

# CRAFTY IDEAS

## Accommodating The Crafting Craze

(NAPSA)—Difficult times can call for crafty measures. Providing an affordable escape, crafting has evolved into a fashion-forward pastime for all ages. In fact, a recent survey by the Craft & Hobby Association revealed that 56 percent of U.S. households have worked on at least one craft project during the past year; a rate that's remained consistent for the past three years.

What kinds of craft projects have captured the hands and hearts of Americans? The same survey reveals that scrapbooking, home decor projects and wood-working top the list. Other popu-



**Making space for a hobby can be easier and less expensive than many people realize.**

### Getting Organized

Once you've selected the space, make sure it's properly equipped. Include a workstation or desk large enough to handle your craft projects and hang up a corkboard to pin design ideas and inspirations for quick comparisons. Keep yourself organized by adding shelving and adequate storage space for tools, paintbrushes or other accessories.

For example, adjustable and ventilated shelving such as ClosetMaid® ShelfTrack™ can easily be installed on the wall or in a closet to keep supplies like fabrics, paper, canvases, paint or varnishes within arm's reach. Colorful ribbons and tape can slide onto closet rods for easy access, while buttons, clasps and other small objects can be kept in clear jars of varying sizes. Display your how-to books on the shelves and place yarn in baskets or pull-out wire or fabric drawers. Finally, a pegboard can be fashioned for color-coordinated thread or small-tool storage.

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lar hobbies include quilting, jewelry making, knitting, art and drawing. As more and more Americans discover the art of the handmade and the satisfaction it can bring, some are even turning their artisanal passions into profitable side businesses.

### Creating Space

You can set up "shop" in your own home by designating a separate space to handle all your crafting needs. Serious enthusiasts can consider dedicating an entire room—attic, garage or an extra bedroom—to their passion. If you don't have the space, you may choose to convert an extra closet into your own "craftastic" workstation to get the creative juices flowing.