

A HOW-TO BOOK



Lynette Jennings

have

fun
with your
room



28 COOL PROJECTS
FOR TEENS

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LYNETTE JENNINGS

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WOULDN'T YOU JUST LOVE TO DO something really neat to your room—something cool, something totally YOU?

Well, you can!
(LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN.) **YOU** can.

Yes, You CAN!!!
After all, it **IS** your room.

Need a lot of \$\$\$\$\$?
Nope!

Need a BIGGER room?
No more space than you already have.

Need a whole bunch of tools? Not really. Most of what we used you probably have around the house. Ask your parents.

You can make all of our projects yourself, with basic tools and household items. (Except for a few times when you might need help cutting wood, which you can easily get at home or even at a home improvement store.)

Need a lot of help from Mom and Dad? Not unless you'd like to let them in on your project! Except when it comes to changing the wall color or painting a piece of your furniture, you need their permission, of course.

NOW, HOW CAN YOU DECORATE your room all by yourself!? After all, you've probably seen your parents work long and hard on their decorating and renovation projects. And decorating a room sounds like it takes a lot of work, money, and imagination. Right? Sometimes that's true. But not this time! We decorated the four bedrooms in this book on a *baby-sitter's budget*, just to show **you** how you can turn **your** bedroom into a very special place that's **your** style.

Does it matter what your furniture looks like right now? No. In fact, we used pretty typical kids' room furniture that didn't match, just so you wouldn't feel you had to have expensive designer stuff to get a great-looking room.

SO LET'S GET STARTED...

FIRST STEP *How do you want your room to look?*

If you're thinking:

"I dunno, I don't have any idea! Just fun, funky, cool. But I have lots of old teddy bears I'm not willing to give up."

OR:

"It's time to ditch my little-girl thing. I want pure MTV!"

OR:

"I'm the outdoorsy type. Don't really care much for frilly stuff. Just want something less little-girl-ish."

What you are really doing is beginning to decide your style.

In decorating terms, if you just throw a bunch of things into the room without coordinating the colors or the theme (kind of like a party), it doesn't look "together" or "coordinated" or "styled." Sort of like wearing biking shorts with a pajama top. Whoops! Hard to explain why that's doesn't work—it just looks weird.

So to help you out, we put these four rooms together based on four different personalities. Which one looks like you?

At this point, you'll either know:

which one is *absolutely* YOU,

OR

that none of them is,

OR

that there are a few things in each one you really like.

Hey, that's okay. And here's why. No two bedrooms are alike. And no two teenagers are alike with exactly the same stuff. So you need to adapt these ideas to **YOUR LOOK**, in your favorite colors.

How do you start? Well, you can get out your stuff and dive right in, or you can think a bit about what your style might be. Dream a little. Here's a little help:

1.

WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN TO CHOOSE A VIDEO, YOU BRING HOME

- a) Discovery's underwater tour.
- b) a rock video or fashion TV reruns.
- c) romantic chick-flicks.
- d) anything as long as it has a happy ending.



2.

AFTER SCHOOL YOU STOP FOR ICE CREAM. WHICH FLAVOR DO YOU CHOOSE?

- a) fat-free rainbow sherbet
- b) peanut butter-brownie-marshmallow-caramel crunchy chunk
- c) strawberry bubble-gum with Smarties
- d) chocolate

3.

Your best friend is having a Halloween party. Which of the following characters would you go as?

- a) a tree, a butterfly, or a cat
- b) a bass player in an all-girl rock band, a trendy fashion queen, or a techno dancer
- c) a birthday package, a chocolate Hershey's Kiss, or a cheerleader
- d) a princess, a ballerina, or a mermaid.

4.

YOUR FAVORITE SHADE OF NAIL POLISH IS

- a) clear.
- b) purple with silver sparkles.
- c) a different shade of red, orange, and yellow on each finger.
- d) pastel pinks, blues, and greens.

5. YOUR SCHOOL LOCKER

- a) has very little in it, just what you need for class.
- b) has everything in it, including one lost gym sock, a leftover lunch in one of Mom's plastic containers, a broken CD case, and a boyfriend's fleece.
- c) Has lots of hangers and organizing gadgets, including a mirror that your friends gave you for your last birthday cause you're a neat-nik.
- d) a sweater, candy, books, and pictures of your friends taped to the inside door.



6.

By Saturday morning, your room can best be described as

- a) an out-of-control laboratory of school experiments and a gerbil cage needing to be cleaned.
- b) a disaster.
- c) totally neat and organized, even though it's Saturday.
- d) a rumpled bed full of cozy socks, Judy Blume books, jammies, and half a bag of chocolate chip cookies.



