

Midwest Living

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The Joys of Summer!

Easy, delicious grilling • Top towns for antiques
A great lake escape • Secrets for perfect cookies

My double oven makes entertaining a cinch.

First on the block with an automatic dishwasher!

I'm no fool. I let electricity do the work for me! Come see how in my **All-Electric House** at the Johnson County Museum of History in suburban Shawnee, Kansas. Kansas City Power and Light built this model home in 1954 to showcase new design and technology. I paid \$52,000 for the house, but today's visitors can peek inside for just \$2 (913/715-2550; www.jocomuseum.org).

I cook pancakes in a jiffy on my range-top griddle.

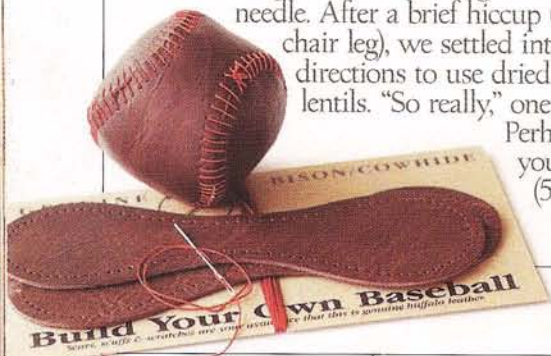
Back to the future

Go on a nostalgia trip in suburban Kansas City, Kansas.

Craft time, buffalo-style

In a world of factory-made, throwaway style, it's a relief to find someone like Bill Keitel, who makes buttery smooth, built-to-last purses, belts, briefcases and wallets from bison hide. After touring the Buffalo Billfold Company in Worthington, Minnesota (60 miles east of Sioux Falls, South Dakota), we came back hankering for Bill's \$495 flight bag (right). But later, when we checked out his website, something different caught our eye: a \$9 build-your-own baseball kit. Could it be done? We decided to find out.

The set comes with exactly four pieces: two strips of leather, string and a blunt needle. After a brief hiccup (the thread got tangled in an errant chair leg), we settled into a nice, in-tug-out rhythm. Following directions to use dried beans as the core, we crammed the thing full of lentils. "So really," one editor said, "it's a build-your-own Hacky Sack." Perhaps, but it works fine for a game of catch, and you can't beat knowing you made it yourself (507/372-7175; buffalobillfoldcompany.com). ■



READER'S PICK

STONEBRIDGE INN AND SPA

Illinois readers Denise and Bob Wright stumbled upon the Stonebridge Inn and Spa in Batesville, Indiana (45 miles northwest of Cincinnati), last fall. "It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter because it will no longer be a secret!" Denise wrote. Ornate woodwork and Rookwood tile give the 1910 home a historic feel, but many of the amenities, including poolside pedicures and access to a nearby private golf course, are decidedly modern. From \$150 (800/966-5914; stonebridgeinnandspa.com).

Have a Discovery of your own? We're always looking for more ideas. Send your own tales from the road to Discoveries, *Midwest Living*, 1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023. Or send an e-mail to discoveries@midwestliving.com. If we publish your pick, you'll receive \$50.