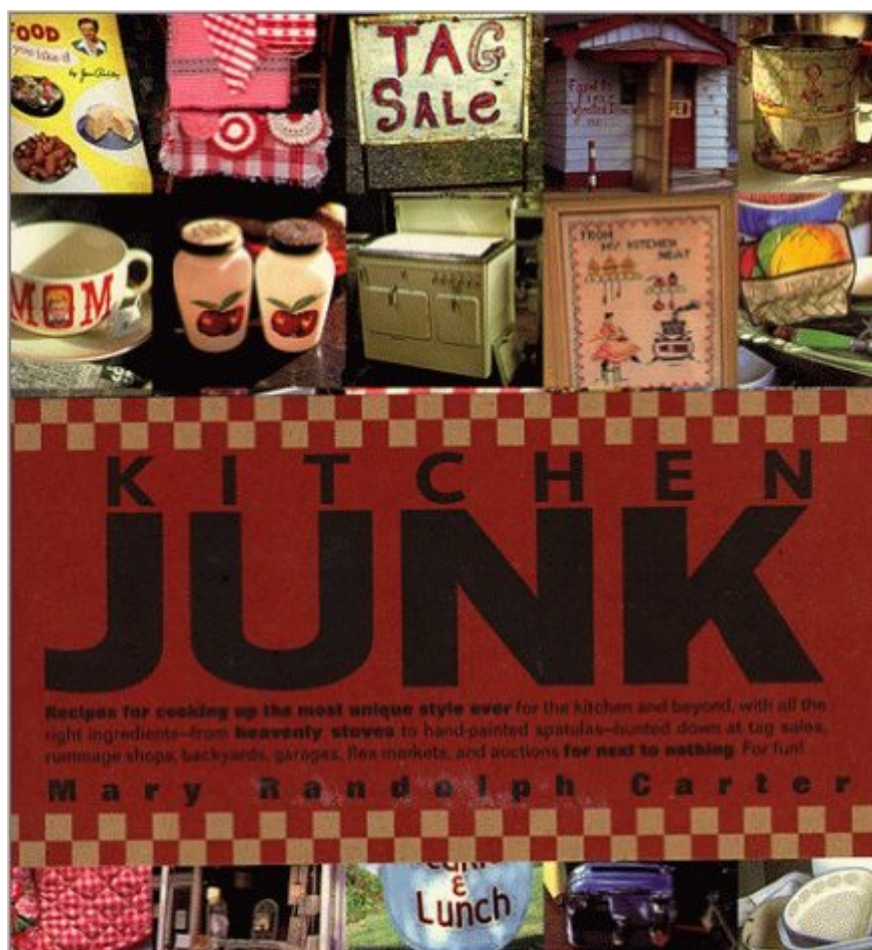


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# Kitchen Junk (Word Tracks Studio)



## Synopsis

America's triumphant Queen of Junk homes in on where the heart dwells--in the kitchen--with vintage treasures that add spice to life and cost next to nothing. In the effervescent yet practical style of her *American Junk* and *Garden Junk*, Mary Randolph Carter tracks down and rescues kitchen gems everywhere from thrift shops to tag sales to country auctions. Kitchens are often the source of our earliest memories--eating oatmeal before school, lingering over a cup of hot chocolate. If the kitchen is old, with appliances that challenge decorative instincts, or characterless and crying out for touches of nostalgia (old Tupperware is more and more in demand), the answers lie in *Kitchen Junk*. From the era of "good housekeeping" come bib aprons and blue feather dusters, wooden ironing boards and handcrafted scrub brushes. Dinette sets, gingham notepads and oilcloth picked up coast to coast for \$2 to 10 cents...vintage cookbooks and old milk bottles...a porcelain-enamel table top and sentimental kitchen samplers...midcentury calico roosters and white granite-ware pitchers a hundred years old but timeless...the stoves, toasters, and clocks of yesteryear all contribute to the author's signature arrangements and inspire readers to create their own. Before and after photographs, prices, and hints on junk hunting and haggling mingle with tips on cleaning old linens, avoiding rust on baking pans, and much more. With an extensive Junk Guide that lists flea markets and other "junking sites" countrywide, *Kitchen Junk* is the reference for thrifty, evocative, eclectic furnishing of the hub of the house.

