



# Love Nest

By Adrienne Frank

Compromise is the key to a healthy and loving relationship. Never is this more evident than when a man and woman unite in marriage, fusing not only their families but their taste in furniture.

Sure, he's the love of your life, the future father of your children. But how on earth do you deal with the "Reservoir Dogs" poster over his bed, or worse yet, the beer 'n' pizza stained recliner that's been with him longer than you have?

Here, several newly married couples offer seven tips on how best to create your love nest — without any arguing, without any tears and without the assistance of a marriage counselor.

## Tip No. 1: Negotiate

Abby and Charlie Davis married when both were in their mid '30s — meaning they brought two couches to the marriage, two color palates and two very different eyes for art.

How did they deal with her modern style and his penchant for all things antique? "We negotiated," Abby says. "We sat down and said, 'you can keep this if I can keep that.' We found that was just the most fair way to go about it."

Abby admits that the couple's home is a "hodge podge" of different styles, but "we make it work. We never argued and there was never any resentment that this room was more him or that room was more me. Our home truly is reflective of both of our styles."

## Tip No. 2: Everything must go

Sometimes, though, there's just no negotiating.

Such was the case with Amanda Lerner and her husband, Ryan Wagner. After the couple married, they moved into Ryan's townhouse and Amanda found her husband, while "the sweetest guy in the world" was also incredibly stubborn.

"He was just resistant to change. It wasn't even that our styles clashed; he was just too stubborn to get rid of half of his stuff to make room for half of my stuff."

The solution? Four massive garage sales.

"We sold almost everything we owned. We took the proceeds and bought all new furniture. Financially, it probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, but now everything in the house is 'ours' instead of 'his' or 'mine.' "

