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MAY 2014



## 31 ways to get organized **now**

*Real Simple* asked four pros how they would bring maximum order to a home with only \$500 to spend on boxes, bins, and systems. Steal their budget-minded tips and tricks to transform the most clutter-prone spots you've got.

WRITTEN BY Betsy Goldberg PHOTOGRAPHS BY Anna Williams SET DESIGN BY Jeffrey W. Miller

**No animals were harmed in the organizing of this room.** Cuddly critters stay off the bed but within reach in a wall-mounted wire basket. *Opposite:* A smart stack of lidded boxes offers storage without the clunky look of desk drawers. Up top, a six-compartment desk organizer keeps pencils, scissors, stamps, and even rarely used keys from straying. See page 238 for detailed shopping info.



**BARBARA REICH**

A New York City-based organizer and the author of *Secrets of an Organized Mom*



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**1. expandable drawer organizers**

"These are intended for kitchen or office supplies, but I love a few of them in a kid's room, to keep small toy pieces from taking over. They're adaptable to fit nearly any size drawer."

Four drawer organizers, \$28 each, organizeit.com.

**2. P-touch PT-D200 label maker**

"The visual cue of a label really prompts you to put stuff where it belongs. This label maker has a clearer font than other brands, and the labels hold up better."

\$40, brother-usa.com.

**3. Converge docking and display station**

"A family charging center cuts down on ugly cord clutter. This one holds up to four devices and has a slim profile, so it's easy to find a spot for it."

\$70, quirky.com (newest model available in May).

[Barbara Reich continues on page 88.]

**laundry clutter-buster**

"If you buy your kids' socks in just one style, you eliminate 'sock widow' pileups and skip the time-consuming task of matching socks as they come out of the laundry."



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**4. wall-mounted sports-gear rack**

"Helmets, rackets, bats, and balls are disastrous, rolling-all-over-the-garage stuff, but you can corral them all in this 34-by-34-by-12-inch rack. Hallelujah! I hang the rack in clients' garages or mudrooms or on a closet wall." \$84, organizeit.com.



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**5. large lacquered box**

"Instead of letting wallets, keys, and spare change land on the kitchen counter, use a lidded box that brings a pop of color to the room." Box (9½ by 6¼ by 5½ inches), \$20, containerstore.com.



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**7. Iris three-piece airtight pet-food container**

"Pet food, in its giant packaging, is such an eyesore. I decant it into an airtight container on wheels, to make it easy to access and tuck back in the pantry. This container has a connected snap-on lid to keep food fresh and hold the smell of it inside." 10-pound container, \$23, bedbathandbeyond.com.



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**6. Harmony 650 universal remote**

"It's crazy how many remotes some people have. Get rid of all that coffee-table clutter with a universal remote. This one stands in for up to eight remotes—not just for the TV but also for music systems and game consoles—and it's compatible with more than 225,000 devices. It's simple to set up online with a PC or a Mac, or you can have someone talk you through it via live customer support." \$80, logitech.com.



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**8. classic triple hook**

"In the mudroom or entry, turn three-part hooks into 'stations' for anything that helps you get out the door fast: dog walking (leash, flashlight, and bags), running (cap, water bottle, and fanny pack), and grocery shopping (car keys, sweatshirt, and reusable totes)." \$29, potterybarn.com.



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**want more tips and tricks to organize your whole home?** Go to [realsimple.com/declutter](http://realsimple.com/declutter).

**9. Sure Loc hair-dryer organizer**

"Not only can this carrier fit a dryer, a curling iron, brushes, and styling products but it also adheres to a smooth wall or a cabinet door by suction—no tools required. Or stick it on the inside of a kitchen-cabinet door to hold your whisk, Microplane grater, and other cooking tools." \$28, organize.com.

**TOTAL SPENT: \$486**