiling, beadboard and vintage ceiling mount showerhead and wall mount fittings. *Eis: Allen; tub: Howard; Shower curtain: at Suncoast Specialty*



cheery charmers

cottage style
special

Forget fuss and frills. Set aside shabby chic. The TOH take on cottage-style furnishings is clean-lined, colorful—and guaranteed to make your place feel classic, not cute.

by Amy Roberts
photography by Andrew McCaul

grain-sack pillow

Prized for its simplicity of a post-World War II aesthetic, this made-over sack looks shabby but is sturdy enough to toss in the washer. Horse Pillow Cover, \$15. antandjydesigns.etsy.com



rocking chair

This lively slatted seat, finished with weather-resistant polyurethane paint, makes a relaxing perch on the porch. But would be equally welcome in a kitchen or sunroom. Porch Rocker or Cardboard, \$249. gardeners.com

GET 17% OFF! SEE PAGE 75

bright bowls

A multicolored take on storage, yellowish-orange ceramic holders are microwave- and dishwasher-safe. Salvagey Caring 5-Piece Mixing Bowl Set in Retro Multi, \$25. smartsouth.com
GET 20% OFF! SEE PAGE 71



headboard mirror

Made from reclaimed packing, this mirror frame gives color and pattern to the typical white-painted wall covering. Primitive Antique Headboard Mirror, \$225. www.woodeneko.com



table lamp

A sculptural split as the main-charged, earthy-chess variety, this lamp gives a lamp display a collection. Think river rocks, sea glass, even vintage marbles. Antium Lamp, \$40. jellybean.com



glass hardware

With smooth surfaces, these knobs and pulls add color to cabinets minus the usual fancy fluting. Modern Glass Knob and Glass Pull by Lee's Hardware, \$250 and \$14, respectively in solid, green and amber, each with a brushed-nickel finish. alghorn.com



jelly cupboard

Originally used to hold home-canned goods, nowadays, cabinets like this 40-inch tall one supply storage for toiletries, craft equipment, and more. Painted a lively yellow, it's also a focal point. Primitive Unfinished Jelly Cupboard, \$220. holocaust.net

Paint: Behr Premium Plus; Poly: Glidden's Special Buttered; Glaze: Jolie. (TOH.com)





iron accent

The graceful shape of this magnetic book rack makes it an ideal accent for any garden path. It also doubles duty as a slim 18-inch-wide table brought from Tuscan Magazine Rack \$148, sundancocatalog.com

slipcovered seat

Draped in linen with a modern, looking stripe, this side chair has two box-printed corners rather than tufting all around. Slip-Covered Country Perch for under \$100, 5199.1999.com



floral wallpaper

A refreshing alternative to florals, this wall covering has a bold two-tone flower-and-leaf pattern and a subtle sponge-printed background. Screen View in Sunny Yellow and Meadow Green \$56 for a 40-inch roll, youwall.com



vintage look fan

Styled after an early electric model in enameled black metal, this fan-like finger-side grille gets breezy in a jiffy too. Ecce Orange Desk Fan \$70, wayfair.com

SEE PAGE 71



plant pedestal

This 20-inch high-kick metal pedestal plants in line with windows for optimal sunlight. It has a sleek shape that's sturdy not dainty. Painted Cottage Plant Stand in Lustrous Green \$29, bliss.com



striped blanket

These graphic lines are a favorite seasonal color: red, blue, and yellow. They're no exception on an oversized, 100% cotton throw. Ranch Stripe Haven Cotton Throw 60 by 90 inches \$74, clothes4bert.com

SEE PAGE 71



stoneware pitcher

The whole stoneware pitcher gets a sunny makeover with this high-fired, yellow enamel finish. Because the glaze is so dense, hot liquids stay hot and cool liquids stay cool. \$30, bliss.com



woven basket

Supple designs tend to be sleek, but not when woven in natural fibers. Use this structural display worthy bin to stash specimens out in the open. Grand Portage Bin in wicker \$48, landhouse.com



step stool

Used in turn-of-the-century kitchens to access high cabinets, portable wood stairs are still valued for their utility. Given a firm patina, this one becomes a showpiece too. Unfinished Pine Step Stool \$10, otherhalf.com

Paint, Zero Pottery Plus, Dark Green Enamel Finish \$1 per quart, [The Home Depot](http://TheHome Depot)



star light

A stylized sunburst and star, this modern star is a popular point light fixture. It's made of dark metal and hangs from a chain. This updated model has a shiny finish. Modern Star Ceiling Light in Nickel \$79, shade-light.com

turned leg table

With its simple silhouette, this supports and serves gray brick. This coffee table brings contemporary flavor to a cottage living room. Measure, available \$100, bliss.com



braided are rug

This single braided rug is more than just a rug. It's a square of art. It's made of sheep and goat wool. It's 3 by 5-foot. It's called Braided Rug. Rectangular in Vintage Multi \$130, bliss.com



exclusive discounts!

Visit thehouse.com/deals for special offers on select cottage style furnishings in the city.

COZY BY DESIGN

oooooooooooo

TOH's guide to the architectural elements and interior details that give any house, big or small, cottage character

COMFORTABLE—AND COMFORTING. More infused with a spirit than put together according to a set of rules, cottage style interiors have a happy informality. Rooms are airy and intimate at the same time, with nooks and alcoves that offer both curl-up daydreaming spots and space-saving built-in storage—after all, who can relax if there's clutter all around? From colorful weathered paint to warm stained wood, finishes are touchable rather than hands-off and only get better with age. These spaces often get a dose of nostalgic charm from vintage look fixtures and fittings, hardware and woodwork details that seem to turn back the clock on today's high-stress, high-tech lifestyle. Most any place can use a helping of cottage coziness, as long as the goal is to create an inviting abode with a care-free, well-lived-in look. Here and on the following pages, we highlight some key features that you can borrow to give your own home that uplifting, reassuring feeling.



WALLS: Wood planks, like this one shown, stand up to drips and dunks. Traditionally white paint brightens the room.

