

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Old frames make for the write stuff

Lynda Hammond

If Stephanie Jacobson spots a wooden picture frame at a garage sale and the price is right she snaps it up lickety-split. “I often look for large decorative frames, maybe older ones that need some work,” Stephanie says. She then spruces them up, turns them into works of art, and puts them up for sale.

And when I walked up to her garage sale in Mesa a few weeks ago I was immediately drawn to one of her creations---a long chalkboard with a wooden frame that had been painted pink and then lightly distressed with sand paper —think “shabby chic”. “I love to ‘upcycle’—which basically means taking something old and making it fabulous.”

Stephanie’s foray into upcycling all started when she was browsing a high-end store and came home with—not with packages—but ideas. “I see things I like and think ‘Wow, I can make one of those’,” Stephanie says. That’s exactly what she did when she spotted a large wooden fancy-framed chalkboard. In the store it was too expensive at \$175. So, the mother of three—including twin 4 year olds—searched garage sales and thrift stores for the goods to make one. She found a large frame for just \$8 at Goodwill, painted it, added a piece a sheet metal, sprayed it with chalkboard paint and viola—she has a beautiful large decorative chalkboard framed functional piece of art in her kitchen. The board is also magnetic thanks to the metal backing she applied.

At her garage sale she took me inside her home so I could see her first crack at creating something out of nearly nothing. I loved the huge black chalkboard which hangs over the kitchen island where the whole family can see it. There are notes to other family members, reminders and recipes and such.

The former teacher has made so many blackboards that she had to start getting rid of them so she began by selling to family members and friends. Now, you can chalk one up for Stephanie--- thanks to word of mouth business is picking up. Stephanie made four last week and each sold for \$60.

She’s also branching out into other woods and even metals. She turns ceiling tiles into picture frames. And one of her biggest projects included a coffee table she bought at a garage sale for just \$7. “The minute I saw it I knew it was ugly but I knew I could make it look really nice.” After some sanding, painting and staining it is now an expensive looking piece of furniture. She’s selling it for \$125.

If you want to see the coffee table and more, check out Stephanie’s blog at RestoreAndAdore.blogspot.com

And if you want to try your hand at making your own chalkboard here are the basics:

Creating a Chalkboard

Start with a wooden frame, any size. Paint or stain it. Give it a distressed look by lightly sanding. Buy a piece of sheet metal at the hardware store (this will serve as the back of your frame, too). Pick up some chalkboard spray paint and paint the metal. Attach the metal to your frame with glue or small nails and viola you have yourself a functional magnetic, chalkboard. Stephanie says you can also use wood for the backing, painting it with magnetic spray paint but she finds that combination doesn't work as well as using metal for the back.



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) What started out as an old, inexpensive picture frame from a garage sale is now something Stephanie Jacobson 'upcycled' it into a chalkboard.

Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!

Do you have a question or comment about garage or estate bargain sales? Email the Garage Sale Gal: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

Lynda Hammond is the author of the new book, [The Garage Sale Gal's Guide to Making Money Off Your Stuff](#), available everywhere books are sold. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

#####