

Africa in your home

When ex-Bloemfontein gal, Almie Louis, moved to the UK, she didn't leave all of Africa behind. With DIY projects as her hobby and a book to brag about it, she still makes her own African inspired décor items for her home far away. Follow her step-by-step instructions to make these beautiful, understated African beauties with recycled material.

"Africa is not only about the big five. The décor doesn't have to be bold and big. If you use your African objects wisely you can combine them with many decorating styles. I have a traditional English home, but love to combine it with understated African objects. I trust that these ideas will inspire you to make your own or use them as a springboard for new ideas," says Almie.

Africa sunset lamp shade

Recycled items:

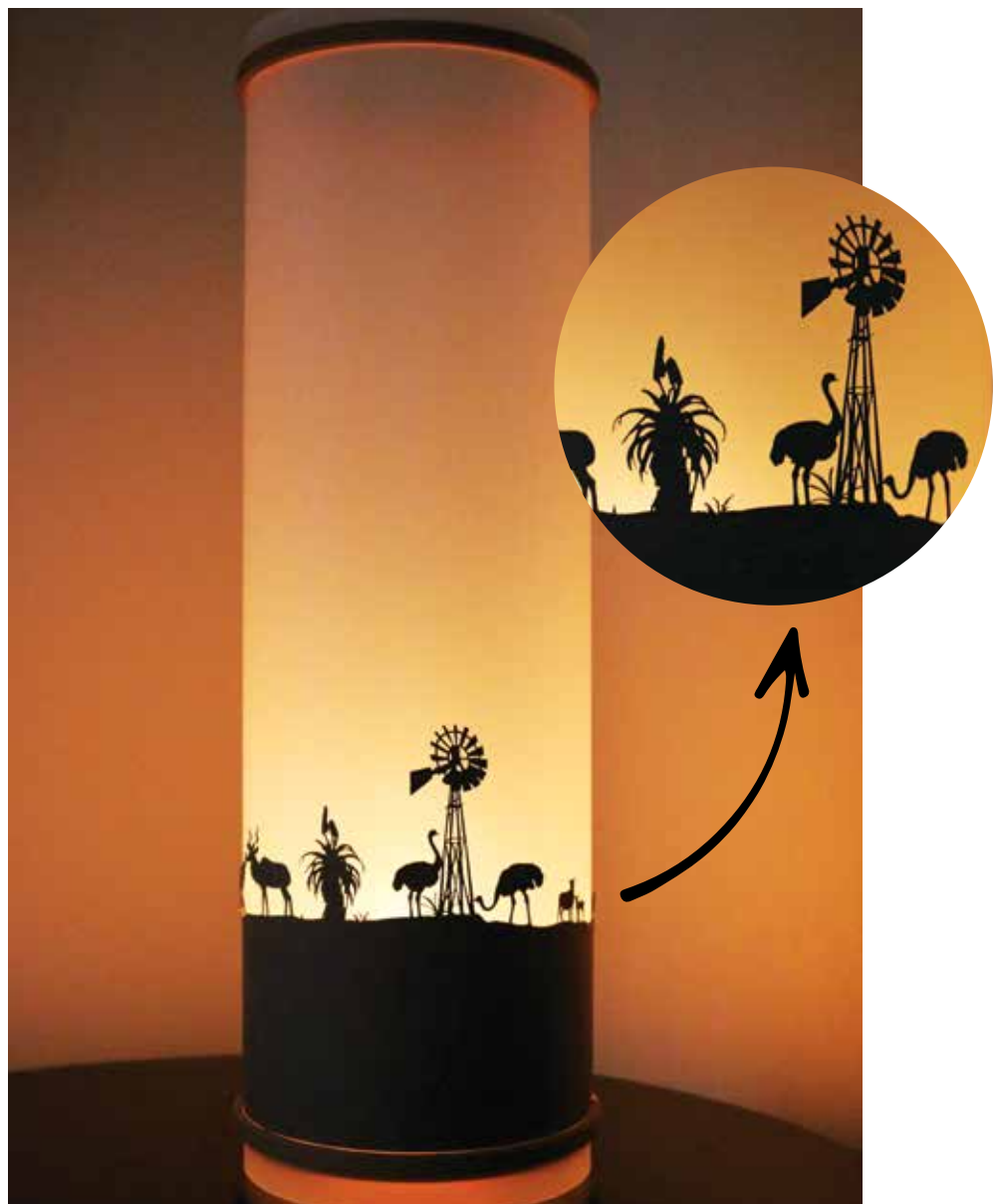
Cut out candle wrappers with an African theme x2
Embroidery hoops x2
Thin Perspex sheet (frosted)

Also needed:

Glue stick
Blunt knife
Plain white paper and very hot iron

Get started!

1. Roll the Perspex sheet into a cylinder and place the embroidery hoops on both ends to keep it in a permanent cylinder position.
2. Use a blunt knife and remove the wrappers from the used candles.
3. Place the wrappers between the plain white paper and iron over them to remove any wax.
4. Use the glue stick and paste the wrappers onto the outside of the cylinder above the bottom embroidery hoop. Allow to dry.
5. When completely dry, place it over a battery-operated or wax candle to give the sunset effect.





Elephant book stopper

Recycled items:

Plastic/wooden elephant
Ceramic tiles x2

Also needed:

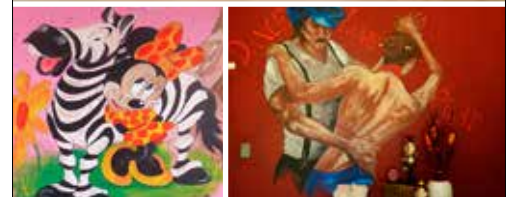
Jig or hand saw
Glue gun and bullets
Paint and brush or spray paint (I used black paint)
Pen
Helper and solid workbench

Get started!

1. Place the elephant on a flat surface and draw a line in the middle of the elephant's body.
2. Ask your helper to hold the elephant by the head and the tail on a solid workbench, use the saw and cut the elephant into two pieces.
3. Glue the head and tail part of the animal to the front side of the tiles. Make sure that it can stand up with the animal's feet and the bottom part of the tile to form a book stopper.
4. Allow the glue to dry, when completely dry paint the newly made book stopper the colour of your choice.



From Drab to Fab, available at CNA. Check out her website at www.grandrecycler.com.



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