BUILT-INS: A wine rack and a storage cabinet tucked under the stairs maximize floor space; wood panels take the chill off modern stainless-steel appliances.

DETAILS: Birnbaum, a deep-rimmed stool, a vintage-style faucet, and painted open shelves with wood brackets give a kitchen casual charm.

FLOORS: Whether stained or painted, wood adds that whole warmth and texture. These wide pine boards show off their handsome natural grain.

BUILT-INS

Step through the door or walk around the corner and what do you discover? Tucked-in shelving and furniture that ingeniously make use of every nook and cranny

DORMER DESK Even the simplest built-in can add a big dose of personality to a snug space. Here, a writing surface made from wall cleats and 2x4 boards creates a light spot in an attic, turning a low clearance corner into a light-filled workstation with a view



MINI HUBROOM An advanced entry plan: practical chairs with a lower shelf, open shelves, top cabinet with fill-up doors, and a bench with curved supports. Simple built-in fold-out benches. Durable painting and a soft shade of green paint link the pieces together

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE



ADDSOME BUNK BEDS What could be easier? Stacked twin beds get a character boost from an angled endboard. This pull-in finished with wood paneling and white paint that looks like the rest of the room. Bunks find a home on shelves at the head of each bed, while beds hide in the lower bunk's deep drawers

STORAGE NICHE Tucked between wall studs and just below the eaves, a hand-drawn, framed, trimmed-out cubby provides a perfect spot for extra towels in a distinctive powder room



AWAY FROM IT ALL BENCH A corner three-season room benefits from seating that's tailor-made for the space. Drawers hold outdoor shoes, a colorful cushion, throwpillows, and a patterned rug offer a comfy place for a private moment

Playful color and pattern underfoot add a lighthearted touch--and a finished surface that wears its age well.

COLORFUL CHECKERBOARD Large squares of sunny yellow and soft cream change the mood of a living space instantly—no further upgrades needed. Added bonus: Paint is a nice way to disguise flaws on old floorboards. (For instructions, see painting a checkerboard floor, go to brilliantideas.com/step002/.)



EXTENDED-UP THE WALLS Sage-green-painted walls like pine boards with the boards and waterproofing, leaving this bare brown, half a dozen, dry feeling



bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.14.242811>; this version posted May 14, 2020. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license.



Back in the day, wood boards made cheap and durable walls for hard-working rooms. The look has endured, thanks to its casual, homey appeal.

TO THE CEILING Machine-milled beadboard took off in Victorian times for kitchens, baths, and work areas. Flushing the entire height of the walls, as well as up the banquette, it's still an eye-catching appearance suitable for a busy dining room.



MINI SIDE TO SIDE
Installing boards horizontally sets the proportions of this long, narrow bedroom. The same planks are used on the ceiling, creating a pleasant sense of enclosure; an all-white palette makes the small space feel bright.



WRAPOUND WARESCOTING This headboard wrapscot is supplied with a flat rail that acts as a shelf for toiletries, keeping them within easy reach. The material also wraps the tall surround and is quilted the same spring green for a cheery, laid-back look.

Well-crafted and practical, period-look
woodwork, fixtures, fittings, and
hardware add a personal touch—and
a sense of history—to informal spaces

A photograph of a kitchen interior. Two white shelves are mounted on a light-colored wall. The top shelf holds three green bowls of varying sizes and a glass jar with a patterned lid. The middle shelf displays a collection of colorful mugs and cups, including some with polka dots and stripes. Below the shelves, a wooden countertop holds a white bowl filled with green fruit, a red bottle, and a sink with a faucet.

A photograph of a room with a window, a chair, and a lamp. The window has a striped curtain. The chair is wooden with a woven seat. The lamp is on a small table.

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 399–406

ALL ABOUT

cottage style special

Window seats

Turn unused space around the house into extra seating and storage with a minimum of carpentry—and get a snug, homey haven for daydreaming, reading, even napping. The experts at TOH tell you how *By Jill Coleman*

It's no wonder window seats are often the most loved element in a home. They offer comfort—especially with a thick cushion as top-seat views to the outdoors. They create a sense of coziness and security, thanks to the nicker that defines a window seat. And they provide extra storage when fitted with drawers, cubbies, or a simply hinged bench top. But perhaps it's their ability to take as much as an awkward space and turn it into a charming focal point that warms our hearts most.

You can find window seats in homes representing just about every American architectural style, from colonial to contemporary, and the fact that they've endured this long speaks to their form and versatility. They also have a place in every room, whether as a bachelorette in the kitchen, a book bench on an entry, or a hideaway for reading, a book in the den, and can be teamed to match existing seating.

On the following pages, you'll find all the information and inspiration you need to create a window seat that's right for you, from designing and tracking one out to tips on building your own seat on a shoestring—no pros or complicated carpentry required. We'll also guide you on project particulars, such as which materials to use and what measurements to follow, all with the ultimate goal of giving you a satisfying “let up, say ahhh” result.

Window-seat dimensions

Use these measurements to ensure a comfy seat.



VITALS

What's it made of?

Depending on its look and function, a seat can be constructed of hardwood, plywood, MDF, or even kitchen cabinetry.



DIY or hire a pro?

Hardy homeowners can use stock cabinets or construct a sturdy corner window bench out of lumber and plywood. Consider calling in the pros for an exact match to a room's existing millwork or a challenging configuration, such as a curved bay window.

What's it cost?

A 3-foot-long DIY window seat costs as little as \$100 for one with open storage underneath or \$150 for one made with stock cabinets. For custom, expect to pay from \$1,000 to \$3,000 depending on the size and design.

Where to put a window seat?

Every room in the house. All you need is a window and a niche provided by a dormer, bay, or bumpout. Two side walls are ideal, but one will do



+entryway Create a welcome place for guests to sit or leave packages. Here, a built-in window seat is elevated on drawers to help organize small items, such as dog leashes and keys.



+den/home office

Recess is ideal behind built-in bookcases, and window seats to take a break off. This seat's creamy white paint and chunky baseboard complement the room's muted paint palette.



