

handmade  
holiday decor



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## About

The holidays are upon us and with them come the anticipation of important things like wonderful times spent with family and friends and giving to others. Other necessary tasks and important traditions include baking, cooking and decorating which can quickly become overwhelming and stressful.

To help you alleviate unnecessary stress during this beautiful time of year, we have compiled this holiday ebook chock full of do-it-yourself décor by real creative women who understand this season's hustle and bustle. From beautiful ornaments and wreaths to card holders and advent calendars, you are sure to find exactly the inspiration you need to decorate your home this holiday season.

Whether you consider yourself crafty or not and regardless of your budget, there's something for you!

Enjoy!

Mandi & Myra

## Bucket Advent Calendar

Beckie Farrant is the creative force behind [Infarrantly Creative](#), [Knock Off Decor](#) and [Crafterminds](#). She is most known for her trash to treasure projects that she has dubbed [Roadkill Rescue](#).

Originally posted on [Infarrantly Creative](#).



*Do you love the tradition of the advent calendar? Here is a creative idea for an advent calendar using Dollar Tree pails and a large board. What kid doesn't love the anticipation of some special each day to countdown to Christmas?*

### Supplies:

- 9 bags of Tin Pails (found at Dollar Tree in the wedding section)
- Silhouette machine or numbered vinyl stickers
- Krylon Cherry Red spray paint
- Primer
- MDF or Wood Board
- Angled screws
- Drill and drill bit

**Directions:**

Cut or have a board cut to 18" x 24". I would use a 3/4" MDF or a pine board. Measure and predrill all of your holes for the hooks. That is the hardest part of the project. Then prime and paint your board. (I drilled everything after I painted...not a good idea.)

Using a digital cutter like the kick awesome [Silhouette machine](#) cut out the numbers 1-25 onto red vinyl. Stick those in place on the tin pails.

After your board is dry, screw all 25 of the angled hooks into place and then put the pails on them.

In order to mark the day I used a couple of buttons and glued them together and also glued a magnet on the back. Since they are galvanized the magnet sticks to the pail.

Then I cut out "Merry Christmas" in the Pharmacy font from dafont.com in white vinyl and adhered it to the top.

I hot glued a posy from [Pleated Poppy](#) and realized it was the missing beauty to make this project UH-MAZING!

**Visit [Infarrantly Creative](#) for crafting fun!**

## Burlap Christmas Trees

[The Country Chic Cottage](#) brings farmhouse flair to your cottage through creative crafts and vintage finds! Get that farmhouse look on any budget!

Originally posted on [The Country Chic Cottage](#).



*I love these little trees y'all! Wanna make your own?*

### Supplies:

- Two different colors of burlap
- Glue
- Poster board

### Directions:

Cut your posterboard into patterns. I used a plate to cut into circles then folded into fourths. Remove one of the fourths.

Use this to cut out your darker color burlap.

Wrap your poster board into a cone to make your tree form.

I just used a staple to secure. Wrap your burlap around your form and secure with a clothes pin.

Mix 1/2 glue and 1/2 water. Now, I had used that same paint brush the day before with some glitter paint. Yep, glitter ended up in my glue. I actually liked it after I finished it! So maybe add a touch of glitter to your mixture. Apply your mixture generously all over the burlap.

Cut the lighter burlap into a long thin strip.

Wrap it around your form securing on both ends with two clothes pins.

Apply more glue mixture, liberally. And let dry. Yes it will take a long time to dry. Then just remove the inner form by crushing it and pulling it out.

**Visit [The Country Chic Cottage](http://lifeyourway.net) for creative farmhouse flair!**



## Candy Cane Chandelier

Myra is wife to her childhood sweetheart and mommy to a rambunctious two-year-old named Ridley. She enjoys blogging at [My Blessed Life](#) about thrifty home decor, DIY projects, crafts, recipes, and more to inspire you to creatively thrive in your home.

Originally posted on [My Blessed Life](#).



*During a recent episode of un-intentional brainstorming I came up with this awesome plan for decorating in our dining area!*

*What do you get when you put 36 candy canes (only 0.88/box) and clear fishing line together?*

### **Supplies:**

- Three dozen candy canes
- Clear fishing line

**Directions:**

Tie candy canes at varying lengths from light fixture.

Cheap.

Beautimous. Pottery Barn-ish.

Fabulously Frugal.

A Candy Cane Christmas Chandelier!!

Now...Go find some candy canes and fishing line and get hanging!

**Visit [My Blessed Life](#) for *DIY home decor, seasonal crafts, delicious recipes and more!***

## Christmas Card Ribbon Display

Kristi, aka "The Slipcover Girl," is mom to 2 girls & wife to 1 cute husband with a big case of wanderlust. Living in the south, she is trying to change the world one slipcover at a time...while inspiring others to do the same. Find her at [Pink and Polka Dot](#).

Originally posted on [Pink and Polka Dot](#).



*Every Year, I look at those cute little wire thingies that hold Christmas cards and then think, "I can make my own." But I never do and I don't have anywhere to hang it anyway. So I did this instead...*

### Supplies:

- Chair webbing
- A hammer
- Two small nails
- Mini or regular clothespins
- Paint or paper, if desired

**Directions:**

If you have time, you could paint the clothespins or cover them in some cute paper. I don't have time.

I just hammered the webbing on top of my door, let it drop, then cut

You could also pin a bow to the top or use big fat ribbon that matches your decor. I love this simpler look. And it took me 2 seconds.

**Visit [Pink and Polka Dot](#) for quick and easy decorating!**

## Christmas Card Shutter Display

Brittany (aka Pretty Handy Girl) writes a DIY blog empowering people to complete their own projects. She writes tutorials for projects from home décor and sewing to home improvement and home repairs. Venture over to her blog at [PrettyHandyGirl.com](http://PrettyHandyGirl.com). You are bound to be inspired!

Originally posted on [Pretty Handy Girl](http://PrettyHandyGirl.com).



