CRAFTED WITH LOVE

THE DIY WEDDING WORKBOOK

Handmade Decor • Smart Sourcing • Beautiful Results



PLAN • CREATE • SAVE • CELEBRATE

A Practical Workbook *for the* Creative Bride

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WELCOME TO YOUR HANDMADE WEDDING

Beautiful does not have to mean expensive — and handmade does not have to mean overwhelming.

THE GOAL

Create a wedding that feels personal, beautiful, and realistic for your budget, time, and energy.



CREATE WITH PURPOSE

Choose DIY projects that add meaning or visual impact.



SPEND WITH INTENTION

Compare the real cost before deciding to make or buy.



PROTECT YOUR TIME

Finish important projects early and release the rest.

MY DIY WEDDING PROMISE

I want our wedding to feel...

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HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Work through the decisions before you start buying supplies.

1.

1. DREAM

Define how you want the wedding to look and feel.



2.

2. DECIDE

Choose what to make, buy, borrow, rent, or skip.



3.

3. PRICE

Estimate the real cost of every DIY project.



4.

4. PLAN

Give each project a realistic deadline.



5.

5. DELEGATE

Decide what others can make, move, organize, or set up.



REMEMBER

A handmade wedding is successful because it feels personal — not because you made everything yourself.

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Dream it. *Simplify* it. *Make what matters.*

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OUR WEDDING VISION

Start with the feeling before choosing the decorations.

We want our wedding to feel...

We want our guests to remember...

Three words that describe us

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What matters more than decor?

Our Vision in One Sentence

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WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Choose the five areas that deserve the most attention.

- [ ] Ceremony atmosphere
- [ ] Photography
- [ ] Flowers
- [ ] Food
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Guest comfort
- [ ] Table decor
- [ ] Wedding attire
- [ ] Personal details
- [ ] Signage
- [ ] Venue
- [ ] Entertainment
- [ ] Handmade keepsakes
- [ ] Other: _____

OUR TOP FIVE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

IF TIME OR MONEY GETS TIGHT...

The three things we will protect are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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DIY Budget Reality Check

Decide what you are comfortable spending before the craft-store trips begin.



- Total wedding budget: $_____
- Amount available for decor and details: $_____
- Maximum amount we want to spend on DIY projects: $_____
- Amount already spent on supplies: $_____

What DIY Should Help Us Do

- ☐ Save money
- ☐ Personalize the wedding
- ☐ Use items we already own
- ☐ Create meaningful keepsakes
- ☐ Spend time together
- ☐ Replace expensive decor
- ☐ Something else: _____



If Time or Money Gets Tight...

The three things we will protect are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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My DIY Comfort Zone

Be realistic about what you enjoy and what you can comfortably complete.

	LOW				HIGH
Crafting experience	1	2	3	4	5
Available free time	1	2	3	4	5
Workspace at home	1	2	3	4	5
Storage space	1	2	3	4	5
Comfort asking for help	1	2	3	4	5

I ENJOY MAKING

I WOULD RATHER AVOID

MY BEST DIY PROJECTS WILL PROBABLY BE...

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Find Your DIY-Friendly Wedding Style

Circle or check the words that feel most like your wedding.

☐ Romantic	☐ Rustic	☐ Garden
☐ Vintage	☐ Modern	☐ Bohemian
☐ Classic	☐ Cottage	☐ Minimal
☐ Whimsical	☐ Natural	☐ Elegant
☐ Casual	☐ Backyard	☐ Farmhouse
☐ Woodland	☐ Coastal	☐ Festive

Our Five Best Style Words

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Style We Are Not Trying to Create

_____

_____

_____

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Theme Fit Test

Test your favorite wedding idea before committing to it.



Theme or style idea: _____

	YES	MAYBE	NO
Does it fit our venue?	☐	☐	☐
Can we source the materials affordably?	☐	☐	☐
Can some decor be reused?	☐	☐	☐
Can we create the look without dozens of projects?	☐	☐	☐
Does it still feel like us?	☐	☐	☐
Will we still like it years from now?	☐	☐	☐

OUR DECISION

☐ Use this theme ☐ Simplify this theme ☐ Keep looking

What we would change:

_____

_____

_____

_____



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Colors, Materials & Textures

A limited palette makes handmade projects look intentional.

