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WORK FOR YOU

**EARN
MORE
STRESS
LESS**

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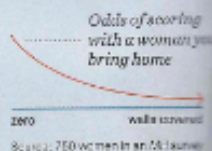
THE 2013
**SEX
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Moves That Will
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OCTOBER 2013
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Number of beer
signs on display in
your apartment



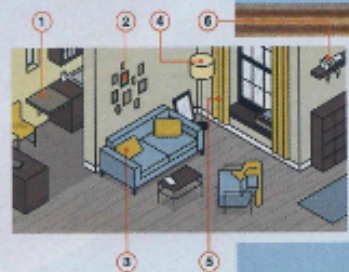
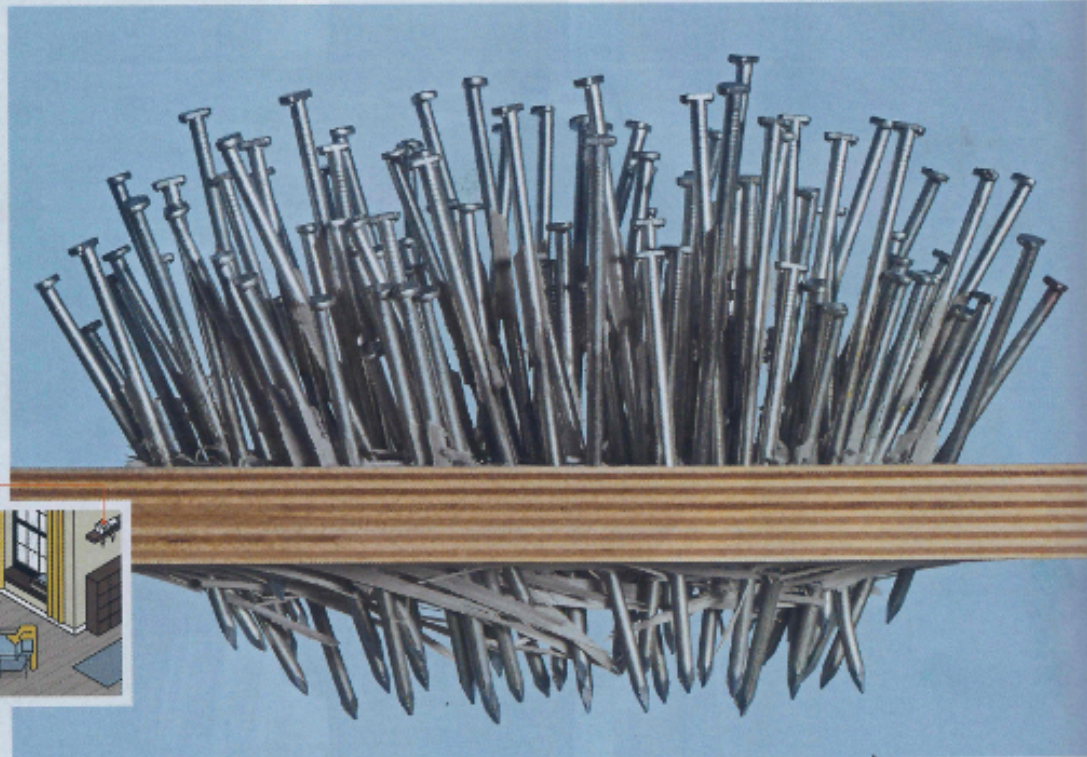
Do You Need a Placelift?

Improving your home is simple if you have some basic tools, a dash of resolve, and 20 minutes.



THE MH HANDYMAN
Carter Oosterhouse

He had his first carpentry gig at age 12, and now he's the host of HGTV's *Celebrity Motor Homes*. His book, *Carter's Way*, is out now.



I could use more counter space in my kitchen.

1 20-MINUTE FIX
Add a wall-mounted drop-leaf table. The hinge lets you pop it up for food prep and drop it down for extra space. Try the Ikea Norbo (\$30, ikea.com). It's priced right, and installation is easy with a stud finder and an electric drill.

4 UPGRADE
Build a unique version with reclaimed wood and a folding metal shelf bracket from any hardware store. Coat the wood with sealer, drill the bracket into a stud, and screw the tabletop to the bracket.

I have tons of old photos gathering dust in a shoebox.

2 20-MINUTE FIX
Buy a bunch of small frames at a flea market. Spray-paint them all the same color (black goes with everything, of course) and add your photos. Arrange them in a cluster on your wall. Now your motley collection looks calculated.

4 UPGRADE
Hang the matching frames along a stairwell so they're at eye level as you climb. If you use digital photos, go for a sophisticated look by having them all printed in sepia or black and white.

The neutral tone of my apartment is boring.

3 20-MINUTE FIX
Buy curtains, a blanket, and some throw pillows all in the same dramatic color. Hang the curtains, drape the blanket over a chair, and prop the pillows on the couch. The room is now both interesting and tied together.

4 UPGRADE
Create an accent wall. A vivid color or eye-catching paper gives the room personality. The best wall to accent is one that already has a striking feature—think fireplace, picture window, or large TV.

I have a room that receives almost zero light.

4 20-MINUTE FIX
Use soft-white bulbs, which complement skin tones. Then direct light upward with one or more tilted mirrors, either set on the floor against a wall, or hanging. (Tape an empty toilet paper roll behind the foot of the frame.)

4 UPGRADE
Use wall sconces or an up-lighting lamp. Pumping lumens into the ceiling's dark corners makes the dearth of daylight less noticeable and draws the eye upward, making the room feel bigger.

My living room is oppressively small.

5 20-MINUTE FIX
Hang floor-to-ceiling curtains, leaving just a couple of inches at the top and bottom. The long, vertical lines give the illusion of a taller, more spacious room. Also, pick light colors. Black and brown can suffocate a small room.

4 UPGRADE
If you can take anything off the floor, do it. Replace the bookcase with floating shelves and hang your television on the wall. Use furniture that can contain clutter, such as a storage ottoman.

The entryway to my home is lousy with clutter.

3 20-MINUTE FIX
Drop \$20 on a new shelf and a few cup hooks. Hang the shelf just inside your front door and screw in the hooks so they hang from the bottom. The hooks are for your car keys, and the shelf can hold the mail.

1 UPGRADE
Hang an old window shutter so mail and magazines can slide neatly between the slats instead of piling up. Paint the shutter all one color, or create color-coded sections for family members.