

SEE OLD STUFF IN A NEW LIGHT

“Upcycle” Used Items

Materials: Thrift store find or used item from home (lamp, mirror, small table, etc.), Duck Tape® rolls and sheets, scissors

1. Introduce students to the design concept of **upcycling** (increasing the intrinsic value of fatigued household pieces by reimagining and repurposing them). Explain how this idea is environmentally and financially significant because it favors recycling and refurbishing over creating waste and, in the process, can transform a boring, old item into something cool, creative, and new.
2. Encourage students to investigate the interior design aesthetics, materials, and products of a specific geographical location and historical period that interests them (baroque, midcentury American and Scandinavian modern, Art Deco, Pop Art, etc.).
3. Ask students to bring in an item to refurbish (lamp, chair, small piece of furniture) from home, a thrift store, a garage sale, or elsewhere.
4. Explain to students that they will be upcycling their item to reflect the characteristics of their inspirational design aesthetic. Have students discuss their inspiration and the rationale for their specific design.

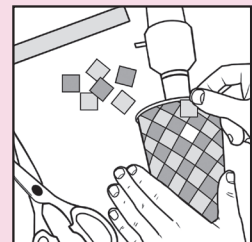
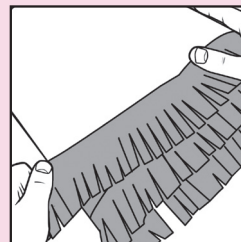
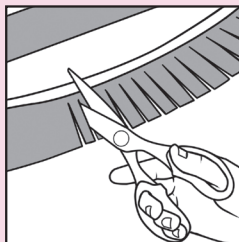
For advanced students/classes: An entire suite—such as a basic display of a mirror, a dresser or side table, and a lamp—or a large piece of upcycled furniture can be made to create a coherent design story.



HOW-TO

1. Thrift and sketch Search for the right piece to refurbish. Sketch ideas for the design of the project on paper. Be sure to indicate multiple colors and patterns of tape in your sketch.

2. Clean and prepare Sand off rough edges, remove flaking paint, etc., to prepare the item to receive a coating of Duck Tape®.



3. Design Cover item in Duck Tape® based on sketch. Tear lengths from Duck Tape® rolls into strips, cut squares from Duck Tape® sheets using the paper-backing grid as a guide, create fringe or other elements, and make your very own patterns to integrate into the piece.