Our Colors

1 2 3 4 5

Materials That Fit Our Look


☐ Kraft paper


☐ Ribbon


☐ Metal


☐ Wood


☐ Twine


☐ Dried flowers


☐ Glass


☐ Linen


☐ Fresh greenery


☐ Lace


☐ Cotton


☐ Cardstock

☐ Other: _____

Three Materials We Will Use Repeatedly

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

Focus your handmade effort where people will actually experience it.

WHEN GUESTS ARRIVE...

What should they see or feel?

DURING THE CEREMONY...

What details matter?

DURING THE RECEPTION...

What will make the space feel special?

WHEN THEY LEAVE...

What final impression do we want?

OUR THREE HIGHEST-IMPACT DIY OPPORTUNITIES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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DECOR ZONES THAT MATTER

Not every corner of the wedding needs decoration.



AREA	HIGH IMPACT?	DIY IDEA
Ceremony entrance	☐	_____
Ceremony backdrop	☐	_____
Aisle	☐	_____
Welcome table	☐	_____
Guest tables	☐	_____
Sweetheart table	☐	_____
Food or dessert area	☐	_____
Bar	☐	_____
Photo area	☐	_____
Exit	☐	_____

THE THREE AREAS WE WILL DECORATE FIRST

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Make, Buy, Borrow, Rent or Skip?

Every wedding item needs a decision — not necessarily a purchase.

MAKE



Best when handmade adds meaning or saves enough to be worthwhile.

BUY



Best when the finished item costs less than the supplies or saves valuable time.

BORROW



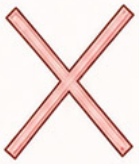
Best for common items friends or family already own.

RENT



Best for bulky items you do not want to store.

SKIP



Best when the wedding works perfectly well without it.

ONE THING I CAN STOP ASSUMING I NEED

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The Make-or-Buy Test

Item or project: _____

IF I MAKE IT

Estimated supplies: $ _____

Estimated hours: _____

Number needed: _____

Skill level: Easy / Medium / Hard

Storage needed: Low / Medium / High

VS.

IF I BUY IT

Purchase price: $ _____

Shipping: $ _____

Customization available? Yes / No

Ready to use? Yes / No

WHAT MATTERS MOST?

- ☐ Lower cost
- ☐ Professional finish
- ☐ Saving time
- ☐ Personal meaning
- ☐ Customization

DECISION

- ☐ MAKE
- ☐ BUY
- ☐ RESEARCH MORE

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MY DIY SHORTLIST



Choose projects worth your time before buying supplies.

PROJECT	WHY MAKE IT?	QUANTITY	PRIORITY
			High / Medium / Low
			High / Medium / Low
			High / Medium / Low
			High / Medium / Low
			High / Medium / Low
			High / Medium / Low
			High / Medium / Low

IF I COULD ONLY FINISH THREE...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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MY BUY-IT LIST

Buying the right things can protect both your budget and your time.

ITEM	WHY BUY?	TARGET PRICE	WHERE TO LOOK

BUY INSTEAD OF DIY WHEN...

- ☐ The supply cost is almost the same
- ☐ I need a professional finish
- ☐ I need a large quantity
- ☐ The project would take too long
- ☐ The item is easy to find secondhand

THE PURCHASE THAT WILL SAVE ME THE MOST STRESS

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BORROW, RENT & REUSE

BORROW

Who might already have it?



RENT

What is too bulky or expensive to own?



REUSE

What can serve more than one purpose during the wedding?



SMART REUSE IDEA

One item we could move or repurpose between the ceremony and reception:

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CREATIVE SUBSTITUTION LAB

Ask what else could create the same effect.

