

shopgirl®

DO-IT-HERSELF HOME CARE AND REPAIR

let your light shine

Light up your life—and your rooms—with this 30-minute lamp project. Find a vase you love, then let Shopgirl Leslie Segrete show you how to transform it.

TRY THIS! TURN A VASE INTO A TABLE LAMP.
FOR INSTRUCTIONS,
TURN THE PAGE.

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For more information, turn to Sources on page 150.



PROJECT PROFILE

COST: \$110

TIME: 30 minutes,
from start to finish

SUPPLIES: vase, lamp parts (visit lampshop.com or call 603/224-1603 for help assembling what you need), 3-way light bulb, lamp shade, finial

TOOLS: phillips screwdriver, drill, masonry bit, tape measure, pencil, safety glasses



DRILLING BASICS

Here's the drill on bits.

GLASS Use a glass/tile bit, which provides smooth drilling in ceramic, mirror, marble tile, glass, and china. It has a spade-shaped carbide tip and no turns on the shaft.

WOOD Use a carbon steel forstner bit. They create clean-sided holes which are perfect for the lamp components.

METAL Use a sharp standard twist bit. If you are drilling through thick metal, place a drop of oil on the tip of the base to aid in lubrication. Use your drill on a slower speed.

THE SECRET The specific dimensions and what your lamp base is made from will affect the lamp kit and drill bit you'll need. Our lamp is made from earthenware, so we included a masonry bit in our tool list; however, your project might be different. Adapt your materials and supplies accordingly.

MAKE IT 1. Choose a vase and a wood lamp base. Figure the length of rod your lamp will require by adding the height of your vase and the height of your base, then order your lamp kit. **2.** Mark the center of the bottom of the lamp using a pencil and tape measure. **3.** Drill the hole. To choose the right drill bit, see *Drilling Basics, below left*. The hole will need to be the same diameter as the rod, shown *below*.

4. Secure the locking nut onto the lower portion of the rod and slide the rod through it and the base, starting at the top. Secure the base to the vase by screwing a hex nut onto the rod.

5. The remainder of the rod will be visible through the top of the vase. Place the threaded neck onto the rod and tighten carefully. **6.** Add the harp bottom and secure with a locking nut.

7. Add the socket; tighten. **8.** Run the cord through the base, up the rod and out the top. Wire the three-way socket to the electrical cord, wrapping one wire around each screw. Tighten with a screwdriver. **9.** Cover the socket with the socket cover; lock into place. **10.** Add harp, lightbulb, and shade.

For more lamp making basics, pick up Home Depot's Wiring 1-2-3 book.



the latest in lighting

TWO BRIGHT WAYS TO UPDATE YOUR SCHEME, AND ONE BIG REASON WHY YOU SHOULD. (HINT: MONEY IN YOUR POCKET.)

DIM THE LIGHTS. Install Lutron's Skylark EcoDim (*top*) and you'll reduce your energy use by 10 percent and double the life of your incandescent bulb. SHOP IT: The Home Depot; \$27.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BULBS.

CFLs, or compact fluorescent lamps, are the buzz-worthy, low-voltage curly bulbs on a "green" mission: to replace the classic incandescent. The latest feature the same CFL curly tube, but are encased in covers (*above*), making them compatible with tricky-to-fit fixtures or those with exposed bulbs. The light quality has improved also, closing the gap on incandescents. SHOP IT: GE's dimmable CFL (available at Target; \$xx) or n:Vision (available at The Home Depot; starting at \$xx).

THE SAVINGS. The average home has between 55 and 100 bulbs. Switch to CFLs and you can expect to save \$5,000 in energy costs over the next 5 years.