

Budget bedroom updates

Written by Marcia Humphrey
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I stopped by Macy's Furniture Showroom in Bloomington to check on a kitchen table that I had seen online (*it was on sale, of course*). While I was waiting for my salesperson to check whether they would meet or beat their competitor's (*even cheaper*

) price, I wandered up to the clearance area. Leaning on the wall, straight ahead was a stylish two-tone headboard with my name written all over it—I had been looking for a new, low-cost one for a while. Upon further inspection, I was delighted to discover that it was a steal—its price of \$90 was scribbled on the large red attached sticker!

Score!

Long story short, I excitedly paid for my headboard, and began to make mental notes about how I would maximize my mini bedroom makeover project. Now that it's springtime, and most of the snow has melted, you may be itching to do the same. Even if you only have a small budget to work with, you can achieve big results in the bedroom, (*which may set the stage for more 'big bedroom results*

'). Take cues from my mini makeover ideas and see how they may inspire your own creative juices.

If you have just \$25, think paint—it can completely transform a space. A gallon will usually cover one room, but if you have commitment issues, consider painting a single wall in a coordinating accent color—the one the headboard rests on. Plants are another way to get a big bang for your buck. I just stopped by Home Depot [www.homedepot.com], and saw a good variety of tropical floor plants for only \$9.99 each. Also featured were five-foot palm trees for only \$19.99. Not only will you have a fresh look, the plants can help naturally filter the air.

If you have just \$50, consider stopping by Ikea [www.ikea.com], for a duvet cover. By sliding your old bedding into the duvet cover, you have instant gratification for only about \$39.99. Many styles are available and they include matching pillowcases. For prices starting at \$15, you could breathe new life into your bedding with luxurious, textured accent pillows. Another high-impact option for your bedroom is an accent rug. Find great selections at your local discount retailer Target or Walmart and don't forget Craigslist or your local consignment shops.

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If you have just \$100, with a little patience, you could snag a headboard (*like me*)—new or used, either works. If it's used, remember the power of paint can bring dramatic new energy. The same can be said about a pair of lamps or side tables. Remember, they don't have to be matchy-matchy; add a little pizzazz. As long as they are the same scale, it keeps the look more interesting.

So, you see, you can do a lot with a little. When it comes to refreshing your bedroom, or any room, relatively small changes can make a huge impact. The key is to always keep your eyes open for a good deal; they usually surface when you least expect it. Also, have patience and compare prices, and then you'll know when to make your move. After your hard work is complete, you can then unwind and relax in your newly updated retreat. Enjoy!

Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at low costs. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.