

# Creating Yourself

by Fran Casselman

## Items used to create the scene:

- #39011 Rustic Clapboard Siding Strips
- #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff
- #1249 Weldbond
- #81164 Wallpaper Gel
- #0016 Rough Brick Sheet
- 1/2" foam core board
- Pencil
- Ruler, metal or metal-edged
- Sharp craft knife (*snap knife recommended for longer blade length*)
- Long quilting pins
- Utility scissors
- Acrylic paints: White, Black, Gunmetal metallic, & Dark gray
- Clear acrylic sealer, satin finish
- Wood stain
- Wood tone Artists' marker
- Gold metallic pen
- Silver Sharpie marker (*fine point*)
- Glue-tape roller with double-sided permanent adhesive
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil
- 1/8" metal eyelets, silver tone
- 1/8" Dia. dowel (*or similar-size skewer*)
- Narrow-diameter beverage straw
- Sequin pins
- Rubber cement

## Furniture:

- #88701 Unfinished Stool (*seat stained, legs painted gunmetal metallic*)
- #99531 Unfinished Store Counter
- #42502 Library Drawers Wallpaper
- #88677 Unfinished Ladderback Chair
- #42392 Black Annabelle Damask Wallpaper
- #74295 Unfinished Utility Table
- #1225 Lisa Chair Kit
- "Pipe" and plank freestanding shelf

## Accessories:

- #12611 12V Red Canopy Light
- #62275 Clipboard with Paper
- #38037 Hybrid Fence
- #40620 Stack of Big Books
- #40460 Succulent Planter Bowl
- #23023 4-Pc. Pizza Pan and Muffin Tin Set
- #65573 4 White Canisters
- #65514 3 Artists Brushes



- #52168 Paint Brush
- #56114 Composition Book Set
- #65580 White Smartphone
- #77067 Notebook Computer
- #6893 2 Trays Kit
- #51116 Pencil on Writing Pad
- #32515 Gooseneck Desk Lamp
- #77214 4 Glass Bottles With Removable Corks
- #10255 Solid Water
- #24481 24 White Million Stars Flowers
- #29878 Socks - Black and White Cat
- #54025 Pair of Round Baskets
- #33032 Four Metal Tins
- #78593 White Retro Radio
- #33032 Four Metal Tins
- #54024 Pair of Oblong Baskets
- #40540 Corona Typewriter
- #40640 Stack of Encyclopedias
- #31029 Two Produce Crates
- "Creating Yourself" graphic
- Crafted paper storage box
- Metal fan

## Crafting Extras:

- 1/8" eyelets are used as mounting plates for #12611 12V Red Canopy Light.
- One end section of #38037 Hybrid Fence has been trimmed and "aged" with grey markers and diluted black paint.
- #24481 24 White Million Stars Flowers are colored with highlighter markers.
- #31029 Two Produce Crates were "aged" with #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff.
- Wastebasket under the desk is a spray-bottle cap, painted gunmetal metallic.

### Setting construction:

The platform and walls are made from 1/2"-thick foam core board, available at craft stores and art supply stores. The base is 12" x 12" and the two walls are each 10" x 12". The walls are interlocked to each other and to the base by cutting a 1/2" wide channel into the base and the right wall, positioned to leave a 1 1/2" "utility" area at the back.

To make a channel, carefully cut through the surface paper and the foam layer, but not the second paper surface. Peel away the top paper and chip out the foam, leaving a smooth channel (tweezers help). Use the same method to also remove 1/2" from the bottom edge of the right wall. Cut through the surface paper and foam layers and peel that material away from the second paper layer.

Fit the pieces together and use white glue (Weldbond #1249 recommended) for assembly. Secure the joints with long quilting pins while the glue dries. The finished vignette is lightweight and very strong, not likely to warp, and able to support items hung from the walls with pins as well as lighting fixtures mounted through the wall. Wiring can also be concealed within the thickness of the foam core.

### Crafting the drawer unit

In addition to the unfinished store counter and drawers wallpaper, you will need: scraps of 1/16" thick cardboard or mat board; stain, stain pens and permanent markers in various wood tones; gold metallic pens and markers; saw, white glue; clear satin finish and cardstock. The top surface is covered with a printed marble countertop image found on the internet, but it could be painted or left as a wood surface.

The front face of the store counter is divided into panels. To make a smooth surface for the paper drawer fronts, cut 1/16"-thick cardboard or mat board to fit into the recesses. Set them aside. Cut a section of drawer fronts four high by eight wide. Use stains and markers to color the counter unit close to the printed image; the paper can also be tinted with markers to alter the color, but work carefully to avoid the "brass" hardware. (Color those areas with yellow/golden marker; you will add metallic gold pen touches as a last step.) Use the panel areas to test stain colors; work carefully and in good light.

When the color combination is right, stain the entire counter unit. When it is dry, carefully saw off the projecting base and top edges from the back of the unit so it can sit flush against a wall. The piece removed from the base is turned upside

### Setting appearance:

The left wall is covered with #39011 Rustic Clapboard Siding Strips, which were stained and detailed with #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff (to minimize warping, stain both sides, place between absorbent materials and weight to dry). The base color is one application; some graining details were emphasized with more applications. The strips are uneven and the wall beneath will show in some places; it can be painted prior to application or colored as needed during application with permanent marker.

Choose whether to start at the top or the bottom; a partial strip will be visible. Fit the strip in place, mark the length on the back with a pencil and cut with utility scissors. Do one at a time, coloring wall behind plank joints as needed.