+bedroom

Take advantage of a nook created by adding two walls close to the bed to add a warm seat. Placing the seat's base against the wall makes it a focal point in the room, while a window seat offers a full view of the outdoors.



+living room

A built-in perch is a key window feature for seating for guests. And while a built-in window seat is a great idea, it doesn't always work. If you don't have a view to the outside, bulky wood shutters on the bay provide both a function and privacy when needed.



+kitchen A windowed alcove creates the perfect opportunity for a space-saving breakfast (or tea) in a kitchen. Here, side drawers make efficient use of what would otherwise be necessary cavity within each bumpout's closed base.



+stair landing

Use a window seat to turn wasted space at the top of the stairs into a mini room. Here, built-in drawers provide lighting for reading or practicing guitar.

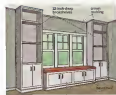


+bathroom

Fill the void alongside a shower stall or a vanity with a seat to sit while waiting for a hair dryer or drying your hair. This triangular seat is clad with beadboard to match the wallpaper on the walls.

No niche for a seat? Make one

If you have a blank wall with a window, the simplest way to think about the spacing with ready-made shelving or window seats and space the distance with a seat. The trick is getting the measurements right. Standard shelf depth is 12 or 16 inches, for comfort, the window seat should be 24 inches deep, for a total depth of about 38 inches. Window seats for hanging clothes are about 2 feet deep, so here's the best to cross the seat by 6 inches or so. That way, you can't back up to the room with your back supported and both feet on the floor.



38-inch deep seat

get the how-to

Search tag to find step-by-step instructions and window seat plans for the one or go to thishouse.com/2012



Three basic types

Window seats take different forms, with looks, location, budget, and storage needs among the determining factors for the type you choose

Shelf: A window seat made of a shelf-style bench outfitted with an upholstered cushion allows for open storage under the seat. This option—where you can tuck a yourself or fire out, is great in utilitarian spaces such as mudrooms, entryways, or even a laundry area. Fasten the underside of the shelf to 2x4 cleats secured to wall studs along the back and side walls. For added strength, install vertical supports, which can also act as cubby dividers.

Box: An enclosed window seat can be made by adding wood paneling to the front and any exposed sides of a shelf-style seat (shown on the baskette at right) or by cladding it with drywall to create a seamless surface with the surrounding walls. Another option is to build a six-sided box set on 2x4 framing that is screwed to the floor. By hanging the top, the seat doubles as a storage bin.

Cabinetry: Modular units with doors or drawers offer a pre-made base. Choose from thirty stock cabinets sold at big-box stores, such as The Home Depot and IKEA, or made-to-order units from a local mill shop or a custom-cabinet company. Though pricey, custom lets you maximize every inch of storage beneath the seat while integrating the built-in with the rest of the room, from door style to trim-to-finish. Cabinets typically rest on 2x4 framing, but some stock and semi-custom models come with legs or a pedestal with a minimalist look.



pro advice

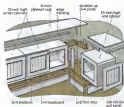
ARTHUR MALLON, INTERIORS DESIGN
ARTHUR MALLON, INTERIORS DESIGN

"In a kitchen or a family room, cover the window-seat cushion with outdoor fabric. It won't fade from the sun coming in and can handle people putting their feet up."

Our favorite DIY window seat

Start with two stock 25-inch-high by 12-inch-deep double-door cabinets designed for use above a fridge (the width depends on the size of your room). Screw cabinets together through their sides and set on 2x4 framing to support and raise them to seat height. Use 1x4 baseboards to hide the framing, and top cabinets with 1/4-inch plywood framed with edge molding to create the seat. For a window seat that turns a corner (shown at left), add single- or double-door cabinets on the walls supporting the frame below and finishing the top the same way as the center cabinets. The latter steps to bridge gaps at front, and extend down to end panels.

Notes: Most stock wall cabinets are 22 inches deep, less than the suggested 25 to 20 inches for comfort. Make up the difference by flaring outward and supporting the cabinets from behind with doubled-up 2x4 cleats secured to wall studs. Use a water plywood top that will rest on the cleats and overhang the cabinets 1/2 inch or so to front. Fasten the cabinets and the top to the cleats, as well as to each other.



Trim out your seat

To tie it in with the rest of the room, look to existing moldings. Baseboards, for example, should wrap around the seat where it meets the floor. Here are more ways to give your seat character.

paneling: A screened-panel design creates an elegant look in keeping with traditional French styles, such as Georgian and Colonial Revival. Design the panel to duplicate existing trim in the room for a unified effect.



headboard: Suggesting cozy cottage style, a casual gathering spot, headboard seats look clean, whether used as shelving for the window-seat base, the backrest area, or both, as shown here.



Seats for sleeping

Give extra roommates a place for overnight guests with a window seat and a double bed. Stacked beds measure 69 by 75 inches. Popular additions to bedrooms, the over-sold seats can also offer an inviting spot for a catnap in a home office or den. A lowered or arched ceiling (shown above, covered with wood slats) adds to the snug effect. Install built-in bookcases and lighting to maximize the usual nightstand elements, or avoid the window-seat platform area longer than the mattress itself to give you extra surface area for placing books and other objects. If cabinets or drawers are included in the window-seat base, make a lock so that it's easier to stand close to the bed when changing linens.



brackets: Shelf-type seats open the way for brackets, which create both ornamental and structural. Trademark items in Craftsman bungalow and Victorian gingerbread cottages, window-seat brackets can echo existing ones.

vertical timbering: Similar to board-and-batten wall paneling, these applications bring home a simple farmhouse feel. When painted a contrasting color, as shown, they make a window seat pop.



When using a radiator in a window seat, shield the face with lattice panels to let heat escape. A flipped top allows the radiator to be easily accessed and serviced.

Best ways to build in storage

You can't have too much stowaway space. Here's how to take advantage of the voids below, inside, and surrounding your seat



• hinged top
This simple and thrifty approach relies on sturdy glass top. The only drawback is having to remove cushions to access storage. In terms with built-in, solid supports designed for key cleats to keep the lid from slamming visible fingers.

