



glass and a half

WITH A LITTLE CREATIVITY, THE HUMBLEST EVERYDAY ITEM BECOMES A TREASURED PIECE.

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MOST OF THE TIME

my assemblages have no substantial purpose other than taking up precious space in our little home. However, my ever-growing gathering

of glass jars is possibly the most purposeful and convenient of all my collections. No matter the room, in any given direction there are collections of glass jars in all sorts of shapes and sizes. And I know I'm not alone in my attraction to these translucent receptacles. While Mason and Fowlers jars have signified larders and preserving to past generations, these days they are transformed into mini gardens or hanging light vessels by designers who also see the frugal beauty in repurposing these modest items.

Standing in the supermarket, you will find me turning a jar around in my hands, pondering what I could use it for after my family has consumed the contents. I can't help but assess the shape and size of the jar as much as the quality of the ingredients inside.

A jar with a wide opening can be partly filled with sand then used to hold a small beeswax candle — a number of these lit in the centre of a dining table make a beautiful, luminous setting for an impromptu barbecue with neighbours. Jam jars are a favourite and I often decide on the flavour or brand based on the usefulness and elegance

of the jar. If they are short and wide enough, they can be used to hold utensils, napkins and accoutrements, while a narrow-necked jar is ideal for individual cut flowers; jute twine can be tied tightly around jars with a rim then used to hang a cluster from the branch of a tree. A voluminous jar makes the perfect terrarium — my friend Tracey Sharp used the ones she makes (shown here) as party favours for her son's first birthday. Similarly, glass-lidded jars are wonderful as containers for other much-loved collections or in the office for supplies such as pins, rubber stamps, clips, tape and bundles of string.

You can also use a variety of jars to create an interesting display. Place photographs inside the jars, making sure the print is the same height so that it fits snugly inside.

I have only one rule: if the label on a jar will not come away easily with hot soapy water and a gentle rub with eucalyptus oil, discard — these are not worth your time. *

PIA'S LINK LOVE

For more glass jar inspiration, visit these Pinterest boards:

- 1 [pinterest.com/piajanebijkerk/glass-jar-love/](https://www.pinterest.com/piajanebijkerk/glass-jar-love/)
- 2 [pinterest.com/beunique](https://www.pinterest.com/beunique)
- 3 [pinterest.com/tielsk](https://www.pinterest.com/tielsk)

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