Expensive Idea	What I Really Like About It	Simpler Substitute	Possible Savings

Think Beyond the Wedding Aisle

Home decor • thrift stores • craft stores • dollar stores • fabric remnants • garden centers • family collections • marketplace finds

My Best Substitute Idea

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DIY SUPPLY COST ESTIMATOR

Project: _____

SUPPLY	QUANTITY	COST EACH	TOTAL

Supply subtotal: $ _____

Shipping or pickup: $ _____

Extra materials: $ _____

Estimated project total: $ _____

Number of finished pieces: _____

Estimated cost per piece: $ _____

DOES THIS STILL FEEL WORTH MAKING?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Compare with buying

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HIDDEN DIY COSTS

The first supply list is rarely the whole cost.



- [ ] Glue or adhesive
- [ ] Replacement blades
- [ ] Paintbrushes
- [ ] Printer ink
- [ ] Special paper
- [ ] Cutting tools
- [ ] Packaging
- [ ] Shipping
- [ ] Test materials
- [ ] Broken or imperfect pieces
- [ ] Storage containers
- [ ] Transportation boxes
- [ ] Last-minute replacement supplies
- [ ] Extra quantities

PROJECT I NEED TO REPRICE

Project: _____

Original estimate: $ _____

Revised estimate: $ _____

WHAT CHANGED?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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DIY vs. Purchased Cost Comparison





Item: _____

DIY OPTION

Materials: $ _____

Tools: $ _____

Shipping: $ _____

Extras: $ _____

Estimated hours: _____

TOTAL: $ _____

VS.

PURCHASED OPTION

Item cost: $ _____

Customization: $ _____

Shipping: $ _____

Other fees: $ _____

Estimated hours saved: _____

TOTAL: $ _____

THE BETTER CHOICE FOR US

☐ DIY ☐ PURCHASE ☐ SIMPLIFY THE IDEA

Why? _____

_____

_____

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Smart Sourcing Plan

Decide where to look before paying full price.





ITEM	FIRST PLACE TO LOOK	BACKUP SOURCE	MAX PRICE
1.			$ _____
2.			$ _____
3.			$ _____
4.			$ _____
5.			$ _____
6.			$ _____
7.			$ _____
8.			$ _____

PLACES TO CHECK

- ☐ Items already at home
- ☐ Friends and family
- ☐ Thrift stores
- ☐ Facebook Marketplace
- ☐ Local resale groups
- ☐ Craft stores
- ☐ Dollar stores
- ☐ Online marketplaces
- ☐ Bulk suppliers
- ☐ After-season clearance

MY BEST SOURCE FOR REUSABLE DECOR

_____

_____

_____

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Coupons, Bulk Buys & Shared Supplies





WAIT FOR A SALE

Supplies I do not need immediately:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

BUY IN BULK

Items used across several projects:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SHARE OR BORROW

Tools I only need once:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

BULK IS ONLY A BARGAIN IF I WILL USE IT.

One purchase I should wait on: _____

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Make One Before You Make Fifty

Test the idea before buying supplies for the entire wedding.





Project: _____

MY SAMPLE TEST

- ☐ Was it easy to make? _____
- ☐ Did it look like I expected? _____
- ☐ Did the materials work? _____
- ☐ Was the finished size right? _____
- ☐ Did it take longer than expected? _____
- ☐ Can helpers repeat the process? _____
- ☐ Will it survive storage and transport? _____

TIME TO MAKE ONE: _____ minutes

ESTIMATED QUANTITY: _____

ESTIMATED TOTAL HOURS: _____

VERDICT

☐ Make as planned ☐ Simplify ☐ Buy instead ☐ Skip

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Complete DIY Project Inventory



PROJECT	QTY.	STATUS	DEADLINE	OWNER
1.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
2.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
3.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
4.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
5.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
6.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
7.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
8.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
9.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		
10.		Not Started / Testing / Making / Finished		

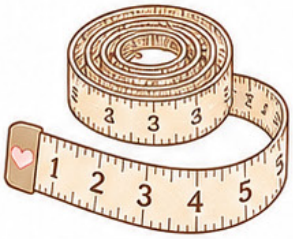
TOTAL DIY PROJECTS: _____

FEWER FINISHED PROJECTS ARE
BETTER THAN TOO MANY HALF-FINISHED ONES.

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Project Complexity Score





Project: _____

Rate each factor from 1 to 5.

