

Made In the Shade

One of the most important and overlooked aspects of designing or redecorating a room is the lighting. It's often too harsh (bright overhead fixture), uneven (lamps placed randomly around the room) or not effective at all (a chair without a reading lamp). There are three types of light to take into consideration when designing a space: ambient, task and accent.

Ambient light is general lighting that provides a uniform light. A **task light** provides illumination for a specific job such as reading or cooking. **Accent lighting** may highlight art work, create a mood with shadows, or simply may be a unique lamp strategically placed in the room.

Lamps come in all shapes and sizes, but to give yours real personality why not create your own custom shade? On a recent shopping excursion to the Waukesha Goodwill Store & Donation Center and I found a like-new cast metal, pineapple-shaped lamp along with three shades: an off-white barrel shade, a green pleated Empire style shade and a beaded bell shade. All three were a little scuffed, but the frames were in excellent condition.



I wanted my **accent lighting** project to be fast and easy, so I updated the base by simply spray painting it in a soft ivory hue. Instead of removing the paper or fabric on the shades, I decided to cover them with items I found in the clothing department.

The barrel shade was the foundation for my first design. While shopping, I found a little knit tank top in cream and dusty red with fun button details. Knit fabrics (machine knit or a hand-knit look) work best for shade projects. Knits drape and gather easily and the fabric doesn't ravel, so you don't have to worry about finishing the cut edges. I glued the hem edge of the knit top to the bottom of the shade and then I cut the rest to fit. Since a barrel shade is only slightly more narrow at the top than the bottom, there were very few gathers to work with. I added little more glue and now I had my original *"Made in the Shade"* design.



"Made in the Shade"



My next creation was the ***"Safari Faux"*** shade made from a knit pajama set and a sweater with a fake fur collar. I followed the same technique as before and glued the hemmed edge of the little knit pajama top to the bottom of the Empire shade. I then cut the top to fit, gathered it in soft folds and held it in place with a little more glue. Tacky glue works well, but a glue gun dries instantly. I removed the fur collar from the sweater (which was easy because it was attached by snaps) and it fit the shade perfectly. No was cutting necessary. I found an old rhinestone brooch from my vintage jewelry collection and pinned it on for added glamour. It would make a great hat wouldn't it?



"Safari Faux"



My final design was inspired by more great treasures I found while shopping. I knew the candle rings with silk roses and the ivory knit lace shirt would look great on the bell shade. Although the lace knit drapes beautifully, it was rather slippery. I used pinch clothes pins to hold the fabric in place while the glue dried or as I made adjustments. My ***"Run for the Roses"*** shade would look great in any feminine setting.



"Run for the Roses"



All three original shade designs were created in only one afternoon and cost less than \$7.00 each! These one-of-a-kind creations can **'accent'** a variety of spaces. Next time you're looking for special lighting in your home remember how easy it was to create some fantastic pieces with simple items from Goodwill! So, what kind of mood lighting can you come up with?