

# The DIYer

by Artie Wallace

(revised edition)

Real DIYer Projects  
for the everyday person

# The DIYer

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### Preface

After over 30 years working in the Home Improvement field, I was thinking about doing something a little more creative in my spare time. We had a local free weekly newspaper ([RockawayTimes.com](http://RockawayTimes.com)) that was only open for a few months. As a well known contractor in my area, I came up with the idea of writing a weekly DIYer article.

In April of 2015 I went in and presented my idea of the article to the paper's owner (Kevin Boyle). Being that no paper in the area had anything like it, Kevin loved the idea. A week later my first article was published in the paper.

With space being limited to 300 words (now upto 500 words), it was difficult to provide adequate detail but I must have did a pretty good job because a year after the article started, I had a nice following. As a result, I now have a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/TheDIYer11694](http://www.facebook.com/TheDIYer11694)), I am in the process of setting up a YouTube channel for The DIYer and I am putting all my articles in this book.

On February 10 th of 2017 I started writing a second weekly article for an online media called The Dollar [Stretcher.com](http://Stretcher.com)

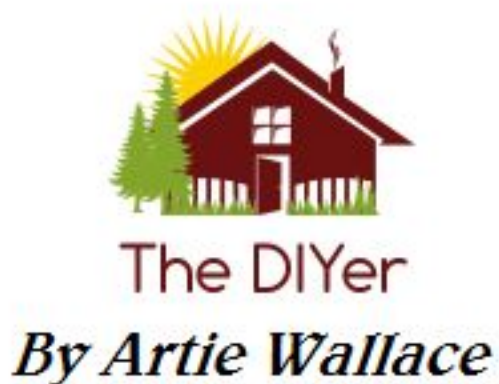
On April 8 th 2017, I will be making my debut on National TV. The TLC Channel contracted my company to do the work on the first 2 pilot episodes of "Hidden Money Makeover". Unfortunately I am not the star of the show, but you will see my face and my work.

Continuing to give back to the community, I am currently working on organizing a monthly DIYer class to give people hands on experience with the projects I write about. The classes are planned to start in April of 2017. A portion of sales from this book will help fund the classes.

I hope you like some of the ideas in this book.  
Please feel free to email me your feedback//comments.

Thank you  
Artie Wallace

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### 5 projects that you can with the kids

With the holidays coming, this week we are going to focus on 5 projects that you can with the kids.

#### 1- Personalized mugs.

All you need is a permanent sharpie (any color) and a white porcelain mug. Decorate the mug with the sharpie. Once decorated place the mug in the oven, bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees, then allow to cool. Your decorated mug is now ready to use. Do not place decorated mugs in the dishwasher, hand wash only.



## 5 projects that you can with the kids By Artie Wallace

**2- Make a jewelry hanger** from a wooden clothes hanger or an old wooden picture frame.

Decorate the clothes hanger or picture frame using paint or permanent markers. For coat hangers simple install small hooks along bottom of hanger. For picture frames string a piece of yarn across (you can put multiple yarns across) and hang hooks on the yarn to hang your jewelry on.



**3- Tea light holders** made from painted jars.

Using an old jar, remove label (empty sauce jars work fine).

Wrap a piece of yarn around the jar to create a pattern. Paint the jar with the color of choice. Allow to dry and then remove the yarn. Place your tea light candle in the jar and the design created by the yarn will glow through.



#### **4- Waterless snow globe.**

You will need a jar with a lid (sauce jar with label removed works fine), glue (elmer's), figure or insert (small holiday figure can be found at most craft stores). Glue your figure or insert to the center on the inside of the lid. Spread your glue on a piece of wax paper and allow to dry. Once dried remove the glue by rubbing, this will cause it to come off in flakes. Put the glue flakes into the jar, and put the lid on the jar. Now you have your waterless snow globe.

