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# House Beautiful

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## The Master Bedroom

Interview by  
CHRISTINE PITTEL

To Newell Turner, comfort means a big old-fashioned bed, a large bedside table, and lots of organized closet space



**I like this concept: small bedroom, big closet.**

Actually, the bedroom doesn't feel small because I was able to eke out an extra foot of ceiling height under the peaked roof. Ten feet, instead of nine like downstairs.

**I'd give up some room for a walk-in closet, too.**

**Where did you put it?**

I had these odd little spaces left over after dividing the second floor into two bedrooms and a bath. So I turned them into closets, rather than building something that juts out into the room.

The one in the master bedroom even has a window. I didn't want to lose that extra bit of light, yet leaving a regular closet door open would have crowded the room. So we put in a pocket door,

which slides back into the wall. I can still close the door but when it's open, the bedroom feels bigger.

**What's the one thing you really need in a closet?**

Order. The secret is to maximize the space all the way up to the ceiling. Most closets have a hanging bar with a shelf on top, but there's often at least two more feet above that. Organize it with shelves, so things don't pile up and fall down. I went to ClosetMaid and they helped me design a system with basket drawers, a tie rack, and a curved hanging bar that takes advantage of the space in the corner. One of my favorite things is the valet rod—you can pull out what you're planning to wear and hang it there. Now I've got this great dressing room.

**Tell me about that bed.**

It's from Ethan Allen and it reminds me of the old cannonball beds we had down South. And it has the advantage of being tall, which means I can lie there and look out the window and see the mountain ridge against the sky. The gateleg table next to it is also new. I believe in big bedside tables. I need room for books, magazines, a clock, telephone, glasses, notepad, flowers, and a good reading light. I found the lamp at a yard sale and bought a new burlap shade. Silk would have been too dressy, cotton too plain. Burlap gives me just the right texture and warmth. I like a bedroom to feel very comforting. ★

NEXT MONTH:  
THE GUEST BEDROOM



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Matine Toile duvet cover from Pottery Barn, Levanto farm bench from Ballard Designs, Quincy bed from Ethan Allen, gingham linens from Pottery Barn Kids, gateleg table by Vagabond Vintage, Blue Heron Stripe rug by Dash & Albert; ClosetMaid's MasterSuite Chocolate Pear system features paneled doors and drawers; pocket doors (above) were grooved to look like planks.

### Get It Right

- Ceiling fans work better if you use an extension rod to get more space between the fan and the ceiling. Then they do a better job circulating the air. Hunter's Classic Original fan is my only air conditioning.
- If space is tight, consider a wooden bench. It takes up less depth than a chair and you can still sit down and put on your shoes, or drop a bag. It's also not going to get dirty like upholstery.
- Want a quick fix for your closet? Unify your hangers. I like wood for pants and jackets and white plastic for shirts. I'm into low maintenance, so I buy Brooks Brothers no-iron shirts. You wash them and hang them and you're done. No wrinkles. It's a miracle.