



Shutter At The Thought

Dive into the dump and come up a winner. Building projects using reclaimed materials is good for the soul.

Materials:

- Old shutters
- Lazy Susan hardware

Tools

- Drill/driver
- Drill bits
- Screwdrivers
- Pliers

Find some old shutters that are fairly small and elegant. Test them for width to be sure they will accommodate a CD case.

Communities and individuals are beginning to reclaim all kinds of things from houses that are being torn down or from the curbside waste piles. There are several in the Toronto, Ontario, area. These salvage depots are wonderful to look through for discarded objects that can have a second life. Many of the materials used in homes today are reproductions made from pressed wood or plastic. In these reclaimed materials warehouses, one can find originals made from high quality wood that isn't available any more. It's a shame to just put the good stuff in a landfill and replace it with plastic or pressed-wood preserved with formaldehyde, when the same or better objects can be found in the salvage shops.

For salvage resources worldwide, check with [Habitat for Humanity](#), a charitable organization that sponsors great reclaimed materials centers around the globe.

Steps:



Drill off the heads of stripped screws



Use pliers to back out the headless screw

The first thing to do is to remove any unwanted hardware. Sometimes with old materials the hardware is actually great and can be incorporated into the project. In our case, the old hinges have to come off and some of them have stripped heads. Which means there's just no way to get a screwdriver to work on these babies.

So the remedy for this situation is to choose a drill bit about the size of the head that's stripped. Drill enough of the head off (brass is soft so this happens pretty easily) to allow the hinge to be pulled off over the drilled screw. Don't drill away any more of the screw than you absolutely have to because once the hinge is off, the screw will have to be removed by backing it out with a pair of needle nose pliers.



Pan head and counter-sink brass screws



Pre-drill for the screws



Use brass pan head screws and drive them in by hand

Once the shutters have been cleaned up sufficiently, lock the louvers in place so that they won't move when a CD or tape is placed in the slots between them. The louver can be locked in place with screws into the side of the frame effectively stopping the movement of all the louvers. The screw will act sort of like a doorstop.



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Use 1x2 pieces to space the shutters apart

The shutters will fit back to back but they will bump into each other unless a spacer is placed between them. Cut a piece of 1" x 2" lumber (or wider if it fits your design) into three pieces, two long and one short, to fit between the shutters and space them effectively. Cut them so that they are inset $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the two sides and top.



Clamp the 'sandwich' together and fasten with screws

Sandwich the 1x2 pieces between the two shutters and clamp them together. Use old screw holes (if there are any available) and new brass screws to attach the shutters to the 1x2 on both sides. Be careful not to strip out the heads of the screws! Enlarge the holes if necessary with a drill bit.

Window hardware is very common in the reclaimed materials outlets. Find a handle that works with your project and attach it to the top piece of 1x2. The handle will allow you to carry the CD rack or to turn it easily on the spinning base we're planning for the base.



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The large hole in the 'lazy Susan' is a peep hole



Center the lazy Susan on the bottom board and mark for the peep hole

A 'lazy Susan' is the device that is used to allow one surface to spin on top of another. They aren't terribly expensive and can be purchased in a hardware store or home center. Each brand is installed a little differently so you'll have to read the directions or ask the hardware specialist to help you with how it is installed (if our directions don't make sense).

The lazy Susan used on this project is first attached to the base, which is stationary. Cut the base square large enough to balance the shutters or at least two inches larger than the width of the shutters. Cut another piece of wood square and an inch smaller in each direction than the base.



Drill a hole in the base the size of the peep hole

Attach the lazy Susan to the larger piece of wood after first drilling the access hole. Because the spinning hardware is sandwiched between the two pieces of wood there has to be an access hole for the screws that will attach it to the smaller piece.



Attach the lazy Susan with the two peep holes lined up

First, center the lazy Susan on the larger bottom piece of wood. Trace the location of the large access hole, the biggest hole in the ring. Drill out the hole using a spade bit. Then attach the lazy Susan to the base with the screws provided. Be sure to line up the big hole in the metal with the one in the wood! Center and attach the smaller base piece to the shutters. Use at least four screws, one in each corner.



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Attach the smaller base to the shutters



Place the larger base on top of the smaller one with the lazy Susan in between



Attach the lazy Susan to the smaller base through the peephole

Next, attach the base with the lazy Susan to the base with the CD rack/shutters. Place the shutters upside down and center the very bottom piece over it. Look through the hole in the base and locate the holes in the metal. Drive screws into each of the open holes.



Touch up bare spots as needed



Completed CD rack

Apply any appropriate finish to complete the project. In this case, some turmeric in water was the right color to cover the spots where the hinges had been. Dry artists' pigments are also handy to have around to mix just the right color.

