



## EDITOR DIY



**KAI ETHIER**  
Assistant Design Editor

# The Bright Stuff

**PROJECT:** Paint picture mats for a mod take on the gallery wall.

Pairing the painted mats with a Platner armchair in a kicky fuchsia complements the bold look. **Chair**, Hollace Cluny; **pillow fabric**, Romo; **pillow sewing**, Tonic Living; **table**, Avenue Road; **rug**, Ecarpet Gallery; **flooring**, Kentwood; **frames**, Ikea; **paint colours** (clockwise from top left), Babouche (223), Brassica (271), Rectory Red (217), Arsenic (214), St Giles Blue (280), Brinjal (222), Nancy's Blushes (278), Charlotte's Locks (268), Drawing Room Blue (253), Farrow & Ball.



Mix in a few pastels and darker shades to keep the look from getting too loud



DIFFICULTY LEVEL

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

Frames with mats, sample pots of paint, paintbrush, paint roller

Watching the classic 1958 film *Indiscreet*, I fell in love with the grid of frames with brightly coloured mats and black and white sketches in Ingrid Bergman's character's London flat. I had a collection of black and white paintings to hang, so I decided to create my own mid-century modern-inspired display. Here's how:

- 1. Choose frames and remove mats** Pick several plain black or white frames, remove the mats and set frames aside. (You could use a wood-toned or coloured frame, but I liked the contrast of the graphic black frame against the vivid hue of the mat.)
- 2. Pick paint colours** I selected a different bright colour for each frame so that the finished project would have a big impact, but you could choose a few colours that are variations on one shade — whatever works best with your decor.
- 3. Paint mats** Give each mat a first coat of paint with a small paintbrush. While the paint is still wet, gently go over it with a small paint roller to even out the colour and smooth any visible brushstrokes. Let dry, then apply at least one more coat using the same technique. (Some of my darker hues required a third coat.) Repeat with a different paint colour for each mat.
- 4. Reassemble frames** Once all mats have dried, place the mats and artwork in the frames and hang. I filled my frames with simple botanical silhouettes, but you could use line drawings or black and white photos — anything with a simple subject in black and white.



I used water-based interior paint that I had left over from another project, but you could use exterior paint or acrylic craft paint, too.



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