

Lights Out

A fast and easy way to update a room is to replace the light switch plates. If yours are starting to look dirty or worn, all you need is a screwdriver.

This brass plate was once shiny and bright, but after many years of use, the finish has worn off.



You can find basic plastic or wood plates or even decorative ones. I found this one at Goodwill for 99¢. Although it's brand new, the color and resin garden charms make it a blast from the past!



You can simply paint it to match your décor, but I wanted to make mine an art project.

I love to do collage and when you use decoupage glue, it's so easy even an amateur can create a work of art.

Before I even tried to remove the glued on charms, I dropped the plate by accident and they both fell off! I used sand paper to smooth out the left over glue and rough up the paint finish.



It's easier to apply paper cut outs to flat surfaces, especially if you are a beginner. So paint the edges and the cut out areas if you don't want the original color to show when you're finished. Apply a coat of primer to the entire front for a nice clean work surface.



You can use any sort of paper when doing decoupage. I decided to do a French themed plate, so I made black and white copies of some Paris tags, conjugated verbs from a French grammar book and a street map of the City of Lights.



Lay out your bits of paper until you get a design you like. Cut them to fit the edges. Your finished project will look more interesting if you arrange the cut-outs at various angles, even upside down.

Follow directions on the decoupage bottle for drying time and recommended number of coats.



I used the brass screws from the old plate.
Now I need to get my husband to replace the
two dingy switches! In the mean time I have
an original work of art!

