

Organized Shutters

This is a quick and easy project. If you are lucky enough to find a shutter with an aged (and attractive) paint finish, it is a simple matter of attaching a backing to prevent those pesky bills from disappearing. If your shutter lacks an interesting paint finish, it is easy to achieve one with thinned acrylic paint and a brush.



Materials:

1. Shutter
2. Scrap of 1/4-inch plywood
3. Nails or wood screws
4. Heavy-duty picture hanging hardware
5. Hooks (optional)
6. Acrylic paint (optional)
7. Acrylic medium (optional) -- used to thin the acrylic paint
8. Container for the paint mixture (optional)
9. Tape measure or ruler
10. Pencil
11. Handsaw
12. Hammer
13. Screwdriver
14. Paintbrush
15. Sandpaper or sanding sponge

How to Make It:

1. Measure the inside dimensions of the shutter: the width and height of the slatted part of the shutter, plus 1 inch added to the height.
2. Measure, mark and cut a piece of 1/4-inch plywood to the dimensions in step 1.
3. Attach the plywood to the back of the shutter with nails or wood screws.
4. Attach the picture hanging hardware to the plywood.
5. Attach any hardware to the front of the shutter.
6. If your shutter is drab, you can make it more interesting quickly and easily. Simply mix equal amounts of an acrylic color and medium in a container.
7. Add water sparingly to the mixture to create a wash.
8. Paint the shutter with the mixture.
9. Use sandpaper or a sanding sponge to distress the color wash and allow the undercoat to peek out. A light touch is recommended. Allow just as much of the undercoating to appear as you want.