

# 10 *Easy* Home Decor DIY *Projects*

FOR BEGINNERS TO  
INTERMEDIATE



BY DORI TURNER  
THIS FULL LIFE 5

# Meet the Author



Hi, I'm Dori! I started my blog *This Full Life 5* in 2018 to share our 1970s home renovation and DIY projects. My husband, Eric, and I have purchased and fixed up four different homes in our 15 years of marriage. We're always on a tight budget which means we had to get good at DIY.

I've shared several of our projects on the blog over the last almost two years and I've compiled ten of the most popular projects in this e-book.

If you're new to DIY, most of these projects can be easily done with just a few tools. A couple of the projects require a table saw and some simple cuts which is why the range is easy to intermediate level.

Thanks so much for following along our journey! I hope this little book inspires you to get your DIY on!

*I use affiliate links in this ebook. When you make a purchase from these links I make a small commission at no additional charge to you.*

# Table of Contents

DIY Blanket Ladder.....	Page 4
DIY Welcome Mat.....	Page 6
DIY Wood Tray.....	Page 9
DIY Stenciled Floors.....	Page 11
DIY Vintage Coat Rack.....	Page 14
DIY Faux Shiplap.....	Page 16
DIY Anthropologie Basket.....	Page 19
DIY Address Sign.....	Page 21
DIY Chalkboard.....	Page 24
DIY File Basket.....	Page 26
Want more?.....	Page 28

# DIY Blanket Ladder



## *Supplies*

- Three pine boards, 2x2x8
- Table or hand saw
- Wood clamps
- 10 2 1/2 inch wood screws
- Sandpaper
- Stain (I used Provincial by Minwax)



## *Directions*

Depending on the height of your ceiling, you may want to cut your two long boards down to 7 feet.

The third board will be your rungs. The ladder has a tapered look so the board needs to be cut to the following specifications: 18 in., 17 in., 16 in., 15 in., and 14 in. Cut the ends of each piece at a four-degree angle. You'll have five boards when you're done.

Sand all the boards until smooth and stain with your color of choice.

Once dry, lay the boards out starting with the 18-inch board on the bottom approximately 18 inches up from the bottom. Lay the subsequent pieces 12 inches apart going up.

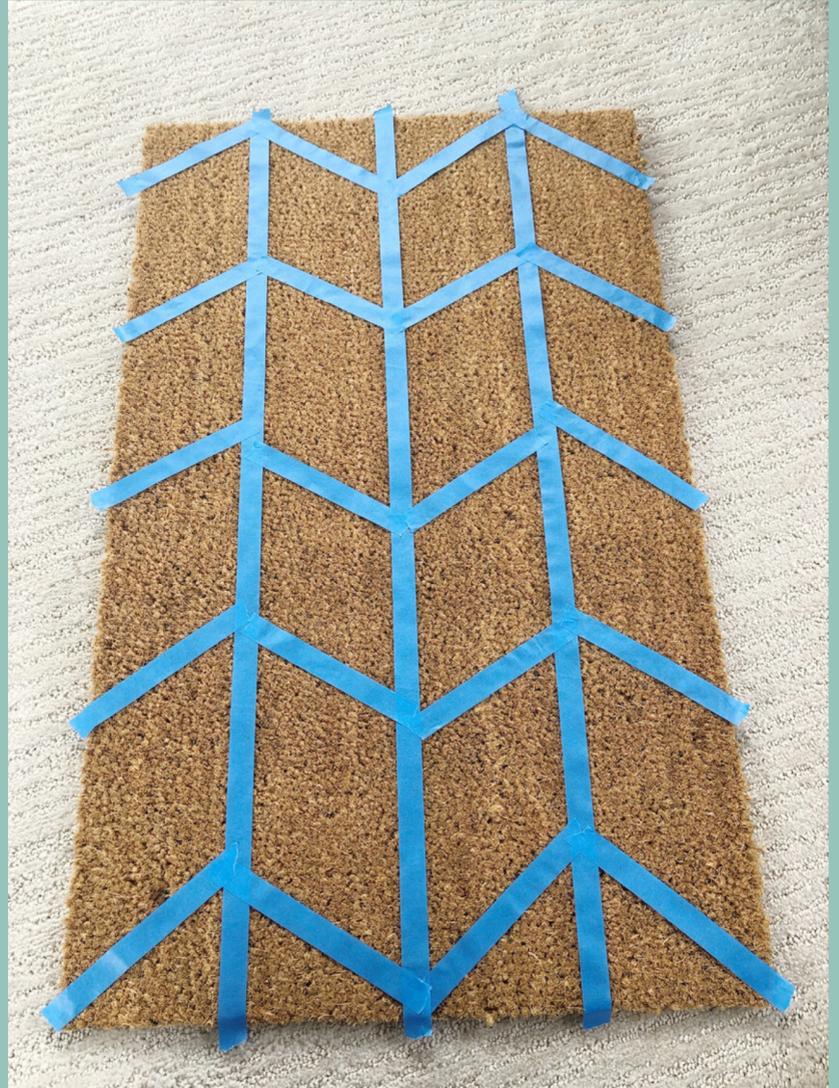
Using a wood clamp to hold the pieces together, attach the rungs using screws drilled straight through the vertical board and into the rung.

