



DIY PICNIC BLANKET

BEST WEEKEND PROJECT Known for her whimsical gift sets and illustrated paper goods, Christine Schmidt of San Francisco's Yellow Owl Workshop (yellowowlworkshop.com) also excels at turning everyday objects into works of art. That's the premise of her third book, *Make It Yours: Patterns and Inspiration to Stamp, Stencil, and Customize Your Stuff* (Clarkson Potter; \$22), which features more than 60 projects for crafters of all skill levels. This desert-print blanket, adapted from the book, can be made with an existing duvet cover (or follow Schmidt's instructions here to create a grass- and sand-friendly canvas version, complete with bonus napkins). Experiment with various pattern configurations or make stamps with your own motifs. But be forewarned: Schmidt has a knack for turning crafting into an addiction. —*Chantal Lamers*

MATERIALS

- ▶ 4- by 15-ft. canvas dropcloth
- ▶ Fabric scissors
- ▶ Printed templates (see sunset.com/desertquilt)
- ▶ Thick lead pencil
- ▶ 9- by 12-in. self-adhesive craft foam sheets
- ▶ Craft knife
- ▶ 9- by 12-in. clear acrylic stencil sheets
- ▶ 4-in. foam roller
- ▶ 4 oz. water-based textile screenprinting ink
- ▶ Needle and thread or sewing machine

STEP 1: Wash dropcloth in warm water; tumble dry and iron. Measure and cut one 4- by 5-ft. section for the blanket and four 20-in. squares for the napkins.



STEP 2: Print out templates and outline each border with heavy pencil lines. Place one template onto foam sheet, pencil side down; rub traced lines with your thumbnail to transfer pencil marks to foam. Repeat with all templates. **STEP 3:** Use craft knife to cut out stencil shapes. Peel backing from stencils and adhere to clear acrylic sheets. Use scissors to cut 1/4-in. border around each stencil to make stamps (this will make it easier to hold them when inked).



STEP 4: Place one stamp on a flat surface; drop a dollop of screenprinting ink onto a blank acrylic sheet. Roll the foam roller through the ink until evenly coated, then apply roller to stencil, ensuring an even coat.



STEP 5: Place stamp on dropcloth, ink side down. Press onto cloth with a rolling pin. Repeat until desired pattern is achieved; lay out to dry. **STEP 6:** Put blanket and napkins in hot dryer cycle to heat-set ink. Finish seams with needle and thread or on sewing machine. 🌵