• open cubbies
For shelf-type seats, drawers can offer support and curve out distinct spaces for organizing books or nesting baskets. End with pencil or straightly items, such as sports gear in a manroom.



• sidewall shelves
Curve out shelves in the walls flanking your seat. The wider the shelf the better, but even a narrow ledge between the window and given you a lot of storage.



• drawers
These provide easy access without removing a seat cushion. Some cabinet companies sell what's called a "padded drawer" with a built-in handle that simplifies construction.



• doors
Standard with stock and custom cabinets, doors offer truly endless storage. But unlike with drawers, you must crutch down further to reach inside. Be sure there's ample room to flex to accommodate door swing.

Making the most of awkward spaces

Complex arrangements, such as curved bays or windows with radiused tucked-in seats, call for clever solutions. In all cases, design to capacity. For a bay window, extend right angles, that means following the curve. To do this with stock cabinets or DIY boxes, arrange units side by side so that just their faces meet at the corners, like slatted toy blocks. Cut a plywood top that matches the cabinet and covers the gap between the seats at the rear. Be sure to fully support the seat from below and behind. For a perfect fit and for a large bay, consider the barrel-style seat shown above, or the custom route. This will push the \$3,000 envelope, but rest assured that the built-in will add value, especially if you integrate storage.

Comfort and convenience boosters

CUSHIONS: A seat cushion should be as thick as a sofa's (2 to 4 inches). Additional 30-inch-square firm pillows lining the back offer more support, as do soft throw pillows that can be tucked behind the seat of your back or your head.

LIGHTING: Augment natural light with recessed cans in the ceiling, scones on side walls, or a table lamp on a shelf (shown at left) so that it's easier to read or potter at your seat. Use dimmers for energy efficiency and to create a soothing space for napping.

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS: Not just for curling up with a paper book anymore, window seats increasingly are places where people plug in a laptop. Outlets also let you easily charge an e-reader or a tablet without leaving your perch. Tuck them into the back or side walls.

WINDOW COVERINGS: To prevent glare or heat gain from the sun coming in through windows, add shades or blinds, which can be chosen in materials and fabrics to complement the room's furnishings. If the window seat is used for sleeping, consider installing drapes in front of the seat to conceal the entire alcove, creating a nook within a room.

SAVING EXPOSED BEAMS

The painted wood beams that shade our front porch are rotting on top, and my husband's flimsy repairs are no longer holding. Can they be saved?

—KIRSTIN MARIAM DALLAS

Tom Silva replies: Polyester water-body fillers like Bondo aren't ideal for exterior wood repairs because they don't flex with the wood as it expands and contracts. As a result, water usually finds its way underneath the patch and/or not-repairs. You'll have better luck using borers and epoxy, as long as you prep the wood properly.

First, however, probe the beams with a knife or screwdriver to see if they're strong enough to be salvaged. If the damage goes more than a couple inches deep, have a contractor or structural engineer investigate.

But if the damaged area isn't too deep, follow these steps: Pry off the bondo, dig out as much rot as allowed wood as you can, and vacuum up the debris. Then treat the bare wood with a borate-based liquid, such as Bora-Care (boracare.com). Boracarb will not flake and guard against beetle infestation, and also deters termites, carpenter ants, and wood-boring beetles. After the wood dries, coat the excavated area with an architectural epoxy primer and filler, like the product sold by Advanced Repair Technology (advancingrepair.com), which remains flexible after they cure. Smooth the epoxy fluid with the remaining wood, and when it hardens, sand and paint it to match it from UV rays.

For additional protection, cover the tops of the beams with a layer of builder's felt and mineral flashing. The felt keeps any condensation on the underside of the metal from seeping into the wood. Also, make sure the flashing's edges overlap the beams sides by about 1½ inch.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Though it's only a couple of inches thick, a flat-screen TV will weigh up to 50 pounds. Make a friend before you begin.

I want to hang my flat-screen TV on the wall without any wires showing. How can I do that?

—MARCO REITENSH PROCTOR

Tom Silva replies: The first step is to buy a wall mount rated to hold your TV. As you'll need to know your set's weight and screen size, then choose a mount type. Fixed, non-adjustable mounts hold a set right against the wall but limit how high the TV can go. (The screen should be at eye level when you're seated.) With a tilt-only mount like the OneFit Mount installed here,

the TV can fan off the wall but rotate side-to-side up to 90 degrees and tilt up to 15 degrees. That allows you to put the screen higher on the wall than a fixed mount and still enjoy comfortable viewing.

Building codes don't permit TV power cords to be buried in the wall, so you'll want to use a device like the PowerBridge shown here. This two-piece receptacle kit comes wired to safely hide the cord and A/V cables behind the drywall and peek them up in the base of the wall near your signal and power source. For an even neater ruse, run the cables through the hollow arms of the mount.

Cost: \$250 for the wall mount plus \$500 for the PowerBridge
Time: 1 hour with two people
Difficulty: Medium Get a hand strong enough TV

STEP-BY-STEP Hang a flat-screen TV

1. Mark the studs

Find and mark a stud where you want the TV mounted. Measure to the left or right 16 inches and mark the center of the next stud. Using the template that comes with your mount—make sure the template is level—mark the positions of four lag screws over two studs.



2. Install the wall mount

Drill pilot holes for the lag screws. Hold the mount up to the wall and push it over the holes. Install the lag bolts and washers with a socket wrench, but don't tighten them completely. Slide the mount left or right depending on where you want the TV, check for level, then tighten each screw as shown.



4. Connect the power

Locate the lower receptacle box within 6 feet of an outlet and install Step 3. Insert the upper box and make the power cord down the wall. Use a screwdriver to bend the wall plate into the hole near the outlet. At the lower hole, plug the male end of the power cord into the female end of the lower receptacle.



5. Insert the cables

Stick at the upper receptacle, tab the HDMI cable and any other cables through the box's rubber gasket. Leave enough slack for each the TV at its maximum extension and then secure. Pull the cables through the hole near the base of the wall and through the lower receptacle's rubber gasket. Then attach the wall plate to the drywall as in Step 4.

