

Garage Sale Gal **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



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chic thanks to garage sales

Shabby turns to

Lynda Hammond

When most of us spot furniture at garage sales we see it for what it is. But when Sharin Louis does, she pictures the possibilities. “It’s amazing the furniture people sell. My mind just goes crazy because I see a piece and I know what I can do with it.” What Sharin can do with it is add a little pizzazz. With the help of appliquéés (French for “put on”) Sharin turns her garage sale finds from junky to chic. Appliquéés are small decorative pieces that can be added to just about any surface.

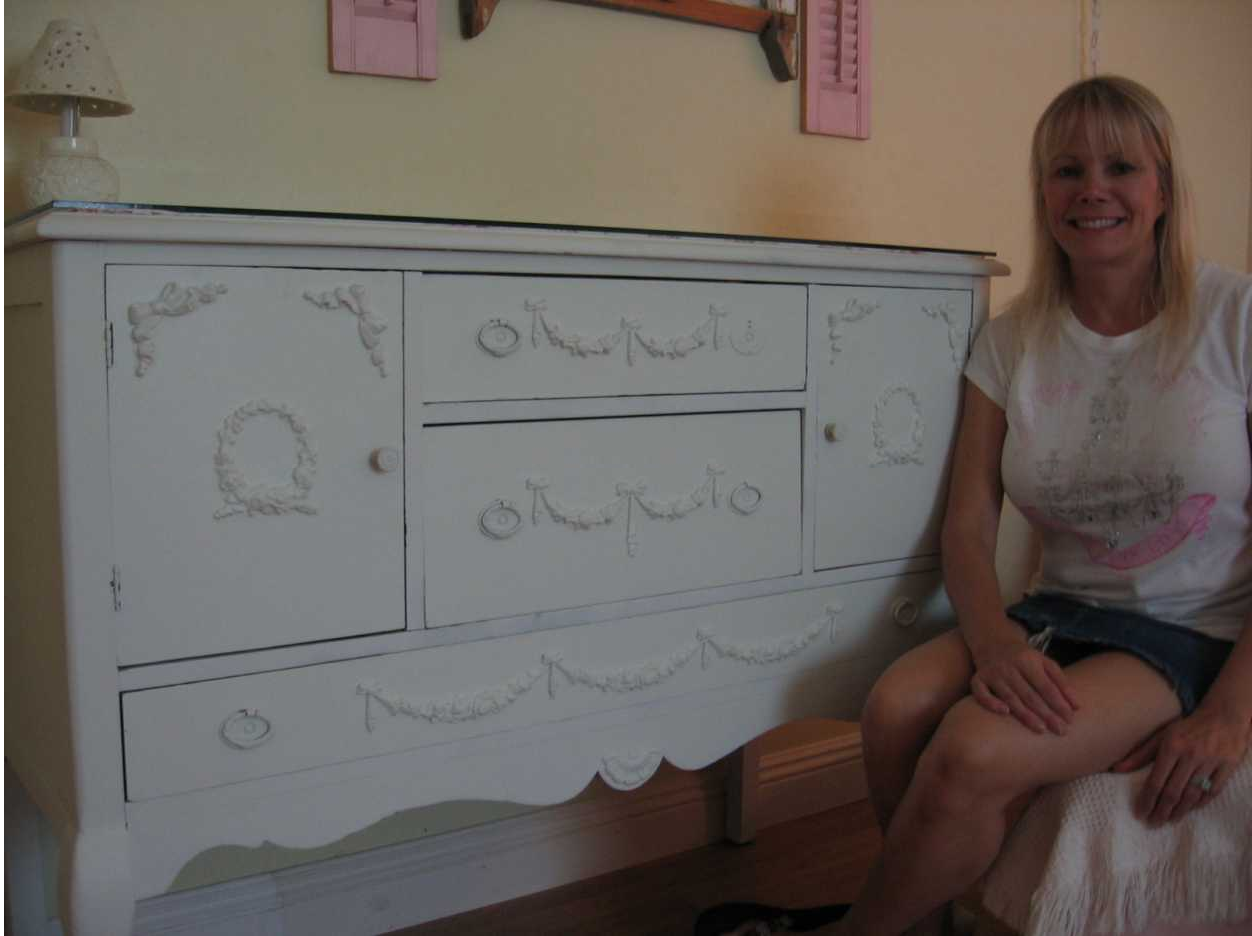
For Sharin, it all started nearly two years ago when she bought a china cabinet from a garage sale. It was a bit drab but she spruced it up by adding a coat of white paint and appliquéés from a hardware store. “The appliquéés are so much fun to work with and when I saw that hutch when it was finished I was like ‘Wow that is beautiful.’” Sharin was hooked.

Any wood furniture she buys at garage sales—dressers, chests, tables, even a piano—gets her artistic touch. She’s out of room for more furniture in *her* house but she likes the process so much she’s helping others get the shabby chic look, too.

Sharin has created her own line of appliquéés after she had trouble finding the right style and quality. “The ones you can buy at hardware stores are usually wooden and they break really easily.” So, working from the craft room in her home, she developed a “secret” resin to pour into molds in the shape of roses, angels, wreaths and bows. Sharin’s appliquéés range in price from \$3 for a small pair to \$22 for one larger, more intricate creation.

Sharin credits garage sales for helping her find her niche. In fact, we first met Sharin in another column I wrote a few months ago: *Establish rules for holding items for buyers, May 2, 2008 Arizona Republic*. To refresh your memory, Sharin spotted an antique wooden chest at a garage sale but she’d run out of money. The owners said they’d hold it but when she returned with the money the chest was gone—sold to another buyer. We tried to track it down for her through this column and we did receive a lot of inquires from folks wanting to know the outcome—but it was not to be. The chest is still MIA.

Sharin has four children and the youngest just started kindergarten so she was searching for something to fill her time and it looks like she’s found it. She’s even turned her hobby into a business. She’s now selling appliquéés from her Web site—shabbyrosedecor.com and she’s hoping the business develops into something even bigger. “I would love to see my business grow and see my appliquéés in a store like, Target. That would be really cool. But it’s a hobby and I enjoy it and if nothing happens that’s okay, too.”



(pic by Lynda Hammond) Sharin Louis, of Mesa, shows off one of her prized possessions from a garage sale. She paid just \$60 for the buffet hutch and spruced it up with paint and appliques. Sharin enjoys turning furniture from unsightly to shabby chic so much so she's turned the hobby into a business.

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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