

GARAGE SALES

Repurposing Records

Garage sales are full of different kinds of media, including books and records. Now that most music is collected and listened to on digital devices, people are bailing on their collections of vinyl records.

For hardcore audiophiles, this means there's a bonanza of records to be had. But this isn't just a boon for music aficionados. There's lots of other things you can do with old records.

ARTWORK

Create an accent wall with a stack of old records. The shape of the records is important for this project, as is the coloring on the labels.

You will need:

- A stack of old records, all the same size.
- Plastic wall hooks in a size small enough to fit through the hole at the center of the record. Consider sticky hooks that won't leave any damage behind on your wall.

Line up the first row of records at the top or bottom of the wall. Make sure it's level,



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then stack each row of records on top of that, periodically checking to make sure that each row is lined up properly and leveled. You can color

coordinate the labels on the records, making sure no two colors repeat. Try to make sure neighboring labels complement one another.

TABLES, BARSTOOLS AND MORE

Use old records to top existing barstools and tables. If your records don't quite match

the size, paint the underlying piece black to help the look. You can fasten the record to the furniture with hot glue or your favorite adhesive. Wait for it to dry according to package instructions before using. And remember, don't do this with records you actually want to listen to again; this is going to pretty much ruin the records for that purpose.

MAKE A BOWL

You're not going to be able to use this one for serving food, but it's a great catch-all bowl for keys, loose change and decor. Choose an LP-sized record, then grab an oven-safe bowl that's a bit larger than what you want the final bowl to be. Preheat the oven to 200 degrees. Place the bowl on a baking sheet, then put the bowl upside down on it. Place the record on top of the bowl with the side you want on the inside of the bowl facing down. Pop it all in the oven and leave it for about 10 minutes.

Now the bowl should be wilted and melted. Remove the sheet from the oven and, using oven mitts or other heat protection, gently shape the softened record into the shape you want your bowl. Put it back in the oven as often as you need to soften it up more.

Let the bowl cool and you're all done.

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BUYER'S TIP

Check the Records

For these projects, try to choose records which are already scratched or otherwise unusable. You'll be able to get a better price on those, as well. Keep the record sleeves, too, because when they're framed, they can make some pretty funky art, as well. Also check the values of the records before you ruin them to make sure you're not about to hot glue a valuable masterpiece.

AD SPACE