3. Cut the receptacle hole

Use snips to the best visible spot for the PowerBridge's upper receptacle box. Then use a stud finder to make sure that you have a stud shelf to mark the bottom of the stud bay. Place the receptacle template in this spot and use a saw to cut. Use a drywall saw to cut out the wallboard along the template's outline.



6. Mount the TV

Fasten the attached half of the mount to the back of the TV. Have someone help you lift the TV and hook it steady while you bolt the two halves together. Tighten the nuts with a socket wrench. Plug the TV's power cord into the upper receptacle. Then use the supplied extension cord to run power from an outlet to the bottom receptacle.

WOOD SHUDDERS
FOR MULCH

I'm an amateur woodworker and would like to use the cherry and maple shavings from my shop as mulch for my garden. Good idea?

—JAMES CARLIN IN ROYAL OAK, MICH.

Roger Cook replies: Shavings from domestic hardwoods are fine for gardens—and lawns—if used in moderation. But combine them with grass clippings and let them decay for a few months before applying them around your plants.

If you were tanning tropical woods, however, it could be a different story. Some species contain potent poisons and can repel substances that might not be good for your plants.

CARBONYL-FINISH PROBLEM

On my cherry entertainment center, I put a glossy water-based polyurethane over a water-based stain. But even after multiple coats, the brushstrokes are still evident. How can I get a nice, smooth finish?

—JOHN STEINER, WASHVILLE, TENN.

Morris Abramson replies: Finishes can be tricky. Temperature, humidity, timing, the type of wood, and the finishes you use all affect the results. In your case, I think the problem is related to how you prepared the cherry or applied the polyurethane.

Before I use a water-based stain or poly, I sand hardwoods to 220-grit up to 220-grit. Anything finer bursters the surface, so it won't accept stain. Next, I tap the surface with distilled water to move the wood grain. (Tap water may contain chemicals that stain wood.) After the wood dries, I give it a very light sanding with 220-grit—just enough to knock the grain back down—tack it down, and apply the stain. Water-based finishes tend to raise the wood

grain, so I lightly sand the surface again after the stain dries. I'll repeat the process until the wood feels smooth and I'm satisfied with the way the stain looks.

Now I apply the poly. Water-based polyurethanes dry very quickly, so I prefer to spray rather than brush them on. But when I do brush them, I use foam brushes and just a few strokes at a time to maintain the chance of streak marks on the finish. I also sand lightly with 220-grit paper between each coat and tack off the surface to ensure good adhesion of the next coat.

With your cherry project, I'd suggest that you brush on a few more coats of poly, sanding lightly between coats, and then smooth away the brushstrokes using a sanding block. Take care not to sand all the way through the poly and down to the stain. When you are satisfied that everything is smooth, lay on another coat using a foam brush, and the finish will be as smooth as it can be.

BOARD-AND-BATTEN
BASICS

I want to put board-and-batten paneling on my inside walls. What's the best way to go about it?

—JACK SMITH, PHILADELPHIA, MISS.

Tony Silva replies: There are a couple of good ways to get the board-and-batten look. With the traditional route, which is also the most expensive and time-consuming, you set 1x8 or 1x12 boards vertically, edge to edge, and cover the seams with narrow wood strips, or battens. The battens sit typically 1/2-inch below the top of the board. The battens are typically 1/2-inch thick and 1/4" wide. You can also use a horizontal fascia board at the top of the wall and a batten board at the bottom.

You can't just nail boards and battens directly to drywall or plaster and expect them to stay put. But with construction adhesive and dry



Simple board-and-batten paneling complements the Arts and Crafts styling of this dining room.

of hot-melt glue, you can stick the pieces to the walls.

A faster, less expensive way to install board-and-batten is to use 7/8-inch hardwood plywood or medium-density fiberboard (MDF) as backing. Glue the sheets to the wall, and then to the studs with 7d nails, then nail on the battens.

If your walls are stiff and you use plywood, which tops out at 4 feet, you'll need up with a horizontal seam before you reach the ceiling. To hide it, cut the boards so that the seam lands at chair-rail height and cover it with a horizontal batten before applying the vertical ones. If you want a seamless installation on a tall wall, go with

MDF—it comes in sheets up to 12 feet long. You can save even more money by forgetting the boards and using battens directly to the wall, assuming it's flat and smooth. Most folks won't even know something's missing.

HOW TO MAKE ALUMINUM
WIRING SAFE

Recently, I found out that some of the wiring in my 1967 ranch-style house is aluminum. I've also learned that my insurance company won't insure a house with aluminum wiring. What can I do?

—HARRY OTTON, WILLINGBORO, N.J.

Kevin O'Connor replies: Copper was an almost-rare commodity in the mid-1960s, so many builders switched to cheaper aluminum wiring for branch circuits. Unfortunately, aluminum is prone to corrode and overheat at splices and terminal connections, so the practice was discontinued in the mid-

1970s and is now prohibited by code.

The best solution, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is to replace all the branch-circuit aluminum wiring in a house. But if that's not practical, so non-bond fast is to disconnect all the wires and attach a short length of copper wire to the end of each aluminum one using a COPALUM connector. A specialized compression tool secures the connector onto the end of the wires with 50,000 pounds of force, making a clamp that actually welds both metals together and eliminates any future corrosion. Finally, a plastic tube is heat-shrunk over each connector and the copper wires are spliced together or attached to each terminal.

This is no DIY job. Only electricians trained to use the crimping tool are authorized to install COPALUM connectors. If this approach works for you, ask your local code official if COPALUM crimping is allowed. If so, then call your insurance company to see if that will change their minds.

WHAT
IS IT?

D-DOORSTOP

The unique shape of the Wedge It allows it to hold a door completely open in three different ways by holding it in a hinge, wedging it under the door, or resting it on the door's top edge. It's made of lightweight polycarbonate with non-scratching polyurethane bumpers. \$5. wedgits.com

Complete | Equine | Fresh Design | Mobile | Custom | Portable | A-Frame

For over 30 years, we have provided our customers' exceptional quality and customer service in Phoenix building equine with you from custom through completion, using the basic care of your construction system. Here at Morton Buildings, we build your building with the strongest, most innovative way in the industry to ensure years of worry-free ownership.

