

Easy Upcycling with Jacqui

UPDATE YOUR HOME WITH HELP FROM OUR VERY OWN JACQUI JOSEPH



Upcycling is the art of taking something old and quite often discarded, and turning it into a new piece which is more valuable and has a better purpose than before. This technique stems from the 'make do and mend' practice introduced in the 1940s to encourage housewives to be more frugal with their basic war rations. These days it doesn't hurt to be a little thrifter in the home, and upcycling also helps us to reduce our carbon footprint. So before you send your pre-loved dining room furniture to the skip, try to transform it into a new treasure. You could create something rather fabulous and unique!

Tricks of the Trade

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A PRO TO UPCYCLE. JUST FOLLOW JACQUI'S FAIL-PROOF TIPS

- If your re-vamped piece is for outdoor use, make sure you give it two or three coats of clear exterior varnish, allowing drying time between each coat.
- Remember, if you need to stop mid-decoupage, wash your brush in warm soapy water and make sure you reseal the glue pot.
- Get creative! Comics, newspapers, magazines, discarded books and even sweet wrappers are all perfect to use to create unique looks.



Easy Home Style

HERE'S HOW TO UPDATE A DINING ROOM CHAIR AND A PLAIN GLASS VASE...

Decoupage a chair

You will need:

- Cloth
- Dust sheet (an old bed sheet or table cloth will do)
- Decoupage glue, use one that is a dual glue and varnish or glossy
- Paintbrush
- Papers (I used the Decopatch paper pads)
- Quick-dry clear varnish, optional



1 Cover the floor with your dustsheet and place the chair on top, making sure you have enough room to turn the chair in different positions for decoupage. Give the chair a quick wipe with a damp cloth to remove any dust.

2 I like to tear lots of paper at a time and have them in piles ready to glue on. Spread the glue over the surface using your paint brush, then apply the paper gently to the area. Use the paintbrush to spread the remaining decoupage glue over the paper. This overcoat will act as a gloss varnish and sealant.

3 Carry on spreading the glue and adding your papers until the entire area is covered. Don't be afraid to overlap papers and tear to smooth into corners. Use your brush to manipulate the paper in awkward areas. Don't worry if the paper splits or gets damaged... just add another tear of paper on top! It all comes together really quickly.

4 Once your chair is completely covered, leave it to dry. About an hour or two should do the trick, then give the entire chair a coat of your glossy glue or, like me, two coats of quick-dry clear varnish. Leave it to dry for the recommended time in between coats.

5 Sit back, relax and enjoy your creation while you plan your next decoupage project... how about updating a glass vase with a host of inspiring words from your favourite magazine!

Renew a vase



"This project uses exactly the same steps as the chair, except of course you can work in a smaller area, on a dining table, for example. The only addition is, use cling film wrapped around your fingers, or shape into a makeshift sponge, to flatten out any air pockets when applying the paper to the glass vase. This will give the paper a smooth finish and helps prevent tears."

Give these a go!

GRAB AN OLD ATLAS AND YOUR PRETTIEST PAPERS AND CRAFT THESE MAKES FOR A STYLISH HOME

Atlas lampshade

Craft with the Modern Decoupage book by Louise Crosbie



Decorative storage box



Decopatch Nature Kit with Green Decopad (349617), Price: £29.99, Club Member Price: £20.69

BUY NOW Create a Craft Club

20 Twenty To Make: Modern Decoupage by Louise Crosbie (349671), Price: £4.99, Club Member Price: £4.49

Create with the Decopatch Nature set

