

Trash to TREASURE

Inspired by the latest trends, Jahann Quinn is an expert at upcycling unwanted goods into stylish decor with a little DIY flair

Jessie Stoehwinder



As the saying goes, one person's trash is another's treasure — and this is true of Jahann Quinn's favourite place to pick up homewares.

The lifestyle blogger has spent many a morning at her neighbourhood tip shop, scouring stockpiles of items destined for landfill to see what she can salvage and give a stylish new life.

From carved wooden dining chairs to coffee tables, lamps and vases, Quinn, pictured, has saved

much easier than people think, according to Quinn.

"It's all about having a can-do attitude and simply diving in and giving it a try," she says.

"There have been plenty of times where I have thought to myself 'what on earth am I doing?' but I push through those uncomfortable feelings and keep going.

"I have found the staff at Bunnings are so helpful and are my go-to when I need advice about tools and materials. And nothing feels more satisfying than having

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many pieces from the trash heap — she says it just takes a little imagination to repurpose her bargains.

The Noosa local has gathered a large social media following for her creative upcycles and DIY projects under the name Smor Kitchen, where she often recycles discarded furniture in tutorials inspired by the latest interior trends.

Some of her most popular creations include a Gustaf Westman-esque wavy mirror, an organic niche wall shelf, a mosaic stone planter and terracotta wall scones for her bedroom.

Making your own homewares is

an idea in mind, going for it, and seeing it through."

For those considering upping their DIY game, Quinn recommends investing in entry-level power tools designed for hobby makers.

"Having a jigsaw, sander and drill has opened up a world of possibilities," she says.

"Knowing how to use these power tools is very empowering, and it means I look at furniture in tip shops and thrift stores very differently these days — I can do so much more with them."

Quinn admits that many of her ideas don't work out, and countless hours are spent on trial and error.



However, it's a process she actually enjoys. "While I love coming up with a new idea and the joy and satisfaction of it when it's complete, for me it's always been about the creative problem-solving aspect," she says.

"I can have an idea and mull on it for weeks, thinking about the best way to approach it, how I can deal with any foreseeable issues, the tools and the materials I need to get it done. I find that part so rewarding."

Quinn shares a popular DIY project from her blog, smorkitchen.com, where she gives a thrift store lamp a makeover using grout and terracotta paint

MATERIALS

- ▶ lamp
- ▶ cloth
- ▶ white spray paint
- ▶ paint brush
- ▶ painter's tape
- ▶ Megabrat Liquid Terracotta paint
- ▶ plaster of Paris
- ▶ white paint
- ▶ Silly's white grout
- ▶ disposable gloves

HOW TO

Separate the lampshade and base and wipe down using a clean cloth. Apply painter's tape to the light fixture and coat the base in spray paint. Leave to dry.

Mix ½ table spoon of plaster of Paris with about 1 cup of liquid terracotta paint. Adjust quantities as needed. Apply two coats to the base, leaving to dry in between.

Paint the exterior of the lampshade with white paint. Leave to dry. Apply grout to the lampshade using a paint brush, slapping down the flat side to create a textured pattern, then smoothing down with your hands.

When the lampshade is dry, screw it back onto the base.



Pictures and projects by Jahann Quinn.

