

A lamp with a clear glass base and a cream-colored fabric shade. The base is a simple, rounded glass jar with a cork stopper. A thin, light-colored cord is visible inside the glass, running from the base to the shade. The shade is a simple, cylindrical fabric lampshade with a slightly gathered top and bottom edge. The entire lamp is set against a plain, light-colored background.

WHAT TO DO WITH

# LAMP SHADES

*Turn basic into beautiful with  
10 illuminating ideas using fabric,  
paper, paint, dye, and embellishments.*

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**KNOW THE ROPES** For a quick makeover with a nod to nautical style, wrap cord around the bottom edge of a plain lampshade. Start wrapping .28-inch-diameter cord along the bottom, hot-gluing as you work around the shade. Switch colors after a few passes to create wide and narrow alternating bands of cream, white, and gold.



✦ **WE USED A LINEN-COVERED DRUM-STYLE LAMP SHADE FOR THESE PROJECTS. CHECK THE OPTIONS AT [SHADESOFLIGHT.COM](http://SHADESOFLIGHT.COM).**



**DEEPLY FELT** Folded strips of felt add color and texture via vertical stripes on this lampshade. Use a rotary cutter, straightedge, and cutting mat to make quick work of trimming 2-inch-wide strips from gray and white felt, cutting each strip 1 inch longer than the height of the shade (ours are 12 inches long). Fold each strip in half lengthwise, then hot-glue the strips to the shade along the folded edges so they extend  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch above and below the lampshade. Place the strips closely together. As you work your way around the shade, switch felt colors to create the stripes.

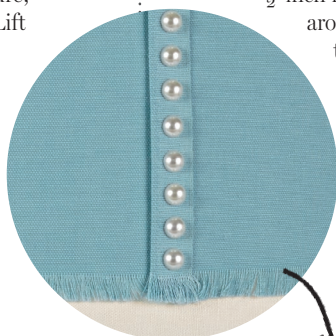




**TO DYE FOR** Give a linen lampshade a dip in a dye bath for an ombré effect. Follow the dye manufacturer's instructions to mix the dye solution (we used Rit powdered dye) in a large plastic container that is deep enough for most of the shade to fit in when laid on its side. Dip all but a few inches of the shade in the mixture, keeping the portion that you are holding out of the mixture; hold for three to four minutes. Lift the shade a few inches and hold again to create a slightly darker hue. Repeat to create the darkest area of color. Let the shade dry completely before attaching it to the lamp base.



**STRIKE UP THE BAND** A fabric band, that is. To determine the size, measure the height of the shade from top to bottom seam and subtract 2 inches. Measure the shade circumference 1 inch from both the top and bottom edges, and add 2 inches to each measurement for an overlap. Cut the fabric and pull threads from the long edges to create  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch fringe. Wrap the band around the shade, and cover the overlap with a strip of fabric with long raw edges pressed under. Embellish the strip with a row of adhesive pearls.



**SPRAY WAY** Give a lampshade a touch of can-do attitude using spray paint. Mask off a geometric pattern on the shade using 2-inch-wide painters tape, wrapping the tape ends around the top and bottom edges. Working in a well-ventilated area and holding the spray can at least 12 inches from the lampshade, lightly spray in a wide sweeping motion. Continue applying light coats of paint until desired coverage is achieved. Let dry. Peel off the tape to reveal the stripes, then use a gold paint pen to draw lines along the stripe edges.





**BUTTON UP** Pretty up a plain lampshade with a collection of buttons. Hot-glue a variety of white, cream, light gray, and gold buttons to the shade, starting at the bottom edge. Cluster the buttons, creating a wave that gradually reaches the top of the shade. To balance the design, add metallic shine with gold buttons sprinkled into the arrangement and stacked on top of other buttons.



**BRANCH OUT** Think inside the lampshade when it comes to this silhouette trick. Spray stencil adhesive to the back of a cherry branch stencil, then apply the stencil to the inside of the shade. Dab black paint into the stencil openings with a small stencil brush. Remove the stencil and let dry. Reposition and repeat the motif around the shade interior.



**THE PERFECT FIT** Give a lampshade the slip by pulling a T-shirt dress over it. Wrap the dress hem around the bottom of the shade and hot-glue it in place on the inside. Arrange the dress fabric around the shade, scrunching it to create folds. When happy with the look, trim the dress 1 inch above the top edge of the shade and hot-glue the cut edge to the inside of the shade. Tip: Size small, stretchy dresses work best for a snug fit.



THE STENCILED MOTIF APPEARS SOFT AND SUBDUED FROM THE OUTSIDE.





**PLAYING THE BLUES** Rows of paper hexagons, punched from light and dark shades of solid blue cardstock, create an ombré effect on this shade. Cut five lengths of cotton cord to fit around the shade, allowing for overlaps; hot-glue the cords to the shade 2 to 2½ inches apart. Punch enough 1½-inch hexagons to fit end to end on each row, and fold each shape in half from point to point. Place a dot of hot glue at the center on the fold and adhere the hexagon to the cord with the fold vertical. Continue adding hexagons, spacing them so they are end to end when flattened. Position hexagons so they are staggered and the rows are arranged from light to dark.



**ROOM TO BLOOM** Plant a garden of graphic blooms around a lampshade using colorful scalloped circles and a paint pen. Punch an assortment of 1-inch and 1½-inch scalloped circles from several shades of pink, blue, and gold cardstock. Draw brown wavy stems and branches about two-thirds of the way up the shade sides, then hot-glue the punched circles to the branch ends. Tip: If you're hesitant to draw the stems freehand, make a paper pattern, tape it to the inside of the shade, and trace the lines with the paint pen.

