

## Making the most of the hot glue gun

Written by Marcia Humphrey  
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My son, Landon, and his second grade class just did a science project. They were assigned an animal to research—Landon's was the cheetah. Using clay, the children created a small replica of their animal and then recreated the animal's natural habitat inside of a shoebox, using their imaginations, plus crayons, paint, construction paper, and anything else they could think of. While I didn't want to be one of those 'helicopter moms' (you know, they hover over their kid, micromanaging all aspects of school projects and activities), I did feel it was necessary to introduce him to my secret weapon for school projects—the hot glue gun.

It was the perfect tool to safely secure all the items inside the shoebox. My hot glue gun has always been a must-have for all three of my children's school projects. (There are times when Elmer's Glue just cannot get the job done!) In fact, over the years—and through our family's many moves—my trusty hot glue gun(s) have been my tool of choice for decorating, quick fixes to broken, but salvageable items, and even as a remedy to emergency wardrobe malfunctions. So put down the hammer and nails, the sewing machine, and your needle and thread. It's time to discover how cheap and easy it is to start using the hot glue gun!

**Craft Projects** and hot glue guns go hand in hand. They can be purchased at any retailer and are usually available in a couple of sizes, depending on the type of projects you plan to take on. Years ago, when I first used a hot glue gun, glue sticks were clear and would be barely noticeable after drying—a big part of the appeal. Now glue sticks also come in various colors, including ones that glitter and glow in the dark, which is ideal for scrapbooking or making specialized greeting cards or other projects.

**Custom Window Treatments** are a snap to make when you have a glue gun. I have glued on decorative beading across the top of store-bought curtains for instant glam. In addition, I have added classic sophistication by attaching ribbon down the length of plain uninspired curtains.

**Installing Decorative Trim and Molding** does not have to involve nail holes if you use your glue gun. It can make your next DIY project quicker and easier. (The glue gun can also serve as a temporary bonder if you are undecided about committing to a project.)

**Fabric Wall Panels** are a breeze with your hot glue gun. Simply find an interesting fabric that you like, measure it to size, and glue it onto a canvas or wood frame.

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Are you convinced that it's time to pull out the glue gun again or go buy one? I hope so. Warning: Hot glue guns are actually hot, so be careful not to burn yourself. (I do sometimes, but it's minor and worth the risk.) In addition, be sure to supervise your younger ones when the glue gun is around. Let me know what fabulous ideas you come up with. 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.*