FACTOR	RATE (CIRCLE ONE)
Skill required	1 2 3 4 5
Time required	1 2 3 4 5
Number needed	1 2 3 4 5
Mess or cleanup	1 2 3 4 5
Storage difficulty	1 2 3 4 5
Transportation difficulty	1 2 3 4 5
Wedding-day setup	1 2 3 4 5

TOTAL SCORE: _____

7–14	15–24	25–35
EASY TO MANAGE	PLAN CAREFULLY	SIMPLIFY OR RECONSIDER

WHAT COULD MAKE THIS PROJECT EASIER?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Build Your Craft Timeline



Finish projects according to how well they store.

MAKE EARLY

Projects that can safely be finished months ahead.

MAKE MIDWAY

Projects that need final counts or details.

MAKE LATE

Projects using fresh, fragile, or date-sensitive materials.

DO NOT DIY DURING WEDDING WEEK

My Ideal Date to Finish Most DIY Projects

Date: _____

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12–8 WEEKS BEFORE

Finish the projects that store well.

- [ ] Finalize DIY project list
- [ ] Complete prototypes
- [ ] Purchase main supplies
- [ ] Finish signs that do not contain final numbers
- [ ] Complete reusable decor
- [ ] Paint or stain wood projects
- [ ] Prepare containers and display pieces
- [ ] Schedule helper craft sessions
- [ ] Label finished project storage

PROJECTS I WILL FINISH DURING THIS STAGE

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: _____

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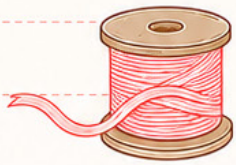
7–4 Weeks Before

Move from experimenting to finishing.





- [ ] Confirm quantities
- [ ] Complete remaining paper projects
- [ ] Assemble table decor
- [ ] Finish favors that store safely
- [ ] Prepare display signs
- [ ] Package projects by wedding area
- [ ] Write setup instructions
- [ ] Assign transportation responsibilities



PROJECTS FOR THIS STAGE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WHAT MUST BE COMPLETELY FINISHED BEFORE THE FINAL THREE WEEKS?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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The Final Three Weeks

This is finishing time —
not idea-adding time.



FINISH

- [ ] Final labels
- [ ] Final quantities
- [ ] Packaging
- [ ] Touch-ups
- [ ] Setup instructions
- [ ] Transport boxes

DO NOT START

- [ ] New decor categories
- [ ] Complicated tutorials
- [ ] Large quantity projects
- [ ] Projects requiring new tools
- [ ] Projects you no longer enjoy
- [ ] Ideas saved at the last minute

My No-New-Projects Date

Date: _____

After this date, a new idea must replace
an existing project — not become another project.

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Who Can Help?

Match people with jobs they will actually enjoy.



Helper	Good At	Available When	Best Role

Possible Helper Roles

- ☐ Cutting
- ☐ Assembly
- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Lettering
- ☐ Shopping
- ☐ Packing
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Setup
- ☐ Cleanup

One Job I Do Not Need to Do Myself

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CRAFT PARTY PLAN

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

PROJECTS WE WILL WORK ON

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

BEFORE EVERYONE ARRIVES

- ☐ Make a finished sample
- ☐ Pre-cut materials when possible
- ☐ Set out tools
- ☐ Sort supplies by project
- ☐ Print simple instructions
- ☐ Create a finished-project box

WHO IS COMING?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Our finish goal for the day: _____

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Project Instruction Card

Project: _____

Quantity needed: _____

Finished by: _____



Supplies

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Steps

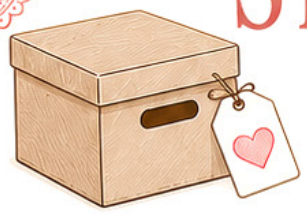
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Finished Pieces Go Here

Attach one finished sample whenever possible.

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Store, Label & Protect



Finished does not help if no one can find it.



