



# RECYCLED CRAFT IDEAS

Easy Crafts to Make With Recycled Materials



favecrafts



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# COASTAL U.S. FLAG

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# COASTAL U.S. FLAG

## MATERIALS

- Surface (I used a wooden map puzzle body, but a cutting board, piece of plywood, etc. would work great)
- Painter's or masking tape
- Sandpaper
- Cosmetic sponges
- Paint: White, light blue, light mocha, cream
- White starfish
- White craft glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. As you can see, the puzzle I found at the rummage sale was missing several of the smaller upper north-eastern states. I removed all of the state puzzle pieces and used them for a different project.



2. I gave the surface a quick sanding, just enough to knock off any shine and to remove the words that were painted onto it.



3. Begin by taping off a section for the canton (upper left portion) of the flag. Use a cosmetic sponge dipped in light blue paint to apply paint to the canton area. Apply two coats, or more if needed to cover. Remove tape.



4. Tape off the stripes. Use cosmetic sponge to add white paint to the exposed striped areas. You will need 2-3 coats here. Remove tape. Allow the white paint to dry for about 30-40 minutes.



# COASTAL U.S. FLAG

## INSTRUCTIONS

5. Tape over the white stripes to protect them from the next color.



8. When everything is dry, sand the edges and surface until you are satisfied with the look. Use white craft glue to add the starfish to the canton.

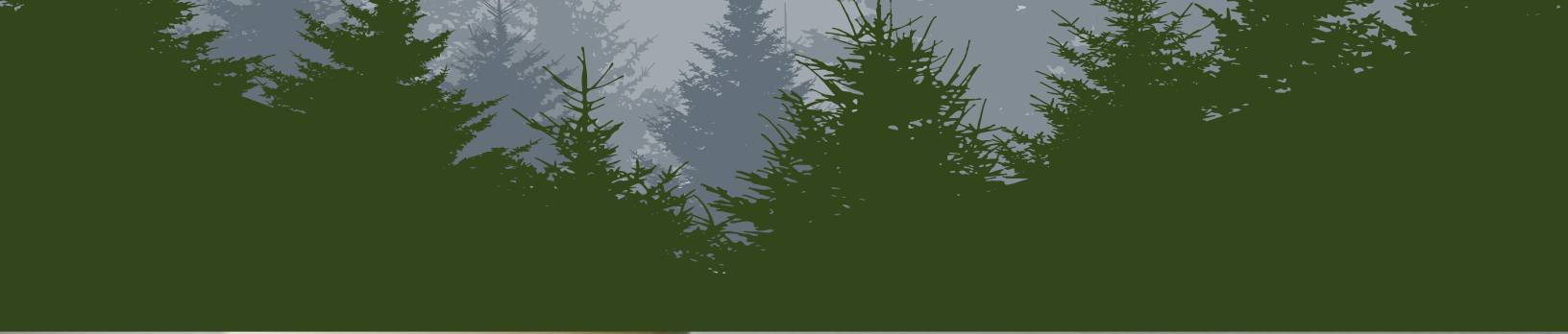


6. Use a cosmetic sponge to apply light mocha paint to the exposed striped areas. Remove tape.



7. I painted the outer surface of my map puzzle with cream colored paint. I then sponged on some white lightly over the top of the cream to give it a distressed look.





# COTTAGE SLAT FRAME

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# COTTAGE SLAT FRAME

## MATERIALS

- Flat wooden frame
- Craft sticks
- White craft glue
- Scissors or small wire cutters
- Craft paint: white and light brown
- Sandpaper

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. To determine how many craft sticks you will need, lay your frame on the work surface and cover it with craft sticks. Add 3 or 4 more so that you have extra.



2. Lay all the craft sticks out onto a piece of cardboard or foam core board. Paint the sticks with a coat of light brown paint (I used Americana, color = Driftwood).



3. When dry, add a coat of white (I used Americana, color = White Wash). Add 1-2 more coats, enough to cover so that the brown no longer shows through. Allow them to dry completely.



4. Use scissors or wire cutters to cut the rounded ends off of the craft sticks.





# COTTAGE SLAT FRAME

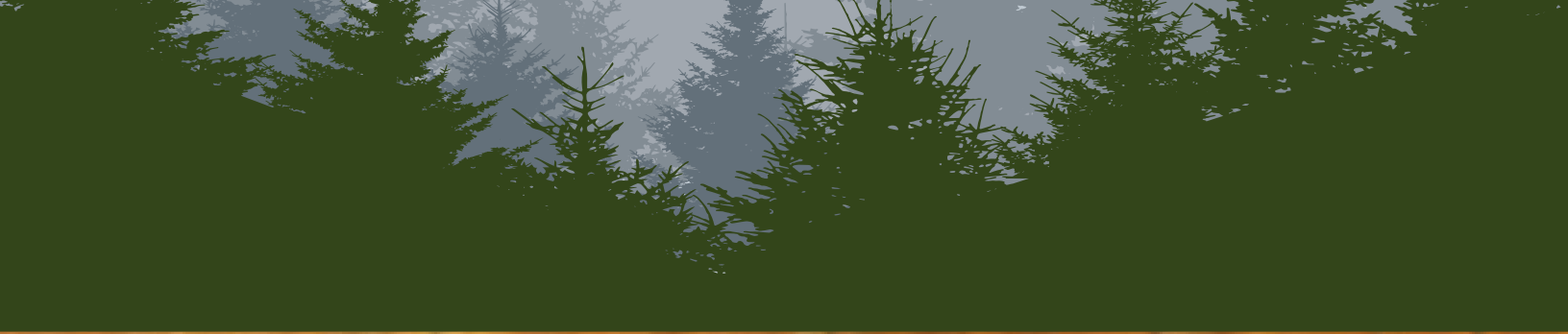
## INSTRUCTIONS

5. Glue the sticks to the frame in whatever pattern is pleasing to you. For one frame I kept all of the pieces the same size and only trimmed the ones that went around the photo window. For the other frame I cut the sticks into varying lengths, which of course takes more time and attention. Let the glue dry overnight.



