

## Re-Fresher Course

I love to find new, creative ways to use an old or discarded item. That's the idea behind "repurposing". The thrill of shopping at flea markets and resale shops is discovering that jewel in the rough, then giving it a new purpose. Periodically I will do just that. I'll collect a group of items from Goodwill and show you how to create a new look with them.

For example, I love cake stands. I love the old fashioned elegance of a glass cake stand. They are great for serving pastry, but you can also use them for displaying other items.

*Tip #1: The secret to displaying food or collections at a buffet table is to have the items or food at varying heights.*



If you can't find a cake stand, you can easily make your own. First you'll want to look for sturdy items with a smooth top. I found a ceramic candlestick, martini glasses, an egg cup, a toothbrush holder and a decorative candle holder. I looked for bases that were unusual, had an interesting shape or could be used upside down.



Next, I found plates, dishes or bowls that offered a nice balance to the base. Be sure to test out various shapes and sizes until you find what appeals to you. Don't be afraid to mix and match. Look for objects with different heights, colors and silhouettes.

*Tip #2: Opaque dishes will camouflage glue and any flaws. Keep in mind, if you choose clear or frosted plates use a glue that dries clear. Select glue that works on glass and ceramics. Don't put your finished projects in the dishwasher.*

After surveying my amazing finds my creative juices started to flow! I realized that the mauve candlestick was fine on its own, but when I paired it with a cupless saucer, it became a unique stand for a pear-shaped candle or even a pear dessert.



My next inspiration came from the glassware section of Goodwill. I found two martini glasses and mismatched plates. First I added glass pebbles (you could use any type of material such as shredded paper, beads or candy) to the tall martini glass and then glued the plate to it. To make the display more interesting I glued the shorter martini glass upside down to the other plate and placed the pebbles underneath the glass. These simple objects formed unique candle stands.



The egg cup has a noble history, but who uses it anymore? Its unique shape and color created an ideal base for the charming, poka-dot plate. It's now a perfect pedestal for my antique silver napkin rings.



The ceramic toothbrush holder has a new role in the bathroom. I glued a square plate to the toothbrush holder and viola it became a fancy soap dish. Your guests will never know its original purpose.



Cake stands were the inspiration for this repurposing project. Why not try and create some of your own displays with items you find at Goodwill. Be creative. The ideas are endless. All it takes is a little glue and your imagination.