BOX	CONTENTS	WEDDING AREA	FRAGILE?	WHO NEEDS IT?
			♡	
			♡	
			♡	
			♡	
			♡	
			♡	
			♡	

Packing Rules

- [ ] Label every box
- [ ] Keep matching items together
- [ ] Photograph fragile arrangements
- [ ] Protect painted surfaces
- [ ] Keep setup tools with the project
- [ ] Mark boxes needed first



Our Storage Location





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Wedding-Day Transport & Setup



ITEM	TRAVELS WITH	SETUP BY	SETUP LOCATION

Tools to Pack

- [ ] Scissors
- [ ] Tape
- [ ] Command hooks
- [ ] Zip ties
- [ ] Safety pins
- [ ] Glue dots
- [ ] Marker
- [ ] Extra ribbon
- [ ] Small repair kit

The Person Who Can Answer Setup Questions

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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Venue & Vendor Reality Check

Check the rules before building the project.



- [ ] Open flames allowed? _____
- [ ] Candles must be enclosed? _____
- [ ] Items may be attached to walls? _____
- [ ] Confetti allowed? _____
- [ ] Fresh petals allowed? _____
- [ ] Setup time limited? _____
- [ ] Cleanup required? _____
- [ ] Outdoor decor must be secured? _____
- [ ] Electrical outlets available? _____
- [ ] Vendor approval required? _____

Setup begins: _____

Everything must be removed by: _____

DIY Idea That May Need to Change

_____

_____

_____

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STOP THE LAST-MINUTE OVERWHELM

When time gets short, simplify the project — not your peace.

1.	Will guests notice if this is missing?	YES ☐	NO ☐
2.	Can it realistically be finished in one session?	YES ☐	NO ☐
3.	Do I already have the supplies?	YES ☐	NO ☐
4.	Can someone else finish it correctly?	YES ☐	NO ☐

FINISH IT



DELEGATE IT



SIMPLIFY IT



LET IT GO



THE PROJECT I AM GIVING MYSELF PERMISSION TO RELEASE

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Final DIY Project Review



PROJECT	DONE	PACKED	ASSIGNED	NEEDS ACTION
1.	☐	☐	☐	
2.	☐	☐	☐	
3.	☐	☐	☐	
4.	☐	☐	☐	
5.	☐	☐	☐	
6.	☐	☐	☐	
7.	☐	☐	☐	
8.	☐	☐	☐	
9.	☐	☐	☐	
10.	☐	☐	☐	

ANYTHING STILL UNFINISHED?

- ☐ No — we are finished.
- ☐ Yes — but it is manageable.
- ☐ Yes — and I will simplify or remove it.

**FROM THIS POINT FORWARD,
MY JOB IS TO ENJOY THE WEDDING —
NOT INVENT MORE DECOR.**

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Wedding-Day Handoff



Someone besides the bride should know where everything goes.

Setup leader: _____

Backup person: _____

Decor storage location: _____

Emergency supply box location: _____

THESE PEOPLE HANDLE...

- Ceremony decor _____
- Reception decor _____
- Table details _____
- Signs _____
- Favors _____
- End-of-night packing _____

MY ROLE ON THE WEDDING DAY

Get married. Celebrate. Enjoy what we created.

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Crafted with Love

Your wedding does not have to be perfect
to be beautifully yours.



The DIY Project I am Most Proud of

The Smartest Money-Saving Decision We Made

The Thing I am Glad We Did Not Try to Do

Our Handmade Wedding in Three Words

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Ready to Celebrate

- ♡ Important projects are finished.
- ♡ Everything is packed.
- ♡ Helpers know their roles.
- ♡ I am done adding projects.

Now enjoy the day you worked so lovingly to create.

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MY TOTAL DIY WEDDING BUDGET

Bring all of your DIY project costs together in one place.

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	ACTUAL COST	PURCHASE ALTERNATIVE	SAVED / SPENT MORE

Compare what DIY actually cost with what a similar finished item would have cost to purchase.

MY DIY BUDGET SUMMARY

Total DIY budget: $_____

Total estimated DIY cost: $_____

Total actual DIY cost: $_____

Amount remaining: $_____

OVERALL, DID DIY SAVE US MONEY?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ About the same

OUR BEST MONEY-SAVING DIY PROJECT

_____

_____

_____

The project we would probably buy instead if we did it again:

_____

_____

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