



FOOD DRINK DECOR GARDEN

PARTIES STYLE DIY RECIPES



25 easy DIY projects

By Alison Sherwood of the Journal Sentinel

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You don't need to be artistic, or even particularly creative, to be a DIY champ. Here are 25 DIY projects anyone can tackle.

Come back to Fresh every weekday from Nov. 4 to Dec. 6 for a new featured DIY project, to bring the final list to 50 easy DIYs. Pin and Instagram your own projects using #50easyDIY. And read about [tips, classes and more on DIY here](#).

1. CHAMPAGNE STOPPER

Affix an oversize pearl and a crystal rondelle to a wine cork with multi-purpose glue (such as E-6000) to make a classy handmade bottle stopper. [See the full tutorial at For the Makers](#).



For the Makers

2. SCARF HANGER

All you need to organize your scarves is a padded hanger and shower curtain rings.

THE FRESHEST



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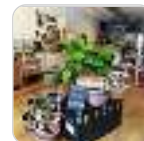
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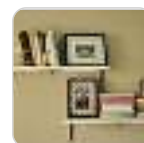
Four Corners of the World is hip fair trade

SEEKING GREAT HOMES



Do you, or does someone you know, have a cool, funky or exquisite living space that you'd like to see featured in [At Home With](#)? Contact Fresh home and garden editor Nancy Stohs at (414) 224-2382 or email nstohs@journal sentinel.com.

DIY PROJECTS



Re-purposed shutters make attractive bookshelves



Alison Sherwood

3. FIRE PIT

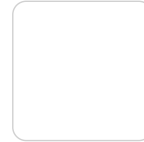
Spray-paint bricks and stack them to form a colorful fire pit (put sand on the ground in the middle where you'll make your fire). [Read more at eighteen25.](#)



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Modern touches make holiday guests comfortable

• [re:Craft & Relic](#) brings DIY holiday gifts to life



Nora Griffin

4. CORK MOUSE PAD

Cut a piece of cork into a circle or shape of your liking, paint it and you've got a cute, custom mouse pad. [Read more at Sarah Hearts.](#)



Sarah Khandjian / sarahhearts.com

5. MAGNETS

Use decoupage glue to cover free branded magnets with scrapbooking paper or fabric scraps for a prettier fridge.



*Alison Sherwood*

6. TURK'S HEAD BRACELET

Make your own Nautical-inspired bracelet by using paracord or another string and tying a Turk's head knot. Hot glue the ends of the string onto the inside of the bracelet when finished. [Here is a tutorial](#) that will give you a bracelet like the one below, which used about 3 1/2 feet of paracord. For a more advanced Turk's head knot, [see this tutorial](#).

*Peter Sherwood*

*Alison Sherwood*

7. CLUSTER EARRINGS

Design your own embellished cluster earrings: Dot multipurpose glue (such as E-6000) onto a piece of wax paper and arrange pearls, spikes and black diamonds. When the glue dries, peel the designs off and glue them to earring posts. [See the full tutorial at For the Makers.](#)

*For the Makers*

8. COFFEE BEAN CANDLES

Your house will smell like fresh coffee when burning these candles. Fill small, inexpensive glass or ceramic dishes from a dollar store with whole coffee beans and place tealight candles in the center.



Alison Sherwood

9. ZIPPER PIN

Reuse an old pin or button and a zipper to make a decorative pin for your coat. Hot glue the zipper to the pin in a twisting pattern to look like a flower. [Read more at Cloud 9 Workshop's blog.](#)





Cloud 9 Workshop

10. SILHOUETTE ART

Trace family photos onto white computer paper using graphite transfer paper ([tutorial here](#)), cut out the silhouettes and place them between the glass of a floating frame. Paint a square of color on the wall where you plan to hang the frame.



Laura Brinkmann

11. HEADBOARD

Make your own woven headboard with dowels and white vinyl flashing. [See the full tutorial at the Lowe's website.](#)



Lowe's

12. SOAP DISPENSER

Tap or drill a hole into the lid of a Mason jar and use epoxy glue to attach a pump from an old soap dispenser. [Read more at Love Grows Wild.](#)



Liz Fourez

13. FALL WREATH

Cut twigs of berries off floral branches and affix them to a grapevine wreath, then hang it on your door with burlap strips. [Read more at Haute Apple Pie.](#)



Haute Apple Pie

14. SPRAY PAINT SPRUCE-UP

A few coats of spray paint can spruce up dull household objects like this formerly tan file cabinet.



Alison Sherwood

15. PLACECARDS

Using a die cutter or scissors, cut shapes out of craft paper and slip each piece onto a fork for a simple party place setting.



Alison Sherwood

16. FABRIC ART

Create your own art by stretching a piece of fabric over a canvas, or even an old shoebox, and stapling or gluing it to the back.



Danielle Lussier

17. PLAY DOUGH

Make your own modeling clay with 2 cups baking soda, 1 cup cornstarch and 1 ½ cups water. Combine ingredients in a saucepan, stir until smooth, then cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick and smooth, about 4 minutes. Remove to a plate to cool, then knead in a few drops of food coloring to get your preferred color. [Read more tips and get the full recipe here.](#)



Mary-Liz Shaw

18. MAGNETIC PENCIL HOLDER

Turn an empty tea tin or even a tin can into a magnetic pencil holder by placing heavy duty magnets on the back.



Alison Sherwood

19. WINE CORK BUSINESS-CARD HOLDER

Cut one wine cork in half lengthwise, using a small hack saw or serrated bread knife. Sand the cut surfaces smooth, hot glue the pieces together side by side, then glue two whole wine corks to the top and stand business cards between them. [See the full tutorial at Cloud 9 Workshop's blog.](#)



Cloud 9 Workshop

20. GROWTH CHART

Stain a board and paint measurements onto it to make a decorative, ruler-like growth chart. [Read more at Haute Apple Pie.](#)



Haute Apple Pie

21. VEGGIE DIP CONTAINER

A halved bell pepper becomes a quick DIY veggie dip bowl.



Alison Sherwood

22. BURLAP MESSAGE BOARD

Turn an old bulletin board or a painter's canvas reinforced with cork board into a chic burlap message board that looks like it came from an expensive retailer. Stretch burlap over the board and staple to the back, then line the perimeter with upholstery tacks. [Read the full tutorial at Haute Apple Pie.](#)



Haute Apple Pie

23. DRY GOODS STORAGE

Stick chalkboard labels to Mason jars for attractive dry goods storage with labels you can easily edit. Create "stadium seating" for the jars using stacked scraps of wood.





Alison Sherwood

24. ROPE COASTERS

Hot-glue twine or rope in a flat spiral and glue a circle of felt onto the bottom for simple, handmade coasters.



Alison Sherwood

25. WINTER WREATH

Wrap a foam wreath in yarn, then pin circles of fabric to it to look like flowers. [See the full tutorial at Haute Apple Pie.](#)



Haute Apple Pie

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ABOUT ALISON SHERWOOD

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