

## *Garage Sale Gal*

### *Apple Corer Lynda Hammond*

If there's one thing I've learned from going to garage sales it's that I need to keep my eyes and ears open at all times. Listen to the chatter at a bargain hunt and you'll discover plenty. My favorite phrase is something I often overhear a seller say as I'm walking up to a sale: "I *just* want to get rid of it." Ah...music to my ears.

So, Garage Sale Gal rule #565: eavesdrop. I know, it's not polite and definitely a no-no according to "Miss Manners" AKA Emily Post but it's worth it. For me it's a great way to get stories for this column and find a hidden bargain.

Paying attention at one sale helped me to find something I might have otherwise passed up. You see, I had no clue what this thing I needed looked like.

Confused? Well, let me back up.

So, I'm at a garage sale in Chandler talking to the sellers when a potential buyer held up some sort of "gizmo"—a piece of wood with steel, drill-like components attached. "How much is this?" the would-be buyer asked. "Five dollars," the seller replied. I had no clue what it was but my curiosity got the best of me; "Okay, I give up. What is it, I asked?" Turns out it was something I needed. Something I'd been told to buy if I ever saw one at a garage sale.

"I knew if I told you what I wanted you'd be able to find it for me," Laura Livnat says.

What my friend, Laura wanted was an apple peeler/corer combo. Laura, who lives in Salt Lake City has huge apple trees—Macintosh and Golden Delicious-- in her backyard. She was making pies with her son, 9-year-old Dan when her newly-store bought peeler broke mid-peel. She wanted a better, high quality peeler but didn't want to pay full price. She doesn't garage sale so she turned to me hoping I could find one at a bargain price.

I must confess I'm not much of a kitchen gal so I wouldn't know an apple peeler if they grew on trees along with the Granny Smiths. I still blame my lack of kitchen knowledge on the fact that my Mom refused to buy me an avocado green Easy-Bake Oven in the mid-1960s when I was a kid. "Use the big oven" she'd tell me. As an adult, I've started two kitchen fires—once when I was boiling noodles for lasagne and another time when I was preparing chicken. I think Mom wishes she'd sprung for that Easy-Bake!

Anyway, back to the apple peeler at the garage sale. Turns out it was a like-new peeler/corer made by Pampered Chef—a company known for its quality kitchen items. The person who asked about the peeler said she wasn't going to buy it so I snapped it up for a steal of a deal. "I thought you might be able to find one but I wasn't completely sure. But I'm happy with the peeler. What a bargain," Laura said. The busy soft-ware engineer says her new \$5 gadget is a real time saver. She can peel and core apples for two pies in less than ten minutes now compared to about a half hour without the garage sale find.

So, the moral of this story—if you're asked to look for something at a garage sale—make sure you know what it looks like or be like me, be nosy and keep your eyes and ears open.



(Picture provided by Lynda Hammond) It took me about a year to find an apple peeler at a garage sale for my friend, Laura Livnat.

*Lynda Hammond is the author of the book, [The Garage Sale Gal's Guide to Making Money Off Your Stuff](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com). Check out [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) for details on where to buy the book. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com).*

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