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# LEARN THE BASICS: **REUSE!**





# Old stuff is not trash!

*Do you know that as much as 80% of products get thrown in the bin after we've used them only once?*

At the time of rampant consumerism, it is usual to throw away a thing that can be reused with minor repair or updating. Different items, such as old furniture, clothes or consumer goods in general, are often disposed as waste after a single use.

Don't throw away old stuff; use your imagination, put in some effort and repurpose these things, or make new useful items from them. Sometimes a minor update or repair is enough to give them a new lease of life. You can find inspiration for your own creative projects in this brochure, with some examples prepared by experts with ample experience in reuse. By reusing old items you are reducing the quantity of landfilled waste, you are creating new items at a small cost, you are saving valuable resources and energy, and you are making your environment an even lovelier and more pleasant place to live in!

**WE STILL HAVE POTENTIAL  
FOR A NEW LEASE OF LIFE.  
REUSE US!**



# Hot air balloon

*This balloon might not fly, but it will inflate on its own!*



## MATERIALS

Plastic tub (taller), 0.33 l plastic yogurt bottle, straws, balloon, baking soda (bicarbonate of soda), vinegar



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Funnel, teaspoon, paintbrush, glue, felt-tips/permanent markers



### 1. STEP

Apply glue to the outside of the plastic tub and wrap yarn top to bottom. This is an excellent precision exercise for children. Show them that the yarn has to be wrapped neatly thread by thread, so that the tub – the hot air balloon's basket – will look nice and trim.



### 2. STEP

On the plastic bottle draw with felt-tips the passengers riding in the balloon.



### 3. STEP

Glue four straws inside the tub so that they create a rectangle shape. These

straws will be the ropes that are usually found in large hot air balloons.



### 4. STEP

Using a funnel, pour two teaspoons of baking soda in the balloon. Important! If you put too much soda, the balloon could burst when it mixes with the vinegar. Put the balloon aside, clean the funnel and then pour 100 ml of vinegar into the bottle.



### 5. STEP

Position the balloon on the neck of the bottle so that the part of the balloon with soda is folded on the side. When you are satisfied that the balloon fits snugly on the bottleneck, lift the balloon vertically so that bicarbonate of soda drops into the bottle.

Ta-daaaah! Your hot air balloon is ready for flight!

*First check if you can fit the plastic bottle into the tub.*

*Suggestion: If you don't want your hot air balloon to have a whiff of vinegar, after you've tested the inflating action a few times, rinse out the bottle, blow up a new balloon, tie it, and fit on the neck of the bottle.*

**What happened?**  
*The balloon filled with carbon dioxide resulting from the chemical reaction between the vinegar and baking soda.*

# Snow globe

*Captivating for kids and grown-ups alike*



## MATERIALS

A Mason jar, a plastic figurine, water, glitter



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

A hot glue gun or superglue



### 1. STEP

Glue the plastic figurine inside the lid.



### 4. STEP

Spread the glue on the inside part of the lid rim and screw the lid back on.

### 2. STEP

Pour water in the jar to reach 1.5 cm below the rim.



### 3. STEP

Pour in the glitter.



Shake and enjoy the magic!

***Suggestion:** You can glue a ribbon around the lid, so that the snow globe will look even more festive. If you can find some glycerine around the house, pour a few drops in the water, so that the glitter will float to the bottom more slowly.*

# Candy holder

*There is probably not a single person who didn't jump for joy at the sight of candy when they were kids. It's a simple fact – it's sweet, it's colourful and simply irresistible. And when kept in spectacular containers, candy is even more tempting.*



## MATERIALS

A smaller flowerpot (with plant saucer), a Styrofoam ball, a plastic or glass jar, decorative ribbon, candy



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Paintbrush, tempera paint, scissors, glue





### 1. STEP

Glue the Styrofoam ball onto the the plant saucer.  
Paint the ball, saucer and the flower pot with tempera. Allow to dry.



### 2. STEP

Glue some sparkly ornaments on the flower pot. Turn it upside down and apply glue along the bottom perimeter of the flower pot.



### 3. STEP

Put the candy in the jar that you'll glue to the flower pot, in this case a glass jar. Be sure to sample some candy first.



*Suggestion: If you have some candy left that you couldn't squeeze into the jar, you can close the bag and put it in the bottom part of the holder, i.e. inside the flowerpot.*

*Important: Adults, beware! Hot glue can be dangerous for the creative little hands, so be close!*

### 4. STEP

Attach the jar with glue to the flower pot. If you have a hot glue gun, use it in this step.  
Cover the jar with the saucer.



