



weekend workshop

In the time it takes to make a cuppa or watch a DVD, these quick styling tricks and simple projects will have your house looking better than ever. Easy! >

STYLING MIA ASKER PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD POWERS WORDS JODIE THOMSON



1 colour therapy

Rewiring up your living space is as simple as a quick shopping trip. Pick a new colour scheme – just two or three sharp accent colours is all you need (we love the spice of scarlet and aubergine). A couple of cushions and a soft throw or rug will add a whole new feel to your old sofa or armchair. And a new lightshade with these shades will help link the new scheme together.



QUICK TIP: DRESS UP A PLAIN OLD LAMP SHADE BY GLUING ON ROWS OF RIBBON FOR A STRIPY LOOK

2 central spark

For a dramatic, mood-boosting centrepiece for your dining or coffee table, skip the pricey floral sculptures and whip up something simple and seductive like this. Just arrange tealight candle holders in a circle and fill the centre with a cascade of fresh rose petals. Gorgeous and fragrant! A bag of rose petals will cost about \$15-\$20 from your local florist.

3 petal power

Think small when it comes to floral displays with real decorating dazzle. Swap those big, mixed arrangements for a line-up of something little and sweet. One decent bunch of mini roses, like these, will fill several small vases, which you can arrange to maximum effect on a mantle, windowsill, or in a trail down a table. Old jam jars are the perfect size – just trim the rose stems to fit.



1 Florida modular sofa, \$4219, Fanuli Furniture. Genie cushion (round) in berry, \$120, Alhambra cushion in berry, \$69.95, Kantha quilted bedspread, \$895, all Ruby Star Traders. Ritz floor lamp, \$469, ECC Lighting & Living. Östmark stripy lampshade, \$14, IKEA. 2 PS tealight holders, \$19/12, IKEA. 3 Wall colour Wattyl i.d. primer sealer undercoat, \$33.50/1 litre, Wattyl i.d. low-sheen acrylic in scarlet, \$33.50/1 litre, 19th-century nunnery table, \$750, Imagine This. Jars, stylist's own. 4 Box photo frames, \$30 each, Corban & Blair. Rachel Greig cards (in frames), \$5.50 each, Aero Images. Cone vase, \$75, Dinosaur Designs. Wall colour, as before.
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in 15 minutes...

...YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR COLOUR SCHEME, MAKE YOUR OWN ART AND DO DESIGNER TRICKS WITH FLOWERS

4 picture perfect

Use this expert styling trick to give your art display extra impact: repetition. A collection of similar prints (we used gift cards) in matching frames will work as a fabulous focal point in a room or hallway. Box frames, like these, are a great choice as you can stand them up against a wall for a modern, designer feel. >

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QUICK TIP: MAKE YOUR FABRIC-COVERED BOXES LAST LONGER BY SPRAYING THEM WITH A STAIN-PROOF PROTECTOR

1 boxed in

Short on storage? Make your own! Dressed up shoe boxes offer plenty of room for favourite trinkets, and are good enough to put on show. All you need are some sensational swatches of fabric, good scissors and a few dabs of craft glue (\$3.50/100ml, Lincraft). We stuck to fabrics in the same deliciously deep red shade, but used a mix of textures for interest, from rough linen to a shiny silk. For this neat finish, we unfolded the boxes out flat, glued the fabric on, then reassembled and glued them back together.



2 hot to handle

Even the drabest dresser or cupboard will look dynamite with a new set of doorknobs. For something modern try specialist architectural fitting stores, or add whimsy and interest with handles made from glass or ceramic. Check out homeware and even antique stores for unusual, eye-catching designs.

3 cushion the blow

Floor cushions made out of plain squares of foam covered in pieces of pretty fabric will boost your room scheme – and let you squeeze in extra seating. You can buy specially cut foam like this, or recycle any old foam cushions you may have lying around. Next, cut a piece of fabric big enough to cover both sides of the cushion, then, for a quick and simple cover-up, wrap it over the foam as if you were making a bed, complete with neat hospital corners. Finish by sewing or firmly pinning the edges together underneath.



in 2 hours...

