

N I P

A N D

T U C K

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DIY guru Jaharn Quinn shares her top tips for turning tired pieces into trendy sensations that'll look perfectly at home in your stylish space



expert advice

Jaharn Quinn helps people create their dream interiors for less with her step-by-step guides to salvaging furniture through upcycling and DIY smorhome.com | @smorhome

Think big DIY projects aren't just for small objets or antique furniture. They can actually change the appearance of your home in regards to architecture, too. Jaharn (pictured above) made this arched doorway using gyprock, plasterboard and paint. To close off her studio space, she created a fluted door out of PVC pipes (not pictured). The restored dining table was another project, which she uses as her work desk. ->

AS A TEENAGER, JAHARN QUINN didn't spend her part-time income on the latest styles. Instead, she saved up for visits to second-hand stores, filled with tired goodies she could restore to their former glory. "The feeling I get from upcycling is addictive," she says. "Finding the diamond in the rough, seeing the potential and transforming it with a little bit of creativity and elbow grease brings so much joy and satisfaction." It's no surprise that her passion continued into adulthood, when she turned the hobby into a career that helps others. In 2017, Jaharn and her husband, Jason, built their dream home in Noosa on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, but she found she wasn't satisfied with the interiors. "It felt empty and plain because we couldn't afford to buy what we liked and anything we could afford was low-quality 'fast' furniture," she explains. So Jaharn turned to upcycling, saving perfectly salvageable furniture from ending up in landfill while also filling her home with unique pieces that suited her style. It was after the pair had settled into the home with their children Dusty, five, and Celeste, two, that Jaharn's bedside-table project went viral, changing their lives, and her website Smør House forever. Now we've got the secrets to DIY treasures straight from the innovative source herself. 📌



**project**  
**DIY PENDANT SHADE**  
Toilet paper papier-mâché,  
\$10 to make, 30 minutes  
of prep time (plus drying)



**project**  
**DIY FRUIT BOWL**  
Boyle Terracotta Air  
Drying Clay, \$20 to make,  
30 minutes of prep time  
(plus drying)



**project**  
**DIY SIDE TABLE**  
Footstool and styrofoam  
balls, \$60 to make, 4 hours  
of prep time (plus drying)

**1** Don't be afraid of power tools! While it can be intimidating walking into hardware stores when you're not totally sure what you're doing, rest assured the people who work there are happy to help. Buying an entry level jigsaw can elevate your work, helping you cut trendy curves, waves and scallops into MDF and also timber.

**2** Don't overlook second-hand furniture due to dirty fabric, dents or scratches. Focus on the design and structure of the piece instead. Fabric can be easily restored or replaced while timber can be sanded back and stained. The surface level problems don't matter. All you need to do is check that the item has good bones.

**3** Get inspired! Collect interior design and architecture magazines (ahem, like *tl*), follow interior designers on Instagram, trawl Pinterest and keep tabs on vintage resellers such as 1stDibs and Curated Spaces. This will help you stay on top of the latest trends and also hopefully spark a few ideas for future projects. →

**style tip** If a project calls for papier-mâché then you can use any type of paper you want, from tissue to wrapping. Choose a colour or even a pattern that suits your home





**project**  
**DIY ROPE ART**  
Stretched canvas and macrame rope, \$40 to make (not including frames), 1-2 hours (plus drying)



**project**  
**DIY CHAIR MAKEOVER**  
Secondhand bar stools and foam balls, \$50 to make, 3 hours (plus drying)

**style tip** Round ball furniture is really trendy right now and all it takes is a packet of cheap foam balls which can be drilled to an existing chair with a dowel then painted. Reupholster the chair for some extra modernising

shop it! Tools of the trade with a coffee break along the way



**1** Chef's herringbone **oven cloth**, \$21, Smør. **2** Capsule **wastebin**, \$29.95, Freedom. **3** Cilio 'Classico' one-cup **espresso maker** in aluminium, \$64.95, Harvey Norman. **4** Syneco 48mm x 12m **duct tape** in Purple, \$5.40, Bunnings. **5** Fiskars 21cm 'ReNew' **garden scissors**, \$29, Bunnings. **6** Linen **apron** in Lemon, \$40, Assembly Label. **7** Kids 'Bamboo' **dinnerware** everyday set in Clay, \$34.95, Smør.



**project**  
**DIY WALL LIGHT**  
Cardboard and white paint, \$155 to make, 50 mins prep time (plus drying)

4

Create an upcycling toolkit. Just pack measuring tape, house plans, a notebook and a pen in a bag then take it with you when you go thrifting. This will help to ensure you're not making impulse purchases. Instead, you can breathe easy knowing that you've made a calculated decision on pieces that will suit your home's style.

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Mirrors and lamps are super fun, easy and affordable items to upcycle. Changing a lamp base, lampshade or mirror might be a low-key project but it can totally transform the way your room looks and feels. Something as simple as a foam ball, grout, wool, chalk paint, spray paint and glue can create a chic and trendy design.