

## **TURN SENTIMENTAL ITEMS INTO ART**

Country Living magazine's annual Design House event raises money for non-profit organizations. This year, the recipient will be the Housing Works Thrift Shops (<http://housingworksauctions.com/thrifts.cfm>), an organization that supports HIV-positive patients and research.

The event ([www.housingworks.org/dime](http://www.housingworks.org/dime)) is designed to inspire homeowners to craft their own creations.

It may sound tough, but Sarah Gray Miller, editor in chief of Country Living magazine ([www.countryliving.com](http://www.countryliving.com)) stopped by The Early Show on Thursday, May 7, 2009, to demonstrate just how easy it is to take vintage objects that mean something to you and make them into pieces of art! Essentially, they're great and easy make-at-home crafts with materials you probably already have.

The Design House event is May 7 through May 9 this year. It's a house the magazine builds and decorates in the Metropolitan Pavillion in Manhattan. It's open to the public for an admission fee. The house is full of decorating ideas and chock full of donated items from stores such as Sears and K Mart and designers Jaclyn Smith and Ty Pennington. At the conclusion of the event, all items will be auctioned off to benefit Housing Works.

This year's design house is fully rooted in the philosophy that everything old is new again. They have a ton of ideas about taking the vintage and making them a cozy part of your home. What about taking an old tray and magnetizing it for a bulletin board? Or using your old rake as a letter holder? These ideas are EASY, and CHEAP.

Crafts Miller demoed on the show Thursday:

### ***PROJECT 1: YARD STICK OR RULER TABLE***

#### **What you will need:**

Table you want to cover  
Yard Sticks  
Polyurethane  
Brush  
Hammer  
Nails-Not too long

First of all, covering your favorite table with yard sticks or rulers, or really anything that nails to wood can add a funky and vintage look. Sarah Gray found yard sticks at flea markets and yard sales. You can line them up on the table and nail them to the top and legs. Make sure that your nails are thick enough to hold the rulers or yard sticks but not too thick to push through the wood tabletop.

To add a visual element, try switching the direction of the ruler across the surface of the table To complete this project you just add several coats of polyurethane so that no food etc. falls through the cracks or you won't get any splinters.

That's all it takes and you have a one-of-a-kind butcher block for your kitchen, or coffee table for your living room.

### ***PROJECT 2: VINTAGE MIRRORS WITH OLD TENNIS RACKET***

#### **What you will need:**

Vintage tennis Racket  
Mirror cut to right dimensions-Can be cut at your local hardware store  
Adhesive (squeeze liquid nails mirror)

Newspapers for protective service

We turned a vintage wooden tennis racket into a custom mirror, and it's so easy and good looking in almost any room from porch to dining room. You just take a vintage tennis racket to a glass shop and ask for a custom-cut beveled-edge mirror that fits inside the rim - it'll cost around \$30. Next you squeeze liquid nails mirror adhesive onto the back of the looking glass and firmly press it onto the strings

When doing this, cover your work surface with newspaper to protect it. After you let it dry overnight, you can just hang on your wall from a nail.

### ***PROJECT 3: SEWING PATTERN PAPER FLOWERS***

#### **What you will need:**

Vintage sewing patterns

Wire floral stem

Scissors

Vase

Patterns cut to proper size and one step from final look

You can pick up old sewing patterns for just a quarter at thrift stores and flea markets. A single pattern yields an entire bouquet of flowers. And it makes a great look for a living room, den, porch or bedroom. The first step is to cut squares from the pattern, stack and fold them accordion-style forming a rectangle and snip off the corners with scissors.

Next twist a wire floral stem around the center of the rectangle. The final step is to fan out the paper, then pull apart each layer, creating the blossom. Put the finished flowers in a vase and voila - you have a fabulous vase for your table top.

### ***PROJECT 4: MAKE A CLOCK OUT OF ALMOST ANYTHING***

\$8 kit (klockit.com)

Craft knife

Vintage photo framed, or a hat, book or album cover to be made into a clock

Find an interesting face of your clock from any vintage find, such as an old album or book cover, a flat hat, or a framed vintage photograph. Pick something that compliments your décor.

Use a craft knife or drill to make a hole in the object and follow the simple instructions from your craft kit about what size the holes need to be. Just attached the kits small battery-operated movement and two hands. Hang the finished product on the wall, and you have a functional conversation piece.