...YOU CAN CREATE STYLISH STORAGE AND SEATING
OR DRESS UP WALLS AND OLD FURNITURE
WITH NEW KNOBS OR PRETTY WALLPAPER

Red and white toile wallpaper, \$39.95/10m roll, Normandie armchair, from \$1595, mohair throw in raspberry, \$149, all Laura Ashley. 1 Normandie armchair, from \$1595, Laura Ashley. Hand-knotted Lacha wool/silk rug, 167x240cm \$2990, Designer Rugs. Sergio Rossi shoes, \$1600/pair, Cosmopolitan Shoes. Shoe boxes, \$6.50 each, HiPP Packaging. Shoeboxes covered in (clockwise from top left): Rondella fabric in crimson, \$19.99/metre, Lincraft. Faux linen in burgundy, \$79.95/metre, Laura Ashley. Caymen linen in brick, \$6.99/metre, Lincraft. Galia fabric in raspberry \$49.95/metre, Laura Ashley. 2 19th century nunnery table, \$750, Imagine This. On table: pink ceramic doorknob, \$9.90, No Chintz. Painted flower doorknob (290135RO), \$20.20, Mother of Pearl. In drawer (clockwise from top right): ceramic doorknobs (MP6750), \$12 each, Mother of Pearl. Rose doorknobs in red and pink, \$9.95 each, crystal doorknob, \$8.95, all Sirocco. Resin and gold trim doorknob, \$10, No Chintz. Clear doorknob (MP6736), \$15, Mother of Pearl. Small white doorknob, \$4.50, Balmain Stripping. White country-style doorknob (just seen), \$14.95, frosted glass doorknob (just seen), \$24.60, plain cream doorknob (420130P), \$14.60, all Mother of Pearl. Pale yellow doorknob, \$7.95, Sirocco. 3 Dunlop Enduro foam slabs, 700x700x150mm \$30 each, Dunlop Flexible Foam. Slabs covered in (top to bottom): Caymen linen in rhubarb, \$6.99/metre, Lincraft. Lidia fabric in fuchsia, \$49.95/metre, Laura Ashley. Pinwale corduroy in wine, \$6.99/metre, Spotlight. Florida modular sofa, \$4219, Fanuli Furniture. For stockists see page 147

4 off the wall

Easier than painting, and cheaper than a good artwork, wallpaper is a simple way to smarten up an all-white wall. We hung this roll from a curtain rod, so we can swap it for something different when we're ready for a new look. A detailed print, like this traditional toile, will soften up a clean, modern interior. >

1 curtain call

Are your old curtains too short for your new window? Give them a fresh look and new lease on life by adding a wide border to the base. For a luxe look, play with different fabric textures (we added a plush corduroy to this plain cotton top) and a modern colour twist, in a deep rose to spice up dark red. Then machine or hand-sew the pieces together.



QUICK TIP:
WHEN MAKING
CURTAINS, GO
FOR A HEAVIER
FABRIC AT THE
BOTTOM SO IT
DRAPES AND
SITS NICELY



2 plant life

The perfect accessory for a sunny spot by a window is a mini herb garden. They're a cinch to put together and will add life, warmth and heady fragrance to any room. Group different sized pots together for maximum effect, but stick to just a couple of pot types, like these plain terracotta and glazed white ones. We also added a mini atrium for an elegant touch – it's also handy for more delicate herbs, like coriander.

3 sit on this

Add some zing to tired old chairs with a fabric makeover. No handyman needed, you can do this yourself with a staple gun. Remove the old fabric and check the state of the foam underneath, if it's falling apart you'll need to buy a new piece. Then stretch your new fabric over the top and staple firmly around the edges. For a finishing touch, glue a fabric border around the edges to cover up the staples.



1 19th century nunnery table, \$750, Imagine This. Amethyst vase, \$110, suede organiser, \$79, Zest. Rice bowl, \$45, Dinosaur Designs. Curtain fabrics broadcloth in maroon (top), \$4.50/metre, Lincraft. Pinway corduroy in musk, \$6.99/metre, Spotlight. 2 Potted herbs, from \$3.95 each, atrium, \$195, terracotta pots, from \$1.75 each, saucers, from \$1.75 each, all Honeysuckle Garden. Earth Arabia pots, \$157 each, Spence & Lyda. 3 Timber chairs, \$500/pair, Sydney Antique Centre.

