



LET'S NOT LET THE GPS MAKE MAPS USELESS!
STORED IN TRUNKS OR DUST-COVERED IN OUR
COAT CLOSETS... LET'S BRING THEM OUT FOR SOME
DIY FUN IN HONOR OF SUMMER TRAVEL!



Oh, hello summer! Hello drinks with little umbrellas. Hello lightening bugs and the sound of flip-flops flipping and flopping. Hello to the smell of sun tan lotion and sand in the car. And hello to my favorite hot weather pastime, summer traveling! My suitcase stays out of the attic for the duration of summer that is for sure! A local beach, the west coast, across the big ocean to a different country, or traveling to an island in a Beach Boys song...hello summer, please stay as long as you can.

Traveling in age of the GPS, maps don't come in handy too often anymore. I can still remember the last time I used a map. I was a senior in high school and my friend and I were lost somewhere in the heart of Washington D.C. To help our situation, I got the map from the trunk that was given to me by my parents who knew my lack of directional skills. We still couldn't figure out where we were. We turned it, studied it, scratched our heads and still could not figure out where we were in that map. (note to old self: Hey, Elle...it was Baltimore map, not D.C.)

INGREDIENTS:

*Modge Podge in gloss • maps • piece of furniture
razor blade • paint • pencil • sand paper*



If you already have a piece of furniture that you would like to transform, great! If not, find a little gem at an antique store or consignment shop that you can paint an adorable color of your choice. I just loved the look of a vintage desk for this project, it reminded me of geography class. Little hint: pick a color that is a primary color in the map so it blends well!

Once your furniture has dried and is ready, decide on the cutest places to cover the piece with the map. Now, there are two ways to make the perfect fitting map cut-outs to go on areas you've picked. I used both ways. The first way is on the top of the desk. I put the map on top

and folded the edges over the sides to create heavy creases. When I lifted it from the desk, the crease was a perfect outline for cutting with the razor blade. Pick up your map, and using a razor, you can cut to the line on the crease you created. The second way I used was for the chair backs. I held up the map to the front, pressing it against the chair. On the back, I used a pencil to trace the back's shape for each one. Again, I cut it out using the razor.



Once you are sure they fit perfectly and you've made any necessary adjustments, open your modge podge. Put a coating on the furniture where the map will cover using your hands or a sponge (let's not be afraid to get a little dirty because using your hands is the best turn out!). Lay the map pieces you have cut on top and smooth it on top of the modge podge. Wait a few hours until dry and add a coating

of Modge Podge to the top and let dry again. The next day, add one more coating to the top and let dry overnight.

Now that you have a thick coating on top, it is almost finished! It will be a little rough no matter how evenly you spread it, so sand the top lightly to make a smooth finish! Ohh la la, all done!

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX:

Use markers or stickers before adding the modge podge showing your favorite places. Or, after you are done step 4, use dry erase markers to circle places you want to go so you can adjust it when you finally visit these destinations!

You don't have to just use furniture, try a lamp shade, the outside of a vase, the back of a clear plate, coasters. The possibilities are endless (and on the bright side you will never be lost).

Are you a music lover? Have a favorite book? Why not use sheets of music, lyrics of your favorite songs, pages from your favorite book instead of maps?



About the Author: Elle Ellinghaus is the owner/designer/planner for Elle Ellinghaus Designs. A fullservice wedding and event planner, Elle loves anything with ruffles, has a love-hate relationship with the color pink and carries around a sketchpad in her purse. She enjoys a gorgeous, uncomfortable pair of high heels, has a random collection of lucky charms on her desk and cries at Foldgers holiday commercials.

For more information on Elle Ellinhaus Designs, log onto <http://www.elleeventdesigns.com>