The arm of the red canopy lights goes through the siding strip and the foam core wall. The foam core can be punctured with a skewer or knitting needle, but the siding must be drilled or cut; otherwise it will split. The eyelet will cover small imperfections.

The right wall is covered with #0016 Rough Brick Sheet (two sheets needed) and

painted with satin-finish white acrylic craft paint. Use the knife and ruler to trim the long edges of the sheets for a close fit, tape them together at the back to make one large sheet, set the sheet in place and mark the cut lines on the back with pencil, cut with knife and ruler. Paint before installation.

Covering for both walls was applied with a double-sided permanent adhesive tape roller from the scrapbooking section of a craft store. Finish with a rubber brayer or similar roller to ensure good contact between the surfaces.

The floor is a laser-print photocopy of a concrete floor image found on the internet. It needs to be at least 11 1/2" x 10". It is applied to the foam core with a thin layer of #81164 Wallpaper Gel.

The outside edges of the foam core were covered with wood grain wash, tape, with sequin pins at all corners for decoration and to reinforce the adhesion of the tape.



down to become the back edge piece on the top; trim it to length and angle the top corners. Touch up the stain and put it aside for now.

Glue the filler pieces into the recesses. Glue the drawer fronts to the counter unit. Note: the label holder should be above the drawer pulls. Use marker to stain the edges of the paper. Add darker details in the cabinet corners and at joints where age staining would occur. For an extra detail, cut strips of cardstock 1/8" wide; stain with marker and apply like picture-frame

molding around the panel of drawers. Add metallic highlights to the printed brass hardware.

If desired, cover the open back with a cardstock panel.

If you are applying a painted or paper finish to the top surface, do it now. Glue the back trim in place. When everything is completely dry, apply one or two coats of clear satin sealer.

## Crafting the desk chair

Choose a wallpaper or other patterned paper for the back and seat. Pick a paint color from the pattern, or one to contrast.

Make a paper template for the seat and each back slat; the adhesive portion of a Post-It note is good for this. Plan where the pattern elements will fall and cut the pieces from the patterned paper.

Paint the chair and let dry. Paint a second coat, if needed. If the edges of the paper pieces will show, carefully paint them as well.

Glue the paper to the matching chair sections. Use Wallpaper Gel or a thin coat of white glue. When the glue is completely dry, apply one or two coats of clear satin varnish.

## Crafting the table

The unfinished utility table is aged with Fred's Wood Weathering stuff, applied in layers to show details and accented with dark gray artists markers. (Although it was later covered, the top of the table is also finished.) The tabletop is grooved, so a piece of cardstock is lightly glued over it to provide a smooth surface. To make the "zinc" top, glue heavy-duty aluminum



foil, dull side up, to the table edges and under the top. Carefully fold the edges like wrapping a package and glue under. Do not glue to the cardstock top.

When the glue is dry, lightly go over the foil surface with a fine sanding sponge or steel wool. Use a circular motion to leave fine scratches all over the surface; avoid leaving straight line marks. With a crumpled paper towel or small sponge, apply diluted black acrylic paint irregularly over the surface; too little is better than too much. Apply another layer

if needed, or switch to silver paint for a slightly different look.

Tip: If water-based paint won't stick to a slick surface, add a tiny amount of liquid soap to your palette or swipe your brush across a bar of soap as you paint.

As a final detail, impress "rivets" into the edges of the table top with the tip of a mechanical pencil (no lead exposed). The table is not sealed or varnished.

## Crafting the "pipe" shelf

This was made with scrap wood that had been exposed and aged naturally, but you can get a similar look with #17521 (3/16" x 1" Strip Wood) for the two wider shelves and #17520 (3/16" x 3/4" Strip Wood) for the two narrower ones, or you can cut the 1" wood to 3/4" width as you prefer. Age with Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff, or diluted paint, or both. The shelves are 4" long.

The "pipes" are slender beverage or stirrer straws, stiffened with 1/8" wood dowel (or kitchen skewer) and finished with metal eyelets for "flanges." Try to find a straw that will fit tightly through the eyelets, this gives the best look. Don't worry about the color.

Cut 1/8" dowel/skewer to length for the shelf supports (use a saw if possible; the ends need to be straight). The spacing is 1 1/2" for the two lower shelves and 1 1/4" for the upper two. You need 4 supports in each length.

If the straw fits inside the eyelets, cut pieces the same length as the dowels. Put the eyelets on the straw, flange (large) ends out. Put the dowel inside the straw. Apply glue inside the eyelet and the end of

the straw, make sure everything is square, and let dry. You may have to glue/dry one end before gluing the other, but the ends must be square or your shelf will be crooked.

If the straw doesn't fit inside the eyelets, use tacky glue to fix the dowel into the eyelets. Make sure the ends are square as the glue dries. When dry, cut straw lengths to fit between the eyelets, cut the pieces lengthwise to open, apply a little glue to the dowel and slip the straw in place.

When the glue is dry, paint the assembled supports with a thin coat of gesso. This will adhere well to the plastic straw and metal eyelets, and help the paint stick to both surfaces. Paint with gunmetal metallic acrylic paint or other color of your choice. Paint four additional eyelets for feet.

Glue 1 1/2" supports in the four corners of the bottom shelf and let dry. Glue the second shelf on top; work with the shelves on edge and use a gluing jig if possible too keep the back edges and shelf ends square. Repeat the steps to glue the remaining two shelves together with one 1/4" support at each end.



When dry, glue the two units together with the two remaining supports. Use masking tape and/or clamps - not too tight - to keep the pieces aligned as they dry.

Glue the four eyelet feet to the bottom corners of the shelf.