Use a piece of sandpaper to rough up the edges, removing some of the white paint exposing the brown beneath it. Sand harder at the corners and edges, exposing the bare wood beneath it.





# DENIM DOG TOY

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# DENIM DOG TOY

## MATERIALS

3 24-inch long strips of recycled denim  
Masking tape  
Scissors

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Join all three strips together at one end and tape to the work surface. You should have about 4 inches at the point that you begin braiding.



2. Braid the three strands snugly together. Leave 4 inches at the bottom unbraided.



3. Cut the center strip in half. Join one half with the left strand and the other half with the right strands. Tie the two double strands into a knot. Tie again and pull it tight.



4. Repeat this process at the other end of the braid so that it is knotted at both ends.





# DENIM JEANS POCKET PURSE

Ann Butler from Creativity Stirs the Soul



# DENIM JEANS POCKET PURSE

## MATERIALS

- Denim pocket; cut away from jeans
- Crystals – light blue
- Beacon Adhesives Gem-Tac
- Beacon Adhesives Fabri-Tac
- Flat trim, to fit around pocket
- Decorative trim – 30"
- Toothpick

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use toothpick and Gem-Tac to apply crystals onto pocket.
2. Glue decorative trim onto opposite sides of pocket with Fabri-Tac for handle.
3. Glue flat trim with Fabri-Tac around outer edge of pocket.



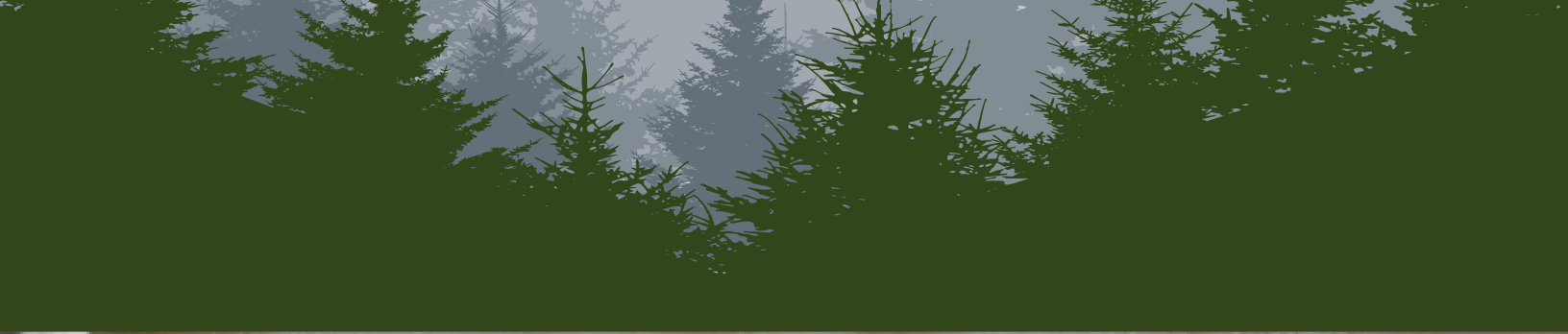
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## "Trash to Treasure: 28 Recycled Crafts"

will help you declutter your home, organize your living space, and even show you how to make your very own home accents using items that are in your recycling bin right now!

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# DIY MERCURY GLASS WINE BOTTLES

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# DIY MERCURY GLASS WINE BOTTLES

## MATERIALS

- Recycled empty wine bottles, labels removed, washed and dried
- Krylon Looking Glass spray paint
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup water
- Spray bottle with mist option
- Paper towels
- Clear gloss sealer spray

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Be sure that the bottles are completely clean and dry. Spray a thin coat of Looking Glass paint onto the bottles and let dry 20 minutes.



2. Spray a second coat and let dry 20 more minutes.



3. Mix equal parts of vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Mist each wine bottle with the vinegar mixture. Allow to sit for 1-2 minutes.



4. Spray Looking Glass paint directly over the vinegar mist. Use a paper towel scrunched up that has been misted with the vinegar mixture to blot the bottle. The harder you rub, the more paint will come off. Rub lightly in some areas and harder in others.



# DIY MERCURY GLASS WINE BOTTLES

## INSTRUCTIONS

5. Allow bottles to sit for about an hour then gently rinse off with cool water. Pat them dry and let sit for 10 minutes. Spray each bottle with a clear gloss sealer.







