

Denise Corcoran (aka Thrifty By Design) | Crafting With 'Crap'

Class 1: How to Upcycle Wine Corks Into Funky Earrings

An easy DIY/upcycling project - repurposing wine corks into swanky earrings.

SUPPLIES:

- Wine corks
- Scrap paper
- Screw-in eyelets
- Earring hooks
- Hand saw, exacto knife or bread knife
- Paintbrush
- Mod podge
- Wood varnish
- Jump rings
- Scissors
- Sponge brush

STEPS:



Repurposing wine corks is easy! First step is slicing the wine corks into thinner rounds. The rounds should be approximately 3/4" deep.



Place the side with glue onto the back of your paper then rub the paper into the cork. Let the glue dry.



You can use a hand saw, exacto knife or bread knife to cut the rounds with or without a vice. If you're lucky enough to know someone with powertools that would save you time & a bunch of hard work.



Once the Mod Podge is dry trim the excess paper from your cork. Cut along the edge of the cork so the edge of the glued paper is in line with the edge of the cork. Now add a coat of Mod Podge to the top of the paper. Allow to dry.



After you cut the rounds then use scissors to clean up the edges. Try to make one side flat.



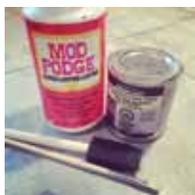
Now we get to start adding the wood varnish. I like to use a paintbrush for this step. You want to add 2-3 coats allowing for drying inbetween coats.



Find the right paper. This is Japanese wrapping paper I found stashed away. You can use old magazines, napkins or kids drawings.



I usually make a bunch of these at a time. The wood varnish is a cheap & easy way to give your cork rounds a resin you finish.



Next step is to glue the paper to the flat side of the wine cork. First you'll need Mod Podge & a sponge brush. Note: the wood varnish & a regular paintbrush you'll need later.



Once you've applied the wood varnish and it's dry, add the screw-in eyelets to the top of the cork round.



I find sponge brushes work really well when using Mod Podge. Add a coat of Mod Podge to the flat side of the cork round.



After you've added the screw-in eyelet, you can add the jump ring then earring hook. Easy peasy! You're done!