# DIY Welcome Mat



## *Supplies*

- Blank doormat
- Stencil (optional)
- Painter's tape
- Paint
- Assorted brushes



## *Directions*

Purchase a blank doormat. You can find these at Target or on Amazon.

Place a piece of blue painters tape down the middle of the rug. Then from the edge to the halfway point measure halfway again and place another piece of tape. Repeat this on the other side. This will give you four equal sections running the length of the mat.

Next, starting on the far left section, measure halfway down the width of the rug and place a diagonal piece of tape. Then place the tape at either end running from edge to edge. Measure halfway between the middle piece and the end pieces to tape off the final sections. This should leave you with four equal sections and two triangular sections at either end.

Repeat this going in the opposite direction on the next section and so on until you have the whole mat taped off.



## *Directions Continued*

Now you're ready for the paint! Use an angled brush and apply the paint with strokes moving away from the tape so that the paint doesn't seep under.

After each section has been painted, peel the tape off. Let the mat dry completely before applying a stencil.

Once the mat has dried, you can leave it or apply a word stencil. I purchased an adhesive "welcome" stencil to place on my mat. It was nice to have the adhesive because it helped to keep it in place! You can also tape it in place or use spray adhesive to get it to stay while you paint.

After the stencil is in place, use a small brush to paint. You may have to go over it several times to get it to show up well. Remove stencil and allow mat to dry completely before using.

# DIY Wood Tray



## *Supplies*

- Cabinet door
- Paint or Stain
- Paint brush
- 4" Furniture feet
- Drill



## *Directions*

For this project I used an old cabinet door that was leftover when we renovated our laundry room. If you don't have one, you can purchase one at the hardware store or on Facebook Marketplace.

Paint or stain your cabinet door and furniture feet. Allow to dry completely.

On the underside of the cabinet, mark where you want your feet to go and predrill the holes according to the size of the screw attached to the foot.