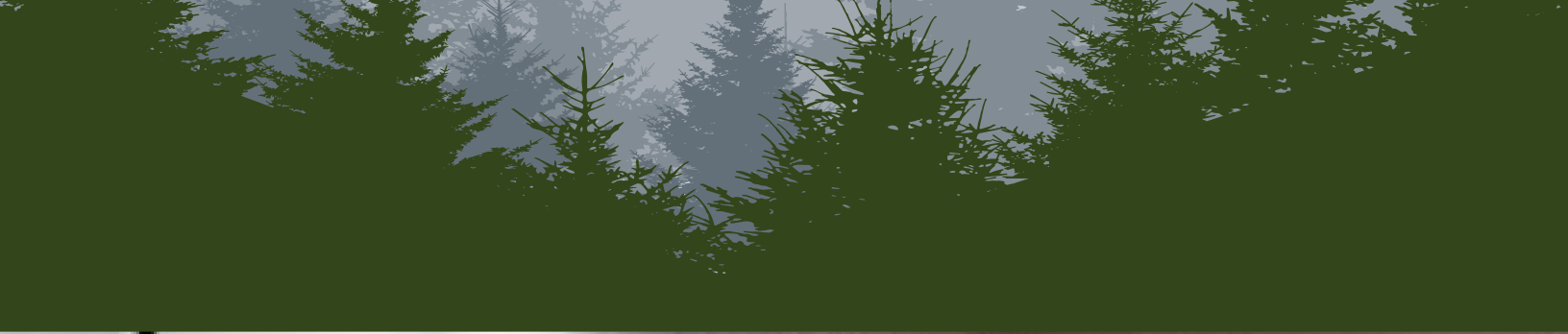
CLICK TO VIEW  
PROJECT VIDEO



# DIY PASTA LANTERN

Tanner Bell from A Little Craft in Your Day





# FABRIC SCRAP HEART MAGNETS

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# FABRIC SCRAP HEART MAGNETS

## MATERIALS

- Scrap fabric
- Parchment paper
- Decoupage medium
- Wooden hearts
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil
- Self adhesive 1/2-inch button magnets

## INSTRUCTIONS

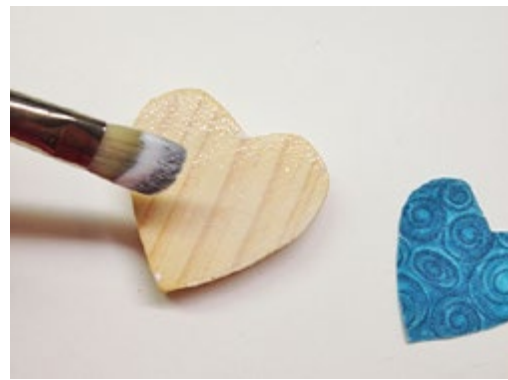
1. To prep your fabric, place it onto a sheet of parchment paper and paint it with a layer of decoupage medium. This will keep your fabric from fraying when and after you cut it. When dry, about 30 minutes or so, peel the fabric off of the parchment paper. Trace around your wooden heart onto the fabric using a pen or pencil.



2. To cut out the heart, cut inside the pen line by about 1/4-inch. This will trim it enough to fit on the heart and allow a little room for the wood to show around the border.



3. Apply a layer of decoupage medium to the wooden heart and press the fabric heart onto it. Press out any air bubbles and let it sit for about 15-20 minutes. Apply a coat of decoupage medium over the entire heart, top and sides.



4. Peel backing from magnet and press to the back of the wooden heart.

\* If you don't have self adhesive magnet, use white craft glue to attach them. Don't use hot glue as it does not hold up as well as white glue does.





# MOSAIC SEAHORSE ON CANVAS

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# MOSAIC SEAHORSE ON CANVAS

## MATERIALS

- 12x24 stretched canvas
- White acrylic craft paint
- 3 shades of blue fabric (light, dark, and a medium shade)
- Decoupage medium
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Seahorse pattern 1
- Seahorse pattern 2
- Masking tape

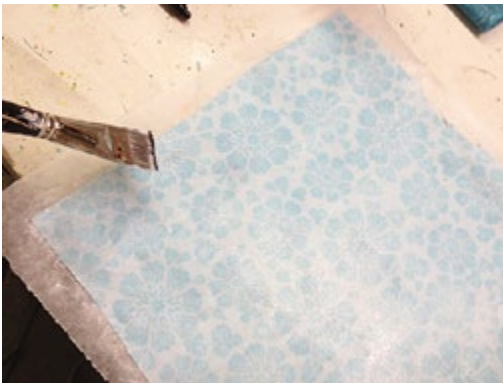
## PATTERN NOTES

The letters on the pattern represent which color fabric to use.

- M = medium shade,
- L = light shade,
- D = dark shade.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Paint canvas completely with a coat of white craft paint. This will help keep any dust, dirt and smudges from collecting on the canvas as it creates a seal.



2. Prep your fabric by laying out sheets of parchment paper and placing fabric on top of it. Apply a layer of decoupage medium to the fabric. This will keep the fabric from fraying when you cut it. When dry, peel fabric off of the parchment paper.



3. Print off both patterns and tape together. Position it onto your canvas and tack in place with masking tape.



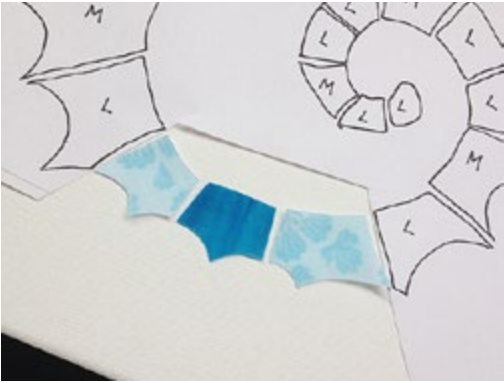
4. Cut out one section of the seahorse's tail from the pattern. Using the corresponding fabric, place pattern piece over the fabric and cut out.