*I am completely obsessed with decorating my home using shutters (only I use them on the inside instead of the outside!). Here is how you create the shutter screens that I display my Christmas cards on.*

*I also have one hanging in our half bathroom and two more in our upstairs hallway [dressing up a dormer window](#). Luckily I still had two pairs laying around.*

### Supplies:

- Two pairs of shutters
- Six hinges
- Two colors of red acrylic paint (cadmium red medium & Lucas madder red)
- Trowel for mixing paints
- 2" Purdy paint brush

**Directions:**

I began by attaching three hinges to hold a pair of shutters together.

I mixed two colors of red acrylic paint together (cadmium red medium & Lucas madder red) to get the perfect Christmas-y red.

A perfect Christmas red is neither too orange nor too cranberry. It is very similar to Coca-Cola red.

Using a 2" Purdy paint brush, I dabbed the brush into the paint and then wiped it off on the plate. Then dry brushed the paint onto the shutters, letting the bristles skip over the slats.

I kept dry brushing the shutter until I had enough paint for it to appear red, and yet some of the dark green color still peeked through.

Then I set each screen up in the corners of our living room and used clothespins to attach the cards.

The red shutters really bring in the holiday spirit!

**Visit [Pretty Handy Girl](#) for DIY project inspiration!**

## Christmas Mantle

Michelle is a design-infatuated Georgia girl who loves renovating her 1952 home, working on DIY projects and hanging out with her husband and two dogs. When she's not busy working as an attorney, you can find her blogging about her home and life adventures at [Ten June](#).

*Originally posted on [Ten June](#).*



*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!*

### Supplies:

- Stockings
- Greenery
- Pine cones
- Yarn
- Sticks
- Felt
- Twine
- Pom poms in varying sizes
- Fishing line
- Dollar-store trees
- Wreath

**Directions:**

This year, I decided to incorporate a little nature and a little coziness into our typical sparkle and glam decorations. I ordered the stockings from Pottery Barn a few years ago- I believe our very first Christmas together?! The monogrammed style was too cute to pass up.

And yes, we are those people who hang stockings for our dogs. Maggie and Tucker definitely get into the Christmas spirit.

My idea of adding some cozy, natural vibes to our Christmas decorations this year includes lots of textured materials: pine cones, yarn, sticks, felt, twine, etc. So as you can see, I threw in some of that to mix up with shiny ornaments and lights on our mantle this year.

The little Christmas trees were actually Dollar Store finds, originally covered with tinsel.

I simply wrapped some yarn around each of the little guys to make him a bit cozier.

The wreath on the mantle is actually just a makeshift version until I finish the wreath that will actually grace our mantle. Until then, this one will work :)

The string of white fluffy balls are simply different sizes of little pom poms that I strung onto fishing wire! I saw the snow-puff-like strand in a window display while we were in California and I just had to recreate them. You'll see this all around our house this year!

So there you have it! Our living room Christmas mantle.

**Visit [Ten June](#) for more Christmas decorating ideas!**



## Dinner Napkin Snowball

Shelley is the author of the blog [The House of Smiths](http://TheHouseofSmiths.com). From DIY home projects, to decorating ideas, creative crafts and laughable life situations, Shelley offers it all! You can join Shelley and her family as they transform their builder-grade house into a custom, personalized beautiful HOME on a budget, all while taking it one space at a time!

Originally posted on [The House of Smiths](http://TheHouseofSmiths.com).



*Here is a quick, simple, inexpensive decorative dinner napkin snowball tutorial!!*

### Supplies:

- White dinner napkins (7-inch)
- Pair of scissors
- Floral wire
- Double-sided tape
- Candle sticks

**Directions:**

The first thing you want to start off with, are white dinner napkins. I used the ones that measured about 7 inches square. Open up 4 napkins, all the way. Then cut the 4 layers of napkins into fourths.

So now you have these 4 squares, made up of 4 layers each.

Next, you're going to double these up... to make just two piles of napkins. So now you have two sets of napkin squares, made up of 8 layers each.

Take scissors and scallop the edges. It doesn't have to be perfect, just more rounded.

Now take each set of scalloped napkins, one at a time, and accordion them.

To keep it together, wrap some wire around it, and twist it tight. Floral wire works great for this.

Take your second accordion folded napkin set, and twist it side by side, with your excess wire.

After you get to this point, it's all pullin' and fluffin' from here. Hold onto the wire base and just start pulling the layers of the napkins apart, and TOWARDS you.

You will see the ball form start to take place, as you get more and more layers pulled apart. Also, pull apart the actual napkin skin layers. This will help the "ball" look more full.

If you get big gaps or want to force your napkin to have a bend, that it's not making naturally, just take the piece of napkin that you want to manipulate...fold it, crease it... or bring the two pieces together. Grab some double sided tape, and place a small strip, on one side of the napkin... and pinch softly.

This will help your napkin stay fluffed the way you want it to.

I also used the Scotch double sided tape to keep my "snowballs" from falling off their candlesticks, because they are really light. Just place a few strips to the base of each candle stick, and then lightly set the napkin ball on top.

**Things to keep in mind:**

This project IS made from napkins, so the layers will be delicate. Try not to pull them too hard when separating the layers. They WILL rip.

The size of the "ball" will depend on how large your initial square is, to start. You can also do smaller versions of these.

If you feel that your napkin ball isn't "fluffy" enough, try adding more napkin layers at the beginning. Some napkins have more "internal layers" than others.

Double-stick tape is your friend, for this project. I used most of my double-stick tape at the base of the layers to keep them sticking together.

**Visit [The House of Smiths](http://lifecycleofsmiths.com) for help with decorating on a budget!**

## Driftwood Star

I'm a southern gal and mommy of three: the one who constantly wears paint stains on her clothes, a small price to pay for living out my love of creating every day. I share simple ideas for others to use in making their homes one of a kind havens, to love for years to come. Find me at [The Handmade Home](http://TheHandmadeHome.com).

Originally posted on [The Handmade Home](http://TheHandmadeHome.com).