Join our exclusive community who have already become great Phoenix building owners.

To learn more and to get started, contact Phoenix Building today.

MORTON BUILDINGS
800-271-7230 • mortonbuildings.com

send your questions
to ask the pros

go to thisaskthepros.com/askthepros or write to: Ask This Old House This Old House magazine 330 West 30th Street New York, NY 10001

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions and the author's reply may be edited for clarity and length. We cannot be held responsible for the return of mail received. We cannot be held responsible for replying to unpublished questions.

TOH
TESTED

Under pressure

For tough cleaning tasks like removing stains from concrete or masonry walls, like washing an entire house, extra grease goes only so far. This range of pressure washers gets the job done faster—and better—than you and your brush.—SAL VADUK

CAUTION
A pressure washer is not a garden hose. Never direct the spray toward any living thing, as it can maim. Always wear boots, long pants, gloves and eye protection.



GENERAC 5993

Price: \$1,499.99
Pressure washers are powerful tools that give powered-line cleaners extra water without blipping pumps. Generac's rated heads generate 10,000 psi and 1000 gpm of water, longer than those on standard sprayer pumps. A design helps you direct the spray while keeping your hand a safe distance from the tip. For this user who wants the durability to clean the whole house—as well as all the stains in the neighborhood.
Five pros: 3,000 pounds per square inch (psi), 2.8 gallons per minute (gpm), 2100 engine, 12.3 pounds.

top-line features

- A handle, with slots for the top, hose, and wand that collapses for storage.
- A steel reinforced rubber hose with coated PVC sections.
- A beefy, tubular steel cage protects the engine.
- An easily accessible pump facilitates service.
- Puncture-proof wheels.



CLEANING UNITS Don't be dazzled by psi or you may end up with plenty of pressure but not enough flow to clean. Calculate cleaning units (CU) by multiplying psi by gpm. This factor better represents the cleaning power you really have. The higher the CU, the deeper you can clean and the faster it'll go.



TROY-BILT Q20413

Price: \$280; troybilt.com
This basic gas model is fleecy for small jobs too big for malleable units. The go-to 25-degree fan tip handles most cleaning, but please shake the force. 0-degree tip, test you randomly curve your arm into your back. Large wheels make the machine easy to move. The consumer-grade rated air pump means no oil changes, but it also means the unit may need to be replaced after seven years of normal use.
Five pros: 2,500 psi, 2.3 gpm, 190cc engine, 60.7 pounds.

How to clean wood with care

A pressure washer can force water behind siding or gouge your lovely deck—unless you learn to harness the power.



SIDING Fit the wand with the soap dispenser and spray the siding with a cleaner. Then switch to the 25-degree fan tip. Move side-to-side keeping the tip 12 to 18 inches off the siding and the spray perpendicular to the siding. Angle the wand slightly downward to prevent water from being forced behind the siding. Move in closer if you have access potential.

DECKING Start by spraying on a cleaner inside for decks. Use the soap dispensing tip and follow the cleaner's directions. With a 25-degree fan held 10 to 12 inches off the deck, hold the spray fan perpendicular to the joist but move the wand with the grain. Don't linger—your styrofoam wood.

TIP: "Run an \$5 can of Pump Saver through your pressure washer before storing it for the winter to protect the pump and keep the seals from drying out"—ALL MODEL PRESSURE WASHERS



KARCHER K 5.540

Price: \$180; karcher-usa.com
The 2.0-3.0 psi psi unit produces the most for a 120-watt electric washer, which features a long-lasting water-cooled pump. You'll appreciate practical features like the integrated hose reel, the adjustable spray head (no separate hot taps to twist), and an attachment that creates a shower effect, boosting cleaning efficiency by 50 percent for jobs like cleaning a brick walk.
Five pros: 2,000 psi, 1.4 gpm, 13-amp motor, 6.6 pounds, 60.7 pounds.



CRAFTSMAN 75286

Price: \$215; craftsman.com
This cordless washer includes two wands, one for the pressure washer and one for steam. The latter is a smart way to melt grime off grill grates or muck off car tires. It takes about 20 seconds for the heating element to turn distilled water into a stream of hot vapor. As for the pressure washer, it's great for light-duty cleaning, like patio furniture.
Five pros: 1,700 psi, 1.3 gpm, 12.5-amp motor, 10.5 pounds, 22.5 pounds.

Upgrade your wand

Clean larger hard-to-reach areas faster with these specialty attachments.



Cling burner
Fit the bubble-down burner to the wand. Make it down a deep crevice and avoid the trigger. Don't let bubbles up the blockage while two men ones push the wand forward from 900 cleaning.



Surface cleaner
Push this disk over a patio until leaves a clean streak. This 12-inch wide path with no-reachy \$30. karcher-usa.com



Telescoping wand
Extend this wand up to 15 feet and use it to spray cleaner on second-story windows and then elsewhere—from the safety of the ground. \$140. mymyds.com



NOMAD MCOR35

Price: \$250; newdiplo.com
More of a cordless cleaner than a pressure washer, this unit won't rival a disk. But it packs enough punch to blast mud, sand, and punk off boots, cars, or even feds (without marring them). The 3.5-gallon tank drives three orange cones. The sprayer works like the one for a traditional garden hose and adjusts from 30 psi to a soft fan of water.
Five pros: 90 psi, 0.5 gpm, 20 pounds.



Norm's tricks of the trade



We're planning to refinish the original cabinets in our 1930s kitchen, but the hinges are buried under layers and layers of paint. How do we remove the hinges without damaging them or the surrounding wood?

—BETHANADAMS@L.A.MEDIA.COM

A In order to take off the hinges, you'll have to back out the old straight-slot screws that hold them in place. That requires clearing the screws' paint-clogged slots. Given the age of your house, there are probably layers of lead paint on the hinges, so before you start, put on a respirator and lay down a wide piece of plastic sheeting under the work area to catch any paint chips.