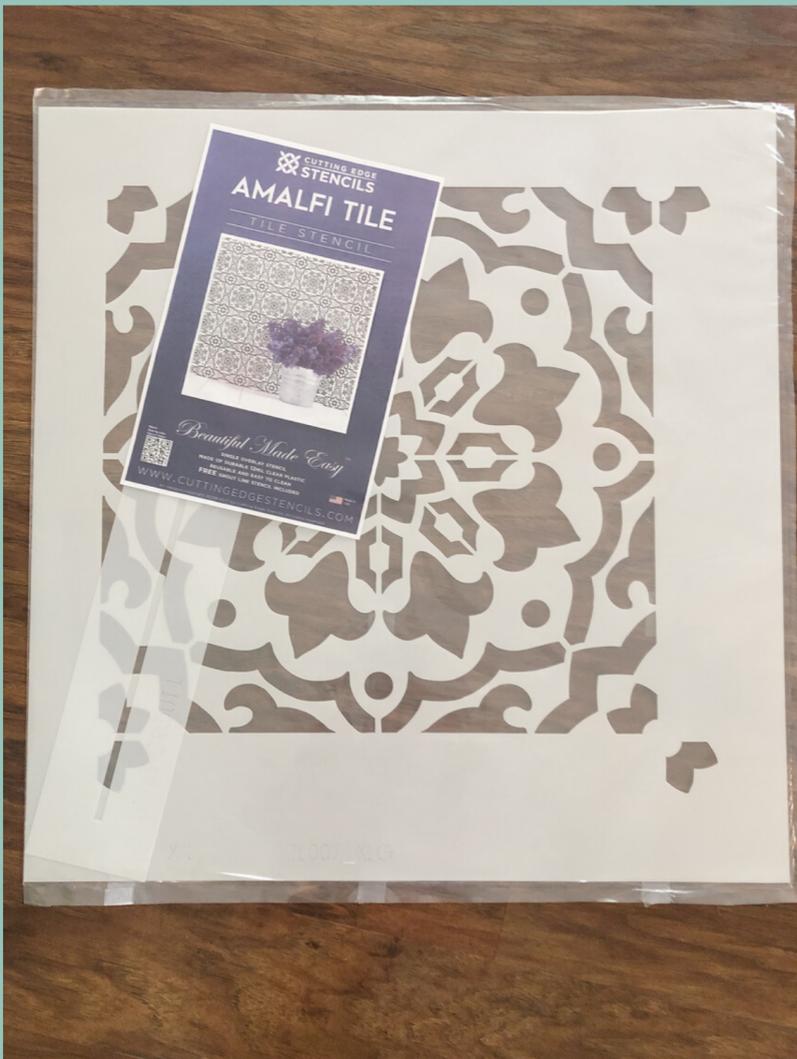
Screw in your furniture feet.

# DIY Stenciled Floors



## *Supplies*

- Stencil of your choice
- Primer
- Base coat
- Paint for stencil
- Spray adhesive
- Sealer
- Small and large paint roller
- Small and large foam rollers
- Extension pole
- Paint tray
- Small brushes for touch-



## *Directions*

The first step is to prime your flooring. Use a primer like PPG because it sticks to a variety of hard-to-stick surfaces including glossy. It also dries fast and has low VOC. Use a foam roller and give it one coat and let it dry completely.

Next you need a base coat. Choose a paint that will withstand scuffing like Valspar's Simplicity or a specialized flooring paint. Give the floors at least two coats. You may need an additional coat depending on how dark your floors are. Allow to dry completely.

Now you're ready for your stencil. I've used Cutting Edge Stencils multiple times and love their product. **You can check out Cutting Edge using my affiliate link here.**

***TIP: I recommend purchasing two stencils if you're doing a large room. It goes much faster!***

Again, choose a paint that will withstand scuffing. Measure the room to find the center and begin there so that it comes out even on either side.



## *Directions Continued*

Using a spray adhesive, spray the back of the stencil and then place it where you want on the floor. Using a foam roller, paint over the stencil. Carefully remove the stencil and check to make sure the paint didn't seep on to the underside of the stencil so that it doesn't mess up your floors when you go to do the next one.

***TIP: Spray the stencil after each time to lock in any wet paint on the underside of the stencil.***

Once you've finished the main part of the room, it's time for the edges and corners.

***TIP: Cut the stencil in half and even in fourths to make painting these hard to reach areas easier.***

Once you've completed stenciling the entire floor, you're ready for the top coat. I recommend at least two coats using a sealer like Varathane's Ultimate Polyurethane.

Now you're ready to enjoy your beautiful and affordable new flooring!

# DIY Vintage Tin Ceiling Tile Coat Rack



## *Supplies*

- Piece of tin ceiling tile from antique shop, thrift store, etc.
- 1x5 cut to size
- hammer or nail gun
- nails
- gloves
- coat hooks
- drill



## *Directions*

For this project, make sure you wear thick gloves. If the tin has been painted it could be lead-based paint. Also, the tin is sharp and could cut through your skin.

Wrap the piece of tin around the wood and hammer it into place.

Using a hammer and nails or a nail gun, attach the tin to the wood.

Place the coat hooks evenly across the board and drill pilot holes for the screws. Attach the hooks.

Hang in your entryway for coats or bathroom for towels!

