

# HANGING OUT

What do you do with an old table, a shopping bag and some unused backscratchers? You upcycle them!

projects and photos by ALMIE LOUIS

**'T**o me, recycling is about everything – think wider than furniture, cutlery and crockery, and make use of all the little bits that you receive from a house clean or move. These projects are all about the odd little things that would have ended up in the recycling bin.' – *Almie*

## PLASTIC SHELF

Make over a second-hand table and create some clever storage space at the same time.

### RECYCLED ITEMS

- ♥ old table
- ♥ old woven plastic shopping bag

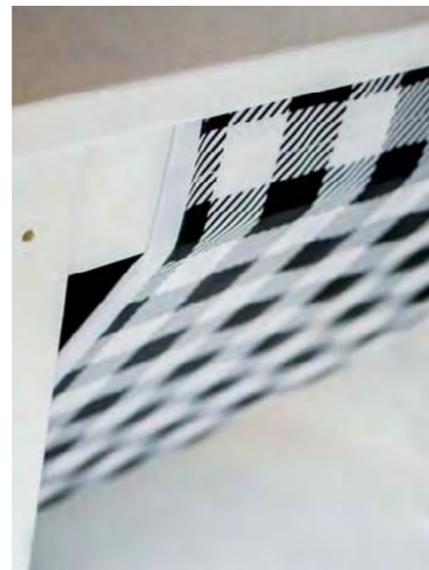
### YOU WILL ALSO NEED

- ♥ fine sandpaper
- ♥ damp cloth
- ♥ white acrylic paint
- ♥ paintbrush and roller
- ♥ staple gun and staples
- ♥ white insulation tape
- ♥ scissors

### TO MAKE

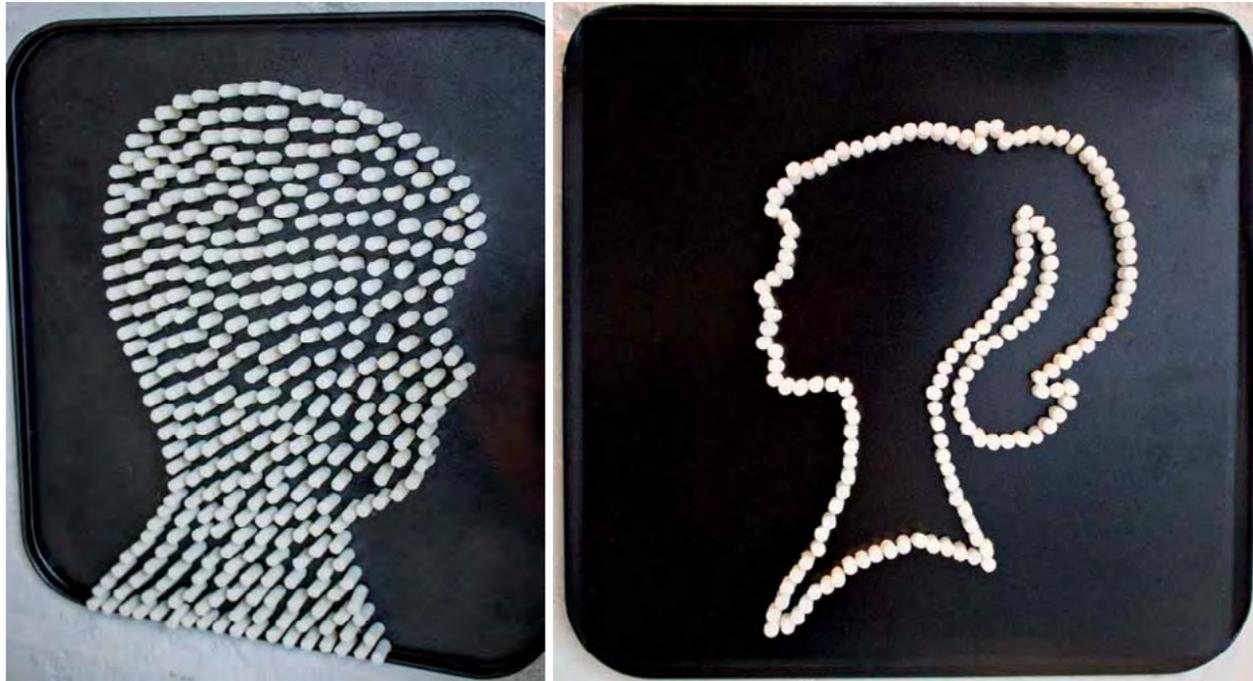
- 1 The table was in a good condition and only needed a thorough sanding to remove the varnish. When sanding varnish from wood, use a fine grade of sandpaper to avoid scratching the wood. Wipe the table with a damp cloth to clean off any sanding dust.
- 2 Paint the legs and the top with white paint. (I used an acrylic paint and a small

- foam roller for a smooth finish.) Apply two to three coats. Between each coat, leave the paint to dry, gently sand it with fine sandpaper and wipe away any dust with a damp cloth before applying the next coat. When you are satisfied with your table you can add the plastic 'shelf'.
- 3 Cut the plastic shopping bag open along the zip and make sure you have a rectangular piece of vinyl that can fit loosely underneath the table. Use the white insulation tape to neaten the edges of the rectangular piece of vinyl.
- 4 Staple the plastic to the wood along two opposite sides of the table – staple it under the table top so the staples are not visible.
- 5 Your new-look table is ready for storing and displaying books.



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Find more  
of Almie's work on [www.grandrecycler.com](http://www.grandrecycler.com).



## SILHOUETTE ART

There was a bag of cigarette filters in a box of mixed items I was given. This find inspired me to create a silhouette portrait on another typical market find – an old baking tray. Draw or trace the picture of your choice onto the baking tray and glue the filters around the outline, to give the picture some depth and texture. You can also fill in the picture with filters, if you prefer.



## BACKSCRATCHER HOOKS

I am not sure why you would need three back scratchers, but they were perfect for this coat-hook or key-holder project. I used a metal saw to cut the plastic scratchers from the handles. I fastened them to the wood with thin screws and a drill, and finished off with black ribbon for a graphic look.

## PEN ART

Marking pens are great for making over a plain object. I used masking tape and a flexible plastic ruler as my pattern guides to transform a white ceramic vase into something special.



## QUIRKY PAPERWEIGHTS

This is a quick and easy way to make simple, fun 'spoiled milk' paperweights. I filled some small glass jars with white plaster to create a milky effect and placed a plastic fly on top of the wet plaster. It all set beautifully.



## CRACKED GLASS

A felt placemat with an interesting cut-out design was ideal for upcycling a cracked glass vase into a tealight candle holder. Use fabric glue to glue the felt onto the glass. Leave it to dry properly before lighting the candle.