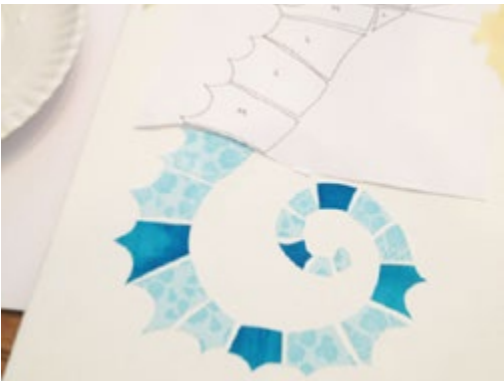
# MOSAIC SEAHORSE ON CANVAS

## INSTRUCTIONS

5. Apply découpage to the back side of the fabric piece. Press onto the canvas and smooth out.



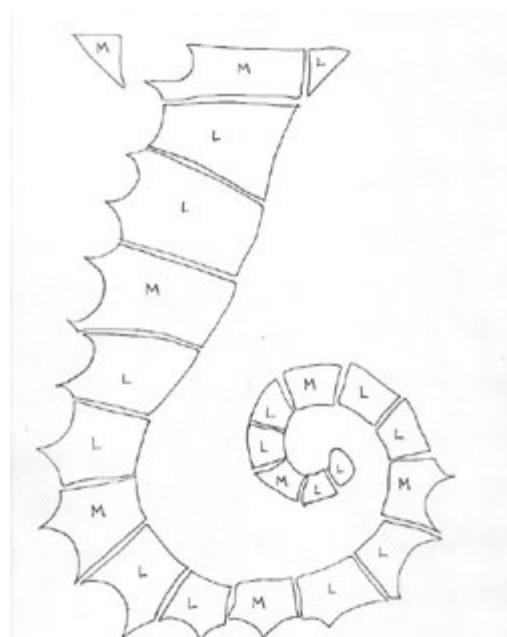
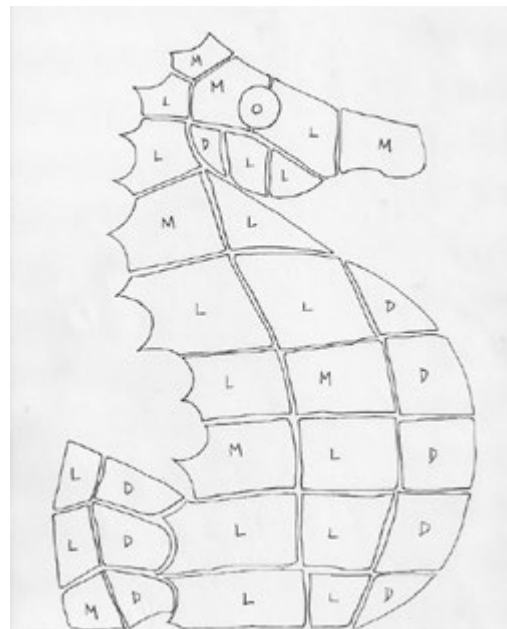
6. Continue this process, working your way up the tail one piece at a time.



7. Continue working your way all the way up until the seahorse is complete. For the eye use the dark fabric, and for the small circle inside the eye use the light fabric.

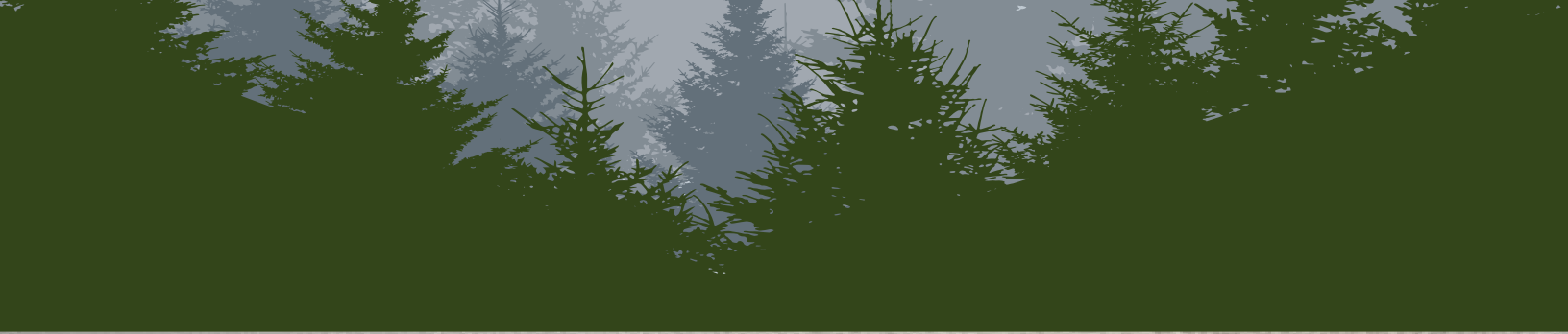


There is no need to add a layer of découpage over the top of the entire piece. However, you can spray the finished work with acrylic sealer spray (I used matte finish).