# DIY Faux Shiplap



## *Supplies*

- Piece of 1/4 inch pine plywood cut into 6 inch strips
- Nail gun and nails
- Miter saw
- Caulk gun and paintable caulk
- Paint or stain of your choice
- Brush
- Foam roller



## *Directions*

We've done both real and faux shiplap. Using pine plywood offers a cheaper option if you have a large space to do.

The plywood needs to be cut down to 5 or 6 inch strips depending on your preference. If you don't have a table saw, you can ask the hardware store to do this for you.

You may need to make additional cuts to the length using a miter saw depending on the size of your space. For this project I'll be referencing our kitchen island/peninsula but you could use the same steps for a wall.

Start by painting the island or wall the same color as the shiplap. The background will show through the slats so you want them to be the same color.

Attach the first board using a nail gun. Leaving 1/4 inch space in between, attach the next board. Continue this process until all boards are attached.



## *Directions*

The last board may not be the same width as the rest depending on the size of your island/wall. If this bothers you, start your first board in the center of the wall and make the cut adjustments to the top and bottom board for a more even look.

Fill the nail holes with joint compound, paintable caulk or wood filler (if you plan on staining).

Caulk along the outer edges where the shiplap meets the wall for a cleaner look.

Now that your shiplap has been attached you're ready for paint or stain.

Use a foam roller to apply paint or a high quality brush for stain.

Reattach trim to give it a finished look. Enjoy your budget-friendly shiplap!

# DIY Anthropologie Basket



## *Supplies*

- Thick Rope
- Hot glue gun
- Decorative ribbon



## *Directions*

Start by rolling the rope into a coil, applying the hot glue periodically to hold it together. Continue rolling until you have the size you want for the base.

Now you're ready to build the walls. Begin by attaching the rope to the top of the base with hot glue. Continue wrapping around, liberally applying drops of hot glue to hold the rope in place.

Wrap the rope around until you have the height you desire.

Create handles by leaving a section of rope loose to form a small loop. Continue gluing rope around until you get to the adjacent side and form another loop equal in size. Finish wrapping rope around and securing to side of first handle.

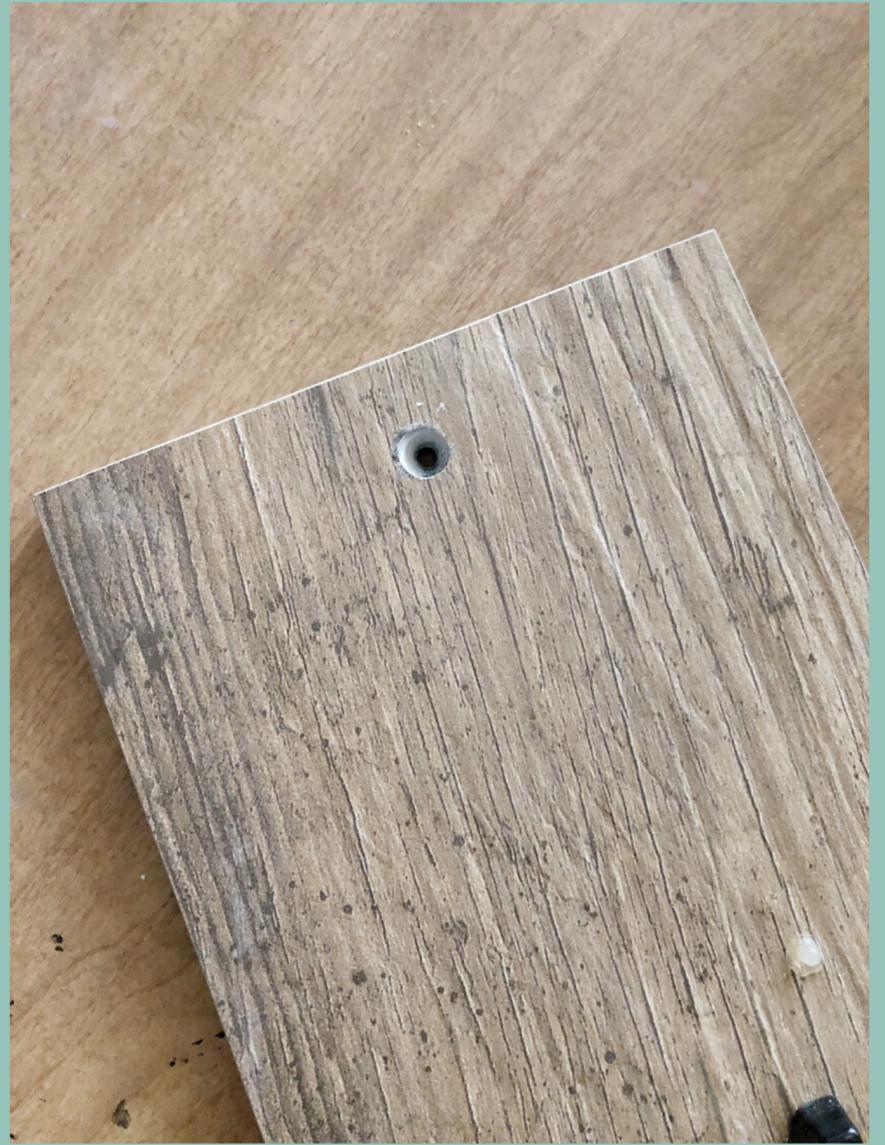
You can attach ribbon around the top of the basket to give it a more decorative look. Now you're ready to style!

