

GARAGE SALES

Repurposing Thrifted Books

Books are a dime a dozen, quite literally, at garage sales.

Usually, sellers are more than willing to negotiate to take them off their hands. They're some of the hardest things to get rid of.

With a little creativity, though, you can turn those books into beautiful home decor.

MAKE A WREATH

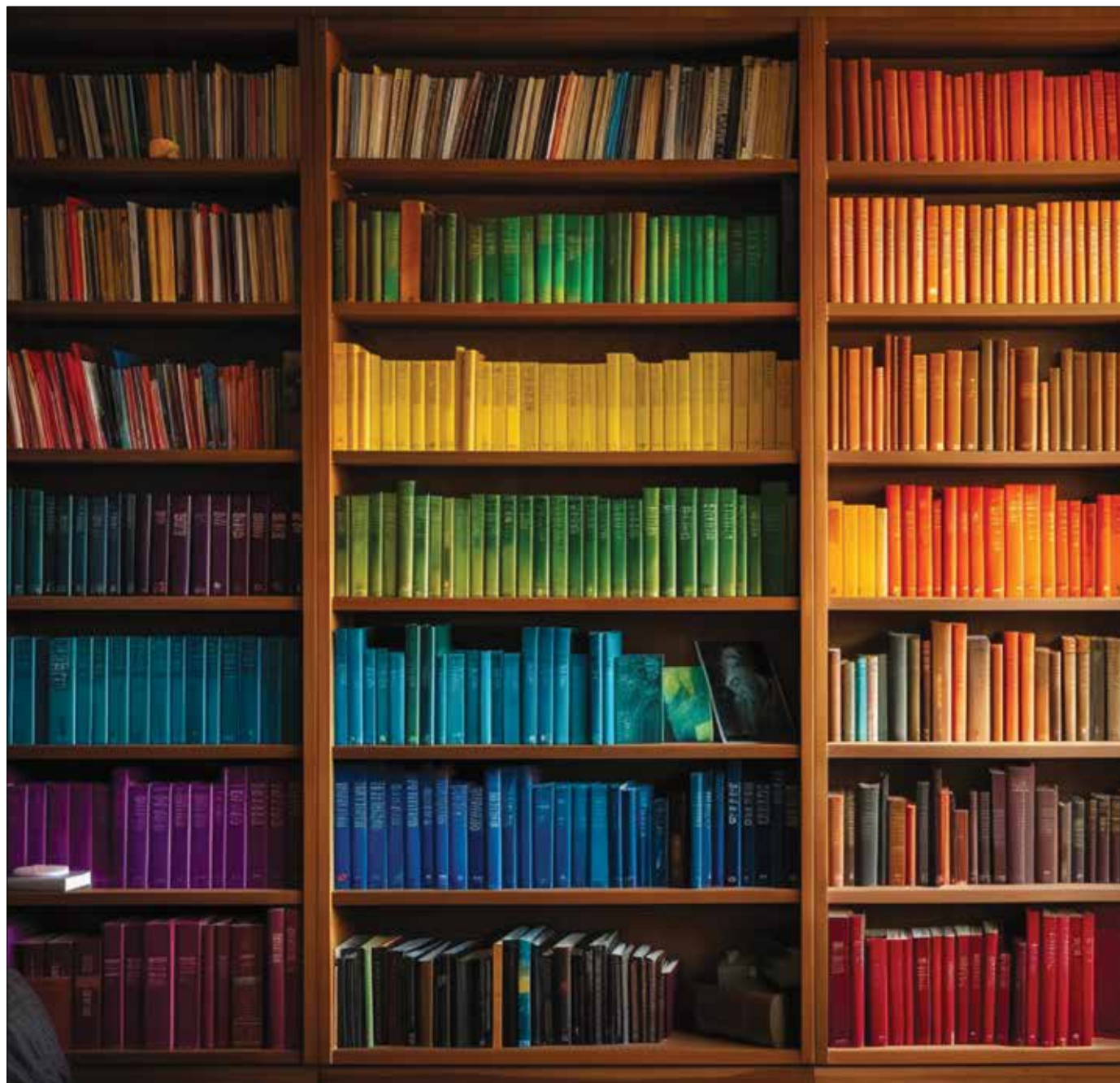
Cut the pages into the shapes of your liking (use a stencil or a cookie cutter) and glue them to a wreath form for a beautiful tribute to the written word. You can also fold the pages into petals or other origami shapes. Don't forget the front piece, especially on older books, where these pages were often heavily decorated.

HIDEY HOLE

You can also turn old books into hiding places in your home. Use a utility knife and carefully cut out a block in the center of the book. Hide your valuables in there and reshelve the book. No one will ever guess it's there. Just don't forget where you put it.

COLOR CODED

For this project, choose



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books for their covers. Collect tomes in complementary shades and shelve them according to color to make an interest-

ing accent wall or art piece. Level up by using invisible shelving so that it looks like the books are just floating there.

VINTAGE BOOKMARKS

Cut the spines off old books, punch a hole in the top and tie a ribbon or affix a charm or

string of beads. Viola, a beautiful, giftable bookmark for the readers in your life. You can use the pages, covers and other parts to make collages or other artwork.

