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Furniture Makeovers: Simple Techniques For Transforming Furniture With Paint, Stains, Paper, Stencils, And More



Synopsis

Furniture Makeovers shows how to transform tired furniture into stunning showpieces. You'll never look at a hand-me-down dresser the same way again! The book offers 26 easy-to-follow techniques that can be applied to all different types of pieces, from bookshelves to desks: painting, applying gold leaf, wallpapering, distressing, dip dyeing, and more. In addition to the core techniques, author and Knack Studios founder Barb Blair shares 30 beautiful before-and-after makeovers from her studio and outlines how to achieve each look. With helpful step-by-step photographs, a visual glossary explaining all the tools and materials needed, and a lovely contemporary aesthetic, Furniture Makeovers is a treasure trove of ideas and instruction for the home decorator.

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Customer Reviews

First of all I did not purchase this book from , got it elsewhere. I have been through enough furniture refinishing projects to testify that this is wonderful for the beginner. I wish I had this type of help when I stripped down my first piece 33 years ago. Back then I learned as I went. So if you are new and ready to get started redoing furniture, do yourself a favor you will thank yourself for over and over, and absolutely get this book. The author takes you step by step from how to select a piece of furniture that is going to be worth all the sweat you are going to pour into it to selecting proper materials and products for stripping, scraping, wiping away the old finish. He includes drying times and tells how to make necessary repairs to the furniture, how and what to use to make those

repairs. Also included are tips on how to add an old look, or shabby chic, distressed look, how to make your pieces look hand painted, and much more. I love that the importance of sanding is stressed, depending on what kind of finish you want, sanding, from rough to baby smooth is a process and the author is good to stress the importance. And it is important, because you are going to have to live with the way the furniture feels when you touch it for as long as you own the piece, so listen and don't be tempted to take shortcuts, you will thank yourself for the extra work and patience you invested into the piece, every time you touch it. Finish is covered well, as it is as important as sanding. The author prefers polyurethane finish, which leaves a nice tough finish that resists spills and stains very well. Personally, I prefer lacquer in a satin finish but this is a labor of love, because to get a wonderful finish takes many coats with lots of sanding in between each coat and lacquer takes a long drying period and is nasty to breathe. There are many excellent ideas and great how to, step by step, instructions here. There are also a fair amount of resources included. I bought this book for my daughter who is just starting to buy old pieces for their new home, as newlyweds this is the way to save money. Plus by buying her the book, I get out of having to help her learn the processes. Wish I would have had all this help and great ideas when I was doing this kind of stuff 30 some odd years ago.

What a great instruction book for the would-be furniture sprucer-upper. From tools to techniques, this book covers so many aspects of re-finishing and repairing wooden pieces. Bar Blair takes you, step-by-step, through the process of removing the old and then applying the new. My husband and I get such a kick out of turning someone's kicked-to-the-curb discard, into a proud member of the family. My kids have all come around and asked "Hey, what are you going to do with that when it's finished?" I tell them I'll put it in the will, but they'll have to wait til then! The author also gives good insights as to what to look for in construction of a piece, what it will take to restore it, and when to walk away. There are costs involved, and I have found myself occasionally paying too much for what it will be worth in the end. All supplies cost money, especially if you are into the new milk and chalk paints and the wax finishes, which she also covers.. This is a good beginner's book, but there are tips that even the more advanced amateur will find helpful.

I am impressed! An in depth (but easy read) how to book on furniture restoration. The author then provides ideas for taking your restoration to new levels of creative design. I was happy at the many levels of restoration! This is an easy to follow, must have book for the creative used furniture purchaser. Recommend!

The how-to's are clear but I suggest you look inside to see if you prefer the projects' before or after before investing in this. The cover is a reliable indication of the aesthetic involved. I bought this on the strength of reviews here. Must be pals of the author. I loved one paint medium used, milk paint, but again, the example wasn't inspiring just the potential I imagined. The rest, not so much. Perhaps, if I were putting together a child's room with solid, cheap thrift/yard-estate sale finds, this would be helpful for making unrelated furniture relate in happy, hard-wearing paint. Or perhaps these 'after's need to be in their contexts to demonstrate why a classic hardwood breakfront(?) was given racing stripes and an ugly brown green (1970's avocado) background paint job (that ruined it). Was someone decorating to recapture "The Brady Bunch" 1970's split-level lifestyle? This is a case of to each her own, so look inside. For an excellent, clear step-by-step resource for timeless, more sophisticated makeover techniques for trash-to-treasure wood furniture, consider Furniture Bible by C Pourny. I bought the two books at the same time but gave this away. Point being: after going to all the trouble of refurbishing a Goodwill find, I want things to look more expensive than the \$5 I pay for them, not less.

I wanted to refresh the finish on a chest of drawers. This book not only gave me inspiration for designing the color and pattern of my re-creation but it also demystified the materials and the procedures necessary to complete my project successfully. Highly recommended!

I was very excited to receive this book as a Christmas gift. It had been at the top of my list, since I'm a huge admirer of Barb's work and aesthetic. Even though I've painted numerous pieces of furniture, this was still a great source of inspiration. Barb's ease of explaining her technique was very easy to understand, and I loved learning more about incorporating paper into furniture makeovers. It's definitely something that I now feel like I can try, thanks to the great instructions in her book. :)

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