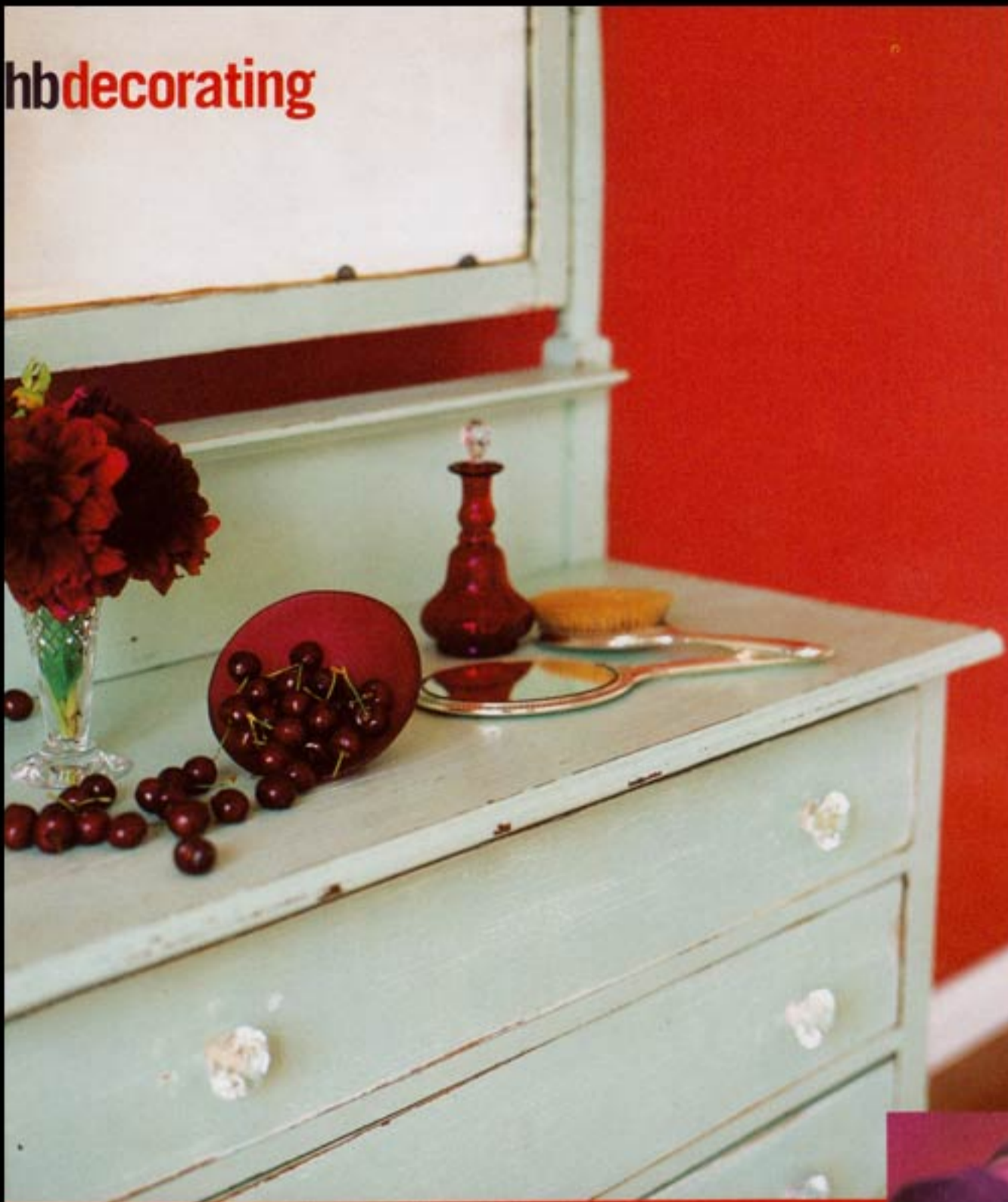
4 material world

A few splashes of fabric will do wonders for your bedroom decor. Reupholstering the centre fabric piece on an old-style bedhead like this is a quick job. Just remove the central panel and swap the old fabric for something new, using a staple gun to attach it to the back. Then use the same fabric to cover a plain lampshade, this will tie the new look in to the rest of the room. Cut the fabric to fit and attach to the shade with craft glue. >

in an afternoon...

