

# HAPPINESS! House Beautiful

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I'd been saving them from dinner parties for years—I knew I'd think of something to do with them one day. Now, that day had come. I'd make a tabletop!

I filled a bowl with corks and began experimenting with designs. I tried a starburst pattern and then a herringbone before I realized that on a circular top, concentric rings would look best.

Beginning at the table's outermost edge, I worked steadily inward, squeezing a line of Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Glue on each cork and quickly pressing it into place. I was careful to keep the best-looking side of the cork showing—usually the side with the vineyard name. For the rings at the very center of the table, I sliced Champagne corks to the right height with a serrated knife. To finish, I glued wine corks vertically around the perimeter.

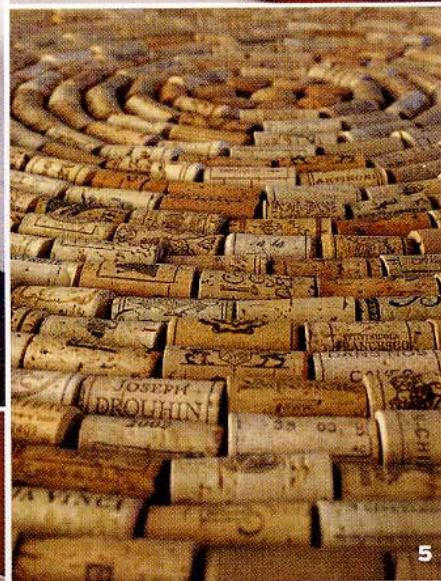
Once dry, I measured the surface (the outside corks made it slightly larger than its original dimension of 41 $\frac{3}{8}$ "") and had a local glass and mirror shop cut a quarter-inch-thick glass top with a nice polished edge for \$200. It took most of my corks—about 500—but I have a table of happy memories.

### STEPHEN'S SOURCES

Any tabletop can be covered with corks, but if you like the Docksta, it's available at all Ikea stores and online at [WWW.IKEA.COM](http://WWW.IKEA.COM) (\$149).

**If you don't already have a stash of corks, visit eBay or [WWW.CORKSTORE.COM](http://WWW.CORKSTORE.COM), which sells recycled wine corks for ten cents each.**

I also recycle wine bottles that I find particularly beautiful—there are so many subtle differences in shapes and colors—or that have sentimental meaning. I make drinking glasses out of them [see photo on opposite page, and below, right, of one of the glasses used as a vase]. You can find bottle cutting kits at craft shops or at [WWW.TRACYSWORKSHOP.COM](http://WWW.TRACYSWORKSHOP.COM). (\$27).



Stephen Henderson, TOP RIGHT.



## WEEKEND SHOPPER/CORK TABLETOP

What I had: a stash of wine corks...What I bought: a white dining table...What I made: a tabletop that recalls so many happy moments BY STEPHEN HENDERSON



I wanted a small dining table for a cozy nook in my house, something casual and inexpensive, so I went to Ikea. I loved the simplicity of the round Docksta, an Eero Saarinen knockoff, and at \$149 it was irresistible. But it was so, well, *white*. Then I remembered the shopping bags in my basement filled with all those tawny wine corks.

ELLEN McDERMOTT