

Plate it up

Melamine is turning into an art form.



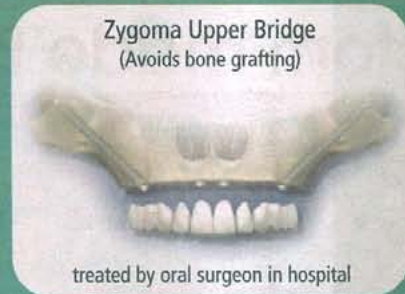
STYLING/
TEXT:
HEATHER
NETTE KING
PICTURES:
MIKE BAKER

TOP ROW, FROM LEFT Blue polka dot plate, \$9.95 from Lark. Thomas Paul Maritime Octopus tray, \$55 from Emporium Botanica. Celeste Crane plate, \$14.95, and Clamshell plate, \$14.95 from Mozi. **SECOND ROW, FROM LEFT** Geo plate, \$14.95 from Mozi. Waratah side plate, \$8.95 from SunnyLife. Ballerina plate, \$14 from Douglas & Hope. Ethos Bubbles side plate, \$7.95 from Cambur. **MIDDLE ROW, FROM LEFT** Thomas Paul Scrimshaw Lighthouse (set of four), \$86 from Emporium Botanica. Retro Bird plate, \$13 from In The Bag. Dylan Martorell plate, \$25 from Douglas & Hope. Ghostpatrol plate, \$25 from Douglas & Hope. **FOURTH ROW, FROM LEFT** Pierre Peacock plate, \$14.95 from Mozi. Avoca side plate, \$8.95, sitting on top of Avoca dinner plate, \$12.95 from SunnyLife. Donkey plate, \$14 from Douglas & Hope. Red polka dot plate, \$9.95 from Lark. Retro Bird plate, \$13 from In The Bag. **BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT** Belle & Boo Pirate Party plate (part of set), \$39.95 from Lark. Sea Life seahorse (set of four), \$86 from Emporium Botanica. Oh Deer plate, \$13.50 from In The Bag. Ethos Bubbles plate in aubergine, \$9.95 from Cambur. Cath Kidston food tray, \$18.95 from Lark. **BACKGROUND** Synthetic lawn deck chair, \$175 from kootyoo.com. Synthetic grass, \$29.97 a metre from Bunnings Warehouse. Synthetic grass book made by stylist.



GOODBYE DENTURES!

Fixed replacement teeth on 4 dental implants in as little as 2-3 days*



As heard on
3AW
Melbourne Radio

As the days get longer, the evenings balmy and the promise of summer fills the air, it's time to fling open your doors and embrace life, en plein air. One of the great joys of the warmer months is dining outdoors, whether it be in the backyard, on the balcony, poolside or at a picnic. If the occasion calls for something sturdier and more stylish than paper plates, check out the new breed of melamine plates as a chic, colourful, virtually unbreakable alternative.

Melamine can now even be added to your art collection. Melbourne retailer Cathy Hope of Douglas & Hope has introduced a range of limited-edition melamine plates featuring the work of prominent Melbourne artists Miranda Skoczek, Ghostpatrol, Miso, Dawn Tan and Dylan Martorell.

"I approached all of the artists involved because I love their work and each has a very distinct style," Hope says. "I am an extremely practical person; I like everything to be utilitarian, so the combination of art, plate and melamine seemed perfect. It looks fantastic, can be collected, hung on the wall or eaten off and it's inexpensive."



Ethos Bubbles side plate, \$7.95 from Cambur



Retro Bird plate, \$13 from In The Bag

Ghostpatrol plate, \$25 from Douglas & Hope



LUXE FOR LESS

Festival Plate, \$9.95 from Freedom



Waratah side plate, \$8.95 from SunnyLife



Ballerina plate, \$14 from Douglas & Hope



Geo plate, \$14.95 from Mozi

Stockists

- Bunnings Warehouse bunnings.com.au
- Cambur 8787 4200 cambur.com.au
- Douglas & Hope douglasandhope.com.au
- Emporium Botanica 9509 9111 emporiumbotanica.com.au
- Freedom 1300 135 588 freedom.com.au
- In The Bag 9525 0120 inthebag.com.au
- Kootoyoo.com kootoyoo.com
- Lark larkmade.com.au larklarkmade.com.au
- Mozi 9885 9789 mozi.com.au
- SunnyLife 9421 6325 sunnylife.com.au

TECHKNOW

Tested by James Smith



BUDGET DIGITAL CAMERAS

GE X500 rrp \$219

If you've set yourself a \$200 budget for a camera, you shouldn't hope for too much. Expecting high-end images from an easy-to-use point-and-shooter would be akin to deciding against an evening at St Katherine's and heading to the nearest KFC, only to be shocked when the chicken pieces aren't as tasty as those concocted by Calombaris's chefs. And yet, with the chunky X500, GE has done its best to up the ante. Yes, it's a little slow and heavy for its size. Yes, I'd have lost the lens cap taking it out of the box if it wasn't strapped on. And yes, the electronic viewfinder is shonky. But a solid 15x "megazoom", OK video, aperture priority, shutter priority and manual modes, plus tasty photos in good light, are among many positives.

VERDICT

Despite its squat, DSLR-for-Lilliputians style and a few rough edges, there's plenty to get your teeth into in the X500, with a decent zoom and shooting flexibility uncommon in this price range.

BenQ P1410 rrp \$179

BenQ isn't averse to over-delivering goodies within its budget models either. This time, however, the P1410 represents something of a back-to-basics approach; nothing overly fancy, merely what you'd expect from a budget compact camera, albeit in packaging that strives to be a little flash with its gleaming gold ring and shades of grey. What that means is features that aren't going to set the world alight: a 7x optical zoom, a perfectly functional three-inch screen and all manner of scene settings, from fisheye to toy to a surprisingly good panoramic mode that suggest it would find favour with young 'uns. It is pretty swift too, and you can have it whipped from pocket, switched on and snapping in just a few seconds.

CHECK THIS OUT

How about going truly compact? The Double Exposure Digi Cam is tiny enough to act as a keyring and designed to appeal to lovers of retro shooting, able to shoot double exposures and overly saturated shots. It weighs about 31 grams, from photojojo.com.

Free Installation

On all custom made Blinds & Shutters



Hurry! Limited Time Only



13 19 13
accentblinds.com.au

308 Bay Road
Cheltenham

Call us for a free measure and quote Now servicing The Mornington Peninsula