

Making a Lamp out of Anything

First you need to find some sort of vessel, anything ranging from a vase and jars, to vintage boxes. Take your trash treasure and drill a whole in the top and the bottom, if you have access to a drill press the task will be easier. It might be a good idea to ask someone at a home center if your “vessel” would need that special care. Next you have to purchase (yes purchase) a lamp wiring kit, and you can get them at any home center or lighting store. The kit comes with a standard threaded rod, washers, and a harp holder. The harp is the top piece of the lamp that holds the bulb, so the kit comes equipped with the bit that holds it. You may need to also purchase a decorative base or a finial; which is the decorative top-piece connected to the harp. Once you have all of your pieces, you simply stack them, including the socket and the harp, and measure from the bottom of the socket and subtract enough so that the bottom of the rod will recess $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in to the bottom of the base. Drill a one inch wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep recessed area in the underside of the base, if needed, to allow the lamp base to sit flat. Use a hack saw to cut a standard threaded rod to this measurement. Next you have to decide where the cord can exit the lamp base. If the base has feet, leave the cord loose; otherwise drill an exit hole in the back of the lamp base. Then insert the rod through the lamp base. Thread the electrical cord through the rod. Screw the rod through the harp holder and into the bottom portion of the metal socket; then securely tighten the connections. Carefully pull apart a few inches of the top end of the cord to separate the two wires then tie the two wires into an underwriters knot. Strip off about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of the plastic covering at the ends of the wires and attach the bare wires beneath the socket screws with a screwdriver. Add a plug to the other end of the cord. Finally attach the harp, insert a bulb into the socket and then test it.