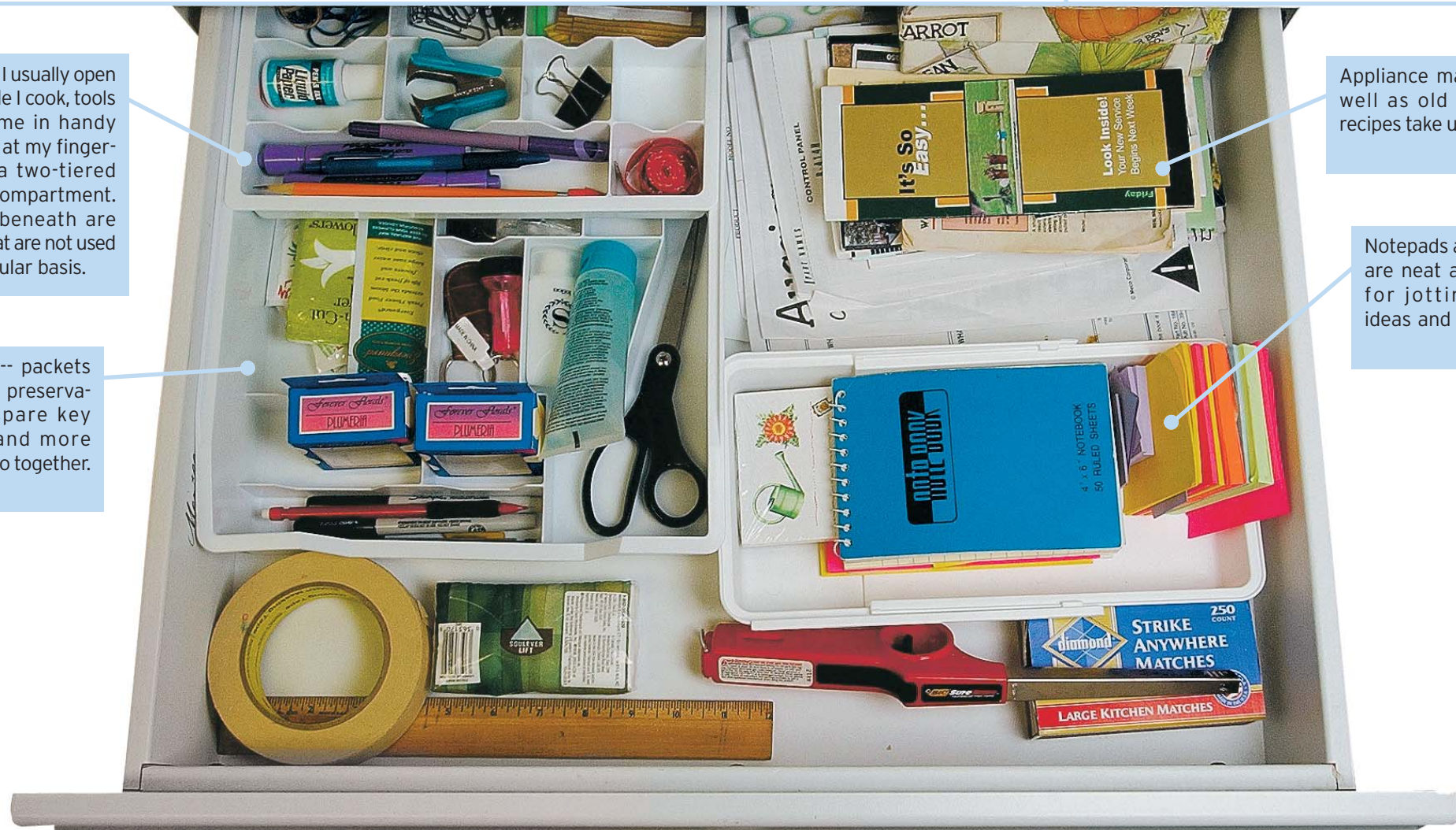


Because I usually open mail while I cook, tools that come in handy are now at my fingertips in a two-tiered sliding compartment. Stored beneath are items that are not used on a regular basis.

Groups -- packets of floral preservatives, spare key rings, and more pens -- go together.

Appliance manuals as well as old and new recipes take up a space.

Notebooks and paper are neat and ready for jotting down ideas and numbers.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAILIN WEDEL

## [the solution]

- Pull everything out of the drawer.
- Sort like items into piles.
- Identify items that can be thrown away such as decorative bags that have browned and old grocery receipts. Trash them. If an item fits better in another place in the house, put it there. (In my case, the spare Christmas tree lights in the drawer could be stored with holiday decorations.)
- Measure the drawer. Before heading out to pick up containers for the drawer, look at the items you want to store in the drawer to determine what your storage needs.
- After buying what you need, implement new system.

## [time & money]

**Time:** One hour, 5 minutes.  
**Supplies:** The Everything Drawer and an interlock bin.  
**Price:** \$8.52 at Bed Bath & Beyond with a 20 percent off coupon.

## [organizing tips]

- When searching for organizing supplies, look for storage accessories for the kitchen as well as for the closet. Storage items can vary in dimensions and one style may be more practical – or prettier – for your specific storage needs than another.
- As you put items in their new homes, play around with the placement, making sure it functions with your daily routine.

[Garage and bathroom vanity drawer inside, page 4e]