LIGHT IT UP

Get a generic paper lantern in a light color and layer cut out book pages over it. You can go with a simple scalloped pattern or play with textures, it's your light, so do it how you like it. Just don't layer so much that the light can't shine through.

WALL HOOKS

Here's another one for those beautiful covers that you just can't hide. Glue or otherwise affix metal wall hooks to the front, glue the books shut and attach them to the wall for a fun and functional coat rack.

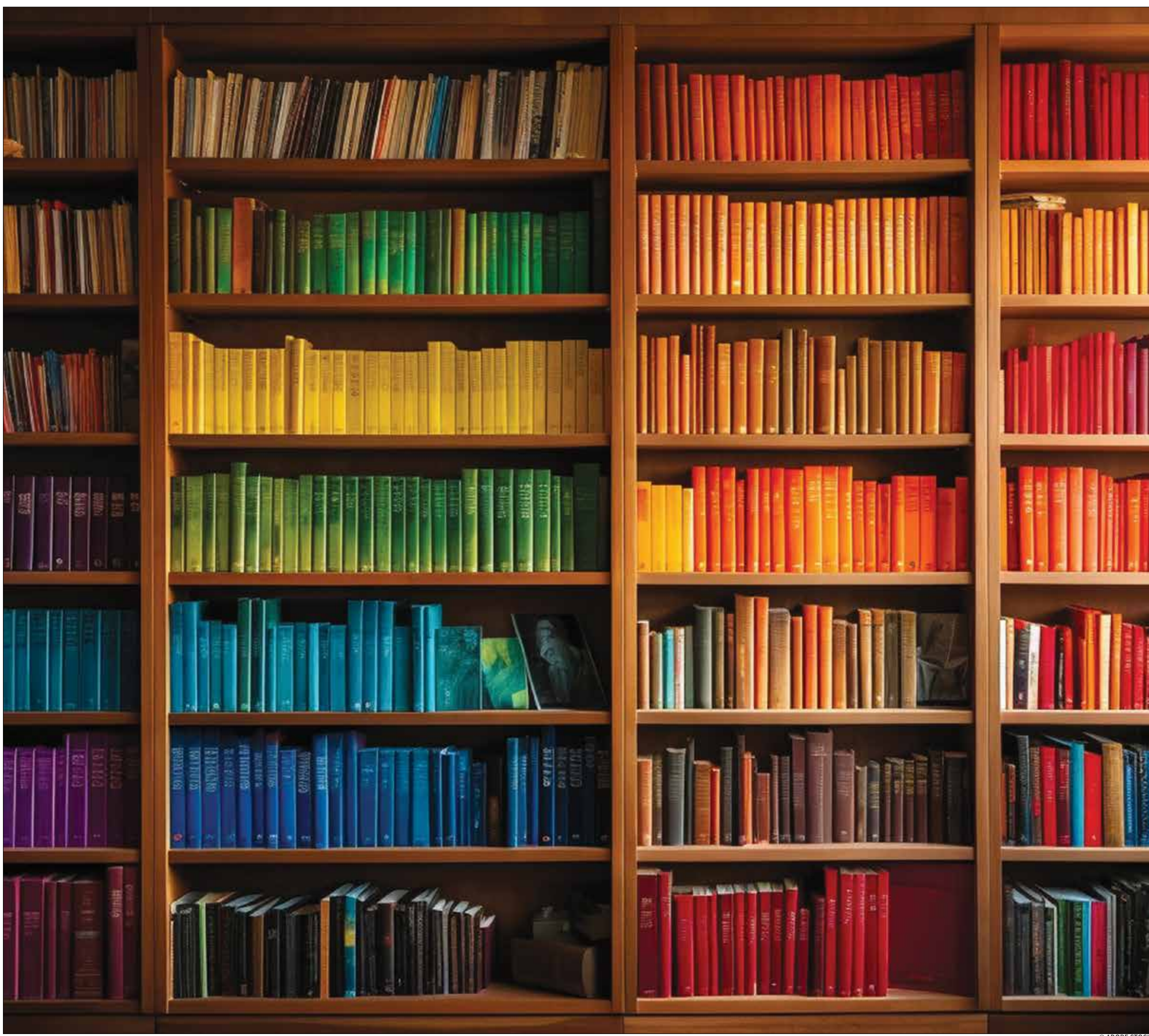
COME IN CLUTCH

Hollow out the pages of a beautiful book, line it with a gusseted fabric pouch, and you have a unique clutch purse. Attach a clasp by affixing a snap to the cover and to a ribbon glued onto the back.

COMING UP ROSES

Cut book pages — especially vivid illustrations or maps — into roses. Glue to skewers for stems and liven up any reading-friendly space.

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BUYER'S TIP

Go for Aesthetics

Remember that you're not really looking for content here. It's the colors, covers and other details that make these projects beautiful. That said, be mindful of the words on the pages you're cutting out. You don't want to fold the perfect rose to find a shocking sentence staring you in the face. So maybe steer clear of the romance novels, unless that's the vibe you're going for.

AD SPACE