**SAVE THIS  
PATTERN?  
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# ROAD MAP FRAME

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# ROAD MAP FRAME

## MATERIALS

- Recycled road map
- Flat wooden frame
- Decoupage medium
- Scissors
- Craft knife

Optional embellishments:

- Wooden hearts
- Scrabble tiles
- Ribbon
- White craft glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

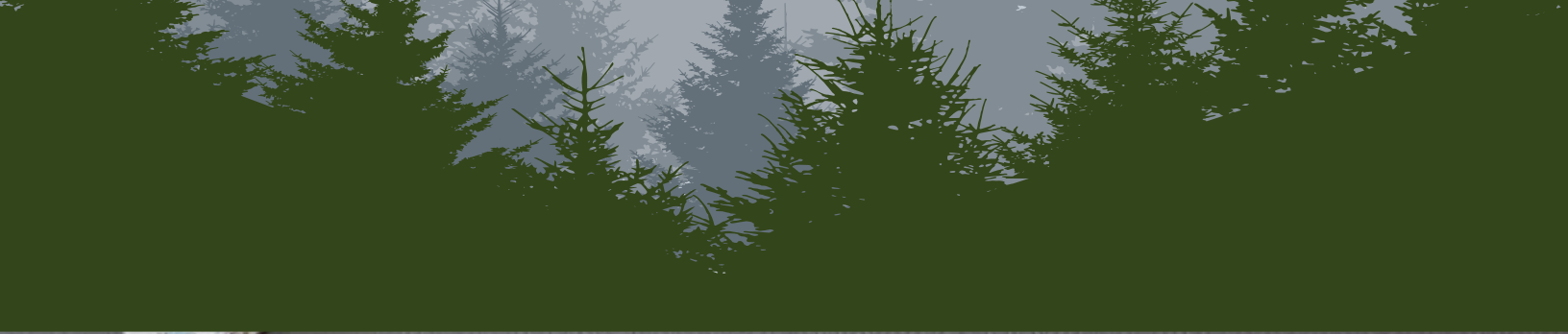
1. Place map onto frame and trim areas to be decoupage to be about 1/2-inch larger than the surface.
2. Prep the map pieces by applying a thin coat of decoupage to the back of the map and allow it to dry for about 20 minutes.
3. Apply a coat of decoupage to the frame and carefully press the map (in sections) onto the frame. Be sure to push out any air bubbles. Let the map adhere to the frame for about 20 minutes.
4. Turn the frame over and use a craft knife to trim the excess map along the edges of the frame.
5. Turn the frame right side up again and apply a coat of decoupage over the top of map frame. Let dry.

Embellishments:

This particular frame was made for two college friends. One attends school in one city and another in a different city. The two hearts represent the two cities on the map and the Scrabble tiles represent the college students' initials. Simply glue a Scrabble tile to a wooden heart. Tie a small bow from ribbon and glue beneath the Scrabble tile. Glue the initialed heart to the frame.







# STATE MAP MAGNETS

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# STATE MAP MAGNETS

## MATERIALS

- State shaped puzzle pieces or other simple wooden shapes (squares, circles, etc)
- Outdated road atlas
- Decoupage medium
- Scissors
- 1/2-inch button magnets
- White craft glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Locate the city you would like to appear on your magnet. Place your wood shape over the city and trace around it with a pen or pencil.



2. When cutting the shape out, cut about 1/8-inch inside the trace line. You want to leave a border of your wooden shape showing. My states were all different colors, which made for a very visually pleasing magnet when finished. Alternatively, you can paint wooden shapes in different colors to achieve the same affect.



3. Apply a thin layer of decoupage to the back of the map and press it onto the wooden shape. Once it is positioned properly, allow it to dry for about 40 minutes before applying a coat of decoupage over the top.



# STATE MAP MAGNETS

## INSTRUCTIONS

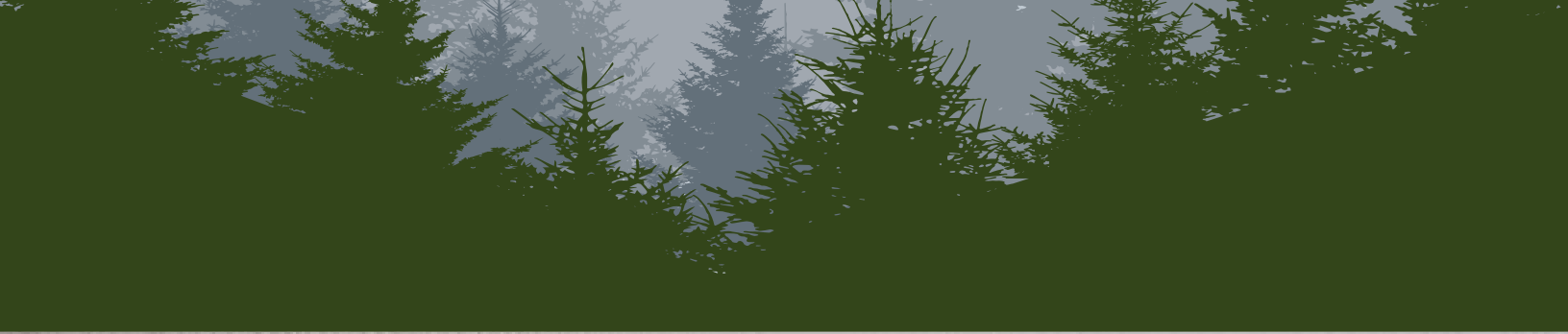
4. When completely dry, glue a button magnet to the back and let dry completely before using.



