



House of Andala

How To Buy A Lamp Shade

Buying a new lamp shade can bring new life back to any lamp base.

Kirk A. Hall has been a custom lamp repair specialist for 34 years at the House of Andala Lamp Shop. Kirk and new owner, Mike Huszar, invite you to come over to see them so that they can help you pick out that perfect lamp shade for your lamp base.

Buying a lamp shade can be fun and easy if these simple steps are taken.

1. For best results and proper fitting, **ALWAYS BRING IN YOUR LAMP BASE.**
2. Why bring in the base?
Bringing in your lamp when you come is important because it “speaks” to us. The physical size and shape of the lamp base will determine the size of the new lamp shade. The number of bulbs and maximum wattage is also a big factor. Your base tells us what shape of shade would best suit your lamp such as, bell shade, rectangular, oval, empire, drum, square, cut corner, or a Victorian fringe shade to name a few.
3. Not only does size and shape matter, the location and purpose in which you plan to use your lamp can decide how much light you want the shade to give. Will the lamp be an accent piece or does the lamp shade need to be light colored to allow good light for reading? Keep in mind the spread of light is determined by the bottom opening of the shade, not the height of the shade. We also can use different styles of shades to give your lamp a bigger or smaller look.
4. The quality of any given lamp is very important when picking out a new lamp shade. In short, **a good quality lamp base deserves a good quality lamp shade.** Also a simple, lesser quality lamp will call for a simpler, less costly shade, perhaps a hard back shade.

5. Just because your lamp is old does not mean it isn't valuable. Kirk says if your lamp base is 10-20 years or older "that's a good thing." and that good quality workmanship and materials went into making your lamp. The value of your lamp also depends upon your base. Is it made of marble, alabaster, crystal, fine china, solid brass, or maybe steel casting with heavy brass plating? Most people are shocked when I tell them at today's prices they would have to spend \$250-\$800 to buy the same quality lamp as their "old" lamp. It also is more likely that your "old" lamp was made here, in the USA. Now you can see that your lamp deserves a new, quality lamp shade.
6. Only the new lamp shade determines the correct size harp to be used on your lamp. Harps come in heavy duty or standard sizes. However, your lamp may have a bowl reflector.
7. Does your base need a little face lift? Kirk says after 20-30 years your lamp may need a little TLC, maybe a lot of TLC. After 34 years Kirk still has the attitude of reconditioning each and every lamp as if it was his own. Whether your lamp needs to be waxed, polished, relacquered, stripped for repainting, cut down or rebuilt. Whatever it takes Kirk's up to the challenge by providing each lamp with quality restoration.

So come see Mike and Kirk at House of Andala where you still get service with a smile. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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