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Hot and Cold Candlesticks

Turn On the Romance with Decommissioned Sink and Shower Knobs.
 by Paul Schifino illustration Bill Evans

During one of my usual trips to the scrap yard, I noticed a bucket of old shower knobs. I was amazed at how many perfectly good ones had fallen out of commission. (I'm easily amazed.) So I bought them. Like a preschooler with blocks, I started stacking them up. (I'm a little on the arrested development side, too.) In a flash of light, I saw a candlestick for the bathroom. I ran out to the hardware store to get a few more supplies, and the whole thing was finished in just five minutes. Total cost? About \$1. I thought, Hey, this would make a romantic gift, candlelight and all. (You guessed it, I'm also a little cheap.)

Hot and Cold
Candlesticks

\$10



MAKE IT

INGREDIENTS

- 5-6 Hot and cold knobs (these can be obtained at any scrap yard, or ask a plumber)
- 2 rubber washers
- 6" bolt and nut combination (be sure the rod fits through the holes in all of the shower knobs)
- Industrial spring (optional)

TOOLS

- Pliers
- Screwdriver

1. Wash the knobs thoroughly. You may need a scouring pad to remove corrosion. Running them through a dishwasher cycle isn't a bad idea either. For best results, make sure they are all metal.

2. Stack the knobs. Make sure the one you use for the top is free of mineral deposits, as it will be flipped upside down.

3. Pull the washer over the bolt.

4. Thread the bolt and washer through the stacked knobs from top to bottom.

5. Pull the second washer over the bolt. Hand-tighten the nut for a snug fit.

6. Use pliers to hold the nut firmly in place and tighten the bolt with a screwdriver.

7. Salvaged knobs come in different sizes. Use them to make holders for votives, tea lights, or a set of long tapers. This is where the spring comes in. For thin tapers, use the spring for a snug fit.