

Pillow Talk

Happy New Year! Although winter has just begun (and will last many, many months) January is a time of renewal. The holiday decorations are packed away and the house looks dark and empty. You are in the mood for something different, but don't want to do a complete room redo. What can you do?

Here's a great idea—Spice up your pillows. Pillows are fast, easy and an inexpensive way to update and freshen your living room sofa or bed. Changing pillows is as simple as sewing two pieces of fabric together, turning the piece right side out, inserting the pillow form and sewing up the opening. If you aren't a seamstress, have no fear—check out these easy pillow make-overs.

I started with a 19 inch square feather pillow in sage green silk. It was brand new and a real Goodwill bargain at \$4.99. Polyester fiberfill pillows are great, but I always snatch up the feather ones since they are more expensive at the fabric stores. The first place to look for inspiration is your closet. Clothing accessories make great pillow trims.

Make-over 1

The red patent leather belt cinched in the middle of the pillow makes a real fashion statement.



Make-over 2

Not only are scarves a popular fashion accessory for winter, just look how a scarf can also dress up a plain old pillow. Nothing is easier than tying a knot. I tied a basic square knot, but put your Girl Scout training to good use and tie something fancy.



Make-over 3

A smoothed and centered scarf changes the color of the pillow. This style requires a few hand stitches. If it's really a temporary look, just use tape!



Make-over 4

Another hot fashion accessory from the fall is gloves. They aren't just for keeping your hands warm anymore. I was excited to see gloves making a comeback. What else can make you feel glamorous and funky? If you are planning a girl's night over, dress up your pillow with gloves and glitz. This will require a few hand stitches to keep the gloves secure. Raid your jewelry box for rings and bracelets.



Make-over 5

When you've exhausted your accessory ideas, look in the ribbon suitcase. I used a transparent organza ribbon in black, but any ribbon will work. Just coordinate the color with the pillow or room. Or go for contrast like this one. Simply tie the end together at the back.



Nothing changes the mood of the room faster than arranging new pillows on your bed or sofa. These quick tips not only save you time and money, but look like you splurged.

First New Year's Resolution: Next time you shop at Goodwill check out the pillow department.