



A keen upcycler, Sarah keeps an eye out for discarded objects that might see a second life

File away!

Make a creative space of your own, get your papers sorted and ramp up the style factor in your home office with these simple upcycling projects

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Whether you work from home or just need a place to file papers and pay bills it can be handy to have some sort of home office. We don't all have the luxury of space to dedicate an entire room as a study or office - but depending on your particular workspace needs you can create a simple area in a surprisingly compact space.

To create a successful study nook or creative corner you need to first decide what you will be most using the space for. Is it a home office to be used for income-generating work or a space for your creative hobbies? Will you be working on a laptop rather than a desk-based computer and if so, do you even need a desk? You might identify your greatest need as being somewhere to tidily store away your papers, stationery or crafting bits and bobs. Take a walk around your home looking for possible spaces

that could be better utilised. Is there a possie where you could put a small filing cabinet or desk - or a place where you might potentially write, read or simply sit and think?

You can make a cost effective, creative and inspiring work area for yourself using repurposed and revamped pieces of office furniture. I acquired a nasty old filing cabinet that was no longer required by a colleague and rescued the ugliest office chair from a pile of junk outside an office block - and gave them a both snappy new look using a fresh coat of paint and a piece of bright new material.

It starts with being open to the many possibilities.

PORTRAIT TESSA CHRISP

Turn a piece of fabric and a picture frame, minus its glass, into a pinboard



Paint the frame (I used Resene Adrenalin) and cut corrugated cardboard to fit. (I used an empty flattened box)



Cover the card with fabric and glue into place



A smartly covered new pin board completes the set up - providing a place to stick up a mix of useful and decorative objects

A place that is visually pleasing and well-ordered can help to unlock your creativity as well as helping you keep on top of the less exciting jobs such as filing

Keep an eye out for partially broken office chairs - or ones that look tatty but just need recovering. Most companies will be only too happy to be rid of their unwanted junk



With company documents increasingly being stored on company servers or the cloud, filing cabinets are not as much in demand as they once were. You can easily pick up a secondhand filing cabinet online in an assortment of colours and sizes at a reasonable price. Ask around at a few local large companies and you might even pick one up for free!

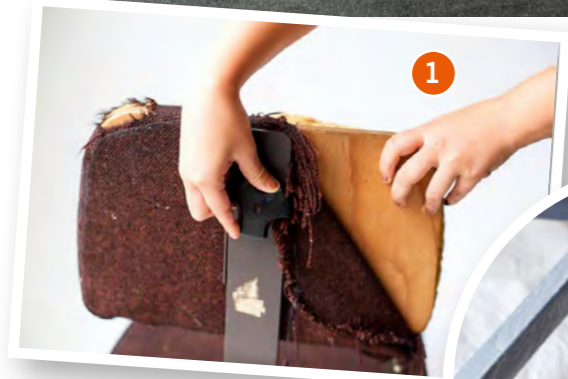
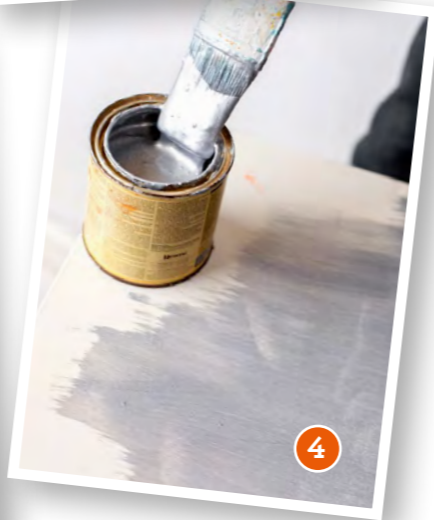
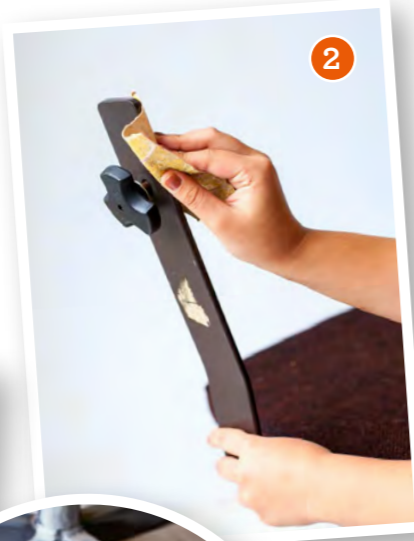


For more makeover projects, go to www.good.net.nz/eco-renovation



YOU WILL NEED

- An old metal filing cabinet
- A metal-framed office chair
- Light grade sandpaper
- Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer
- Resene Enamacryl gloss waterborne enamel in a shade of your choice
- Small to medium sized paint brushes
- Sewing machine, needles and cotton
- Fabric (approximately two metres)
- A powerful staple gun



Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer is an adhesive primer – ideal as an undercoat for surfaces that might otherwise be difficult to paint

TIP: Typically you first need a coloured basecoat to achieve a metallic effect, but because this metallic is similar to the cabinet it was fine without it

STEP 1 Unscrew any parts of the chair that can be taken apart to make painting and recovering more simple to achieve.

STEP 2 Lightly sand the entire paintable surface of the filing cabinet and chair.

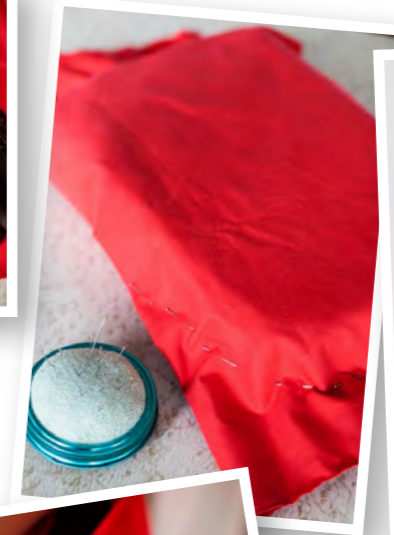
STEP 3 Wipe off any dust or debris and apply a light coat of Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer. Allow to dry.

STEP 4 Paint the cabinet and chair legs in a shade of your choice. I used the zingy orange Resene Adrenalin on the chair legs and Resene Infinity from the Resene Metallics range on the cabinet for a brushed metal look. Allow to fully dry before touching up with a second coat as required.

Tidy scuffed wheels with a quick sand and a coat of Resene Super Gloss waterborne enamel in Resene Black



Trim extra fabric 1.5cm from the seam line



STEP 5 Measure your fabric against the parts of the chair to recover. Cut roughly to shape, turn fabric inside out and pin to fit. Sew seam and trim off excess fabric. Turn the fabric the right way round and fit it into place over the seat cushion. Neatly fold any extra fabric as you might a parcel and hand sew along the flap to close it up.

STEP 6 Cut a square of fabric and lay it upside down on a stool or table. Place your chair upside down on the fabric so you can pull the fabric up on each side of the seat and staple into place. Fold the fabric at each corner to make a neat edge. Staple into place.

STEP 7 Reassemble the various parts of the chair as necessary.

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