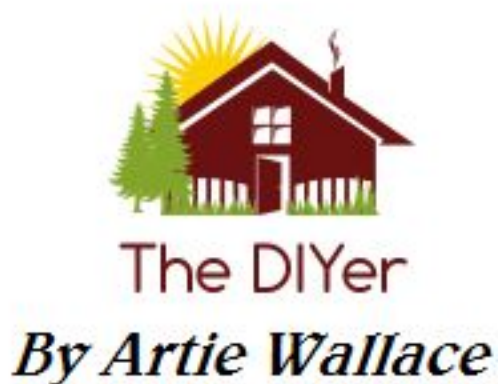


#### **5- Make a pencil holder out of cassette tapes.**

Using 4 old cassette tapes and a small round mirror (mirror can be found at most craft stores). Glue the edge of the cassette tape creating a box, then glue the bottom of box to mirror (for best result use crazy glue).



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5 projects that you can with the kids (continued)

1- **Birthday candle menorah**

You will need nine birthday candles with holders, air drying clay and acrylic paints. Make a clay block about 6 inches long and 1 inch high and 1 inch deep. Make a small square about 3/4 of an inch. Place your square in the center of the long piece, and place your candle holders in with 4 on each side and 1 in the center. Allowed the clay harden overnight, and paint with acrylic paints. Put the candles in the holders, and you have your birthday candle menorah.





### **2- Candy cane heart**

You will need to candy canes, some glue and ribbon. Lay the candy canes together to form a heart shape putting the two bottoms together and the two tops. Glue the ends together and allow to dry. Make a bow out of ribbon and glue on to where the two tops meet. You can add a piece of string tied in a loop and glued to the top to make your candy cane heart ready to hang on the tree.



### **3- Shell candles**

You will need shells you collected from the beach and votive candles. Make sure you thoroughly clean the shell. Remove the wick from the votive candles and place the wick in the center of the shell. Fill a saucepan about halfway with water, place a glass measuring cup in the saucepan. Cut the wax from the votive candles into small shavings and place in the measuring cup. Heat till the wax melts, then spoon in the wax into the shells till they are almost full. Be sure the wick is standing upright and do not cover the top of the wick.



**4- Christmas tree made out of shells**

Get a cone-shaped piece of styrofoam and small shells from any craft store. Painted the styrofoam green and allowed to dry. Paint small shells and decorative holiday colors and glue to the styrofoam tree base.

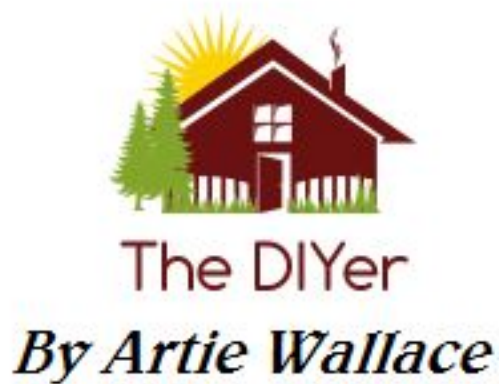


**5- Shell ornaments**

Using a large shell can be found on the beach, make sure the show is thoroughly cleaned. Drill a small hole in the top of the shell put a piece of ribbon through it and tie it for hanging. Paint the shell and allow to dry.







### **Accenting any room.....**

Adding a little accent to a room can be a difficult task, there are so many things to consider from colors and furniture to flooring and placement of decor. There is no rules that work with every situation, but there are a few basic rules that can help guide you through it.

#### **Color schemes:**

Dark colors tend to make a room look smaller, however on larger rooms a dark accent wall can add depth. For smaller rooms adding a bright accent color look larger if done in moderation. Adding an accent wall and a complimenting color in the decor will help bring the room to life.

#### **Furniture:**

It is very easy to overwhelm a room with too much furniture, adding furniture a little at a time will also help you to see how much is just right for the room. Try to stay away from bookcases and larger storage items, they tend to collect junk and take too much away from your room. Open shelves and hidden storage works best.

#### **Flooring:**

I love the look of a light color hardwood floor, but that may not be in your budget. An area rug with tile laid around it (not under, so they are close in height) can be a way to get creative without breaking the bank.

#### **Walls:**

Wall hangings are a great way to accent a room, but keep it to a minimum. The more you put on your walls, the more you take away from all the hard work you put into accenting the room.