*This star is made with small pieces of flat driftwood for a cozy beach cottage addition to your Christmas décor.*

### Supplies:

- Perfectly drawn star (see template)
- Projector
- 1/4" MDF or layered cardboard
- X-Acto knife
- Glue gun and hot glue sticks, or wood glue

### Directions:

[Print your template from here](#). Scroll down, click on "star template," and print, cut, and then trace onto your MDF or cardboard. You can then easily cut it using an X-Acto, and glue your pieces from there.

If you want a rather large star, use the [same template](#), and print it onto a transparency. You can trace it onto MDF for a sturdier, freestanding star, or again, skip a step and use it

on the cardboard. You could also frame the star (per [Nate's](#) fabulous idea) for a great look in any home.

So as soon as the MDF was cut, we laid it out with the wood and our glue gun. If you wanted to make one and place it outside, I'd recommend wood glue. Mine will probably adorn our mantel at Christmas...so hot glue it was.

It was a lot like putting a puzzle together, but it only took around an hour, and is a great little night time/weekend tackle kinda project. Our star measures 2 ft x 2 ft. The perfect size to set ever so nonchalantly, while still making a great statement, anywhere in your home.

Another great way to bring the element of nature into your home.

This star would work with just about anything: twigs, shells, sea glass, pebbles, wood chips...the possibilities really are endless, and I'll probably be knocking out a sequence of these for a bit of holiday decor!

Had your heart set on that driftwood, but not going near the beach anytime soon? [Buy some here.](#)

**Visit [The Handmade Home](#) for more nature-inspired beauty!**

## Fabric Ornaments {Kid-Friendly Project}

Hallo! I'm Amy from [Mod Podge Rocks](#), and I love – you guessed it – Mod Podge! I've been crafting for my whole life and blogging for three years. It's one of the most satisfying things I've ever done.

*Originally posted on [Mod Podge Rocks!](#).*



*Set your kids at a table with fabric scrap ornaments and let them go to town. Once you are done, slap them on the tree. They are so easy and inexpensive, you probably have everything you need already, and your kids are going to have a great time*

### Supplies:

- Mod Podge, your choice of flavors. I used Glitter Gold, Glitter Silver and Gloss.
- Paper mache ornaments, as many as you want to make
- Fabric
- Embellishments, whatever you have laying around. I used ribbon and buttons.
- Flat Paint Brush, one for everyone
- [Beacon 3-in-1 Advanced Craft Glue](#)
- Scissors

**Directions:**

Cut your fabric into manageable bits--circles, squares, octahedrons--whatever! Parents, you obviously might want to do this part depending on the child's age.

Kids love to get messy, and so do I! Work one or two shapes at a time, putting Mod Podge down on the ball and then placing the fabric squares. Tell the kids not to do too big of an area at once--we don't want crying when the Mod Podge dries and nothing sticks!

Kids should keep coating and adding fabric. I had a great time! Cover the entire ball.

Use your Glitter Podges to coat the outsides. It's so fun and it really sparkles. Add as many coats as you like!

Set the ornaments aside to dry for 15 - 20 minutes. Use your Beacon craft glue to add embellishments. I added buttons, ribbon, etc! Again, make sure your glue is child safe if the little ones are going to be attaching embellishments. Set to dry for a few hours before hanging on the tree.

**Visit [Mod Podge Rocks!](#) for more creative decoupage ideas!**



## Floating Candle Centerpiece

Decorating stylishly doesn't have to cost a fortune. Join Rhoda's adventures in decorating on a budget, thrifty/yard sale shopping, DIY projects galore, gardening, travel, and recipes. One woman's life in the South. Find her at [Southern Hospitality](http://SouthernHospitality.com).

Originally posted on [Southern Hospitality](http://SouthernHospitality.com).



*One of the easiest things to do for a Holiday centerpiece or tablescape is floating candles. You can find clear glass cylinders like this at most any craft store, so get yourself at least 3 in different heights to make your table interesting. Mine are about 6", 8", and 10" tall and the great thing is, you can change these up to anything at all. I can see adding sliced lemons or limes or pretty sparkly beads.*

*The sky's the limit.*

### **Supplies:**

- Clear glass cylinders in varying heights
- Fresh produce and/or greenery
- Water
- Floating candles
- Ribbon
- Small ornaments, sparkly picks

**Directions:**

I bought fresh cranberries in a bag last year during the Christmas sales and they have been in my freezer all year. So, all I did was get them out and use them. I snipped a few sprigs of holly from the bushes in my yard and put that in first, then I added the cranberries. Fill with water about 1/2 to 3/4 full and plop in a floating candle. You can find floating candles at all the craft stores too, so start looking for them. I had 2 sizes with mine. The larger ones burn a LOT longer.

Then, I simply tied a pretty ribbon around the cylinder, added a small ornament and a sparkly pick to it and that's it! And if you have several parties at your house that you'd like to use these on for this Holiday season, simply drain out the water, put the cranberries back in a freezer bag and put them in the freezer.

See how simple!

**Visit [Southern Hospitality](#) for home projects with Southern flair!**



## Glass Jar Votive Holders

Brittany (aka Pretty Handy Girl) writes a DIY blog empowering people to complete their own projects. She writes tutorials for projects from home décor and sewing to home improvement and home repairs. Venture over to her blog at [PrettyHandyGirl.com](http://PrettyHandyGirl.com). You are bound to be inspired!

Originally posted on [Pretty Handy Girl](http://PrettyHandyGirl.com).



*This has to be one of my favorite activities to do with the kids! Start by saving jars -- salsa, jelly, vegetable, and baby jars all work well.*

### Supplies:

- Clean Jars
- Mod Podge (or diluted School Glue)
- Brushes
- Jar of water to rest brushes in
- Tissue Paper (I limited the palette to whites and blues)
- Magazine cut outs, sheet music, stickers, or decorative hole punches
- Plastic tablecloth or sheet to cover your work area

### Directions:

Soak the jars to remove the labels and scrub any excess glue off.

Tear your tissue paper, sheet music, or other paper into small strips and/or cut magazine pictures into small pieces.

Brush a coating of Mod Podge onto the outside of the jar.