1 To clear a slot, use a sharp screwdriver at an angle in the center of the slot and tap lightly first gently, then a little harder, to the same for the other screwheads.



2 Remove any remaining paint with a utility knife, and clean up the paint chips with a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter.



3 Place the tip of a screwdriver in a straight slot and give it a light tap with a wood mallet. The shock will break the paint's grip on the screw so that you can back it out. For this to work, the screwdriver's tip has to be in good condition with square edges and sharp corners.



4 Once the screws are out, it's possible that the hinges will come off easily without chipping the surrounding paint. But if chipping does occur, cut around each nail with a utility knife before you remove a hinge.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARBOUR FREIGHT TOOLS

This Old House blueprint

Events, Promotions, Advertiser Product News, etc.



Thompson's Advanced Natural Wood Protector

Superior Protection in One Step to Find

Keep your deck looking beautiful with long-lasting superior protection from Thompson's **WaterSeal Advanced**. The most powerful protection against water damage, guaranteed. It can be applied to decks used for an easy one-day project. Look for Thompson's **WaterSeal Advanced** at your local HomeVitality store. [thompsonswaterseal.com](http://www.thompsonswaterseal.com)

Thompson's WaterSeal



This Old House Wants You!

Become a TOH HomeVitality Member

Did you know that you can influence what's included in *This Old House* magazine and on the TOH website? Simply go to technomaster.com to register. As a HomeVitality member, you'll help us improve our magazine and website and you'll receive exclusive offers, plus the chance to win *The Old House* cookbook, T-shirts, gift cards, and more.

technomaster.com

This Old House
HOME

Porter Cable

Quality Tools Since 1908

The **Porter Cable BL230C 2" Brad Nailer** has been updated to be more compact, lightweight, and easy to use. Featuring an oil-free design, rear exhaust, tool-free depth-of-drive tool-free jam release, and more... it has the right balance of features to add your finishing touches.

porter-cable.com



PORTER CABLE



Shaw Floors

Find Your Perfect Floor

Find the perfect **Shaw** floor for your style and budget. Choose from an abundant selection of carpeting and area rugs, tile, hardwood, laminate, stone and radiant flooring.

shawfloors.com

Shaw FLOORS

American Family Insurance

All Year Protection Under One Roof

The value of your property can add up. **American Family Insurance's DreamVault** can create an inventory of your belongings. Check it out online today at www.aflac.com/dreamvault.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
All year protection under one roof.



DREAMVAULT

Harbor Freight Tools

Professional Tool Storage Solutions

- Rugged all-steel construction with precision welding
- Industrial high-gloss powder-coat finish
- Heavy-duty ball bearings for smooth sliding drawers
- Easy lift spring-loaded latch keeps drawers closed until released
- Industrial rollers with rubber feet roll easily with heavy loads
- Lockable drawer with two keys

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS
Tools for Professionals



Ask This Old House
thisoldhouse.com/watch/AskTOH

www.gexsupply.com • 800.757.4774

FIX WHAT OTHER GLUES SIMPLY CAN'T.™

If you take the time to fix something, you want it to last. **Amazing Glue** is perfect for repairs because it holds just about anything—wood, metal, ceramic, glass and more.

Amazing Strength you can count on that is impact and vibration resistant and waterproof.



They Guaranteed With Us



www.ecologicalproducts.com

MADE IN USA
by Ecological Products

If you can see the underside of your floor you can add radiant heat to your home!

Give Your Home An Energy Retrofit.

Do It Yourself—We Make It Easy!

Use your water heater as our ultra high efficient model to provide abundant and comfortable radiant heat. You can plan ahead for solar or do it now for energy & cost savings.

- Over 30 years of design experience
- Clear, headache free systems that are easy to install
- Our commitment to service and free technical support throughout your lifetime
- Free, no-obligation quotes



Reduce your carbon footprint and your energy bill by up to 88%



The leader in affordable, reliable and innovative radiant heating

For sales, training www.radiantec.com For radiant heating www.radiantec.com

PO BOX 1111 LEBANON, NJ 07036 • PH 800-637-7232 • FAX 800-637-6070



Discover more on our special website!
www.radiantec.com/radiantec



ECOLOGICALLY SAFE

Paint Removal Solutions

POWERSHAVER 2.0

The Fast Shaver™ Pro

- Up to 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or

- 24,000 strokes per minute, single or



An American Original!

STRONG • STICKY • WATERPROOF

Trust Duck® brand duct tape to deliver the quality and strength needed for every project.

Get the Duck to do it.

800.321.0253 [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/DuckBrand) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/DuckBrand) [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/DuckBrand) DuckBrand.com

©2013 Duck Tape Inc. All rights reserved.

Unclog Drains with Your Pressure Washer

100 Ft.
Sewer Jetter
Only \$129

\$10 OFF
WITH COUPON
TH54

Free Guide

Clog Hog.com

Or Call 877-992-5644

Stop Water Leaks Fast

**Water Backups & Leaks
Remediation Services
Available Nationwide**

Automatically shuts off the water supply when a leak is detected to prevent damage.

Our cutting edge **Reliance** Sewer systems your water bills and protect your underground water lines.

- Easy installation—standard pipe fittings, no hard welding required
- Wireless sensors
- Battery alarm
- Low impedance sensors
- Remote water leak alarm—no wiring
- Interface with home security system

Call today!—Water leaks are a major concern. A FloodMaster system can save the purchase of a home and protect your investment.

1-855-208-9380

FloodMaster.com

CARLISLE

wide plank floors

Live your life on a work of art.

Transform your home with an exquisite floor, custom made for you by Carlisle. Contact us to receive your complimentary brochure.

www.wideplankflooring.com/hh

1.855.208.9380

TOUGHEST ON THE BLOCK



If you're looking for a tough solution for basement water problems, DRYLOK® Extreme is the answer. Its toughness shows with an enhanced formula to resist soldier growth. It can stop stop 12 psi, which is greater than a wall of water 24 feet high. DRYLOK Extreme is made to last which is why it features a fully transferable 15-year warranty. Apply it on interior, exterior, above or below grade masonry surfaces.