#### **Lighting:**

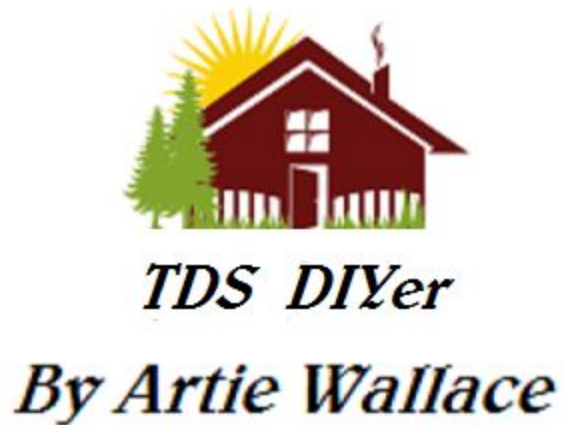
## Accenting any room By Artie Wallace

Depending on the feel you are going for, the lighting can make all the difference. For a relaxing room or TV room a soft light is recommended. For reading rooms, play rooms or any rooms where people gather you should go with a brighter light. Bedrooms should have both options, bright light for getting dressed and a lamp providing a soft light for when you're getting ready to turn in after a long day.

There you have it, my tips on accenting any room. I hope you found it helpful.



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## **DIY – Accent wall from Reclaimed wood**

(this article was written for online use, the online version with active links is available on my website)

More and more I am finding that both customers and people online are getting back to nature with their home designs.

What better way to do this then with a wood accent wall?

Best of all on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the hardest) on the DIYer skill level, this project only rates at a 4.



## Accent wall from Reclaimed wood by Artie Wallace

There are so many options, patterns and other variations to choose from, that I could write another book on this topic alone, so to keep it simple, I am going to focus this article on the most common of the options.

### Let's start off with a list of what you will need and where to get it:

1-An adequate supply of reclaimed (or pallet) wood. If you check online, you can easily find somewhere local to get free pallets and take them apart, but after doing so, I can tell you that this can turn into a project itself. To save yourself a lot of work you can buy the wood ready to install. Here are 2 examples of wood that I have used on jobs: [Example 1](#) [Example 2](#)

2-Liquid nail: There are different types of Liquid Nail, be sure to get the [Construction Adhesive](#)

3-Finishing Nails: You will want to use 4D (1 ½ inch) nails, [click here for an example.](#)

4-Miter saw: To keep your end cuts straight, you'll want to use a [Miter saw](#) with a [60t blade](#)

### Here is how to install your wood accent wall:

1-Starting at the ceiling with a full board from one of the corners, apply a bead of liquid nail along the center of the back of the board. Place it in place on the wall and put one nail in each end to keep it from moving while the liquid nail dries.

2-Repeat step one going across the top of the wall. When you get to the last piece, measure and cut to length, then install it.

3-For the second row, start at the same corner where you started before. This time you will cut the first board in half before installing it, creating a staggered effect in the boards.

4-Continuing this pattern to the floor alternating between full and half boards.

5-The boards will not meet the floor perfectly, so run them till they are as close as you can get. Then using a final row as a molding, run a last row along the floor itself covering the gap between the floor and the previous row.

6-For additional accent, you can run an additional row along the ceiling line and the walls to create a molding effect.

Congratulations, you just created a beautiful wood accent wall.

Please feel free to send in your completed projects to the email address below.

## Accent wall from Reclaimed wood by Artie Wallace

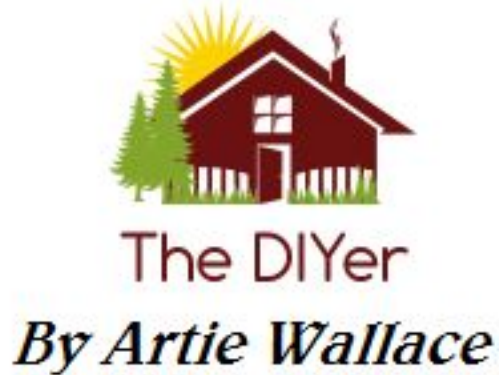
Don't forget to follow "TDS DIYer" for detailed instructions for any upgrades you may need a little more guidance with.

