

# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

## Handyman

The old adage "Jack of all trades and master of none" does not apply to my handyman husband. I honestly do not think there is much, if anything at all, my husband can not do or can not learn to do. He may be the epitome of a genuine "Jack of all trades."

Living in the country many miles from city resources and conveniences has probably contributed to the necessity of becoming good at troubleshooting as problems and needs arise. My man was also raised by a daddy that was convinced there was not anything that could not be learned and mastered, so I think he inherited the can-do gene.

There are advantages to being married to an avid do-it-yourselfer. Mentioning things you need or wish you had is music to his ears. His imagination and ingenuity get to work, making your dreams come true.

Mind you, his work will likely require time and patience before you see the results or receive the bounty of his skills, but my handyman is truly a master of whatever he does so when his work is complete you will be both pleased and thrilled.

The featured photo with my Valentine gift is from a few years ago. At the time, I had one of those huge L-shaped desks and no longer needed something so big in my small office. I longed for a simple writing desk style. I am sure I had made this desire known many times but had yet to go shopping for one, so my Valentine gift was a sweet surprise.

When you are a committed do-in-yourselfer you maintain a huge supply of all kinds of materials because you never know what you might need. My husband knows how much I love old barn wood and black iron. It just so happens he has a good supply of these items, and he has built other stunning furniture pieces for our home as well as our daughter's home.

Maybe I should take a few more words to honor and celebrate some of my Jack-of-all-trades' many accomplishments. There is our black iron and wood television stand, our



Annette Bridges with her Valentine's Day gift from a few years back, made by her husband. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

slate-top and black iron living room side table, barn wood storage cabinet, horseshoe lamp and deer antler lamp to name a few of his creations gracing our home.

He did an amazing job refinishing the original wood floors in our little farmhouse several years ago that have stood the test of time in their beauty. He also built gorgeous iron gates into our ranch that include stunning logos.

Yes indeed, he has built barns and all kinds of other needed farm and ranch structures, as well as a magnificent new master bedroom and bathroom that he added on to our house.

When I say there is nothing my man cannot do, I sincerely mean it. I'm pretty sure I already

wrote about the charming swing set for two he built me for a Christmas gift.

Writing about the many things my man has built takes me back another 35-plus years to when I was a kindergarten teacher. He helped me create my dream classroom by building me all kinds of cool items such as cubby shelves for my students, a sand play table, water play table, and so much more.

Although it is certainly true that this born and raised city girl has times when she wants something fast and would rather go make the purchase the way regular city folks do, I am pretty sure the creations I end up with are the envy of all who see them. 