

Birthday Surprises 101



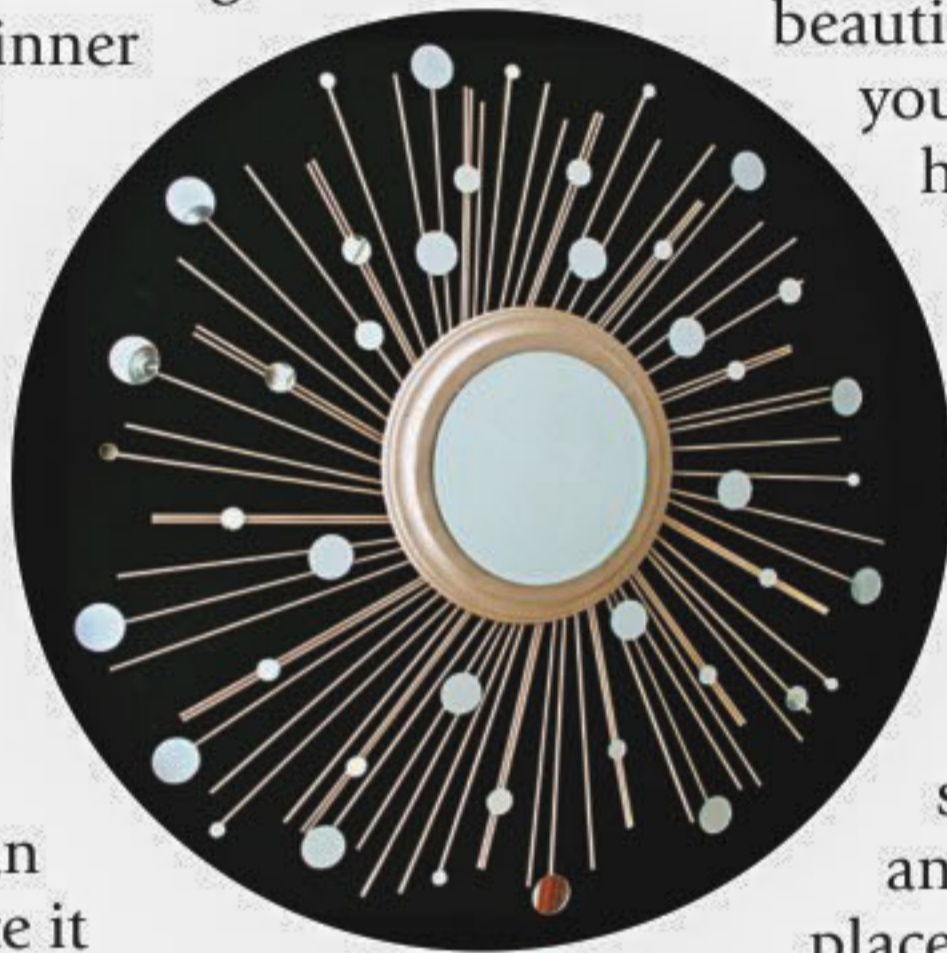
TRASH TO TREASURE
 BY LABIBA MUSTABINA

M I R R O R W I B B O B

Imagine a life without mirrors: the gentle reminder of your self-pride and beholder of your beautiful reflection. Yes, it's horrible to imagine. How else would you start your day without reveling at your gorgeous smile? Read on.

VINTAGE MARBLE MIRROR

Sure, you have a full length mirror but what about all those moments when you almost end up crashing on it in attempts to achieve the perfect cat-eye with your eyeliner? If you know exactly what I'm talking about, there is nothing more perfect than this vintage dresser mirror for you. This DIY requires nothing more than an old, glass dinner plate, a round mirror and some flat glass marbles. First, hot glue the mirror in the centre of the plate. Then glue one marble after another on the edge of the plate, starting from the centre towards the rim. You'll now have a beautiful mirror plate which you can either use as a tray or place it on one of those vintage dinner plate stands.