...YOU CAN BRING OLD FURNITURE BACK TO LIFE,
REVAMP A CURTAIN OR SET UP A FRAGRANT
AND DELICIOUS HERB GARDEN

Shabby Chic **bedhead**, single \$1100, **pillowcase**, \$220, **lamp**, \$230, **covered box**, \$270/3, **bedside table**, \$585, all Judy Porter Interiors. **Alvine bed linen**, single \$95/set, IKEA. **Venetian photo frame**, \$68, Zest. **Wall colour** WattyI undercoat in grey, \$59.79/4 litres, WattyI i.d. low-sheen acrylic in scarlet, \$61.43/4 litres. **For stockists see page 147**



1 distress call

Romance an everyday dresser by giving it the shabby chic treatment. If it's already painted, you can give it a distressed feel by scraping paint off the edges with a butter knife, then polishing the lot up with beeswax. Or you can get a soft, country look by applying a distressed-look paint to plain timber. Try Porter's Paints Milk Paint, \$29/1kg, then finish with beeswax.

2 bright ideas

For a designer feel, use a shimmery paint finish to add sparkle to a plain coffee table. We glammed up this untreated pine number from IKEA with a soft, glaze finish in a vivid fuchsia. After giving the table a quick sand, we painted on Porter's Paints low-sheen acrylic in cherry, let it dry, sanded it again, then topped that with Porter's Paints venetian glaze in vanessa.

3 the panel

You don't need a whole farmhouse to get a country feel at home. Just add tongue-and-groove style wall panels like these. This panelling comes as a set from Laminex, including the skirting and dado rail up top. The pieces slot easily together and you just glue them into place, using a commercial-strength glue.



QUICK TIP: TRY USING THE NEW PAINT EFFECTS LIKE SUEDE OR PEARL. TEXTURE CAN HAVE AS BIG AN IMPACT AS COLOUR

in a weekend...

...YOU CAN GET AN INSTANT COUNTRY FEEL,
ADD OOMPH TO TIRED FURNITURE OR GIVE A
SERIOUS COLOUR INJECTION

4 the painting game

It's quick, cheap and guaranteed to make a huge impact. Painting a feature wall is every decorator's favourite trick. A rich, ripe berry like this will totally transform a space, and you can swap for a new shade whenever you like. For extra effect, we kept the skirting boards in fresh white and added a funky oversized white lampshade for contrast. **hb**

Florida modular **sofa**, \$4219, Dave **coffee table**, \$1290, both Fanuli Furniture. Bubble **light**, \$880, Spence & Lyda. Rosca **cushions** in peony, \$169 each, mohair **rug** in watermelon, \$149, both Designers Guild. Mohair **cushion** in mauve, \$60, Zest. Mohair **throw** in raspberry, \$149, Laura Ashley. Rib knit **throw** in red, \$172, Peter's of Kensington. Red Spot wool **rug**, 200x300cm \$2499, Designer Rugs. 1 Vintage **dresser**, \$585, Judy Porter Vintage. Crystal **vase**, \$45, ruby **perfume bottle**, \$165, silver **brush and mirror**, \$265/set, all Sydney Antique Centre. Rice **bowl** \$45, Dinosaur Designs. 2 Ingo **coffee table**, \$69, IKEA. **Table painted** Porter's Paints low-sheen acrylic in cherry, \$31/litre. Porter's Paint venetian glaze in vanessa, \$21/500ml. Knee-high **socks**, \$12.95, Simon de Winter. Rice **bowl** \$45, Dinosaur Designs. 3 **Wall panelling**, \$22.40/square metre, **dado rail**, \$4.11/metre, **skirting**, \$4.06/metre, all The Laminex Group. 19th century farmhouse **table**, \$3900, beech ladderback **chairs**, \$590 each, both Imagine This. **Fabric** (used for tablecloth), \$16.50/metre, No Chintz. Villeroy & Boch Foglia **dinner set**, \$357/20-piece set, Miss Desiree **tumblers**, \$18 each, Sereno **cutlery**, \$822/44-piece set, all Peter's of Kensington. **Panelling colour** Watty I.d low-sheen acrylic in oxford white, \$33.50/1 litre.

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