# DIY Address Sign



## *Supplies*

- piece of wood-look tile
- address numbers
- wood for framing out the sign (we used 2"x1/4")
- black paint
- Gorilla super glue
- diamond drill bit
- power drill



## *Directions*

Lay out your numbers on the tile, measuring them out to make sure they're evenly spaced.

Remove the first number, marking where the sign will attach to the house. Drill the hole to attach to the brick (you will need a diamond drill bit to go through the tile). Do it this way so that when you attach the number, it will cover the hole so you can't see it.

Measure the sides of your tile and cut the wood accordingly for the frame. Remember that either the horizontal or vertical pieces need to overlap a quarter of an inch on either end so that the frame meets in a rectangle on all sides. Paint both sides of the trim, allowing them to completely dry in between coats.



## *Directions Continued*

When all the trim pieces are dry, you are ready to attach them to the tile. Using Gorilla super glue, run a line of glue down the side of the tile and then pressed trim in place, making sure it is lined up evenly with the back of the tile. Repeat on all sides until all of the frame is glued in place.

Once you've finished the framing, you're ready for the numbers! Use Gorilla super glue to attach the numbers with the exception of the top number to the tile. Fill the holes where the screws would normally have gone with glue and hold it against the tile for a few seconds until dry.

Drill a pilot hole where you'll be hanging your sign. I also recommend using an anchor. Line the hole in the tile up to match. Screw the sign into place. Once the sign is in place, use the Gorilla super glue one last time to glue the first number in place over the drilled hole.

# DIY Cabinet Door Chalkboard



## *Supplies*

- Cabinet door from an old project or unfinished from the hardware store
- Paint or stain for the trim
- Chalkboard paint
- Brush or foam roller
- Paint tray



## *Directions*

Using a brush or foam roller, paint the inlay of the cabinet door with a thin layer of chalkboard paint. Allow to dry. Complete this step as many times as needed to get the paint even.

Once paint is dry, paint the border of the cabinet with your desired color or if it's unfinished wood, you may choose to stain it.

Before using your chalkboard, it needs to be seasoned. If you don't season it first, you'll never be able to fully erase it once written on.

Do this by laying a piece of chalk on it's side and covering the board with chalk. Take a towel and rub in the chalk, then use a clean cloth to wipe it off.

Now your new chalkboard is seasoned and ready to use!

# DIY Hanging File Cabinet Door



## *Supplies*

- Cabinet door from an old project or unfinished from the hardware store
- Paint or stain
- Brush or foam roller
- Paint tray
- Metal hanging file holder
- Hanging bracket



## *Directions*

Using a brush or foam roller, paint the cabinet door to your preference and allow to dry completely.

Lay the hanging file on the door and attach with screws.

Turn door over and attach a bracket on the backside for hanging on the wall.

Use to store notebooks, bills, or mail!