For a list of recommended products from this and past articles, click here or visit our links page at <http://rockawayshandyman.vpweb.com/links>

With over 30 years experience in the home improvement field, Artie Wallace (owner of Rockaways Handyman) can help you with most of your DIY questions. For more information about Artie Wallace or Rockaways Handyman, visit his website at [RockawaysHandyman.com](http://RockawaysHandyman.com), like him on Facebook at Facebook.com/RockawaysHandyman

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***A different kind of makeover.....***

Most people think of refinishing something as sanding, staining and things along those lines. Here is a sample of a different kind of makeover.

Here are a few steps on taking an ordinary dresser and making it into something great for a kids room. I am just going to run you through the basics.

**First:** Remove all hardware (handles, knobs etc) and save it (I will get back to this later).

**Second:** Prep all surfaces. To do this I recommend first cleaning all surfaces with a good degreaser cleaner. Then wipe all surfaces down with mineral spirits. This will remove any buildup that may be on surfaces (including nicotine from smoke) and help neutralize any finish coats.

**Third:** Pick the paint colors you want to use, for best results be sure to use an enamel paint or oil based paint. Use multiple colors to give it more of a kid's room feel.

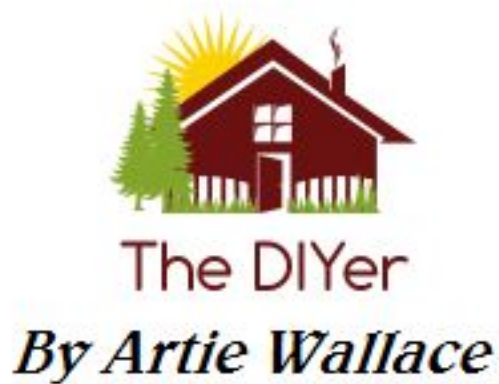
**Fourth:** Apply paint in light coats and allow to dry thoroughly between coats. Remove the draws and place on a dropcloth with the face facing up and apply even coat of paint over the surface. Placing the dresser frame on a drop cloth do the same. When painting the sides and face, be sure to not allow the paint to run.

**Fifth:** Getting back to the hardware. If the old hardware fits your design, by all means use it. If not, be sure to take an old handle with you when shopping for new ones and use it to make sure the screw holes line up. Keep in mind, a draw pull can be replaced with 2 knobs, so get creative with your hardware.

**Sixth:** Decorating can be difficult. For the average DIYer I recommend shopping online for decals to help you decorate to your liking. It is advisable that the average DIYer staying away from fabric coating, layering designs, textured finishes, etc. If not done right it can ruin all your hard work. Leave those finishes to the more advanced refinishers. Though not as decorative of a finish you can find decals on most any topic you want.



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### **Anchor's away.....**

Hanging something like a shelf may sound like a simple project, but when you consider how many different types of walls there are and how many different types of anchors there are, it can become more involved than you thought.

Here are some of the basic ones used in everyday home repairs.

**Threaded wall anchors** are one of the most reliable general use anchors for hanging things in drywall. They come in plastic and metal as well as different sizes and strengths. These work great for heavy pictures (and mirrors), they can be used for most things where the weight is concentrated near the wall.

**Toggle bolt anchors** are primarily used to hang things like shelves and TV's where the weight is concentrated away from the wall. These are only used on hollow walls.

**Plastic expansion anchors** are mainly used for light weight hanging. Many things you buy will come with these anchors, most of the time they are underrated for the item they are supplied with. I try to stay away from these type of anchors, I find they are very unreliable.

**Lag screw shield anchors** are for mounting things on cement walls. When installed right, they can support a lot of weight. But you need to be sure you use the right size drill bit to pre drill them or they will pull out (or fall apart when forcing them in).

**Externally threaded anchors** are not that common in everyday home repairs, but they still have their purpose. These are used when your hanging something in a concrete wall that has to be bolted onto the wall.

## **Anchor's away** By Artie Wallace

There are many more types of anchors, but these are the most common that the average DIYer will need to use.



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