YOUR FAVORITE DREAM HOLIDAY WOULD BE:

- a) hiking in the Himalayas.
- b) a week on tour in London with your favorite rock group.
- c) shopping on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.
- d) cruising the Caribbean on a "Love Boat."

Now, let's look at the answers and see how your room might look. You probably won't have a perfect score. But you'll have a better idea of how your personality can influence your room.

ANSWERS:

If your answers are mostly **(a)**, turn to page xx. You'll probably feel right at home in our "Nature Girl" room. It has a great connection to the outdoors. Memories of camp, woodland projects, and adventure experiences all around you. Thinking about being a vet or a forest ranger? It's like living in a jungle or the rain forest you'd like to save, with critters all around.

If your answers are mostly **(b)**, turn to page xx. You're definitely a hip chick. Our "Funky Chick" room is your digs. Pure MTV, black, silver, and gel and tattoos, that's you. If you wear it, make it part of your room! Go crazy with hyper-colors.

If your answers are mostly **(c)**, turn to page xx. You're a rainbow of delights. Our "Flower Power" room will look good on you. The original "shop-till-you-drop" child. Lunching with your friends. Rainbows, hearts, and flowers in jelly pens are your favorite scribble, of course, along with writing your boyfriend's name ten different ways.

If your answers are mostly **(d)**, turn to page xx. You're well on your way to being a hopeless romantic. Snuggle, baby, in our milk chocolate garden of T-Bears. "Cozy" is your middle name. You curl up with your book and your cat on a rainy day. You know you have to grow up sometime, but just can't bring yourself to stashing Mr. Bear in the attic.

DECORATING ANY ROOM IN THE house, whether you are a kid like yourself, a grown-up, or even a professional, starts with these steps.

Find your style. Pretend you're going to wear your room!! Sounds silly, but it's remarkable how much people's houses are decorated in their wardrobe styles—and it suits them.

Decide on your favorite colors. Don't think twice, just blurt them out. If you think too long, you'll get all confused. Then go for it!!!

Clean up your room and get rid of yucky stuff. Don't throw away anything you **just love**. And it's okay to put some things away for a while. You never know when you'll want them back. But sometimes a lifetime of collecting stuff gets to be a little much (unless you can recycle it with paint).

Can't figure out what your room could look like? Try closing your eyes and imagining one corner at a time. Much easier.

Make a list of what you want to do and when you're going to do it. Everybody has great ideas. And then they evaporate in the shower, over dinner, while you're sleeping.

Pouf! All that genius, gone. Write your ideas down. Even draw a picture. You don't have to show it to anyone. Then decide between homework, babysitting, or chores just what and when you're going to do whatever.

Decide how much your project is going to cost. You might need a little help with this one. But, hey, you could do a lot of this yourself. Make a list of the materials and phone around.

Do one project at a time. The absolute worst thing you can do is to try starting lots of projects at once. CHAOS! EEECHhhhhhhhh! And take your time, have fun. Watch out for "project frenzy." Symptoms: big grin or wrinkled brow, over-excitement, hands moving too quickly, glue spilling, paint splattering, hands shaking in excitement, music too loud, ignoring parent's call, ignoring pesky siblings. Slow down, take care.

And have lots of fun doing it!

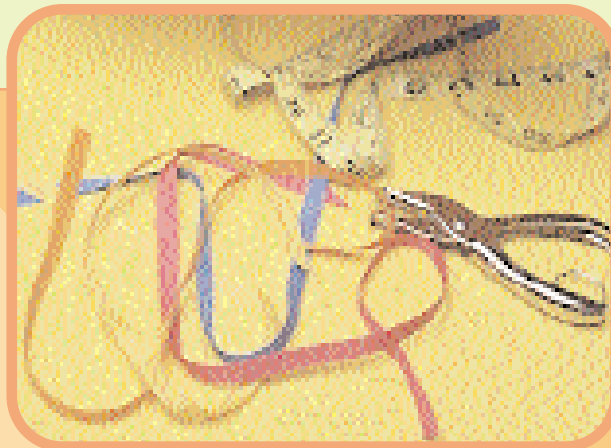
**MOST IMPORTANT:
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GOOFS!!**

Decorating is not a perfect science. It's art and it's personal. Don't let other people tell you something you do looks dumb or uncool. If *you* like it, **do it!** It's your room, not theirs! Got it?

