

## FIND & DESIGN

Designer Reisa Pollard of Beyond Beige Interior Design in Vancouver repurposed a vintage hi-fi stereo to create a powder room vanity. It's quite easy to make, says Pollard, who has installed some radio vanities that still play music.

## YOU NEED:

**Vintage radio** (or hi-fi stereo as shown here) approximately 75 to 80 cm (30 to 32 inches) high (keep in mind that a standard vanity height, including sink, is 32 inches)

**Vessel-style sink** designed to sit on top of the counter

**Single-hole faucet and taps**

**Plumbing parts** as required

**Jigsaw**

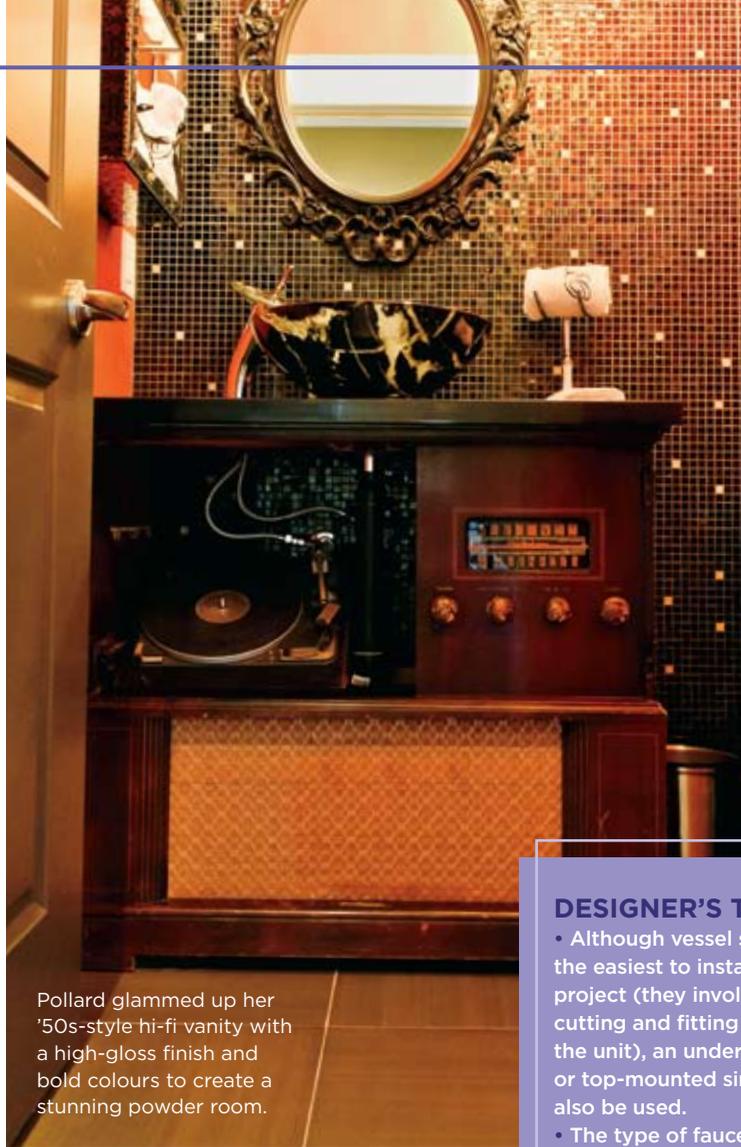
**Moisture-resistant paint** or clear lacquer (optional)

**Trisodium phosphate (TSP) cleaner**

## TO MAKE:

**1** | Choose a radio that's structurally sound and can be easily adjusted to the correct height. Make sure you consider the height of the sink. If you find a radio you love but it isn't quite the right height, in most cases the legs can be removed or replaced.

**2** | Remove the back panel of the radio and remove any parts, including the speakers, that may interfere with the plumbing. (Usually, you'll find that once the large speakers are removed there will be plenty of space



Pollard glammed up her '50s-style hi-fi vanity with a high-gloss finish and bold colours to create a stunning powder room.

to accommodate the drainage pipe and water supply connections.)

**3** | Clean the exterior of the radio with TSP to gently remove grime.

**4** | Repair the finish, or paint with a moisture-resistant paint if necessary. Keep in mind that a little wear is testament to the radio's authenticity.

**5** | Position the radio against the wall to determine the location of the plumbing and to make sure it all fits neatly inside.

**6** | Place the sink on top of the radio and mark the location of the sink drain; cut the appropriate size hole for the drain using a jigsaw.

**7** | Install the plumbing, sink, taps and faucet. Unless you're familiar with plumbing projects, hire a professional. It isn't necessary to secure the radio to the wall as the plumbing connections will keep it in place.

## DESIGNER'S TIPS

- Although vessel sinks are the easiest to install for this project (they involve less cutting and fitting into the unit), an undermounted or top-mounted sink could also be used.

- The type of faucet you choose will depend on the type of sink you select. For a deep vessel sink, a goosenecked or wall-mounted faucet works best. A simple single-hole faucet simplifies the look and keeps the focus on the radio.

- Get creative with the countertop and add a classic piece of marble or granite right on top of the radio. A piece of clear or frosted tempered glass or a heavy application of water-resistant lacquer is a cost-effective alternative and maintains the retro look.

- To complement the retro look, use wallpaper, crystal or glass light fixtures and ornate mirrors. Or add sleek contemporary accessories to contrast with the radio's vintage vibe.