Lay down your first layer of papers. (You be the creative genius here! You really can't go wrong.)

Coat the top of your paper layer with more Mod Podge and continue until the jar has been covered. It is okay to and encouraged to overlap layers. (Again, you are the creative genius!)

Finish your jar by brushing on a final coating of Mod Podge. Be sure everything has been coated.

Rest your votive holders on wax paper to dry. (Did you know that I never buy wax paper anymore? I use recycled cereal bags.) After an hour, flip your jars over to allow the other end to dry. *Insert your tea lights or use flame-less candles and enjoy!*

They are so adorable that, after the season has passed, I've been known to use these for pencil holders, for makeup brushes or impromptu vases for a bud or two. They also make a great gift from your child to an adoring Grandparent!

**Visit [Pretty Handy Girl](#) for DIY project inspiration!**

## Hanging Ice Skates

Kristi writes at [Creative Kristi](http://CreativeKristi.com) about all things craft, love, and fun! She is a blog designer, military wife & mom of two. Coffee & helping to Spread Bloggy Love are what keep her going & make her heart full. Come say hi--she loves to make new friends!

Originally posted on [Creative Kristi](http://CreativeKristi.com).



*I made some ice skates that will be perfect for my mantle for Christmas but also after Christmas for that hard to decorate 'season' between January 1st and Spring. I'll be happy to have some fun ice skates to help keep me in the 'winter' mood!*

### Supplies:

- Foam-core board
- X-acto or craft knife
- Permanent bond glue stick
- Black sharpie

- Silver metallic sharpie
- Ribbon
- Tape
- [FREE Ice Skate Pattern](#)

### **Directions:**

Print out two of each page of the pdf pattern. (One ice skate is broken up onto two 8.5"x11" pieces of paper so that you may have a larger finished ice skate-you will need to print two of each page to create two finished ice skates.)

Cut along the inside of the black outline for both pieces of the skate. Leave the margin in tact on one half of the ice skate pattern so that you may overlap them while gluing. (This is indicated on the pattern.)

Glue the pattern to the foam board taking care to get any air bubbles out & that all edges are securely glued down.

Use your X-acto/craft knife to carefully cut out the insides of the skate 'blades' first, then continue cutting around the outside by cutting just inside the edge of the pattern.

After it is all cut out, color the edges of the foam shape with the black sharpie where the 'sole' of the skate is then color the edges of the 'blade' with the silver. I took it a step further and colored the whole blade silver.

After repeating steps 2-5 to make a second skate, cut two pieces of ribbon and tape one to the back of each skate. Loop around a wreath or decorative hanger and tie in a bow.

(Optional) If you want to take it a step further, you can cut holes where indicated on the skate pattern/picture and weave real skate laces in and out on the skates to give them a more realistic feel.

Enjoy!

**Visit [Creative Kristi](#) for crafting fun!**

## Hanging Pine Cones

Michelle is a design-infatuated Georgia girl who loves renovating her 1952 home, working on DIY projects and hanging out with her husband and two dogs. When she's not busy working as an attorney, you can find her blogging about her home and life adventures at [Ten June](#).

Originally posted on [Ten June](#).



*Here is one of my favorite Christmas projects: a pine cone mobile! Here's what you need to make this little craft.*

### Supplies:

- Christmas tree trimmings
- Pine cones (mine smell like cinnamon!)
- Fishing line
- Stick from any tree or bush
- Red berries (or any other fun accessories)

**Directions:**

To start, I just tied the top of each pine cone with some fishing wire. Not sure if I ever thought I'd be digging around in the hubby's tackle box for Christmas decor, but I guess you use what works.

Then, I wrapped each strand of fishing wire around the top of a stick from our front yard. Okay I know you're thinking... hmm, first fishing gear, now yard debris... where is this project going?!

Finally, I just made the mobile branch a little prettier by hot gluing on some tree trimmings and faux cranberries. And voila! Yard debris and fishing gear just got a little bit cuter

I decided to hang the pine cone mobile over our kitchen sink.

I think it's kind of fun! What do you think?!

I dressed the rest of my kitchen window with a few more pine cones in some mason jars and a cardboard cross covered with some scrapbook paper.

Simple yet beautiful!

**Visit [Ten June](#) for Christmas beauty!**

## Heirloom Tree Skirt

Darlene is an interior designer at Fieldstone Hill Design, and has a passion for helping others add beauty and practicality to their lives. She loves dreaming about all things design, and shares tips and endless design thoughts at her blog, [Fieldstone Hill Design](http://fieldstonehill.com). In her own historic, stone farmhouse, she has fun trying to find balance between farmhouse simplicity and high-gloss glamour.

*Originally posted on [Fieldstone Hill Design](http://fieldstonehill.com).*



### Supplies:

- Antique table cloth
- Heavy matching linen

### Directions:

First, I had a circular under-skirt made of heavy, ivory linen. (I wish I could tell you I sewed it myself. Unfortunately, that is not my gift! But if you can sew, this project has practically



no cost, save the fabric of the under-skirt.) This is the first thing that is placed under the tree. It is beautiful all by itself, in its simplicity.

Then, I had the heirloom tablecloth made into a tree skirt. The rectangular tablecloth was cut right down the center, and connected at the ends in order to make a long rectangular shape. Then it was given a top seam, similar to a rod pocket on a curtain. Long satin ribbon is inside that 'rod pocket,' and that is how the skirt is gathered to become a circle. We did it this way so that we could feature the beautiful crewel-work edging on the tablecloth, and so we would not have to cut this decorative edging on the tablecloth.

Ivory satin ribbons were added to the ends, and when the tree skirt loosely gathers under the tree, it is connected with these ribbons that match up.

My seamstress must have asked me 5 times: "Are you SURE you want me to cut it?" (Once she was done with it, she was sold. She told me she will be making some things out of her own heirlooms. Yay!).

The whole process was very affordable, and it cost me less for the 2 skirts and 6 stockings than it would have for one modestly priced store-bought tree skirt.

Maybe you have an heirloom of your own that can be repurposed this Christmas?

