

Making Your Own Lampshades

By Sydney Schwartz Hardiman

Workrooms everywhere have been struck by a very serious disorder. It's called the "I can make that myself" disorder. The primary symptom is an overwhelming desire to look at any home décor object and declare in overconfident tones, "I can make that myself." At which point the workroom owner races home, purchases all the supplies for said project, and gets to work—usually without any sort of directions.

Because of this disorder, my last "I can do that myself" project was making lampshades. Here, then, are some basic guidelines for you on how to make your own lampshades, so you don't have to suffer trying to figure it out alone!

MATERIALS

One round metal lampshade frame (shapes also include square, bell, triangle, and hexagon)

Rayon ribbon wrap, 3/16" wide (yardage based on the size of the wire shade)

Fringe adhesive

Quick glue (available from The Lamp Shop) or Rowley shade glue

Bias-fold trim or other decorative trim

Fabric of choice

No-stick styrene or heavy paper

Arc shape pattern

Needle and thread

FABRICATION

- 1) Lay the styrene or paper out on a flat surface. Dribble the quick glue or shade glue onto the surface and spread evenly. Lay your fabric choice on top of the glue. Smooth



Illustration 1

out all the bubbles and the lumps, using a clean, dry roller. When

completely dry, place the arc pattern over the fabric and cut out, making sure there is a generous back seam on the pattern. (See illustration 1.)

- 2) Wrap the entire top and bottom wire of the lampshade with the rayon ribbon like a candy cane (similar to wrapping hook and loop tape around a drapery pole as shown in illustration 2.)
- 3) Glue the arc portions of the lampshade to the top and the bottom rings. Fold the back seam

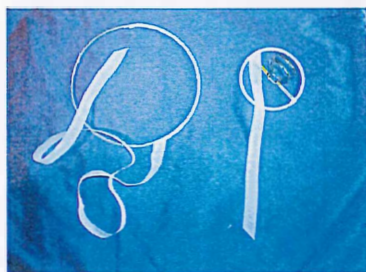


Illustration 2

inwards and glue down.

- 4) Cover the raw top and bottom edges with the matching bias-fold tape or other decorative trim.

SOFT SHADE OPTION

For a softer shade, cut an arc pattern



Illustrations 3 & 4

out of a piece of face fabric and a piece of rayon lining. Bring the face fabrics, back seams together, and sew closed. Repeat with the lining. Place the cone



An add-on product you can make yourself.

of the lining over the top of the face fabric. Make sure the front of the lining and the front of the face are together. Sew the top arc together and turn right side out. (See illustrations 3 and 4.)

Cover the top and the bottom wire frame with rayon tape. Place the cover over the top of the arc and hand-stitch the

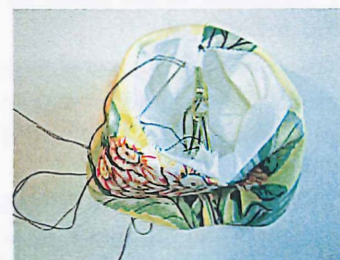


Illustration 5

fabric to the rayon tape on both the bottom and the top as show in illustration 5. Cover the stitching with the bias tape or the decorative trim.

Editor's Note: For more information on creating lampshades, get Betsy McKinney's video from her class at the Educational Conference (V64-9d). Call 828-686-3185 or order online at CHFconferences.com.



Sydney Schwartz Hardiman is the owner of Everything in its Place, Custom Fabrication, a retail and wholesale workroom based in Pittsburgh, PA. Sydney designs and fabricates soft furnishings and is currently working on a book "The Business of Being Creative: How To Make Money and Be Successful as a Custom Fabrication Workroom". Sydney can be reached at 412-734-1364 or visit her website at www.everything-in-place.com.