

Kelly Doust: tea, blankets and clever crafting.



Craft is the new black

GET USED TO IT: CRAFT IS COOL. DIY DIVA KELLY DOUST REVEALS HOW TO GET A HANDMADE HOME

papier-mâché candle holders

YOU WILL NEED

Chicken wire in a small crosshatch (available from a hardware store or garden nursery)

Tin snips

Pliers

Newspaper

Large bowl

Wallpaper adhesive, mixed with water as per packet instructions

Acrylic paint

Paintbrush

Small candles or tea lights

- 1 For each candle holder, you will need to cut a circle of chicken wire, approximately 5cm in diameter, with tin snips, and a 5 x 15cm rectangle.
- 2 Bend the rectangle of chicken wire into a cylinder shape so that the short sides of the rectangle are touching. Using pliers, fold over the edges to secure.
- 3 Place the circle of chicken wire at one end of the cylinder and fold over the edges to secure - this is the base of your candle holder.
- 4 Lay out a few sheets of newspaper to protect your work space or table from drips.
- 5 Rip remaining newspaper into 2.5-4cm-wide strips.
- 6 Dip one of the strips of newspaper into the wallpaper adhesive, then pinch the end of the strip and run your fingers along it to remove as much of the paste as possible.
- 7 Starting at the top of the cylinder, wrap the strip around the chicken wire frame.
- 8 Repeat step seven until entire frame is covered, making sure each strip overlaps at the edges.
- 9 Once covered, turn it upside down and leave to dry for 24 hours, preferably in a sunny spot.
- 10 The following day, repeat steps six to nine to add another layer, and leave to dry for another 24 hours.
- 11 Paint white or any colour you'd like - warm tones throw a lovely glow over the table.
- 12 Once the paint is dry, place a candle inside. →

"I love a spot of papier-mâché - you'll get yourself in a complete mess and will be scraping up bits of glue for weeks, but it's so much fun"



Pretty napkins

YOU WILL NEED

160cm x 112cm patterned fabric
Ruler
Soft pencil or dressmaker's chalk
Dressmaker's scissors
Iron
Thread
Sewing machine

- 1 Lay the fabric out flat and, using the ruler and dressmaker's chalk, measure and cut six 50cm squares. It's important to cut your squares precisely on the grain, so make sure your fabric is squared up before you begin cutting.
- 2 Take your first square and lay it on the ironing board, patterned side down. Fold a 1cm hem along each of the four edges of your square and lightly press with an iron.
- 3 Unfold the edges and you will see you have pressed a tiny 1cm square into each corner of the napkin. Use the ruler to draw a diagonal line across each corner of the napkin inside the little square. Trim off the corner along the ruled line. This will reduce bulk and keep the corners neat. Repeat for the three remaining corners of the napkin.
- 4 Now fold edges again so you have a 1cm hem as before, then fold again to create a second 1cm hem. Pin or tack the four hems in place.
- 5 Staying close to the hemline, stitch along one side of the napkin right to the edge. Leave the needle in the fabric, lift the presser foot and swivel the fabric so that you are sewing at a right angle to the previous line of stitching. Sew a tiny square of stitching in the corner of the napkin to hold the corner of the hem in place, pivoting on each corner until you have completed the square and are ready to sew the next side of the hem.
- 6 Repeat step five for each corner of the napkin.
- 7 Repeat steps two to seven for each fabric square to create a finished set of napkins. Fold and press each napkin before placing it to the left-hand side of the plate, under your knife and fork, or on top of a side plate.

and placemats

"These are even easier to construct than the napkins and also make great gifts for friends"

- 1 Lay the patterned fabric out flat. Use the ruler and dressmaker's chalk to measure and cut six rectangles, each 22 x 32cm.
- 2 Repeat step one with the backing fabric.
- 3 Place a patterned rectangle on the table, patterned side up. Place a backing rectangle on top, striped or outer side down. Make sure the edges are matching. Pin along hems.
- 4 Allowing for a 1cm seam, sew the rectangles together along the edges, leaving one of the shorter sides open. Trim the corners diagonally to reduce bulk.
- 5 Turn right side out, gently pushing out the corners with your fingers. Press with an iron.
- 6 Fold under the seam allowance on the raw edges of the opening, then use your machine to topstitch the opening closed, stitching about 3mm from the edge.
- 7 Topstitch the opposite end of the placemat to match.
- 8 Repeat steps three to six until you have a finished set of six placemats. →

