

Furniture Rescue

Calling all just-fine flea finds, curbside clutter, and forgotten attic gems. These surprisingly simple DIY techniques will turn former castoffs into updated treasures.



PAINT
ENGLISH
BOXWOOD
AMY HOWARD
ONE STEP
PAINT

the trend

Reeded Surfaces

Placed tightly and uniformly across the front, reeding camouflages the doors and—paired with a vivid color—creates a bold, contemporary statement piece. Glossary note: *Reeding* implies convex shapes popping out of a surface, not to be confused with *fluting*, which means concave indentations or carvings.



BEFORE

This utility cart wasn't a vintage find, but it was cheap, flat-fronted, and big enough to be a storage workhorse.



Change Agent

POLYSTYRENE HALF-ROUND MOLDING

This super-lightweight synthetic polymer looks like wood when painted, and it's extremely easy to work with. The key to getting this look right is uniformity, so careful measuring, cutting, and placement are critical. Recycled Polystyrene Half-Round Moulding in 1½×96", \$89/16 pieces; homedepot.com



Detail Work

Wallpaper on the back wall completes the look. This is a great place to try a peel-and-stick wallpaper option.



BEFORE

This soft blond curio cabinet matches the natural tones of the woven liners, but you could pair light caning with dark furniture for contrast.



Change Agent

CANE WEBBING

Cane webbing comes in a variety of weaves and thicknesses. For a project like this, a thin material will be easier to sandwich between a glass panel and wood frame of a cabinet door. With any natural cane material, the trick to getting the material ready to work with is to soak it in hot tap water about 10 minutes.

This makes it extra pliable and easy to lay flat. Fine Radio Weave, from \$10/ft.; franksupply.com

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Cane Accents

The characteristic open weave of caning lets light pass through—exactly the airy look we’re going for. It’s both a classic and modern detail. As a bonus, when added to glass doors, this woven material gives your storage a little privacy without the bulkiness of solid doors.



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Textured Plaster

This technique modernizes a simple furniture design with a coarse, plasterlike finish for a final result that resembles sculpture. Finish with chalky white paint to capture the minimalist spirit of the showroom pieces that inspired this makeover.



BEFORE

Look for a simple, clean-lined silhouette.

You'll give the entire thing a thick coat of drywall mud, so don't sweat dings and chips.



Change Agent

DRYWALL JOINT COMPOUND

This easy-to-handle "mud" goes on creamy and firms as it dries. Use a wide scraper to spread thick smears over the entire piece. Plan to work quickly; as the joint compound starts to dry, it becomes harder to manipulate. USG Sheetrock UltraLightweight Ready-Mixed Joint Compound, \$19/4.5 gal.; [homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com)

SAFETY CHECK

Look for a low-VOC option for fewer harmful gases. Wear a respirator, safety glasses, and gloves while you work. This is especially important because you create dust when sanding rough areas.

Make It Work

Each project will vary based on your style and the particulars of your “before” piece. Let these steps get you started, but be ready to use your creativity and problem-solving skills as you work. You got this!



Reeded Credenza

Materials

- Miter saw or miter trim shears
- 1" polystyrene half-round molding
- Sanding block
- Construction adhesive
- Pin nail gun and 24-gauge, 1" pin nails
- Wood filler
- Chalk-finish paint
- Bun feet and heavy-duty top plates (optional)
- Gloss lacquer sealer
- Double magnetic touch latch

1. Remove any feet and door hardware.
2. Use a miter saw or trim shears to cut half-rounds to the height of cabinet doors and sides. Smooth fresh-cut ends with a sanding block.
3. Adhere half-round

trim to the doors and sides with a bead of construction adhesive and secure with pin nails. Fill nail holes with wood filler; sand smooth.

4. Paint cabinet and decorative bun feet (if using). Let dry completely before adding a coat of gloss sealer.

5. Attach feet to the furniture using the heavy-duty top plates to strengthen the attachment.

6. Install the double magnetic touch latch (Everbilt, below, \$3; homedepot.com) for a soft touch closure.



Caned Cabinet

Materials

- Wallpaper and wallpaper tools (optional)
- Roll of cane webbing
- Utility knife
- Cutting mat
- Door hardware (optional)

1. Remove doors, hardware, and shelves from cabinet.
2. If you like, apply wallpaper to the back wall of the cabinet.
3. Remove glass from each door front. Tools and technique will vary for this step based on your cabinet, but pay attention to original installation and removal steps to ease reattaching the glass. Our glass

was held in with rubber cording (see inset, above), which we removed using needle-nose pliers.

4. Prep cane webbing by soaking in hot tap water for 10 minutes. Lay flat on your cutting mat and place door glass on top to use as a template. Cut to size with utility knife.

5. With cane webbing positioned on the outside of the glass panel, reinstall glass inside door frames.

6. Reattach door hardware, replace shelves, and rehang doors.



Plaster Coffee Table

Materials

- Safety glasses, respirator mask, gloves
- Mesh joint tape
- 4" scraper
- Drywall joint compound, below right
- Drywall sanding block
- White chalk-finish paint
- Clear matte shellac

1. Safety Note

Protect your eyes, airways, and skin by wearing safety glasses, a respirator mask, and gloves. Wash hands well after use.

2. Cover the table edges and any deep seams or details with mesh joint tape. With the scraper, apply drywall joint compound in all

directions over entire table; avoid making a pattern. Allow compound to dry completely (this may take a day or two).

3. Sand any sharp or overly rough areas, but avoid smoothing off too much of the texture.

4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until desired texture is achieved.

5. Remove all dust with a damp, lint-free rag. Apply two coats of white chalk-finish paint, letting dry between each. Finish with a coat of shellac according to package instructions. ■