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# STRIPED COASTAL FISH DECOR

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# STRIPED COASTAL FISH DECOR

## MATERIALS

- Fish shape wooden dish or wood plaque
- Sandpaper
- Masking tape
- Cosmetic sponges and/or paintbrush
- Acrylic craft paint: white, light mocha, light sea green and light blue\*
- Acrylic sealer spray, matte finish

\* I used Americana paint colors Cool White, Spa Blue, Sea Glass and Driftwood

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sand surface of wood and dust off. Mine was a wooden serving tray I found at a thrift store for 25 cents.



2. Paint the surface of the fish with white paint. Apply a second coat and allow to dry.



3. Add a piece of masking tape to section the head area. Use a cosmetic sponge to apply a thin coat of light sea green paint to the head. Use a paintbrush to add a second coat. Remove tape.



# STRIPED COASTAL FISH DECOR

## INSTRUCTIONS

4. Use tape to section off stripes along the body of the fish. Vary the widths of the stripes for visual interest.



5. Using the same method as you did with the head, apply thin coats of paint with a cosmetic sponge and use a paintbrush for the second coat. Vary the colors of the stripes between light mocha, light sea green and light blue. Remove tape and allow to dry.



6. Use sandpaper to distress the surface of the fish, giving it a weathered look. Dust off. Apply a coat of sealer and allow to dry.



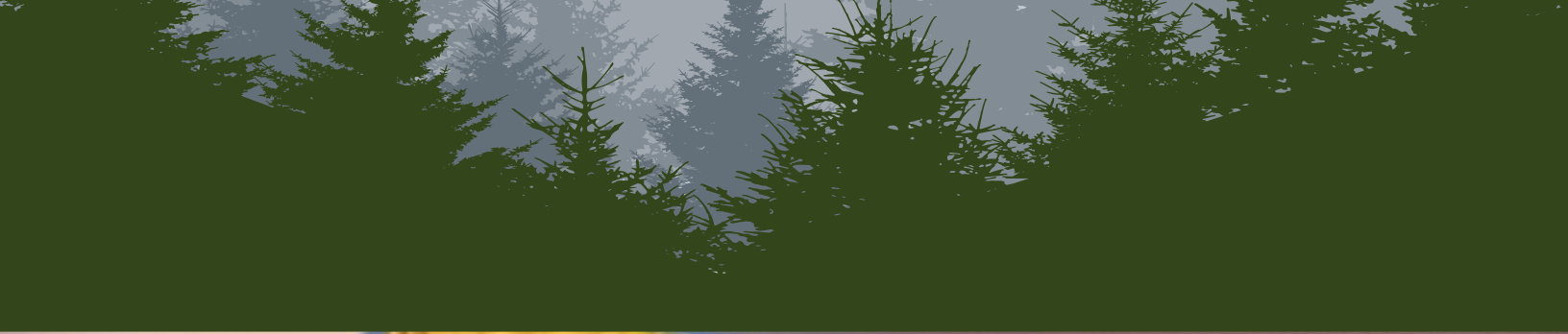
Whether you're looking for some unique home decor accents or looking to add some color and texture to your garden this summer, let "25 Cool Things to do with Wine Bottles" inspire you to look at that humble bottle of wine in a new light.

25 Cool Things to Do with Wine Bottles

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# UPCYCLED FOIL COLLAGE GREETING CARD

Lisa Fulmer for Lisa Liza Lou



# UPCYCLED FOIL COLLAGE GREETING CARD

## MATERIALS

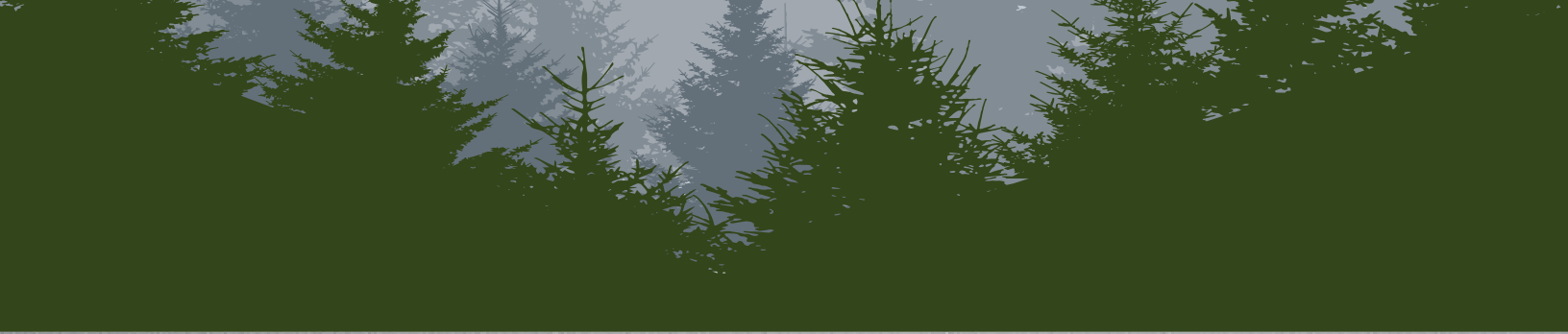
- Foil lids
- Alcohol inks and applicator
- Embossing folders
- Tacky glue
- Cardstock
- Empty mason jar
- Paper punches or dies
- Diecutting machine (optional)
- Decorative brads
- 1/16" hole punch

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash and dry several foil lids and smooth out some of the wrinkles with your fingers.
2. Punch out desired shapes and place inside an embossing folder. Run the folder through a diecutting machine for a deeper impression, or you can rub the bottom of a jar firmly over the closed folder for a lighter impression.
3. Color the plain unprinted sides with alcohol inks.
4. Arrange and glue the embossed shapes into a desired collage on a 4"x6" piece of cardstock.
5. Embellish with a few brads, such as for the center of the flowers as shown.
6. Adhere the foil collage panel to the front of a slightly larger folded card.