SUNBURST MIRROR

If you've got an empty wall screaming for a decorative piece, put everything on hold and find yourself a round mirror. You'll also need a protractor, glue gun, skewers, silver/golden spray paint and mirror beads which you can easily avail from lace stores. If you're unable to find the mirror beads, you can use large 'dollar' beads as a substitute but in that case you'll have to place them on spray painted cardboard cut to size because they're frail on their own. First, use a

thermocool piece as a 'pin-cushion' to hold all your skewers and then spray paint them in gold/silver. Flip the mirror and use a pencil to mark the centre. Now draw a circle about 1 inch smaller than the outer rim of the mirror. Then, using a protractor and ruler, make lines extending from the centre outwards with 15° difference with the next line. Do this to cover the entire circle. Now, using the pencil lines as guide, hot glue the skewers to the back of the mirror alternately on the rim of the smaller circle and the rim of the mirror. Leave it to dry overnight and you should end up with a beautiful sunburst. However, if you want to go an extra mile, hot glue the mirror/ dollar beads on the ends of alternating skewers.

CHRYSANTHEMUM MIRROR

Got plastic spoon leftovers after a picnic with no clue what to do with them? Simple: cut and salvage. Get yourself yet another round mirror and place it on a piece of cardboard and cut out a circle about 6 inches bigger than the mirror. Cut the centre out from the cardboard where the mirror is supposed to be. Now, starting at the edge and making your way towards the centre, start hot gluing the spoon heads on the cardboard. When done, just paint the 'petals' in a bright, flaming colour and attach the mirror at the back.

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MAYABEE ARANNYA

Best thing about birthdays? There's always one day every year that your friends and family celebrate in honour of you even if you're nobody special. Worst thing about birthdays? You're probably stuck with gifts you aren't particularly fond of AND you have to treat the givers of those unfortunate gifts to food AND you have to clean up after the party, because, let's face it, once the party's over, you're nobody special again.

The Facebook collages where everyone poses with letters to spell "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN" is so 2000-nobody cares anymore, and no, I'm not just saying that because nobody ever did it for me. Okay maybe it does feel nice to have people who'd take ugly selfies holding pieces of paper for you, but I wouldn't know. Also, nobody wants to watch the Facebook videos where friends drone on endlessly about how amazing you are just

going out to eat one day, watching a movie the other, and having a sleepover the next. You could also get themed gifts for each day that go with the activity you have planned for that day and make them guess what the activity could be.

Go DIY

Here's a way to put all that scrapbooking skills we learned in kindergarten to good use: Buy a scrapbook, or any notebook, and create a kind of memory journal. Get lots of the birthday person's friends involved and make them each write down sweet memories they have with the person on the scrapbook. Stalk the person's Facebook profile like the pro stalkers we all are and get old photos and paste them in the scrapbook as well, and voila! The perfect sentimental birthday surprise.

Keep the love in photographs

You'll need helium-filled balloons and lots of photos of the birthday person. Get your friend out of his/her house for a



because it's your birthday. Then why make them public?

There are, of course, better ways we could try to make our friends' birthdays a bit more special, only because we love them so much (read: so that they do the same for us on our birthdays.)

Midnight Madness

If your friend lives with their parents or with a roommate, call them up and let them know that you want to barge into their house at midnight. Bring cake, gifts, balloons and throw the birthday person a mini party right then and there. You could also visit the friend really early in the morning, bring a balloon filled with confetti, chocolates, small notes with cute messages, and wake them up by popping it over their face. Caution: You might be punched in the face for this.

BirthWEEK

Instead of celebrating just one day, why not celebrate the week leading to the birthday as well? Make a schedule with fun things planned all week long, like

while, and decorate his/her room by attaching the photos to the strings of the balloons and allowing them to fly up and stay stuck on the ceiling. Your friend would have a trip down memory lane when he/she steps in. You could also use the photos to create the shape of the digits of their age and frame it to make a wonderful surprise present.

Pro-tip: If you've ended up with a horrible present for your friend, attach a note with a pun onto the wrapping. For example: if you've gotten somebody a stuffed teddy bear and they're a teddy bear-hater for whatever reason, write down "Life without you is unBEARable, I'm so glad you were born, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" and stick the note on the teddy. Your friend will be too busy laughing at your lame pun to notice how bad a friend you are.

Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at [facebook.com/mayabee.arannya](https://www.facebook.com/mayabee.arannya)