

## Old typewriters are key

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These days, with the advance of technology - the computer, the Blackberry, even cellphones - the need for a typewriter has seemingly ridden off into the sunset.

You remember those big, bulky contraptions with keys you pound on, return levers to push and ribbons to change.

I occasionally see them at garage sales and although I stop, look and reminisce about days gone by, I never buy them. Francine Sumner does. In fact, finding a typewriter at a garage sale is a thrill for her. "I'll take the typewriter apart and use the keys to make necklaces, bracelets and pendants," she said.

A hobby of hitting garage sales has helped to fuel Francine's business.

The Phoenix resident goes to garage sales in search of supplies for her jewelry-making business, *It's All in the Bag* by Francine.

"There are so many things that I love from garage sales. But I think the biggest (thrill) for me is walking up the driveway, not knowing what I'm going to find." And usually, whatever she does find she can turn into a piece of wearable art to sell on her Web site.

The wife, mother of three children and preschool teacher works almost every day creating her one-of-a-kind gems. She goes to garage sales at least once a week in search of old jewelry, buttons, even vintage bottle caps and anything else that may help in her creative process.

Francine, 44, also finds supplies at flea markets and online auctions but she usually gets her best finds and best prices at garage sales.

For instance, she usually pays anywhere from \$8 to \$20 for typewriters. And just one typewriter can be turned into about 50 pieces of jewelry.

She goes to garage sales in Phoenix, Scottsdale and Paradise Valley every Saturday and sometimes on Friday if she's lucky enough to find one on her way to work.

Francine started her business about two years ago thanks in part to her daughter's birthday party.

As an activity she taught the children how to make jewelry. And the rest, as they say, is history.

She now has her own studio in her home where she creates her jewelry, up to 25 pieces a week.

To learn more about her jewelry, visit [www.inthebagbyfrancine.com](http://www.inthebagbyfrancine.com).

**Lynda Hammond runs the [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) Web site, where you can list and look for garage sales online and read past columns. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.**