**Visit [Fieldstone Hill Design](#) for ideas that will beautify your home!**



## Jingle Bell Jar

Melissa Michaels is the creator of [The Inspired Room](#) blog. In real life, she is a mom of three and church planter's wife.

Originally posted on [The Inspired Room](#).



*I've been making Mason Jar candles as far back as I can remember. I use them for every.single.holiday, party and season on earth. Always the same, yet always versatile. Most of the time I just use Epsom salt as filler in mine, and it looks like a candle sitting in snow in the winter.*

### Supplies:

- Wide-mouth mason jar
- Votive candle
- Filler (Epsom salt, pebbles, sand, etc.)
- Jute twine
- Jingle bells
- Spray glitter

**Directions:**

Fill a mason jar with Epsom salt or other filler and nestle a votive candle into it.

Wrap the mouth of the jar with jute twine strung with a few jingle bells. If you are a perfectionist, glue the twine down in perfect rows. Otherwise, go for my more unintentionally lazy haphazard look.

If you want to really knock yourself out, you can stick some snowflake brads (show in the top photo, found at the craft or scrapbooking store) in the twine and spray with glitter.

The end.

**Visit [The Inspired Room](#) for easy craft ideas!**

## Joy Trees

Amy Huntley is the owner/author of [The Idea Room](#). A mother of five, who enjoys sharing her love of all things creative in hopes of inspiring other women and families.

Originally posted on [The Idea Room](#).



*These adorable potted trees are made from thrifted pots & jars and a few additional supplies. It's an easy project that adds a pretty touch to your porch or walkway!*

### Supplies:

- Small containers or pots, thrifted
- Primer
- Krylon outdoor spray paint
- Ribbon
- Small evergreens

**Directions:**

To cover up the prints on the containers, I simply primed them with primer using a regular brush but was very careful to paint them smoothly without any drips, etc. After they had dried, I spray painted them with some white [Krylon outdoor spray paint](#). By the way, Krylon is my favorite brand of spray paint!

Then I glued a ribbon around the middle of the pot, and threw in some small evergreen trees. I found mine at Hobby Lobby. They were originally \$7.99 but were 50% off! Gotta love that!!

I might add a few little red or silver berries to them to spice them up a bit more!

**Visit [The Idea Room](#) for quick and beautiful decorating!**

## Joyful Noel Greetings

Kristen is a fun-loving woman whose idea of the perfect morning includes a cup of coffee, a full tank of, and a pile of design magazines. She can be found at [High Heels and a Hammer](#), where she writes about turning her house into a home one DIY project at a time...and yes, most days you will find her wearing a pair of really cute heels.

Originally posted on [High Heels and a Hammer](#).



*Our house, like many, has a beautiful side window next to the front door. I adore this little window and the added light that pours through it into our home.*

*But, it can create a bit of a decorating dilemma. Determining the perfect way to create a little privacy can be tricky. In our case, the window is finished with rounded moulding. Pretty--but difficult to discreetly attach a shade of any kind. So, because we have yet to find a solution we like, I have been trying creative ways of adding a touch of privacy. For the holidays, I've decided to bring a little sparkle and Christmas spirit to this narrow space.*

**Supplies:**

- Small metal pictures (Dollar Tree)
- Primer
- Top coat, white
- Drill
- Blue card stock
- Spray adhesive
- Martha Stewart glitter in Blue Sapphire
- Glue
- Glittered holly and berries
- S hooks and 8 hooks
- Ribbons for hanging

**Directions:**

I started with a few small metal pictures I found at the Dollar Tree.

A quick coat of primer covered these cute cows and then a top coat of white created the perfect backdrop for adding sparkle. Mr. Hammer lovingly drilled holes in the corners.

Next, I cut some Christmas-y looking letters out of blue card stock. Then using some spray adhesive and Martha Stewart glitter in Blue Sapphire, I covered the surface of each letter.

This is the first time I've used her glitter and I have to say – LOVE it! Make sure you cover your work surface well, as the spray adhesive can leave a tacky residue on everything it touches.

I glued the letters onto the center of each picture. Then I added a few sprigs of glittered holly and berries. I connected the letters together with a combination of "S" hooks and "8" hooks, and then hung it from a gorgeous ribbon. The result? Fabulous!!!

Because I made both sides identical, the same winsome holiday greeting that welcomes visitors also adds a festive touch to our entry hall. A perfect solution to a little problem, and a cheerful way to celebrate Christmas and the first Noel.

**Visit [High Heels and a Hammer](#) for a DIY Christmas!**

## Mod Podged Frames

Kelly is a cherry coke drinking, crushed ice loving, world-traveling, bike riding, apron wearing, snowboarding, fabric-obsessed, marathon training, Disneyland loving, sparkle skirt wearing, surprisingly shy triathlete, REAL Orange County housewife & mama of 3, with ADD crafting tendencies. Find her at [According to Kelly](#).

Originally posted on [According to Kelly](#).



*You've asked, so i'm delivering...here are the instructions for Mod Podging your very own picture frames.*

### Supplies:

- An unfinished frame
- Wood stain
- Piece of card stock scrapbook paper larger than frame
- Jar of Mod Podge
- Sponge brush applicator
- Tiny bit of sandpaper
- Razor blade or X-Acto knife
- Tim Holtz distress ink stamp pad (tea dye)

## Directions:

Stain your frame. You don't have to stain the entire frame, just the areas that will be visible after you Mod Podge the paper to the front. That means you will be staining the back of the frame, the outer sides of the frame, as well as the inner sides (near where the picture will go)--and don't forget to stain the dowel that you will be using as the stand.

Once your frame is dry, it's time to get your Mod Podge on. The first step to the art of Mod Podging is to apply a light layer over the entire surface to be Mod Podged (the front of the frame) & let it dry for about 30 seconds or so. The timing isn't set in stone, you just want it to set-up a touch.

Next, you apply another layer of Mod Podge & then position your chosen card stock on top of the frame (pay careful attention to any particular areas that you don't want to cut away & steer those parts away from the center or edges of your frame).

