Revamp Your Creative Space with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Creative Space Revamp
(lively electronic music) - Everybody, welcome to Creativebug. We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And for many of you, you're heading back to school. Maybe you're a teacher who's going back to a classroom, you're a student who's going back to college, or maybe your kids are off to school and you just want to revamp your creative space and have it be fresh for the new school year. I have some ideas that we use here in our Creativebug studios, in my art room, and even at home to organize all of that crafty clutter, and get it in a functional space for you, and in some cases, display it as well. Because I'm sure a lot of the things that you collect and use are also really beautiful, and that's why you have them to begin with. Some of these ideas are simple, some of them can be adapted to your space. So feel free to write in with comments, or questions, or maybe things that you've done to transform your space. You know we love it when you write in. This first one is a simple one, but it's actually really effective. This is a magnetic knife block tool. You mount this onto the wall. And they come in different styles. Sometimes you'll find those really long strips that are exposed metal. You can also find them at the hardware store for tools. This one, I got from my local hardware store but it's actually for kitchen knives. It has a bamboo finish, and it's great for storing scissors which I love. Can you hear that snap? So this is really nice for organizing a lot of pairs of scissors. If you have a ton, then you want to do them back and forth like this so that you can economize your space. At home, I have a little coatrack that has a ton of scissors on it 'cause it's one of the things I collect. So this is a really handy thing for getting those sharp tools off the table and to a place where you can find them easily. We have another magnetic strip in the Creativebug studio where I put little things that I'm afraid I'm going to lose like extra packs of magnets, little sewing pins, razorblades for cutting, or my razorblade refills. So these are super super handy. I love this idea. This is a Lazy Susan, which you probably don't have in your kitchen anymore. This is like a 1970s thing. But it's really good for craft supplies. I have some craft paint, and I have it all upside down, one, so that it's ready to come out of the tube, and two, so that I can see the color. How satisfying is that? This would be really great for like a kids party or some kind of communal crafting space. Maybe you're lucky enough to have a table that's always a crafting space for you, or your friends, or your family. So this is great, everyone can access the paint at the same time. Now, if you don't think little hands can keep this as neat as it is, you can actually just put a box full of random craft supplies or your paints and still put it on the Lazy Susan and be able to turn it so that everyone has access to it. This is actually straight out of our craft room. And I wanted to say, welcome, if you're just joining us. It's August 1st. I can't believe it's August already. And, if you are following along, we have a new daily challenge which is by yours truly, and it's a really fun challenge. I'm really excited about this one. It's a prompt, an inspiration, a resource for you to get in the creative spirit. I know a lot of us who are already creative are sometimes feeling stuck, or some of you are maybe a little bit nervous about saying you're creative. Join us in this daily challenge because today was blind contour. I posted on my Instagram a picture of Charlie who's very active, he's very excited that it's August. So join our daily challenge. Allie is gonna send the link to you guys so you can check it out. And right now, I'm just kind of discussing different ideas for organizing your craft supplies. Whether you're going back to school, going back into your classroom, or just wanting to revamp your craft room. Now this is something I actually have in the Creativebug studio. I took it

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out of the studio to bring it onto the live shoot. And this is a jewelry organizer, which is great for organizing jewelry. But it's perfect for organizing those really tiny things that you can never find. In our case, it's sewing supplies. So things like sewing machine needles, those tiny little replaceable chalk lids for your marking pencils, that bias tape maker, like the one that Sonia Philip couldn't find on her live shoot and then discovered last week, some loose buttons, these wax resist crayons which are used for boutiquing. I can never figure out where I've put them so I keep them in the pack. Those illusive, tiny, sharp scissors that you don't want anybody to touch but you always need. Things like embroidery needles, the stitch witchery tape which unravels all over the place so just tuck it into a little pocket. And I even have some old hotel cards and things that I use for applying paint or glue. Even some quarters because actually we use those as tools for certain kind of camera rigs, and so I always have some change up there in case somebody needs it. Now, some of your collections, you may want to keep tidy but also display. So if you look back on the set, on this wall, I've got these little six by nine clipboards. I ordered them in a pack of a dozen. And they're great for displaying inspiration photos, photos of your family. You could add little bits of ribbon, your fabric collection that you're working with for a new project. They're a great way to have everything display, but have it stay tidy and neat. And they're all hanging on a tiny little map tack which is a decorative, it's like a pin. See if Gino can see this. I'll bring it up here. Can you see that? So there's your traditional push pin, and then of course you have sewing pins, but what I love about map tacks is that they're shorter than a sewing pin and the pin itself is sturdier, and then they come in all these different colors. So you can find these online, you can buy them in single packs of a single color, or you can find them in the multi-color packs too which is really awesome. I use this for so many things, both at home, and on set, and in our studios. Another thing I have displayed are our magazines. It's fun to have magazines out and have them be accessible. They add a nice texture and color to the wall. And in this case, we just hung them on really pretty brass colored hangers. You could use vintage hangers if you have them. Remember, you do need the hanger that has this crossbar so that the magazine has a place to go. And you can layer the magazines too, you don't have to just hang one. Again, you could add strips of fabric if you're working with a bunch of colors. Maybe you're working on a quilt, or you want to display a new line of fabric you're really excited about, but then easily switch it out. You could also hang these on map tacks instead of nails depending on how heavy the magazine is, or if you're just using a lightweight fabric. Remember to write in and ask questions. If you have any questions, maybe you've tried some of these things at your own house. This is something I actually made a long time ago. Probably like seven or eight years ago? And it's been in my garage. So I pulled it out this morning, I thought it would be a good thing to show. These are technically for spices. They're a little tin with a lid that you can see through. And it has these little holes on the side for shaking and they're magnetic. And I just bought this piece of galvanized steel at the hardware store, and put it on the edge of my table, and just bent it in two places to make this stand to kind of display some of the smaller items that I lose in my craft room. So things like those tiny little brads, this is the perfect place for those. Erasers, I can never find an eraser when I need it, so I have a little tin of erasers. Things like tape, little bits of findings. I have tiny sea urchin spines in here, miniature staplers. All the mini things go in here. - [Allie] We have our first question. - [Courtney] Yes, we have a question. - [Allie] Leanna is asking-- - [Courtney] Hey, Leanna. - [Allie] Do you have any tips for storing paper pattern pieces? Mine are totally out of control. - Good question, and I'm about to get there. Thanks for writing in Leanna. So if you have loose paper bits, large paper patterns, and you don't have a flat file, because really, who has the room and space for that? Probably Leanna is like hiding them under her bed, but there's