NOW, COME ON. LET'S GET AT THAT ROOM OF YOURS. . . .



ribbon lampshade



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Lampshade
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Grosgrain ribbon, 5/8" wide, in six colors—we used purple, pink, lime green, yellow, turquoise, and melon
- Tape measure

Let's Get Started

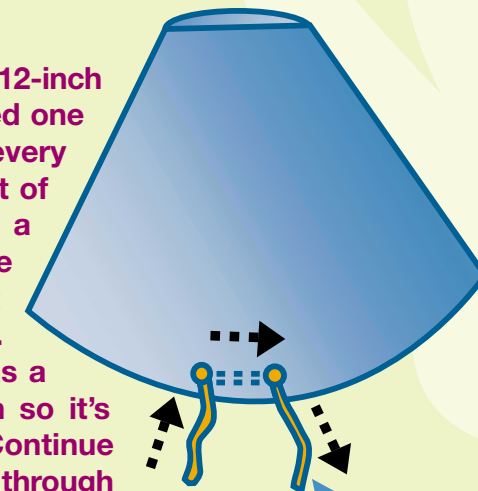


1 Using a pencil, make marks around the bottom of the lampshade about 1½ inches apart. This is where you will punch the holes. You need to make an even number of holes.

2 Punch holes where you've made pencil marks.



3 Cut the ribbon into 12-inch pieces. You will need one length of ribbon for every two holes. Start at the front of the lampshade and push a length of ribbon through the first hole and then loop it back through the next hole. Use the photo on the left as a guide. Now pull the ribbon so it's even and tie a pretty bow. Continue until you've threaded ribbon through all the holes.



RIBBON GOES IN FROM FRONT AND THROUGH INSIDE OF SHADE AND BACK OUT THE FRONT.

flower switch plate



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- White switch plate
- Silk flowers
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun

Puff paint, or you can use paint pens—we used purple and teal

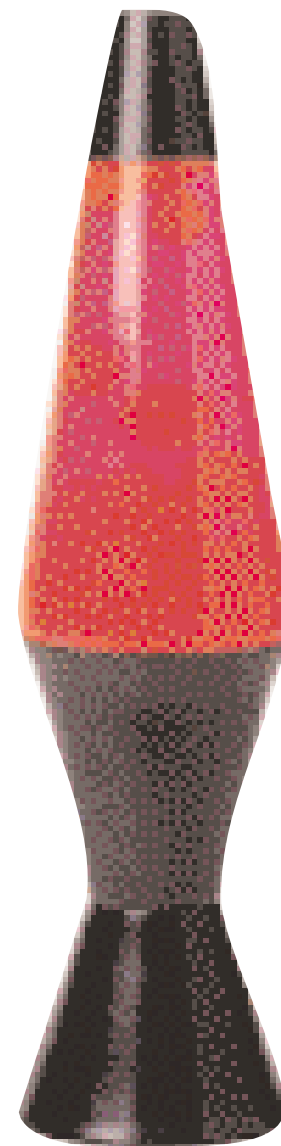
Let's Get Started

SILK FLOWER SWITCH PLATE
Clip your silk flowers as close to the base as possible with scissors. With the hot glue gun, put a small dab of glue on the back of each flower and place it on the switch plate.

PAINTED SWITCH PLATE
For a different look, paint on brightly colored flowers with markers or paint.



Funky



You're definitely a hip chick. Our "Funky Chick" room is your digs. Pure MTV, black, silver, and gel and tattoos, that's you. If you wear it, make it part of your room! Go crazy with hyper-colors.

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Funky Junky Window Topper	38
Funky Metallic Chair	40
Funky Splattered Wall	41
Knobby Jewelry Hanger	42
Glam Treasure Box	43



Funky Headboard

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Masonite board or foam core

Tape measure or ruler

Sandpaper

Black paint

Marvy metallic paint markers: silver, copper, gold, lime green, pink, turquoise

Color photocopies of favorite pop stars or photos of friends

Peel 'n Stick double-sided adhesive sheets (crafts store)

Scissors

Picture frame hooks and small nails

Hammer

Let's Get Started

1 Prepare your headboard following the Step #1 directions for the headboard on page 4.

2 Paint your board black. Don't forget those edges! Paint two coats, letting it dry between coats. Let it dry completely, preferably overnight. Here's a tip: If you use foam core, paint both sides—it keeps it from warping.

3 To create this funky border, grab several metallic markers and draw different shapes and squiggle designs around the edges. Make color copies of words from magazines. You can even blow them up on a copier.

4 Put Peel 'n Stick on the back of the photos and words and cut them out with scissors. Peel off the backing and stick the photos and words to your headboard. Note: Glue can be used to mount the photos, but we found that it makes them wrinkle, and the black shows through. Using Peel 'n Stick looks a lot better.

5 Get your mom or dad to help you attach your headboard to the wall.

