

Trinket Shelves

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Many years ago, I fell in love with something that I saw in a craft book: a “scrapbook wall” made of multiple discarded type drawers. I so wanted one to house all my little trinkets! I still do.



I've been keeping an eye out for type drawers ever since, but it turns out that they are super rare, at least in the areas where I've lived.

In some 40 years of cruising thrift shops and antique malls, I have come across only one type drawer, and it was prohibitively expensive. Much as I would like to have started a scrapbook wall of my own, I didn't buy it.



Still, I haven't given up on the idea of a small segmented display shelf like these, to display all my little doodads.

So how about this: a bamboo cutlery organizer with multiple compartments. It's not quite as visually interesting as the type drawers, but it still could work as a nifty display shelf for displaying little kitsches.

There are lots of styles of these organizer trays around, but it turns out they can be pricey: anywhere from \$40 to \$60 on Amazon (!).

Fortunately, though, you can sometimes find something suitable at your local dollar store.



Our Dollarama used to stock a couple of different styles for around \$4 each.

The ones I've seen lately are of simpler construction, with only three compartments: not as pretty, but still useful.

You might also have some luck finding these kinds of trays for a good price in a thrift store.

Years ago, when hardware stores used to give out free yardsticks, there was a trend of making little compartmentalized boxes from the sticks. You do occasionally still see those around in thrift stores as well.



For an interesting display, a mix of different trays can be arranged vertically or horizontally, depending on the items you want to showcase. This one looks adorable filled with my little treasures.

If you look closely, you'll spy several bunnies, a few pigs, some miniature sewing machines, and a couple of Avon bottles.

The little inukshuk is made of stones from beautiful Glacier National Park.



I have a little trinket space next to my treadle sewing machine, on which several of my treasures are displayed. (unfortunately it's trick to get a good photo because the corner where these are displayed is a little alcove overlooking the stairs, so there's nowhere to stand to get a good shot.)

Most of the shelves are drawer organizer trays, though on the upper right you can see a tiny yardstick box filled with bunnies.

Every one of my treasures tells its own story. Perhaps you've noticed Jane and Johnny West; some sewing machines; a Blue Boy statue; and several Avon bottles. Or a box of Peacock crayons tucked away on the left. You might just spy Sylvester Junior; a couple of lighthouses and a Cape Breton beach scene; an hourglass or two; an Egyptian sarcophagus; and a photo of Kreskin.

I'll keep my eye out for more trays so I can add more compartments to my display; maybe one day I'll even build an addition using wooden laths. I'd love to mount the whole thing on the wall instead of resting it on a bookshelf, but our concrete walls make it difficult to hang things securely (In case you're wondering, Alien Tape does not hold on painted surfaces *at all*, and Command Hooks hold only temporarily).

For now, though, I can enjoy all my little treasures right where they are, where I'll see them each time I climb the stairs to the crafting loft.