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actually something you can do better, and this is something that I did in college. I was doing a lot of book making. I had a lot of really large paper and I was living in a tiny little room on campus. And so what I did was used pant hangers to store multiple sheets of paper. And you can just hang this up in the closet with your clothes. You can totally do this for your pattern pieces. You might want to label them. You could do little clothespins to keep them separated and than hang them on these pant hangers. You can find vintage ones of these, but they still actually make this. I got mine at Container Store but you can probably look at your hardware store, as well. And then, for hanging prints, there's a different kind of pant hanger. I'll put this on the table so you can see. This is also a pant hanger, but it has a slightly nicer finish. It doesn't have clips. Instead it has this long wooden kind of bar. I collect these, the vintage ones because sometimes they'll have little patterns on them or they'll say places like name, like Mr Shoes Dry Cleaning Service 1945 or something. But they're really cool for temporarily or even permanently hanging some prints or fine art that you haven't framed yet. So you just slip your art in there, and then clamp it down like that. And then you can easily display it on the wall, switch it out whenever you feel like. - [Allie] Okay, we have several questions now. - Lots of questions. (laughing) - [Allie] Yes. The first is from Caroline. She is wondering what do you recommend for a craft table? - Um, Caroline is asking what do you recommend for a craft table? That is an excellent question. I've kind of gone back through many different iterations. In the end, I think it is nice to have something that you can put your legs under and also stand at. That is my preference. So currently at my own house, I have this really huge flat file that I put a nice piece of wood on top, but I can't really sit down at it. So it's not good for me to sit and paint. I have to sit like this, which is not comfortable long term. In a pinch, use a kitchen table. That's what I often paint at. But if you're trying to set something up a little bit more permanent, you could do saw horses that raise up for standing and go down for sitting, and just a simple wooden top. You can also use an old door, you put a piece of thick glass on top. Look around your space and see if there's something that you can salvage and then customize. It's nice to just have a big open space, and then maybe a few things on the walls, or some small drawers that contain some things underneath. Good question. - [Allie] Next question comes from Christy. Christy is wondering what is the best way to store pens? In a jar, or flat, or in a case? Or does it matter how it's stored? - Question is how do you store pens? Flat, in a case, upright, in a jar, et cetera. And actually that's a great question. If you go into your art supplies store, pens are stored flat. And it's kind of like wine, you want that ink flowing to the tip, so that is technically the best way to store your pen. And I saw this great organization tip that was buying a wine rack and sticking cups in. And I was going to show that today, and I went and bought a wine rack. And guess what? A normal cup does not fit in there because a wine bottle is much much longer. So, experiment with what might work for hanging cups. Or you can do something like organizers for shoes that have little kind of cubbies in them and then just sit it up vertically so everything is lying flat. You could also use stackable bins or small cute little boxes, and just make really tidy labels about different types of pens. You could organize them by style or my color. But technically, they should be laying flat. And if things don't last as long, it's probably because you've been storing them vertically. So it's a little counterintuitive, but it really is the best way to do it. Good question. - [Allie] Next question comes from Hurlinday. - Hi, Hurlinday. - [Allie] And she's asking do you have any tips on storing different sized rulers and templates used for like quilting and sewing? - Storing different size templates and rulers for quilting and sewing, excellent question. Here at the Creativebug studio, I wish you could do a tour of our craft room. Maybe we'll have that in an upcoming live shoot. I actually have them pinned on the wall. So I put in a little hammer nail. Most of those clear acrylic rulers will have an opening in them, so you can just hang them and layer

