

3 the Decorator Pattern

✧ **Decorating Objects** ✧

I used to think real men subclassed everything. That was until I learned the power of extension at runtime, rather than at compile time. Now look at me!



Just call this chapter “Design Eye for the Inheritance Guy.”

We’ll re-examine the typical overuse of inheritance and you’ll learn how to decorate your classes at runtime using a form of object composition. Why? Once you know the techniques of decorating, you’ll be able to give your (or someone else’s) objects new responsibilities *without making any code changes to the underlying classes*.