

# idea notebook

DIY on a dime, how to wake up any wall, and small-space gardening solutions

## Get Crafty!

Four easy projects that put a fresh face on spring

The best source for colorful, pre-blown eggs: Brackenridgeranch.com (from 85 cents)

## Exquisite Easter eggs—instantly

The secret behind these botanical beauties? Temporary tattoo paper (\$19.95 for five 8½"W x 11"L sheets; [decalfpaper.com](http://decalfpaper.com)). Begin by downloading free images from [graphicsfairy.blogspot.com](http://graphicsfairy.blogspot.com) and [thevintagemoth.blogspot.com](http://thevintagemoth.blogspot.com); then arrange them in a Microsoft Word document, resizing each to fit on an egg. Print the images on tattoo paper, cut them out, and adhere to blown-out eggs, following package instructions.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY BURCU AVSAR; STYLING BY HILARY ROBERTSON



## Get your ducks in a row with adorable wipe-off tags.

Dry-erase paint gives simple wooden animal shapes new purpose (*paint*, \$24.35 for 27 ounces; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Wooden ducks, \$8.25 for 25; [craftparts.com](http://craftparts.com)). Drill a small hole near the top of one duck, as shown. Following package instructions for the dry-erase paint, cover the front and back of the duck with three coats, allowing at least 30 minutes of drying time after each coat. Let cure for two days. Thread a length of string through the hole and use a dry-erase marker to write a child's name on the tag before hanging it on an Easter basket.



## Candles that go out like a lamb

Inspired by a project on curly birds.typepad.com, this gentle flock comes together easily with a sheet of white beeswax, a miniature lamb cookie cutter, and wire wick (beeswax, \$3.60 for one 8"W x 16"L sheet; [discountcandleshop.com](http://discountcandleshop.com). 1¼" cookie cutter, \$1.89; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Wick, 63 cents for four feet; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)). To make each candle, press the cutter into the wax; repeat twice more to create three wax layers. Cut a one-inch piece of wick and sandwich it between two wax layers, so half the wick extends above the wax. Place a toothpick atop the sandwiched layers so that it aligns with the wick but does not extend above the wax. Top with the third wax layer, then carefully press all three together before sticking the candle in a sweet treat.





## Give plain placemats garden-party polish.

The main ingredients for this visual feast: silk flowers, like French tulips and dogwood blossoms, plus natural-colored placemats (flowers, from \$6.99; [pyob.com](http://pyob.com). Placemats, \$6.95 each; [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com)).

**STEP ONE** Cut each flower off its stem, trimming the back side so it lies flat.

**STEP TWO** Using our photo as a guide, experiment with flower placement on the left side of the mats. Once you're satisfied with the arrangements, use chalk to sketch a stem, leaves, or branches. Mark where each flower will go, then set the flowers aside.

**STEP THREE** Using a needle and green or brown embroidery floss, follow the chalk marks with running stitches.

**STEP FOUR** Attach the flowers with large nylon snaps (*Collins snaps*, \$1.58 for six; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)). At each marked spot, hand-stitch the socket part of a snap onto the placemat. Next, hot-glue the ball part of the snap to the underside of the flower. Let dry for three minutes before snapping the flower onto the placemat. (Note: Simply snap off each flower before dry-cleaning or washing the placemats by hand.)