

# Buyer's Edge



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SOUTHERN MADE

## Metal signs, wood watches, soft leather

By Linda Jerkins  
For the AJC

### Eco-chic

Gillian Stevens, founder of Dewdrop Designs in Charlotte, N.C., was once a lady of letterpress. But five years ago, the University of Georgia grad found a new love: designing and screen-printing leather goods.

Using buttery-soft recycled leather, Dewdrop Designs creates modern bags, iPad/e-reader sleeves and home accessories (\$20 to \$200). The goods are illustrated with nature-inspired images, including fish and shells, which are year-round favorites. Color choices abound, but brights (fuchsia, aqua, mango) and whites are in demand as travelers skip town for the summer.

While the zippered folio (\$48), a practical and stylish carry-all, has been a recent best-seller, Stevens is excited about the new kitchen line she has cooked up. It includes food diaries, blank journals and a handy, 9-inch-by-12-inch book with pages of clear sleeves for recipes. In the kitchen collection (\$28 and up), the leather covers feature oversized images of food, such as an artichoke or strawberry.

To order, visit [dewdropdesigns.com](http://dewdropdesigns.com) or stop by the new (and first) Dewdrop Shop, 21-A Market St. (in the Habersham Marketplace), in Beaufort, S.C.



UGA grad Gillian Stevens crafts stylish bags from recycled leather.

CONTRIBUTED BY  
[DEWDROPDDESIGNS.COM](http://DEWDROPDDESIGNS.COM)

GEAR

## Camp light is built to hang

Hozuki Lantern offers form and function for dark, scary nights.

By Shelby Sheehan-Bernard  
McClatchy-Tribune

Pack away your old clunky camp light, because Snow Peak's Hozuki Lantern is not only functional, it has a sleek design that can hang in your home as easily as a campsite. Inspired by Chinese paper lanterns, this 100-lumen LED lantern offers three brightness settings and has a candle mode that flickers to set the mood. It also allows for different setups: The light includes a hook that's great for carrying or hanging on a nearby tree; it can also be flipped upside down for use as a table-top light.

The lantern's shade is made from silicone rubber, which compresses for easy packing and maintains durability, despite its delicate appearance. The Hozuki Lantern is also lightweight for its size. At 4 inches in diameter and 9.8 inches in height, it only weighs 5.6 ounces.

The lantern is battery powered for full portability and is USB-compatible, so you can power it with your computer. (Mini USB connector sold separately; note that it will power the light but not recharge the batteries.) The light runs on four AA batteries, which provide up to 80 hours on the low light setting. A low-battery indicator helps ensure you don't get left in the dark.

Price is \$89.95. To purchase or find online or local retailers, visit [snowpeak.com](http://snowpeak.com).



The Hozuki Lantern can hang in a home or at a campsite.  
MCCLATCHEY-TRIBUNE

### What's your sign?

Kristie Thompson grew up in Savannah, where her father and grandfather ran a sign company. But she never planned on joining the family business – or starting her own – until last year after a move from Los Angeles to Atlanta.

While house hunting, the veteran set decorator for TV and film discovered that Atlanta neighborhoods had their own character, story and architecture – something she appreciated.

Soon after buying her condo in a 1910 building in Poncey Highland, Thompson was so motivated by Atlanta's historic neighborhoods and her fond memories of the faded quality of old signs that she started a vintage-inspired sign company.

At the Patina Factory, popular signs include Virginia Highland, Inman Park, Buckhead and Decatur. But there are others, plus custom signs too. Priced at \$149, the hand-painted metal signs are 24 inches by 24 inches and 2 inches deep. For \$59, the new 8-inch-by-20-inch signs feature just a neighborhood name.



Vintage-inspired metal signs focus on favorite Atlanta neighborhoods. CONTRIBUTED BY  
[PATINAFACTORY.COM](http://PATINAFACTORY.COM)

Find Patina Factory signs in the Atlanta area at Urban Cottage ([www.urbancottageatlanta.com](http://www.urbancottageatlanta.com)), 998 N. Highland Ave. and at Antiques and Beyond ([antiquesandbeyond.com](http://antiquesandbeyond.com)), 1853 Cheshire Bridge Road. For information about the company, all signs point to [patinafactory.com](http://patinafactory.com)

### Quality time

While attending college, Juan Felipe Barreneche, Felipe Lopez, Daniel Schemel and Mateo Isaza came up with an idea to create wooden watches that were fashionable and eco-friendly. In 2005, they founded Mistura in Dallas, Texas.