Press the paper firmly to the frame, smoothing away any air bubbles that may form. (It's kind of like wall papering. I found it helpful to use an old credit card to help smooth the paper out.)

Once the paper is set in place, let it sit for about 5 minutes, then recheck your frame to see if any more bubbles have appeared. If there are, press the bubble down again. If it still doesn't stick, take a straight pin to release the air under the paper & press it smooth.

Once your frame is dry, put it right-side down on a cutting surface & using your razor blade or X-Acto knife, trim off the extra paper from around the edges & from the center opening of the frame. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be perfect. You are going to be sanding it later.

Using your sand paper, sand all of the paper edges (that you just trimmed) to ensure that they are smooth.

Now here comes the super-secret, super-easy, but super-fantastic step...

[These distress ink stamp pads](#) rock! It's the magic that makes everything look beautiful. Using your stamp pad, go over all your newly sanded edges. You're going to be "covering up" the bright white of those newly cut paper edges. Make sense? You can also use a sponge, or paper towel to pick up ink & get into those "hard-to-reach" places. You can use the stamp pad as much or as little as you like to create a more vintage look. Sometimes I just use it on the edges, and sometimes I'll use it to completely cover the entire scrapbook paper. You can also use a little water to spread and smudge the ink... experiment with it.

Once your paper trimming, sanding & ink-applying is done, apply at least 3 more layers of Mod Podge on top of the scrapbook paper. Apply a layer of Mod Podge & let it dry for about 15 minutes, then apply another, and let it dry, etc. (sometimes, I've even applied more of the vintage-y ink in-between layers of Mod Podge. I told you, I love the stuff!).

Let dry completely, add a picture and you're done!

**Visit [According to Kelly](#) for everyday life crafts!**



## Noel Wall Hanging {Pottery Barn-Inspired}

Hi there! I'm Kim from [Sand & Sisal](#), a home and garden blog. Decorating, "how-to" crafts, DIY renovation, and recipes are my passion! Come, let's get creative together!

*Originally posted on [Sand and Sisal](#).*



*The blogosphere is loaded with Pottery Barn-inspired goodies this season, especially their Noel letter sign. And with each blog viewing, I thought to myself, "Hey, I can do that!". So the search began for ginormous letters to mount on my wall.*

### Supplies:

- 9" MDF letters
- Acrylic paints in Raw Umber and Crimson, or whatever colors you like
- Paint brush
- Paper towel
- Glue gun
- Hot glue sticks
- Nails (for hanging)

**Directions:**

Huge letters, I found, were more than I wanted to spend, so I found some nice sized 9" MDF letters at Michaels.

One of the things I love about these letters is the rich look of depth to the letters. To create your own faux, weathered-wood look, you'll need some acrylic paints in Raw Umber and Crimson, or whatever colors you like.

Paint the letters first with the Raw Umber, and while they are still tacky and not yet dry, go over them with the Crimson. Blend. Add some paint, take away, smudge with a paper towel, and have fun until you achieve beautiful depth and faux-woody goodness. That's what you're going for here. If you keep messing with it while it's wet and still drying, you'll get a rich, gorgeous look.

When your letters are completely dry, arrange them how you want on a piece of cardboard. Place another piece of cardboard on the front of the letters and flip 'em over like a cake. Now you are ready to glue your letters in place.

Take your glue gun and fill all the gaps of your letters with hot glue. Never underestimate the power of your hot glue ladies! Goop it on, and it will hold.

When your glue is set, simply place a few strategic nails on your wall and voila! Cute sign that cost you the price of your letters and a bit of your time.

Add some poinsettias, a candle, and you have yourself some gorgeousness!

**Visit [Sand and Sisal](#) for beautiful and budget-friendly decorating!**

## Orange Garland

Shannan is an ordinary girl who searches for and finds beauty in the everyday. She's the wife of a man who thinks all of her jokes are funny and who regularly indulges her late-night, thinking-out-loud ponderings. They have three funny babies who came to them across rivers and oceans. Together, they are embarking on a fresh adventure and are confident that God will meet them there. Find her at [Flower Patch Farm Girl](#).

Originally posted on [Flower Patch Farm Girl](#).



*This orange garland is the best thing since sliced fruit. And it's so easy. And colorful. And festive. And beauty full.*

### Supplies:

- Large bag of seedless oranges
- Knife for slicing
- Dish towel for blotting
- Metal baking sheet
- Wooden skewer
- Seam binding tape or ribbon

### Directions:

I sliced the ends off my oranges then sliced them into 1/4 inch slices. You want to do your best to keep the widths consistent so they bake evenly.

After slicing, place them on a dishtowel, which helps to blot off excess juice.

I would advise against placing them on a white towel, unless you are hankering for an orange/white tie-dyed effect. Who knew OJ stains?

When they're all sliced up, lay them on a metal baking sheet and put them in the oven, on its lowest setting. (Mine was 175 degrees.)

The trick is to make sure that they dry entirely, so they don't get moldy, which can take 4-8 hours.

When I removed mine, the bottom pan was over-cooked and too brown looking. I shed a tear and tossed that batch.

The top pan was lovely.

They still seemed kind of soft--a little like the texture of a gummy candy. They were pliable, but not at all juicy.

After they were completely cooled, I put them in a pile and forgot about them for the next few days.

Then I remembered them again and took a wooden shishkabob skewer to them, poking two holes in each one (see photo). Try to space the holes evenly.

I then threaded my lovely \$0.10 seam binding tape through them, making sure, in typical OCD fashion, that the "ribbon" was smooth all the way through.

After that, I strung them up.

They smell quite lovely while they are cooking and they look gorgeous when they catch the light.

**Visit [Flower Patch Farm Girl](#) for creative crafting with everyday items!**

## Ornament Tree

Kristi, aka "The Slipcover Girl," is mom to 2 girls & wife to 1 cute husband with a big case of wanderlust. Living in the south, she is trying to change the world one slipcover at a time...while inspiring others to do the same. Find her at [Pink and Polka Dot](#).

Originally posted on [Pink and Polka Dot](#).



