# **COMMENT**

# I could have a nose bleed up there!

By Ted Brown tedbit@hotmail.com

Eight weeks ago, The Sidekick and I decided to rearrange our bedroom, executing a 180 degree switch with the layout.

In spite of the fact I was okay with the move, it was starting to wear on me.

For those who read that column, I said the only way I was gonna get back to the original arrangement was to purchase a queen-size bed, since a queen-size won't fit in the present location, we'd have to return to the original arrange-

Recently, we went bed shopping.

It's always fiscally intimidating to go out shopping for an article that hasn't been replaced in some time. My original mattress and box spring were purchased 14 years ago. And when I pulled out the receipts, it appears it cost

I figured it was now gonna be well into the four figures, but a bed is a long-term purchase, so I was prepared to accept that.

We dropped in to see Bert Wilson at Emerald Isle. I've known Bert for ages, so a visit to Emerald Isle is never a 10-minute stop for me. Bert and I have to discuss all the wrongs in the world before getting to the sales pitch.

The Sidekick and I wandered about the showroom, and lay on various beds, to test the firmness, check the features and prices, and finally decide on our bed.

It had to be a queen-size bed with a split box spring, simply because of the limitations of carrying it upstairs in the farmhouse. The stairs in our house are so steep and narrow, they look like they may have been constructed by a ship builder. So it had to be split.

We decided on a model, and I pulled out and violated my credit card. Saturday morning Bert's two movers landed in, assembled the new bed, took the old mattress and box springs, and were on their way—45 minutes tops. They were great.

As they started out the lane, I figured the final part of replacing a bed was to make up the sheets- you know, deliver, assemble, and ar-



### A Ted Bit

Und

range the bedding-right?

Apparently not.

The cost of a new mattress and box springs is only the tip of the bedroom iceberg.

Apparently the next step is new sheets—new flat sheets, fitted sheets, pillow shams, pillow cases, bed skirts, mattress warmer, bedspread/ duvet, accent pillows, and countless other aspects—all part of the process.

Sheet shopping is a ritual. We visited one store, picked out a set of sheets, then put them back on the shelf, and visited two more stores and check the offerings there, before returning to the original store to buy them. The worse part? I suggested going back!

And, when did bedding become so expensive? By the time we had this bed outfitted, I think we spent nearly as much on bedding as we did on the mattress and box spring!

Back home with a load of bedding, I helped The Sidekick assemble the layers of sheets. She pulled out four new pillows.

Confusion—I use one pillow—she had four. "Well, they're available in different levels of firmness," she explained, "Two are medium and the other two are firm so you can try each one to see what feels the best."

I considered mentioning my old pillow was just great, but discretion being the better side of valor, I tried the firm one.

The final adjustment was the bed height. When did beds become so freakin' tall! Man, sitting on the edge of the bed, my feet are dangling eight inches off the floor!

The Sidekick mentioned she might buy a step ladder to get into bed— I think she was joking.

I'm concerned I might have a nose bleed, with the thin atmosphere up there. But after our first night in the new bed, we had a pretty good sleep. The Sidekick is pretty happy with the new

I only have one problem.

I still can't find where she hid my old pillow...



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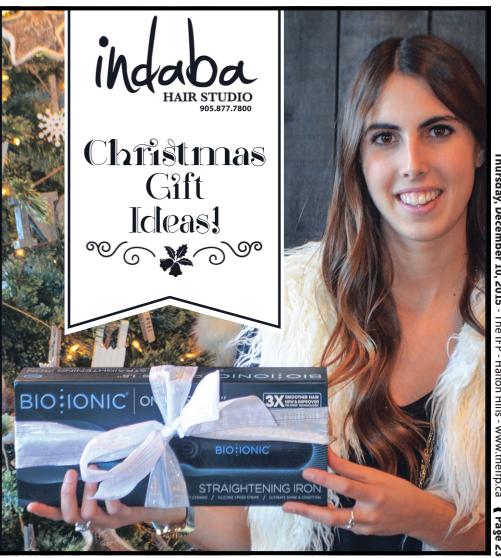




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