

Autumn Retreat

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #22973 Gold Carpeting
- #82017 Sliding Door
- #73267 5-Pc. Modern Bedroom Set
- #9885 Owl Pompon Sculpture Fève
- #65770 12 Assorted Small Books
- #12380 Slone Floor Lamp
- #9412 Four Shelf Brackets
- #23404 Resting Golden Retriever
- #61032 Potted Tropical Fern
- #40430 Pair of Block Terra-Cotta Planters

Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.



The walls are two coordinating colors of scrapbooking cardstock; the floor is #22973 Plush Carpeting in Gold. The curtain, detailed below, is a fabric panel on a rod of aluminum tubing. The frame of Sliding Door #82017 was painted with satin black acrylic and the sliding panels were stained with alcohol markers to coordinate with other wood colors in the room.

Modifications to the bed from Modern Bedroom Set #73267:

I was able to pry the mattress away from the foundation and re-cover it with fabric from my stash, also used for decorative pillows (all glued, no sewing). I cut cardstock pieces to match the panels in the headboard and covered them with coordinating fabric, also used for the neck roll. I pried the handle off of the drawer at the foot of the bed, and covered the white-painted drawer front with a paper panel, stained with alcohol markers to match the bed.

Accessories and incidentals, generally from left:

The "spine" bookshelf was crafted from strip wood, stained with markers. I had access to a table saw so my shelves slip into grooves cut into the thicker vertical piece, but it could also be made with simple straight handsaw cuts by using a thinner wood for the main vertical and layering on another thickness with shorter pieces that are glued on to leave spaces for the shelves.

On the shelf, from the top:

Owl Fève #9885, candlesticks made from cone beads, thumbtacks and slices of plastic coat hanger; faux books made from pieces of plastic mini blind, a button bowl with beads; picture frame and bird sculpture made from beads and jewelry findings; flask made from a plastic mini goblet, minus stem, and a book from #65770, cover repainted to better fit the scene.

Wall art is a photo printed to size and framed with strip wood, stained with markers.

The shade of Slone Floor Lamp #12380 is removable, which made it easy to apply glue stick and wrap with a fabric scrap before trimming to shape.

The throw is fabric that was cut to correct size and fringed on the ends, then saturated with fabric stiffening solution and pinned into shape on a block of Styrofoam.

The curtain is a slubbed faux-silk fabric, ironed flat, cut to size (with a 1/2" top header allowance) and stabilized with a no-fray solution on all sides. A 1/2" strip of paper was glued into the folded-over header with glue stick, which does not bleed through. There must always be an even number of eyelets, in this case, 10, evenly spaced in the header. Manipulate the header to "teach" the paper to accept soft curves rather than creases and saturate the panel with spray starch. Using large bamboo skewers and rubber bands (pins leave marks), form the pleats and secure in place, then allow to dry. When dry, gently separate the pleats and hang the curtain.

I used 3/16" eyelets to fit the 3/32" aluminum rod, which hangs from crafted metal brackets (although Shelf Brackets #9412 would work). A sharp 3/16" punch and eyelet setting tool are necessary.

Resting Golden Retriever #23404 waits by the door; Potted Tropical Fern #61032 adds a bit of greenery and "bamboo" sticks fill the smaller of #40430, Pair of Tall Block Planters.