*This is the easiest way to add Christmas decor...au naturel! I found the urn at a thrift store and slapped a coat of paint on it, rummaged through my yard for some branches and then added two packs of small white ornaments from Dollar Tree.*

### Supplies:

- Urn
- White paint
- Bare branches
- 2 packages small white ornaments

**Directions:**

Paint your urn or container white, adding multiple coats if necessary.

Collect bare branches and arrange in the urn.

Decorate with ornaments.

**Visit [Pink and Polka Dot](#) for more inexpensive holiday decorations!**

## Peppermint Wreath

Myra is wife to her childhood sweetheart and mommy to a rambunctious two-year-old named Ridley. She enjoys blogging at [My Blessed Life](#) about thrifty home decor, DIY projects, crafts, recipes, and more to inspire you to creatively thrive in your home.

Originally posted on [My Blessed Life](#).



*Are you ready to ooooo and ahhhhh and swoon and drool all at the same time? I had no clue just how fun and stunningly beautiful this peppermint wreath would turn out. It's easy and frugal!*

### Supplies:

- White foam wreath form – mine was 12" diameter
- 3 bags of peppermint mints
- 1 box Red Hots
- Glue gun & glue sticks
- Ribbon to hang the finished wreath

**Directions:**

Unwrap all the peppermints. You will use just about every single one.

I started hot gluing the peppermints on at an angle on the inner circle. My goal was to cram in as many peppermints as possible, so I glued the peppermints in circles (and alternating) around the wreath form.

You can see how I alternated the peppermints to cover as much of the wreath form as possible.

When I finished gluing the peppermints on I added a ring of Red Hots to fill some white space. I think the Red Hots totally "make" this wreath!

*Note:* I started and stopped my "rings" of peppermints at the same place so if I didn't have enough space to finish with a whole peppermint, I could use a piece. My plan worked like a charm because when I added the ribbon, it completely covered the few half peppermint pieces that I used.

Spray with clear spray glaze to preserve and then hang with ribbon.

**Visit [My Blessed Life](http://lifeyourway.net) for DIY home decor, seasonal crafts, delicious recipes and more!**



## Pinecone Wreath

I'm Jenna, interior designer and home blogger of [SAS Interiors](#). Through my business and blog, my goal is to deliver simple, affordable, and stylish design solutions, ideas, and inspiration to achieve a high-end look at a fraction of the cost.

*Originally posted on [SAS Interiors](#).*



*I love the look of wreaths filled with pinecones, and was about 5 seconds from buying two over the weekend, until I looked at the price tag. I was not paying \$25 for pinecones, when my own backyard is filled with these lovely, organic treasures.*

*But before putting the pinecone wreaths (that I loved) back on the shelf, I looked to see how they were made, and couldn't believe how easy it appeared. So off to the craft store I went...*

### Supplies:

- Natural materials (greenery, branches, berries, etc.)
- Vase
- Christmas ornaments
- Wire hangers or ribbon

### Directions:

I bought an 18" round wreath for \$1.99 and collected a bucketful of pinecones from the backyard. Now, I have to confess that I also used some store-bought pinecones, because they were rounder and fuller, as opposed to my skinny, sap-filled, backyard pinecones.

Using brown or green (*green is all I had*) wire, wrap it through the pinecone and twist, so it's secure on the back side.

After adding the pinecones, the back of the wreath will look like a wire craze...that's OKAY! You won't see the back. If you want, trim the pieces about 1/4" above the twist for a cleaner look.

Continue attaching the pinecones around the wreath and overlap them to add interest.

Voila! The simplest pinecone wreath is complete.

I actually made two. These beautiful pinecone wreaths hang in my dining area on the sliding glass door, but you can hang them anywhere: on your front door, interior door(s), the wall, etc...

**Visit [SAS Interiors](#) for interior design inspiration!**

## Pocket Advent Calendar

Lawyer by day, design and decor lover by night, and momma to the sweetest 19-month old boy you've ever seen. I'm passionate about fitness and chocolate and could not live without my hubby, girl talk, and my morning coffee. Find me at [Honey We're Home](http://HoneyWe'reHome.com).

Originally posted on [Honey We're Home](http://HoneyWe'reHome.com).



*This advent calendar can be personalized to fit your family's needs and traditions!*

### Supplies:

- Poster board
- Craft paper
- Scrapbook paper
- Tags
- Stickers
- String or ribbon

- Thumbtacks
- Tape
- Scissors

**Directions:**

Fold craft paper into 4-inch pockets and tape closed.

I affixed the pockets to the poster board with thumbtacks, then made one tag for each day, and embellished the calendar with stickers.

I printed activity labels on the computer and taped them to tags with Japanese tape.

Slip one tag in each pocket, and you're done!

**Visit [Honey We're Home](#) for fabulous *DIY* design!**

## "Praise Him" Banner

I'm Emily and I'm just a girl who likes pretty things and loves to decorate our home, while on a budget. I always have too many ideas running through my head on what to do and redo, but it keeps me on my toes. Find me at [Decor Chick](#).

Originally posted on [Decor Chick](#).



*I wanted to make something for us to be reminded of what Christmas is truly all about. I'll be the first to admit it is difficult sometimes to not get caught up with all of the presents, pretty lights, baking, ribbon, parties, photo shoots, Christmas trees, garland...you get the idea I'm sure.*

*But I want to remember to give Him praise during this season and every season. And I put this on our entry table so there is no getting around it; we will ALWAYS see it. People that come through our door and our kids will be reminded.*

### **Supplies:**

- Christmas card stock
- Silhouette machine
- Mod Podge
- Pinking shears
- Hole punch
- Ribbon
- Silk poinsettias
- Command hooks

**Directions:**

I bought some of this lovely cardstock at Hobby Lobby for \$5.

It's very sparkly and glittery, and the best part is that it is NOT messy. I don't do well with glitter everywhere.

Then I used my handy dandy [Silhouette machine](#) and cut out my letters on white cardstock. Me and the [Silhouette](#) are becoming great friends. It's pretty addictive.