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them on top of one another. And because they're transparent, you can see what you have. At home, I also have a bunch of rulers like that and I do have a flat file. So they're all in a drawer, so I know exactly where they are. You could also try one of those magnetic strips if you have a lot of metal tools, things for architecture, triangles, small little tiny rulers. But if they're the clear plastic, they're not going to be magnetic. So you have to figure out a system that works for you. I've also seen, we have something like this at the shop that's actually for envelope drying, but I've seen the same thing for quilters, and it's a little stand that has tiny grooves in it. It allows you to stand all of your rulers upright into these little grooves. Kind of like file folders in one of those folding stands, but with tiny little openings. So figure out what works best for your space. If you have enough wall space, that, I think, is the best way to keep them visible but out of the way. Good question. - [Allie] Yes. Next question comes from Breanne. - Hi Breanne, we love you. (laughing) - [Allie] She's wondering, so she just moved in with her boyfriend. - Congrats. - [Allie] And she's creating a creative space herself. So she's wondering what are your thoughts about gift wrap and wrapping supplies? - Oh my god, girl. Gift wrapping supplies? Don't even ask me because my house is crazy with gift wrapping supplies. Like my favorite thing to do. Okay, so you can use a garbage can for all your roll wrap. You could use a big tote for all your roll wrap. I actually have one of those vintage laundry carts that I love. It's like canvas on rollers. And they've been making those, maybe you can find it at an old flea market, but you could also pick up a new one, and it's great for roll wrap. You can also, I've seen these scarf holders that they have at IKEA that have little round holes, and you can do two of them together and hang all of your roll wrap kind of like that up in a closet. For things that are flat, like I mentioned earlier, a pant hanger is really great. Even for little scraps of flat paper, something like this would work. You could even hang ribbons from this, too. You want to have your tape handy. Sometimes it might be easier to have like a big tape roll, where you can have lots of different tape in a roll. And then also, I wish I could show you this, but I have all my washi tape in one of those old waxpaper cutting rolls. I just put a dowel in the center and than have all my washi tape in that. So you have to think about your space. It may be a closet, it may be a tote that you bring in and out. Because gift wrap stuff is so pretty, it doesn't hurt to display it and just have it really clean and organized so that it's ready for you, but it's also really visual on the wall. Good question. - [Allie] Next question comes from Vicky. She says, "I quilt. "Do you have a good idea for keeping track "of what stash you have?" - A good idea for keeping track of your quilting stash, so your fabric stash. Well, you're probably buying fat quarters because you're a quilter, or maybe you're buying things in half yards. I would say that the first key is getting all of your pieces folded down to the same size. And then putting them in maybe drawers by color. You could also put them in by designer? It depends on how you work. I think mostly quilters want something that's a light, a medium, and a dark, so you need to easily access those fabric categories. So actually, those just little tiny office open drawers, they have maybe two or three, kind of like a mini file cabinet, those are great. Figure out how you're going to fold them to economize your space. Maybe they're a little bit tall and flat, so make room for the height. Or maybe you've got two layers tucked in there because they're transparent drawers and you can see through. But I would organize them, fold them all the same size, organize them by color, and light, medium, and dark, and then dedicate something else to your scraps. And also, just get rid of stuff that you're not using like it's nice to go through your stash and clear it out, donate it, check our your local school, maybe they can use some extra fabric scraps. I just did a huge fabric dump for things that I'm not going to get back to any time soon and don't need to be hanging on to it. So, good luck with your craft organization. I want to show you one more idea. If you more questions, Allie will ask me in a minute. This is, can you see this, Gino? This is

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actually for shoes and it's meant to go on the back of a door. If you don't have a back of door space, like at my house I have two of these, I actually have some drilled right into the wall. So you can do a little anchor into a drywall and just put a screw through each of these little grommets. And you can actually hold quite a lot. These are longer than what you see here, I've pinned it up so it's not dragging on the ground. It's excellent for things like spray paint so I can see every color that I have. I have an entire full one back in the Creativebug studio. Things like little dobbers, the paintbrushes that have kind of the most texture that I want to access easily, things like lighters and matches that I can never find. If I organize them this way, then they're easy to access and they kind of stay out of my way. Having that junk drawer, it's like you can never find anything in that junk drawer. It's like a layer, a mass of crap. So just do something like this where you have rubber bands, maybe you have paper clips, and Post-it notes. This takes up very little space if you have it on the back of the door, or maybe on a wall. You guys have excellent questions. I'm so excited. Tell us about your craft space. Tune in on Thursday for our next live shoot. It's August 1st, so check out the daily challenge, and we'll see you on Thursday. (lively electronic music)

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