## Book Information

Series: Word Tracks Studio

Hardcover: 252 pages

Publisher: Studio (September 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 067088099X

ISBN-13: 978-0670880997

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #954,775 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Houseware & Dining > Kitchenware](#) #256 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Americana](#) #4252 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Industrial, Manufacturing & Operational Systems](#)

## Customer Reviews

... junk is stuff you should throw out and junque is what it becomes through Mary Randolph Carter's eyes. Yes, this makes a trio of "junk" books, but her approach is infectious, humorous and fun. She is clearly setting up faux scenarios, not telling us how to live with old rusty flour sifters! There's food for thought among the frolic. If you believe the keys to understanding a civilization are in its flotsam and jetsam, you will learn a lot about 20th century America here. And there's plenty of good advice about flea marketeering, how and where, etc. In fact, after lapping up each chapter, it's all I can do to keep from hitting the road! P.S. Thank you, Mary, for not finding MY favorite junque spots!

Anyone who can make REAL junk look this good is a friend of mine! As a casual collector of things old with a special place for kitchen collectibles, I found this book fascinating not only for its content - such a wide variety of items - but also for the excellent photography, creative displays, and down-home narrative style. While you won't find this useful as a pricing guide, you can still get a feel for values of some everyday items you might find. This was my second book by Mary Randolph Carter and they have become my "coffee table" books. (I now have all 3 of her Junk books.)

This is MRC's third junk journey--this time through the real heart of the home--the kitchen. I've read them all, but this really tops it--arpons, sifters, dinged coffee pots, a matador's breakfast fantasy. If you love junking like I don't even hesitate, and if you have a friend who loves this stuff--what a Christmas present!

My wife and I loved the first two Junk books. When we saw Kitchen Junk we thought Ms Carter might be milking a good thing. But, we found it just as fascinating and maybe even more fun. The photography is great, the "negotiating" tips are priceless; if you have even the slightest interest in what has to be the greatest way to spend leisure time...flea market hopping...you'll love this book. We did.

I love it, just as I have loved every one of this author's "junk" books! I don't necessarily decorate with this stuff, but I enjoy seeing it and reading about it. As with the others, the book is crammed with pictures of old and semi-old household things. Some of it is what I can remember my mom and grandmother having in their kitchens. Some of it is stuff I'd never seen before, but there's very little of that. I think I've just about seen it all in my lifetime. Carter uses her collectibles in unusual ways at times. She also leaves them in pretty much the same condition in which she finds them. This would

drive a lot of people crazy, maybe even me. But wow, the nostalgia is heart warming. I go over her junk books often, I have all of them, and I get the same feeling of nostalgia every time. It's always fun to slide back in time and picture the old homes with these sometimes odd looking, and sometimes very familiar items. If you get an occasional hankering for thrift shop shopping, and your heart gets mushy at the sight of old fashioned household accoutrements, I think you'd probably love Mary Randolph Carter's books, too. She's got a book about any kind of downhome junk you can imagine.

Ms. Carter's book was true journey thru the past. Who would not want to be reminded of our youth and members of families and our friends who did not just collect this stuff but actually used it in their kitchens and homes. Thank you Mary Randolph Carter for your beautiful book and for bringing me back to years gone by. You must be a swell girl.

As a collector of old but inexpensive kitchen glassware and dishes, I expected to find photos of and sources for locating such items here. But the title of this book is in fact an accurate representation of its contents. The items featured are TRULY junk--peeling, shabby and often garish in appearance. There is an honest charm about this and the look can be used to good, even great, effect, but as often as not the result is simply cluttered and unappealing. If you want your own kitchen to literally resemble a flea market, this book could be a great inspiration to you; otherwise you might want to pass, or at least investigate it more thoroughly before purchasing. I wish I'd bought \$30 worth of Swanky Swigs instead!

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