



Get organized by using your stuff unusually: CDs & Jewel Cases

August 25th, 2010 5:16 am ET

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There are many ways to use those old CDs you don't listen to anymore, so get creative!

Photo: web urbanist photo

You've finally taken the time to clear out your attic, basement, garage, and the spare "catch-all" bedroom. You've taken your "donate" pile to your favorite charity, thrown out your "trash" pile, and now have the "keepers" to organize. This series offers ideas for using some of your keepers creatively, all around your home.

Compact Discs

- Tie them to tree branches to keep birds away from seedlings and plants.
- Cover one side with felt and place under breakable figurines so they don't scratch the furniture, candles to catch the drips, or beverages as funky coasters.
- Make an iridescent snowman with your children by gluing together CDs and decorating with other "found" items: buttons, felt, macaroni, etc. Other wintertime decorations: tree and wreath, both fun to hang plain or decorated. And, decorate individual CDs with costume jewelry and other objects using hot glue to create individual tree decorations that are also weatherproof.
- Make a modern-looking CD (shiny) switchplate using a drill and a dremel tool.
- Keep one or two CDs in a daypack or backpack for hiking - the shiny side makes a lighter, more durable reflector of light than a mirror.
- For a "floating" contemporary-looking wall clock, select a center space on a wall to install large clock hands, then place 12 CDs in a circle around the hands to represent the numbers. If you need to see the numbers, attach craft-store numbers, or home-made numbers, to the center of each CD.
- If you work in a cubicle with your back to the hallway, attach a CD, shiny side out, to an upper corner of your computer monitor so you can see without turning around.

For more CD ideas, link to [Hints and Things](#).

CD "Jewel" Cases

- They're just the right size to open, flip backward, and make a recipe holder for your kitchen counter. Use the same idea to make mini-calendar or photo display, the perfect size for a desk.
- Keep pressed leaves or flowers organized in these cases.
- Help your children make mini-books or albums using case-size photos and pages.
- Make a grouping of your favorite music - CD liners in the cases arranged any way you like - to hang on the wall.

See additional ideas for CD jewel cases, with photos, at [curbly.com](#).

Share your ideas for re-using CDs and CD jewel cases here, and click on "subscribe" to be notified of future Get Organized articles.