

## Copper Upcycling Contest #upcopper

# Copper Upcycling Contest Winners Announced

**Brussels, 6 March 2015** – Today, the European Copper Institute (ECI) announced the results of the [Copper Upcycling Contest](#), the first upcycling competition dedicated to copper and its alloys. The jury awarded first prize to 'Color Block', an occasional table created using an old copper saucepan. The 'People's Choice' award was won by a retro industrial-style lamp fashioned from a blowtorch. Some thirty upcyclists from all over Europe took part in the contest. They transformed old copper items that they had found or acquired into lamps, coat racks, clocks, candlesticks and much more besides! The jury was impressed with their creativity and use of the intrinsic qualities of copper, a material which is particularly well-suited to upcycling. Copper is a durable, 100% recyclable metal and stands in stark contrast to the concept of a disposable lifestyle. All of the contest submissions can be viewed on the [Copper Mania](#) Pinterest page and are labelled #upcopper.



Top prize  
Copper saucepan occasional table  
© Antoine Rebaubier - ECI



Copper smartphone dock  
© Javier Benavides - ECI



Copper pipe candlesticks  
© Elisabetta Viganò for Peggy Journal - ECI



Copper atomiser lamp  
© Jean-Christophe Cresp - ECI

### The winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Copper Upcycling Contest #upcopper

Copper Upcycling Contest participants raided their attics and found a wealth of copper treasures including saucepans, teapots, beer tankards, vases and pipes. They showed creative prowess in giving them a fresh lease of life by transforming them into lamps, stools, clocks, scales or decorative pieces. One such submission was an occasional table named **Color Block**, which won first prize for the creativity shown in upcycling a copper saucepan. The jury also awarded Special Mentions to **Pop Clock** and the **Steampunk Lamp**. The **People's Choice award** was won by the **Rétro Indus' Lamp**, a piece fashioned out of a blowtorch.

The first edition of the contest saw **33 highly original entries**, all of which were posted on the [Copper Mania](#) Pinterest page. The jury, consisting of copper and upcycling experts, paid very close attention to the originality of the pieces, their aesthetics and the ingenuity shown by participants in customising their submissions. All contest participants made the most of the options afforded by copper's malleability, to turn a vehicle spare part into a lamp or a burner into a mini-speaker... The possibilities are endless!

## Jury prize

### *Color Block, Occasional table / stool* by Antoine Rebaubier



**Before**



**After**

Using an old, worn saucepan and the legs of an old stool, Antoine created a **pop-design** occasional table which would add character to any living room. He buffed up the copper using lemon and flour before fashioning a retro-style chessboard by combining shiny and matt textures. The jury was impressed with how the participant completely transformed the saucepan, to such an extent that it was unrecognisable in its new function, whilst still enabling the aesthetic qualities of the copper to shine through.

© Antoine Rebaubier - ECI

## Special Mentions

### *Pop Clock* by Christina Dalben

Christina used a copper sheet that she found in her garage to create her clock. She matched the almond green natural patina of the material with a bright red to create an eye-catching contrast. She then drilled a hole and inserted a simple mechanism for the hands to finish off the piece. The jury was very impressed by the marriage of a minimalist design and vibrant colours.

© Christina Dalben - ECI



**Before**



**After**

### *Steampunk Lamp* by Olivier Merlin



**Before**



**After**

Olivier used a motley mix of copper and brass items (a kerosene lamp, a blowtorch, a sprinkler, a bell and a chandelier) to craft a steampunk-influenced lamp. The jury was struck by the way the two metals had been used together and the ingenuity of the lamp, which can be switched on by turning the brass tap located on the side.

© Olivier Merlin - ECI

## People's Choice

### Rétro Indus' Lamp, Retro industrial-style lamp by Péter Belso

Péter took a brass blowtorch and transformed it into an industrial-inspired desk lamp. He removed the fuel tank and replaced it with an electric lighting system. The originality of the final product was very well received by the public.

© Peter Belso



Before



After

## Copper upcycling is becoming a new consumer trend

ECI's aim in holding the Copper Upcycling Contest was to reward creativity and ingenuity in upcycling copper items. Irina Dumitrescu, ECI's Communication Director and President of the Jury, said: *"With this contest, we sought to approach the worrying issue of the build-up of waste in a fun way. Thankfully, new, responsible consumption methods are emerging and Europeans have shown us that they can be very creative in upcycling old items. Furthermore, copper is emblematic of the circular economy as it is estimated that 80% of the copper used since ancient times is still in use today."*

The recent boom of the sharing economy and customer-to-customer trading confirms that seeking out items with a view to upcycling them is right on trend. In addition, [Home decor hacks](#) are gaining in popularity thanks to the [blogosphere](#) and social networks such as [Pinterest](#). As a result, the public at large is rediscovering the favourable qualities of noble materials, amongst which **copper is a leading light**.

*"Due to it being extremely durable and 100% recyclable, copper is ideal for upcycling as the passing of time does not harm its aesthetics. You can even be very original with it by retaining some of the natural matt brown-coloured patina",* explains [Marie Prenat](#), blogger, upcycling expert and jury member.

#### About the Centre d'information du Cuivre

The Centre d'Information du Cuivre (Copper Information Centre) is part of an international network financed by the copper industry with the aim of defending and growing markets for copper based on its superior technical performance and its contribution to a higher quality of life worldwide. The network has a common brand and visual identity: the Copper Alliance. Under the strategic umbrella of the international Copper Association, the Copper Alliance has regional offices in Brussels, New York, Santiago and Shanghai. For more information, please visit [www.copperalliance.fr](http://www.copperalliance.fr) and [www.copperconcept.org/fr](http://www.copperconcept.org/fr).

#### About "My Home Deserves Copper"

"My Home Deserves Copper" ("Ma maison mérite du cuivre") is a European awareness raising campaign championing the use of copper in homes by informing final users of the benefits of copper products. The campaign was launched in 2011 and seeks to raise awareness of copper's qualities among end-users. [www.ma-maison-merite-du-cuivre.fr](http://www.ma-maison-merite-du-cuivre.fr).

Available upon request

- High-definition visuals
- DIY Copper upcycling catalogue
- A new upcycling tutorial by Marie Prenat ([Talaiilala](#) blog)
- A press pack entitled "My Home Deserves Copper"

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