Bright White Smooth Finish
Waterproof Protection
Guaranteed to Stop Water

Just ask your neighbor - DRYLOK® is the most common waterproofing on the market.
For a dealer near you call 1-800-275-1222
or visit www.ugl.com

8 X 8 SCAFFOLD RETS-
Only \$79.00
TURNKEY TOWER PACKAGES
FROM \$304.00



ACQUA
20' 0" Budget
Rolling Tower
\$639.00

ScaffoldMart!
BUY DIRECT!
866-900-0983
FAST, SAME-DAY SHIPPING!
WWW.SCAFFOLDMART.COM



Fill Gaps. Stop Drain.
Save Energy.



Touch-n-Foam
www.touch-n-foam.com

SCHOOLHOUSE
ELECTRIC & SUPPLY CO.



Smart lighting. Smart ideas and
solutions. www.shc.com
1-800-650-7183
ACQUA2008ELECTRIC.COM

TIN CEILING PANELS



www.SurfaceSolution.com

800-954-9040

AMERICANWOODCO.COM • B&BTPA
INTERIOR FINISHES, DOORS, LAMINATES,
affordable, great value, high quality

MILL DIRECT WIDE PINE

7" to 20" Lumber Prices
Superior Quality Kiln Dried 6-8%
WOOD IDEA
34 Deer Run Lane
Meriden, ME 04957
202-483-4832
www.mill-direct.com

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

LIFETIME WARRANTY

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

How does Harbor Freight Tools sell high quality tools at such ridiculously low prices? We buy direct from the factories who also supply the major brands and sell direct to you. It's just that simple! See for yourself at one of our 400 Stores Nationwide and use this 20% OFF Coupon at one of our 7,000+ products*, plus pick up a free 1" x 25 ft. Trade Mouse, a \$5.00 value. We stock Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Taps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Woodworking Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Generators, and much more.

• Over 20 Million Satisfied Customers!
• 1 Year Comparison Low Price Guarantee
• No Hassle Return Policy
• 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!
Sincerely Yours Our Quality, Service and Prices!



7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE WEATHER RESISTANT TARP
SAVE 50%
\$349
REG. PRICE \$699



26 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT
SAVE 25%
\$1799
REG. PRICE \$2399



17 FT. TYPE 1A MULTI-TASK LADDER
SAVE 33%
\$11499
REG. PRICE \$17499



FREE!
PITTSBURGH
7" x 20 FT
SAFE RECOVERY
CABLE
REG. PRICE \$2.00



4 PRICE WOOD CHISEL SET
SAVE 33%
\$449
REG. PRICE \$675



4 PRICE 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWN SET
SAVE 33%
\$799
REG. PRICE \$1199



DESIGNER PALM SANDER
SAVE 30%
\$899
REG. PRICE \$1279



12" BLUING COMPOUND MITER SAW WITH LASER GUIDE
SAVE 33%
\$11999
REG. PRICE \$17999



PITTSBURGH 12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP/SPREADER
SAVE 33%
\$199
REG. PRICE \$299



PITTSBURGH 12" COMBINATION SQUARE SET
SAVE 33%
\$499
REG. PRICE \$749



CENTAUR 3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR
SAVE 50%
\$3999
REG. PRICE \$7999



RAPID PUMP 3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK
SAVE 33%
\$6999
REG. PRICE \$10499

400 Stores Nationwide

Order Online at HarborFreight.com and We'll Ship Your Order FedEx.

save this old house

Price: \$51,900
Location: Anaconda, Montana
Contact: Donna Volanding
406 560-6796

The history: Once home to a massive copper smelting facility, Anaconda was booming in the late 19th century when its wealthier residents started building stylish houses on the town's long west end. Those residents included grocer Albert MacCallum who in 1895 built this solid brick three-bedroom on Main Street. In 1904, he sold it to Dennis Roach, owner of a prosperous wholesale company that sold pool tables, cigars, and flowers among other things. After Roach's death in 1925, his widow Maude renewed here for almost 30 years. Their daughter Katherine briefly converted the house into a boarding parlor before turning it back into a single-family residence.

Why save it? The house is an interesting mix of two distinct architectural styles, with a partial mansard roof reminiscent of Second Empire houses, butting up against the domed tower of Queen Anne. It boasts its original doors, windows, built-in railings, and fireplace mantel.

What it needs: The plumbing is fine, the electrical could use updating, and you'll need a new furnace. The current owners recently replaced the first-floor windows and installed a new water heater. Although its copper mining days are long gone, Anaconda retains its historic downtown. There's a ski resort nearby and the town is now home to a golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus, so there'll be plenty of leisure activities to enjoy once your work is done. —KATH HANCOCK



1. The 1,514-square-foot house is located in a historic district. It has three bedrooms and two full baths. The front porch was enclosed by a previous owner but was later returned to its original state. 2. The house still has three original wall pieces, including this one in a bedroom. 3. The staircase has its original hand-carved balustrade. 4. A built-in corner bathtub remains in the kitchen.

Got a house? If you know of a house that should be saved, visit www.saveourhistoric.com or The Old House, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020.



A one-of-a-kind house with a lot of character!

KOHLER. As I See It, KPS is a vision
"Towards the power of KOHLER!"
WATER-SAVING TOILETS, Sinks,
Showers and Bathtubs
AFFORD. Each Gallon!

1-800-4-KOHLER ext. 327
Kohler.com/SaveOurHistory



THE BOLD LOOK
OF KOHLER





True innovation responds to whatever comes next.

The Whirlpool Duet® washer senses and adapts to your clothes to keep them looking newer longer. In every detail, it gives you more gentle cleaning with less effort.*
whirlpool.com/duet



Designed to Simplify™

Whirlpool

*Compared to traditional top load washers. ©/TM 2012 Whirlpool. All rights reserved.