# WOODEN SPOON WALL ART

Amanda Formaro from Crafts by Amanda



# WOODEN SPOON WALL ART

## MATERIALS

- 16x20 canvas
- 3 wooden utensils
- Sandpaper
- Acrylic craft paint: white, black and burgundy
- Black transfer paper
- White craft glue
- Acrylic sealer spray in matte finish

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Paint the entire surface of the canvas white. This will help seal the canvas and keep dirt and smudges from collecting.



2. Sand the wooden utensil to remove the shiny surface.



3. Paint the wooden utensils burgundy. You may need 3-4 coats to get good coverage.



# WOODEN SPOON WALL ART

## INSTRUCTIONS

4. Open a Word document and type the word "eat". Choose a font that suits you and enlarge the font size to fit across the top of the canvas. Print out the word.



5. Position it onto your canvas and tape it in place with masking tape. Be sure to make sure everything fits by placing the spoons on the canvas as well. Once you are sure, set the spoons aside and place a piece of transfer paper under the "eat" print out.



6. Use a ball point pen to trace the outline of letters of the word "eat".



7. Lift the paper and you will see that the transfer paper has transferred the word to the canvas.

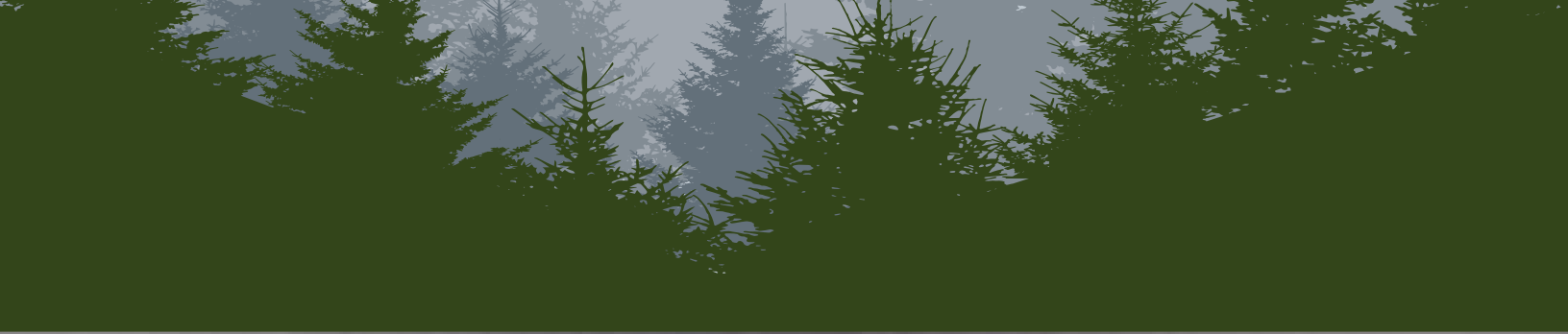


8. Use a fine liner brush and black paint to paint the letters.

9. Use white craft glue to glue the wooden spoons in place.

10. Apply 1-2 coats of acrylic sealer spray.





# UPCYCLE THRIFT STORE PLATES WITH SHIMMERS

Ann Butler from Creativity Stirs the Soul



# UPCYCLE THRIFT STORE PLATES WITH SHIMMERS

## MATERIALS

- Earth Safe Finishes™ Opaque Shimmer – Emerald, Magenta, Sapphire
- Earth Safe Finishes™ Chalk it Up - Black
- Clear Glass Plate
- Paintbrushes - Black Silver by Dynasty Series 4910ST One Stroke Size 1

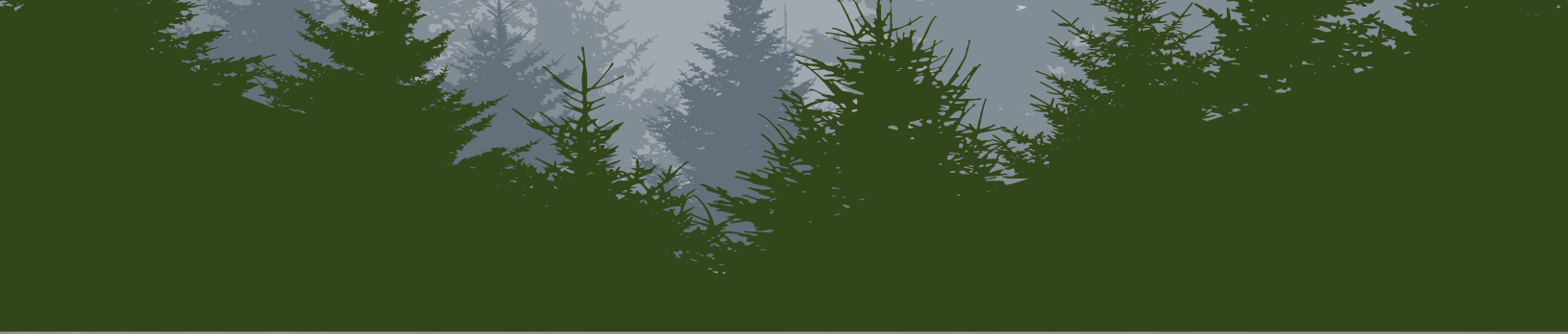
## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Apply shimmers to the back side of the plate, in a random order, let dry; repeat with second coat if needed to get complete coverage; let dry.
2. Paint over shimmers with black chalk pain, let dry.

