

Glamour's Do anything better guide

Renovate your life with these very can-do ideas

Ribbon Rehab

Redoing a room with ribbons is as easy as tying your shoes.

Want your pad to look as pretty as a present? Decorate your pillows, window dressings—even table linens—with ribbons. A new book, *Beautiful Ribbons: Stylish Ideas for Your Home* by Mary Norden (Running Press, 1999), shows how just a few yards of ribbon can tie together a room. And it's amazingly inexpensive—just buy a few rolls, and you're ready to roll. Visit your local fabric or craft store for a wide range of cloth ribbons (the papery kind sold at card stores just won't cut it for this project), and choose one with the same washing instructions as the item you're attaching it to. In other words, pick washable and colorfast ribbons for something you'd throw in the wash, like a pillowcase. (Note: Remember to gently pull the wire out of wire ribbons before sewing onto anything washable.) But feel free to attach more delicate ribbons, such as velvet or grosgrain, to dry-cleanable items, like a wool blanket.



PHOTOS FROM BEAUTIFUL RIBBONS: STYLISH IDEAS FOR YOUR HOME © 1999 RYLAND PETERS & SMALL



Bow Tries

1. Replace buttons on a throw-pillow cover with ribbon. Use a couple of hand stitches in center of ribbon to secure it to the cover. Thread both ends through hole and tie in bow. Or trim by sewing some ribbon on the edges.
2. Pre-tie bows of various colors and attach randomly to a curtain with a few hand stitches each.
3. Substitute ribbons for napkin rings and tuck in a flower.
4. Make an alternative window dressing by cutting ribbons of varying colors, widths and lengths. Then tie one end of each ribbon to a curtain rod and the other to seashells. (Use a hand drill on a low speed to make holes in shells.)