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Young House Love: 243 Ways To Paint, Craft, Update & Show Your Home Some Love



Synopsis

Design ideas for every style, skill level, and budget, from the beloved couple behind YoungHouseLove.com This debut book by bloggers Sherry and John Petersik is filled with hundreds of fun, deceptively simple, budget-friendly ideas for sprucing up a home. With two home renovations under their (tool) belts, 5 million blog hits per month, and an ever-growing audience since the launch of Young House Love in 2007, Sherry and John are home-improvement enthusiasts primed to pass on a slew of projects, tricks, and techniques to do-it-yourselfers of all levels. Whether an experienced decorator or a total novice, on a tight budget or with money to spend, any homeowner or apartment dweller will find ideas for his or her own home makeovers here. Learn to trick out a thrift-store mirror, spice up plain old roller shades, "hack" your Ikea table to create three distinct looks, and so much more. Packed with 243 tips and ideas--both classic and unexpected--every project pictured was exclusively executed for the book. With more than 400 photographs and illustrations, this is a book that readers will return to again and again for the creative projects and easy-to-follow instructions in the relatable voice the Petersiks are known for. Adding a little wow factor to your home has never been more fun!

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Artisan; 1 edition (November 5, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1579654789

ISBN-13: 978-1579654788

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 1.1 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (311 customer reviews)

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Home > Home Improvement & Design > Decorating & Design > Painting & Wallpapering #60

in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home

Improvements > Do-It-Yourself #73 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement &

Design > Decorating & Design > Decorating

Customer Reviews

I will start with a disclaimer that I am an avid blog follower, and am thus biased to like anything written by the Petersiks. As someone who was determined to love the book regardless of any flaws,

I will do my best to be honest and objective in my appraisal. I had very high expectations for this book, and was incredibly excited to see that it had arrived at my house. I eagerly cracked it open and began reading. Overall, I would definitely recommend the book to any home decor enthusiast, but I have to painfully admit I was slightly underwhelmed. Most of my excitement flipping through the pages was driven more by the cute captions, glimpses of well known Petersik personnel (Gee, Clara, and Ramsey make appearances for any other YHL enthusiasts out there), and the personal forewords to each chapter, than by the majority of the actual projects. That's not to say there aren't gems inside; many very creative and useful ideas fill the pages (i.e. personalizing thrift store decor, creating your own artwork, alternatives to traditional knife blocks). Not to mention step by step instructions for painting furniture and cabinets, as well as a 'dummy guide' to a variety of DIY topics such as curtains and paint finishes. However, I felt that being a YHL reader was actually a detriment in some ways to finding novel inspiration from the book. Very few projects were truly original to the book, most I skimmed through having read similar projects on the blog. That being said, even with some concepts being 'repeats', it will be nice in the future to have everything bound in one volume, easily accessible without the internet. I appreciate the formatting of the book. John and Sherry did a fantastic job of categorizing projects by the relative expense, difficulty, and time needed for execution. There is a great balance between easy and cheap projects, with those that are a bit more labor and cost intensive. Many projects can also be easily personalized to an individual's tastes and preferences. Most projects, although not all, also include 'in-progress' photos to illustrate difficult steps, such as how to properly fold the corners of fabric when covering a dining room seat or headboard. Other readers have complained about the quality of the pictures inside; I personally found the photo layouts to be well executed, and aside from old childhood photographs, thought the quality to be acceptable. I do agree that the finish of the book (a matte paper versus glossy sheen) is a bit cheap-looking, but think this reflects more on the publishers than the authors themselves. In summary, I was definitely pleased with the book and plan to gift copies to several friends and relatives over the holidays. In my opinion, it is a book that anyone with a love of DIY, home improvement, or decor, would appreciate, but also agree with other reviewers that those looking for a more advanced or detailed how-to book will be left wanting more. For what the authors intended it to be, a very basic spring board of ideas, the book is highly successful and as a first book I think the Petersiks should be proud.

I read the YHL blog semi-regularly, and, even though there are times when their design aesthetic is the complete opposite of mine, I keep reading because they have some good basic DIY design and

decorating ideas and tips, and because they seem like fun, genuinely sweet people. I was excited about their book, and I even stood in line for four hours to have them sign a copy of the book. Well, it turns out that four hours of standing in line was long enough for me, and a friend, to read the book and decide that it would be a waste of money to purchase it. There were maybe 3 or 4 ideas, out of the 200+ in the book, which I would actually want to try to replicate, or that seemed somewhat fresh and inspiring. Most of the other ideas were very basic, or have been done (and, more stylishly done) before, on their blog or elsewhere on the internet, and the remaining ideas were downright ridiculous - putting your knives in a clear jar filled with macaroni is a design/decorating idea? Also, I agree with another reviewer who commented on the poor design of the book itself. The cover is pretty bland, and somewhat garish, and the inside is not beautiful or inspiring enough for me to want to buy the book despite the bland ideas in it. On the positive side, the writing seemed sweet, quirky, and very readable, just like it is on their blog. In this era of Pinterest and beautiful design blogs, design books have to be fresh, beautiful, and inspiring - and should have a lot of substantive content - in order to be worth the money. I'll stick to reading their blog, where I have found some good design tips and project ideas.

I follow the Petersik's blog and I admit that I was looking forward to the book. Over the last few months, the Petersiks built up anticipation for the book on their blog by repeatedly saying "we can't show you this yet because we did it for the book!" Well, I'd estimate that the book is maybe 25% new material. And much of the new stuff is just a slightly different iteration of something they have done before, in great detail, online. (Yes, I know that you can spray paint almost anything a bright color and make it cute.) That, combined with the book's poor production values, means that you can learn everything you need about "Petersik Style" from the Young House Love blog and the book adds little. The Petersiks' disappointing foray into print media has convinced me that for home decorating ideas, online pictures, instructions, and video are far superior communication methods. In other words, read the blog and save your money.

Mixed feelings with this one- some great ideas on one page..but then some truly hideous and downright tacky ones just a page later..confusing and to be honest I expected more. Not alot in here that I havent already seen on pinterest or elsewhere. Its low priced book though so you are getting what you pay for.

As a longtime follower of younghouselove.com, I eagerly bought the book. However, I love YHL for

the large-scale home transformations such as their former home's bathroom renovation. I was hoping this book would provide more insight into similar, larger scale, more permanent projects: how they chose their homes and why, the process they go through, step by step, in a reno project, tips for those also updating older homes etc. This book just does not contain this sought after info. Instead, the book offers many "crafty" projects ranging from not-so-great to really clever. I think it's telling that many of the projects were said to be gifted or donated, only a few were kept by the authors. I'm glad I own it, but I think of it more as "fan gear" for a blog I love than a truly useful guide for my home.

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