### Tips:

- \*Don't be alarmed if the first coat looks like it will not cover, the shimmers work on every surface, it may take a couple coats.
- \*Let dry completely between coats for best results.
- \*Earth Safe Finishes products are all soap and water cleanup.





# UPCYCLE CANS AS GIFT CONTAINERS

Ann Butler from Creativity Stirs the Soul



# UPCYCLE THRIFT STORE PLATES WITH SHIMMERS

## MATERIALS

- Empty can, washed and dried
- Krylon® Interior/Exterior Paint - in color of choice for outside
- Krylon® Interior/Exterior Paint – Black (inside)
- Acrylic Paint – White
- Beacon Adhesives Tacky Glue
- Motif Fabric of choice
- 19 Gauge Craft Wire – 12 inches
- Toothbrush
- pinking shears
- hammer
- large nail
- round nose pliers
- craft stick

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Paint inside of can with black paint with several light coats until covered, letting it dry in between coats.
2. Turn can upside down and paint in color of choice with several light coats until covered, letting it dry between coats.
3. Use pinking shears to cut out motifs to fit the front of the can; glue to the front of the can.
4. Place can upside down; dip toothbrush into small amount of white acrylic paint, hold 12" – 18" from can, pull craft stick across bristles to spatter the can.
5. Using the hammer and nail punch two holes in the can on opposite sides for the handle.
6. Thread wire ends through the holes of the can, adjusting handle length to desired size; wrap the excess wire around round nose pliers to curl ends.
7. Tear a small piece of fabric and tie onto handle.



# BLOGGER BIOS



## Tanner Bell

Tanner Bell can say he's done a little of everything when it comes to the craft industry. Tanner got his start in March 2010. After receiving his very first Cricut Expression, he decided to create simple craft tutorials. In March of 2013 Tanner, along with his friend Courtney, launched the A Little Craft In Your Day blog, the focus being on DIY crafts with a teen demographic concentration. Tanner's goal is to not only grow his own brand, but to become a spokesperson for a brand/company. He believes with his outgoing personality that companies could benefit from him as their spokesperson.



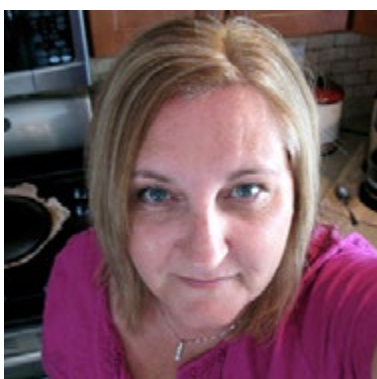
## Ann Butler

Ann Butler is a mixed media artist, designer, & instructor for the creative industries. She works with a variety of mediums and loves to re-purpose items with several mediums to create original one-of-a-kind projects. Her designs appear in multi-authored books, magazines, booklets, manufacturer tradeshow booths, and websites. Her blog, Creativty Stirs the Soul, is where she shares projects, book reviews, product reviews, showcases designer friends, and has giveaways!



## Lisa Fulmer

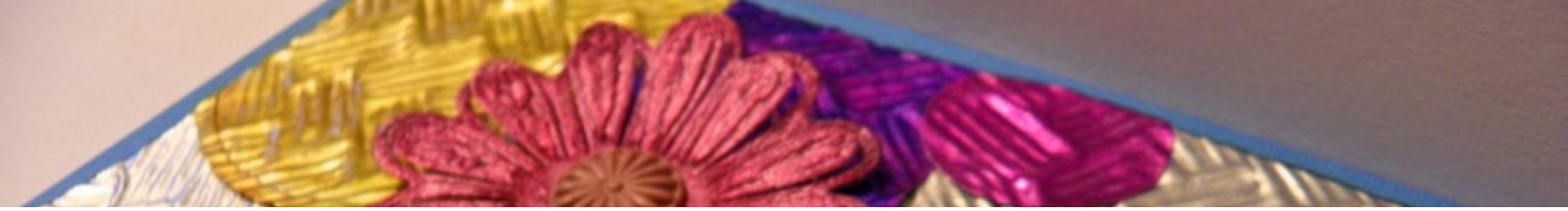
Lisa has worked for several years in the craft industry as a project designer, teacher, demonstrator, and marketing consultant. She refers to herself as "an ardent artist and a chronic crafter"—she fills every spare minute with mixed media, cardmaking, art journaling, beading, needlework, sewing, painting, photography, general crafts—there's precious little that she hasn't tried and totally loved creating. Lisa has contributed designs to several craft compilation books and magazines over the years. Her new book, Craft Your Stash—Transforming Craft Closet Treasures into Gifts, Home Décor & More, releases in October 2014.



## Amanda Formaro

Amanda Formaro is the crafty, entrepreneurial mother of four children. She loves to bake, cook, make kid's crafts, and create decorative items for her home. She is the craft expert for FamilyCorner.com and Kaboose.com and has appeared online and in print publications many times over the years. You can see her crafty creations on Crafts by Amanda and her delicious recipes on Amanda's Cookin'.





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