Using exotic woods, hand-dyed leathers and other recyclable materials, the hand-crafted watches (\$140 to \$255) can take 85 hours to make.

Artful options are available for every personality. But if you want to customize a unisex watch by choosing the color of the watch band or shape (and color) of the watch face, add \$45. For added fun, choose the color of the watch hands.

Over the years, Mistura's watches sold at various Atlanta festivals. Now you can find the statement watches at the



Eco-chic wooden watches are unisex and range from \$140 to \$255. CONTRIBUTED BY  
[MISTURA.COM](http://MISTURA.COM)

Mistura store in Perimeter Mall or online at [mistura.com](http://mistura.com). A second Atlanta-area store opens in July at Lenox Square.

### BEST OF THE SOUTH

Do you have favorite finds from around the South that you give as gifts, buy for your home or rave about to friends? If so, please share them with us. Send your suggestions to: [ljjerkins@gmail.com](mailto:ljjerkins@gmail.com). Please include your name and contact number.

## Where can I find it?

Sabine Morrow [sabinem.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:sabinem.morrow@gmail.com)

**Q:** I'm hoping you can help me. My niece is a big fan of the BBC television show "Doctor Who." I want to get her one of the coffee mugs with the image of the TARDIS that disappears when you add hot coffee to the cup. I've seen them online, but wondered if they were available locally? Thank you for your assistance. – C. Harris, Atlanta

**A:** For those unfamiliar with the British science fiction "Doctor Who" series, TARDIS refers to the blue police box – think phone booth – that doubles as the Doctor's time-traveling space craft. Add hot liquid, and the heat-sensitive mug allows the TARDIS to disappear from the city streets on one side of the mug and reappear to a galaxy scene on the other side. You'll find the 12-ounce mugs for \$10.93 each at Richard's Variety, 2347

Peachtree Road, Atlanta, 404-237-1412.

**Q:** I wanted to know where to find organic and fresh produce markets near Decatur. Thank you. – Ajuanina White, email

**A:** You have several terrific outdoor farmers markets nearby that offer organic produce, dairy items, local meats, jams, baked goods and hand-made crafts. Decatur Farmers Market, [www.decaturfarmersmarket.com](http://www.decaturfarmersmarket.com), sets up on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. at Commerce Drive and Church Street, behind Bank of America. On Saturday mornings, it opens from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at East Trinity Place and North McDonough Street, the same block as Decatur High School. Slightly outside of Decatur, you'll find East Lake Farmers Market, [www.elfmarket.org](http://www.elfmarket.org), each Sat-

urday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's at 2343 Hosea L. Williams Drive, Atlanta, 404-428-8017. A stone's throw from Decatur, each Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., is the Morning-side Farmers Market, [www.morningsidemarket.com](http://www.morningsidemarket.com), 1393 N. Highland Ave., Atlanta. This market is certified organic and has been serving locals for nearly two decades. Note that these farmers markets offer plenty of special events that include sales, chef demonstrations and cook-offs, so be sure to check the websites to get specific information for each market.

**Q:** As a child, I had a jigsaw puzzle of the U.S., with each state its own individual puzzle piece. It was a great way for children and adults to learn the shapes and locations of the states. I currently have a jigsaw puzzle of

the U.S., but all of the states run together with indistinct shapes. It's nowhere near as educational or as much fun to do. Despite much effort, I have been unable to find a jigsaw puzzle like my original. Can you please help? Thank you. – Beverly Harris, Decatur

**A:** It seems that it's much easier to find wooden puzzles that fit your specific needs than cardboard versions. However, you'll find Milton Bradley map of the United States 84-piece jigsaw puzzle at Toys R Us, 4033 LaVista Road, Tucker, 770-938-4321. Each piece of this puzzle is cut in the shape of the states, and it sells for \$6.99.

**Q:** I bought Kroger Butter Salt for years. I cannot find it or a suitable replacement. Is it available anywhere? Thank you. – Janet Walker, Milner

**A:** Janet, I have nothing but good news for you. While Kroger Butter Salt has been unavailable for some time, it's going to make a comeback in a few months, according to a source at Kroger. In the meantime, you might check out a similar product called Kernel Season's butter seasoning in the popcorn section of Kroger, 100 Spalding St., Griffin, 770-228-0457. A 2.85-ounce shaker is priced at \$2.49.

Having trouble finding a particular item? We'll try to help you locate it. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot track down every request. Write to us at Buyer's Edge Find It, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 223 Perimeter Center Parkway N.E., Atlanta, GA 30346; email [sabinem.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:sabinem.morrow@gmail.com) (include your name, the city you live in and a daytime phone number).