### 5. STEP

Tie the ribbon around the flower pot into a bow. It is ready to indulge your sweet tooth! You will also have a lovely decoration on the table.

# Ball race



## MATERIALS

Thick cardboard (a large piece), toothpaste boxes, plastic kid's yogurt cup, ping-pong ball



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Scissors, glue, paintbrushes, double-sided adhesive tape or a hot glue gun



### 1. STEP

Cut a 50x30 cm rectangle shape from thick cardboard. To get the stand, bend the bottom part at around 15 cm. From the remaining cardboard cut out and shape the support element. Glue it to the back side of the upward rectangle.



### 2. STEP

From the yogurt cup, cut away the rim facing the cardboard so that you can fit it snugly to the base.

Glue it to the bottom right corner of the cardboard with a hot glue gun or double-sided adhesive tape.



### 3. STEP

Cut in half along the length two toothpaste boxes. Glue the sides that have unravelled after cutting. Now you have four shallow long boxes, and on one end of each cut out a circle big enough for a ping-pong ball to fall through.



### 4. STEP

Glue the boxes to the cardboard base at an angle, so that the last box is a few centimetres above the yogurt cup. Important! Before you glue the boxes, check that the ball can fall through smoothly.



### 5. STEP

Paint with tempera.

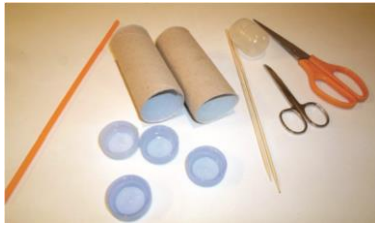
What else to say except you're in for hours and hours of fun!

*Suggestion: Take different weight balls (Styrofoam, wooden), let the child try to guess which one will roll through the finish line first.*

# BEFORE & AFTER

*See what you can make from old packaging and items  
you can find in any home!*

Develop your creativity and make something: try making interesting useful and decorative items, such as suggested in the photos below. They can inspire you to come up with your own projects and ideas that will breathe new life into seemingly old and useless objects around you.



Before



After

— *A car*



Before



After

— *Flowers*



Before



After

— *A guitar*



Before

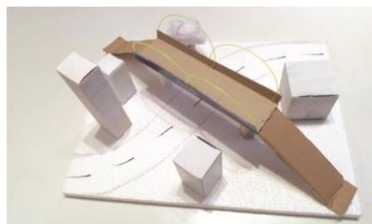


After

— *A caterpillar*



Before



After

— *A city model*

# Kid's lamp



## MATERIALS

Old lamp, small toys



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Acrylic spray paint, masking (painter's) tape, silicone glue gun, silicone





### 1. STEP

Heat the gun with the silicone glue stick and apply the glue to the toys. Immediately glue the toys to the lamp stand.



### 2. STEP

Tape over with masking tape any parts of the lamp you don't want to paint.

### 3. STEP

Spray paint the lamp stand and the toys. Allow to dry as instructed by the manufacturer

# Drawer – jewellery stand



## MATERIAL

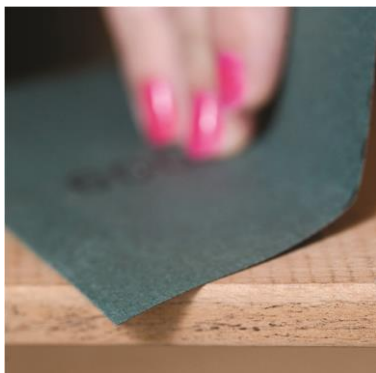
A drawer, L-hooks



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

120 grit sandpaper, different colours acrylic paint, masking (painter's) tape, paintbrush, foam paint roller, paint tray





### 1. STEP

Sand the drawer on the inside and outside.

### 2. STEP

With masking tape mark the lines and areas you want or do not want to paint.



### 3. STEP

Mix the paint well and pour into the paint tray. Paint the corners with the brush, and use the paint roller to paint other surfaces.



### 4. STEP

After the paint has dried, screw in the L-hooks on which you will hang your jewellery.

# Jar to romantic candleholder



## MATERIAL

A Mason jar, decorating paper (or a page from a magazine), some jute twine or ribbon



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Scissors, decoupage glue, paintbrush



### 1. STEP

Use scissors to cut the paper or page from a magazine to fit the size of the jar.



### 3. STEP

Apply glue to the jar with the brush and fix the paper to the jar.



### 2. KORAK

Fold the paper in half, and on the fold draw a half heart, cut out along the line you've drawn.



### 4. STEP

Decorate the jar with jute twine or ribbon, whichever you prefer.