YOU WILL NEED

50cm x 112cm patterned fabric
Ruler
Dressmaker's chalk
Dressmaker's scissors
50cm x 112cm striped or plain cotton or linen fabric for backing
Thread
Sewing machine
Iron



Ribbon lampshade

“Lampshade bases in good condition are easy to find in thrift stores and markets. Or why not get an electrician to turn a favourite vase or a vintage piece into a unique base?”

- 1 Fold the end of the ribbon over the bottom edge of the lampshade frame and stitch in place with needle and thread, making sure the end of the ribbon is facing in.
- 2 Pull the length of ribbon up, keeping it taut; take it over the top edge of the lampshade and back down again, then back under the bottom edge. Continue weaving it from the top to the bottom edge until you get back to the place where you started weaving.
- 3 Stitch the end of the ribbon into place, making sure that it is facing in.
- 4 If you want to use a contrasting ribbon, repeat this process, weaving in and out of the spaces between your first ribbon.

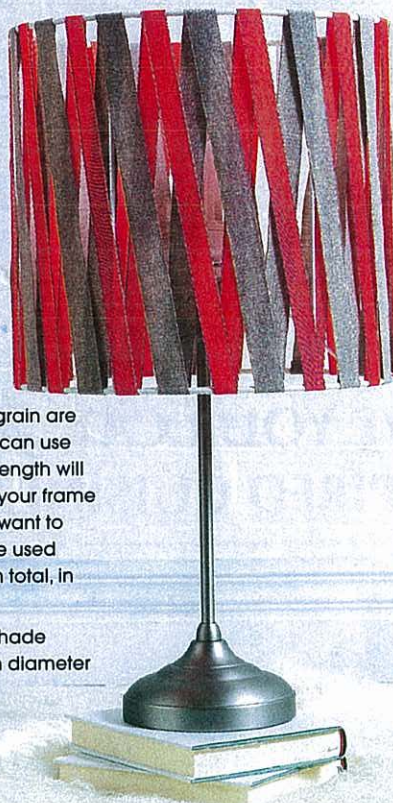
YOU WILL NEED

Ribbon (velvet or grosgrain are my favourites, but you can use any kind you like. The length will depend on the size of your frame and how densely you want to weave your ribbon. I've used about 15m of ribbon in total, in two shades)

Cylindrical wire lampshade frame (mine is 33cm in diameter and 30cm high)

Needle and thread

Dressmaker's scissors



Decorative lining for chests and drawers

YOU WILL NEED

An old wooden trunk or chest

Measuring tape

Light sandpaper and wooden block

Scissors

Wallpaper to fit the interior of the chest

Craft glue

1 Measure your chest to work out how much paper you will need to cover all the interior surfaces, except for the lid (or maybe including the lid too, depending on the design of the trunk). Do this by measuring the interior height and width of one of the shorter panels, and multiply by two. Then measure the interior height and width of one of the longer panels, and multiply by three – this should give you your complete measurements (save for the lid).

2 Rip or scrape out any old paper in the chest so the interior is as smooth as possible. If the wood is bare, use sandpaper wrapped around a wooden block to make it smooth.

3 Cut the wallpaper to fit each of the interior surfaces.

4 Use craft glue to stick the paper to each panel.

5 Leave the chest open to dry for a few days before it is ready to use again as a place to store board games, bed linen or anything else you are not currently using. **m**



“As with the decorative lining of a coat, beautiful lining in drawers is a fun way to inject personality into your furniture. Try wallpaper and interior decorating stores for remnants”

Projects and images from *The Crafty Minx* by Kelly Doust, (\$39.95, Murdoch Books). For more about Kelly's projects, visit thecraftyminx.com.au.

