

Closed Case

The best advice I can give to you when you're shopping for used furniture is to keep an open mind. Just because a piece is out dated does not mean it doesn't have potential. Here are some good points to keep in mind:

- Make sure the item is solid.
- Avoid wobbly furniture unless it can be fixed with the turn of a couple of screws.
- If it is missing parts, you probably want to forget it.
- Missing hardware, however, is easy to replace, so is broken glass.
- Paint can cover a multitude of sins.



My Find

I found this little storage ottoman at Goodwill for \$14.99. It's a blast from a '70s family room. The Williamsburg blue and heart stencil were perfect when country style was popular 30 years ago. But the piece is solid wood without any dents or scratches, so it was an amazing find.



Paint Prep Work

A little paint goes a long way to update all kinds of items. I chose a neutral charcoal for this piece. Remember good prep work is vital to a successful paint job.

- Be sure to sand lightly and use a tack cloth to clean away all dust.
- Use a primer if you are painting a light color over a deep tint.
- Fill holes and dings with wood filler and sand lightly before painting.



Hardware

The original wood bin style handles dated the ottoman, so by simply changing the hardware I made something old brand new. There are hundreds of handles to choose from in prices that start at a couple of bucks.



Personalize with Fabric

The fun part is personalizing the ottoman with fabric. You can use anything. New or used fabric; upholstery weight or old clothes. Be creative. Cut to fit and staple on.

Idea 1

Shag rugs are making a come back. I found this hot pink shag bath rug (\$3.99) and thought it would make a funky fashion statement and it's comfy too.



Idea 2

The leopard print is a left over piece of upholstery fabric I had. Faux animal skin is fun and sophisticated. Dressed like this, the ottoman would be home in any contemporary living room or bedroom.



Idea 3

This version would be perfect for a dorm room. Shades of blue in a knobby weave add texture and softness. I cut a small portion of a 3 yard piece I also found at Goodwill. The rest can be used for bedding, pillows or even a sofa cover.

Be creative. You can paint designs, decoupage pictures or art work. Paint it white and have your friends autograph it. Decorate it for a baby's room. The ideas are limitless!

