

Pedal PERFECT



RIDE OFF TO
A QUIET SPOT
FOR A PICNIC
UNDER A LEAFY
CANOPY. BY BIKE
(OUR PREFERRED
MODE OF
TRANSPORTATION)
OR CAR, THIS
OUTING IS A
TRUE BREATH OF
FRESH AIR!

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Material Matters

Old tins, *this photo*, are perfect for packing cookies or other foods for two-wheel transporting. Even if the tins get a little dinged up, you won't open them to a container of crumbs. Vintage bicycles, *opposite*, will help set the mood for an old-fashioned picnic.

Stretch out on a blanket with a book or just enjoy the rustle of leaves. This pedal picnic is all about relaxing.



Front Loaded

Layer up! Tea towels and a wooden basket, *above*, help keep things in place when transporting items in the wire basket of a vintage bike. If the picnic is a simple snack for one or two people, a front basket may be all the transport space you need.

Spread Out

Pieces of 1940s bark cloth, *right*, create a big blanket for spreading out (and also to welcome any friends you invited). The surprise: They were curtains in their previous life. Folded up, the lightweight fabric serves as a protective liner in a bike basket, *opposite top*.



On A Roll

Just roll and go with this over-the-shoulder blanket carrier, *above*, made with two thrifted hand-tooled leather belts. Create a loop on one end of a belt, using the buckle to secure and leaving the end with holes free. Buckle the second belt to the unlooped end of the first belt. Create a loop in the loose end of the second belt, securing with a D-ring. Slip a rolled-up blanket through loops.

Branching Out

An easy-to-tote vintage camp stool is handy for guests who want to get off the ground. For a similar look, bolt together three sturdy wooden legs and a piece of canvas for the seat. If you're transporting a stool via bicycle, make sure the unit folds and can be properly secured.



In The Pocket

Give plates and flatware a grab-and-go home in easy-to-sew storage cases, *above*, made from scraps of 1950s fabric. Cut fabric to fit the plate (durable enamelware is a good choice for a picnic) or flatware, and machine-sew to form pockets to contain the items. Add leather or ribbon straps to the flatware holder so it can be rolled up and tied.

Back Packed

French saddlebags, *right*, found on Etsy and used for mail delivery in the 1950s provide extra transport storage. They can hold all kinds of picnic gear, including soft-sided coolers.

On A Roll

A vintage calendar-theme tea towel, *far right*, morphs into a bottle carrier. Place two bottles end-to-end on the bottom of the towel, with tops pointing toward the towel sides. Roll up towel, creating a tube with the bottles contained in it. Fold tube upward and tie at top.





Cool It

A vintage-inspired picnic calls for vintage-inspired drinks, *left*. Skip the plastic for bottled beverages. There's just something about drinking out of glass! A retro cooler is old-school cool, too.

What's For Lunch?

Will it be cold fried chicken or deli sandwiches? Announce the menu by turning the top of a junk-store picnic basket, *below*, into a write-and-erase surface. Coat with chalk-finish paint. Use chalk to draw or write a design and list the day's offerings.



Making A Scene

Open the thrifted wicker picnic basket, *below*, and you'll be relaxing by a scenic stream. Just cut and mount an old landscape painting to fit the inside lid. Embellish the outside bottom of the basket by taping off and then painting a wide stripe on it.



The Essentials

Vintage items bring extra flavor to any picnic. Here's a few old-fashioned staples.

PICNIC BASKET Woven styles are classic, and have been used since early times, including elaborate Victorian picnics. Smaller picnic tins with woven designs are handy when you don't have as much food to pack. (Many of the basket-like tins were designed as packaging for biscuits and intended for storage.)

BLANKET Instead of hunting down a traditional red-plaid blanket, cobble together a blanket from scraps of vintage fabrics (or repurpose vintage curtains into a blanket like we did). A heavy cotton camp blanket works, too. Keep things dry by using a shower curtain liner as a buffer to the ground.

COOLER OR THERMOS Portable metal coolers, popularized in the 1950s, can be heavy (so not a good choice if you're pedaling to the picnic), but have a retro-cool look. Vintage thermos bottles are portable, and can be found for \$10 and up. Coolers and thermoses with a plaid design will add camp-inspired flair.

Resources, see page 110