# T-shirt to beach tote bag



## MATERIAL

T-shirt



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Scissors, felt-tips



### 1. STEP

If there are sleeves, cut them out and make openings the size you want.



### 2. STEP

Using a round lid draw and then cut out a larger opening in the place of the collar.



### 3. STEP

Turn the t-shirt inside out and make vertical cuts to get strips (tassels) on the bottom.



### 4. STEP

Tie the strips tightly into knots, then turn the t-shirt to the right side so the knots are on the inside of the bag.

# Upgrading laminated particle board furniture



Particle board, veneer and MDF have smooth nonporous surfaces to which the paint does not adhere, and rough sanding can only damage the base; instead of sanding, use a special undercoat (primer).

The purpose of the primer is to form a quality bonding surface for the paint, and it also ensures that the paint will not peel off.



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:

Primer (undercoat) for nonporous surfaces, acrylic paint for wood, paintbrush, paint roller handle and foam sleeve, paint tray and, as appropriate, masking (painter's) tape and dust sheet/foil. If you decide to change the handles, you need a drill, acrylic caulk for wood, and scraper.





### 1. STEP

If you are replacing the old handles with new ones, take them off from the cabinet, fill the holes with acrylic caulk and level with the scraper. When the caulk dries, remove any excess with fine sandpaper and a wet cloth. Drill the holes for the new handles.



### 2. STEP

Before applying, mix the primer well and pour it into the paint tray. Paint the corners with a paintbrush, then apply the primer with the foam roller to the rest of the surface and allow to dry as instructed by the manufacturer.



### 3. STEP

After the primer has dried, apply the acrylic paint for wood in at least two coats. Allow to dry as instructed by the manufacturer before applying the second coat. After using the primer and acrylic paint, immediately wash the paintbrush, roller, and your hands with warm water.

### 4. STEP

After the paint has dried properly (you can wait for a couple of days to be sure that the new coat of paint will not be damaged) you can carefully install the new handles.

# Updating wall tiles



## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Primer (bonding base coat), robust washable wall paint, masking (painter's) tape, dust sheet/foil, paint tray, paint roller handle and foam sleeve, paintbrush





### 1. STEP

Clean the tiles well with a degreasing agent (detergent). The base has to be clean and dry.



### 2. STEP

Protect all the parts you do not wish to paint with masking tape, and protect the floor with the dust sheet/foil.



### 3. STEP

Mix the primer well and pour into the paint tray.



### 4. STEP

Using a paintbrush, prime the grout joints and corners first.



### 5. STEP

Then prime the rest of the tiles using a foam roller. Allow to dry as instructed by the manufacturer.



### 6. STEP

After the primer has dried, repeat the process with wall paint and allow to dry as instructed by the manufacturer. Apply a minimum of two coats of paint.



# TIPS & TRICKS

1.

Before painting wooden furniture, it has to be sanded down well. You can do this by hand, or using an electric sander. To remove old paint use grit 80 sandpaper, and to remove clear varnish use grit 120 sandpaper.

2.

Instead of sanding before painting, you can use primer as the undercoat.

3.

If you want to paint glass, before painting apply a coat of bonding primer.

4.

If you want to avoid the smell of paint thinner and nitrocellulose paint, use acrylic paint instead. It has no odour, and you can wash your hands and the tools you used with water. Before application, the paint has to be thoroughly mixed (best using a paint palette knife).

5.


In order to apply the paint to the surface uniformly, use a foam roller instead of the paintbrush.

6.

When renovating upholstered furniture, first update the wooden elements, and then start reupholstering.

7.

If you want to paint floor tiles, after applying a coat of primer, use concrete paint. For wall tiles, after priming use wall paint.



#### **Maja Jurin / Creative Corner**

Creativity came naturally after personal growth and development. The desire to do something more in this direction arose from the wish for her child not to be in front of the TV or looking at the mobile phone the whole time unless and only if necessary. Guided by this thought, she set up her own company *Mali kreativci*, and the idea for the Creative Corner was soon born. Through contacts with school teachers, preschool teachers, and children, it became clear that this type of creative manual had to become a reality and see the light of day.

#### **Ivančica Kršek / Makeover addict**

Professionally an interior designer and furniture remodelling enthusiast who loves DIY projects. In her free time she hangs out with other makeover addicts on her blog, the *Makeover Addict*, she has been running for more than 6 years. Through her work she is promoting the concept of repurposing and updating old and discarded furniture and breathing new life into it.

Acknowledgements to Maja Jurin and Ivančica Kršek, who greatly contributed to this brochure with their creativity and ideas.



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