

GARAGE SALES

Restoring a Used Bicycle

One of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a shortage of bicycles. As the pandemic raged on, more people turned to bicycles as a way to get exercise, avoid crowded public transportation and get outside more.

So if you're looking for a bike, chances are, you're striking out. Here's where garage sales come in. You can find a bike in good condition that, with just a little elbow grease, can be the perfect bicycle for you.

GETTING STARTED

There are lots of different kinds of bikes, so a lot of this project will depend on the kind of bike you find. Look for advice and parts from your local bike shop, but be aware that parts might also be in short supply.

The first thing you need to do is give the bike a good cleaning. While you're at it, make sure all the parts work. You want to look for gears and cables to be in good working order. Check the tires for wear and punctures and make sure



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the rims are straight. Make note of any rusty spots or paint you want to change out.

Next, assemble your tools. Some things you might need include:

- Pliers.
- A hammer.
- Allen wrenches.
- Screwdrivers in various sizes and of various types.
- Degreaser.

- Sandpaper.
- Spray paint.
- Masking tape.
- Grease and lubricating fluid.

- Wrenches.
- Crank-pulling tool.
- Chain-link tool.
- Steel wool.

GET TO WORK

You may need to fully disas-

semble the bike for a full refurbishment. If you do so, keep organized and keep your parts and tools together. Label each part so you know where it goes when you put it back together. Trust us, this will save time later. You might want to also take pictures as you go to help you put things back together.

Once you've taken the bike

apart, it's time to get the bike ready for its new coat of paint. Remove the old paint with abrasives, such as sandpaper, and chemical paint remover. Be careful with the abrasives; you don't want to remove any of the metal on the frame. If you come across any rust, make sure to remove that down to bare metal as much as you can. Rust will only get worse if left alone, so take care of it now if possible.

Now that the paint's off, it's time to repaint. Choose a rustproof primer and paint to keep your bike in the best shape. Mask off with tape anything you don't want to be painted, such as any exposed chrome. Clean the frame well before you paint, then apply the primer and paint in even, thin coats. Leave plenty of time for the frame to dry before adding another coat or trying to remove the masking tape. If you let your frame sit for several days in between coats, remember to clean it off again before adding new paint.

REASSEMBLE YOUR BIKE

Referring to your pictures and what you wrote down, start reassembling your bike on your repainted frame. Make sure to replace any worn or rusted parts with new and lubricate your gears and other parts as you go.

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BUYER'S TIP

Make Sure your Bike Fits

Make sure you get a bike that fits your body. Before you take a bike home, give it a test ride, if possible, and make sure it fits you. And, while you're riding, always wear your helmet and follow local rules.

AD SPACE