Then popped out my letters and glued them with Mod Podge to my glittery square paper.

Used my pinking shears around all of the edges for a little more detail.

Then just used a hole punch to make two holes at the top, and strung with ribbon. Those poinsettias I used are from the Dollar Store.

And if you have an inquiring mind like me, I just used those mini command hooks to attach the ribbon to the mirrors. Those things are wonderful!

And voila!

**Visit [Decor Chick](#) for original holiday crafts!**

## Recycled Sweater Snowman

Kristen is a fun-loving woman whose idea of the perfect morning includes a cup of coffee, a full tank of, and a pile of design magazines. She can be found at [High Heels and a Hammer](#), where she writes about turning her house into a home one DIY project at a time...and yes, most days you will find her wearing a pair of really cute heels.

Originally posted on [High Heels and a Hammer](#).



*Do you remember the [sweater vases](#) I made? Well, since they only used the sleeves, I knew I wanted to come up with some way to use the rest of the sweater as well. Then I came across an ornament that gave me just the idea I was looking for. Isn't this the cutest face?*

*I knew the sweater was destined to become the body of a fat little snowman!*

### Supplies:

- Large Styrofoam ball
- Old sweater
- Scissors
- Glue gun
- Hot glue sticks
- Twigs
- Snowman ornament (or smaller Styrofoam ball)
- Toothpick
- Fleece

**Directions:**

To make this cute little guy, I used the same technique that I used for the vases. I turned the bottom finished edge into the neck of the sweater and hot glued it onto a large Styrofoam ball. Then I cut the sweater and glued the edges down, overlapping in the back.

I did the same on the bottom, cutting some slits into the sweater so that it would overlap and lay flat.

Then I cut a few branches from my yard for the arms. Actually, I sent my son into the yard to cut the branches since it was cold and snowing. He's a very good son.

I attached the head to the body with a toothpick and tada, cute snowman.

Only... something was missing. I cut out a triangular piece of fleece and hot glued it into a cone.

After a little adjusting... the perfect winter cap.

Now he is complete.

The perfect happy little snowman, all dressed for some fun in the snow.

**Visit [High Heels and a Hammer](#) for DIY decor!**



## Ruffled Trees Tutorial

Jen Hadfield is the creator of the DIY decorating/craft blog [Tatertots & Jello](http://Tatertots & Jello). She loves being creative. She started TT&J as a place to keep her creative ideas and projects and it has turned into a place where she shares creative tutorials and ideas every day.

Originally posted on [Tatertots and Jello](http://Tatertots and Jello).



*I have had a few requests for a tutorial for the Ruffle Tree I did in my Living Room. So the other day I made a little Ruffle Tree forest! And along the way I stumbled across a few tips, I thought I could share with you.*

### Supplies:

- Fabric
- A Styrofoam cone or a sheet of cardstock.
- Hot Glue Gun
- Finial for the top (optional – I found mine at Hobby Lobby)
- Wood bases for bottoms of trees. (also found at Hobby Lobby)
- Paint (optional, for bases and finials). For a beachy look, leave unfinished.

The amount of fabric you need depends on what size cone you use and how ruffly you want your tree to be. For a large cone, a 120" long by 2" wide strip of fabric makes a pretty ruffly tree. For a very ruffly tree you would need a 150" long strip. You can use a fat quarter if you want, just sew the strips together to form one, continuous ribbon on fabric.

### **Directions:**

*Styrofoam is expensive.* You can use a sheet of scrapbook paper or cardstock instead. Simply roll the paper up so that one end comes to a point. Then I stapled that edge and hot glued the rest of the edge down. Then I traced the bottom of the cone on another sheet of cardstock. I would recommend using cardboard on the bottom because it is sturdier. The last thing is to hot glue the base to the cone.

Cut out fabric strip. It should be 2 inches wide and the length depends on the size of the cone. One way to figure this out is to take a piece of string and wrap it around the cone, every 2 inches from top to bottom. Then double that total for a slightly ruffled tree. Or triple the length of the measurement for a very ruffly tree.

If you don't have a long enough piece of fabric, sew the pieces of fabric together so it makes one, continuous strip.

Use you biggest setting on your sewing machine and sew a line down the center of the fabric strip.

Gather up the material.

Hot glue one of the edges of the strip to the bottom of the cone, then wrap the fabric along the cone, overlapping each layer until the entire cone is covered. If you are using a Styrofoam cone, put pins in the cone to hold the fabric in place as you wrap. If you are using a paper cone, hot glue the bottom edge to the paper and wrap the ruffles along the cone until you reach the top.

Once the entire cone is covered with fabric, glue the end of the fabric strip to the top of the cone, the same as you did on the bottom.

Then hot glue the layers of fabric to the Styrofoam or paper. If you use a Styrofoam cone, hot glue the fabric at each place that you pinned earlier.

Experiment with the wood bases that you purchased. Hot glue different bases together so all of the bases are different heights.

Then paint the bases and the finials/wood balls.

Once the paint is dried, hot glue the finials to the top of each ruffle tree. Do the same thing with the bases.

Now you have a Ruffly Tree!

**Visit [Tatertots and Jello](http://TatertotsandJello.com) for creative crafting!**

## Sewing Pattern Christmas Tree

[The Country Chic Cottage](#) brings farmhouse flair to your cottage through creative crafts and vintage finds! Get that farmhouse look on any budget!

Originally posted on [The Country Chic Cottage](#).



*When I came up with this little Christmas tree, I knew I wanted to use vintage sewing patterns, my fave crafting medium! I am the type of person that decides on a whim to make a Christmas tree...so...I carved a cone like shape out of some styrofoam that was in the attic. I HATE going to the craft store, y'all...and this makes me feel more green.*

*Why did I use sewing patterns? The creamy tan gorgeousness that I just cannot find elsewhere...Gorgeous, free, Christmas-y – what else could a girl want??*

### Supplies:

- Old sewing patterns
- Styrofoam cone
- Pen
- Glue sticks
- Glue gun

**Directions:**

Cut your sewing pattern into approximately 2-inch by 2-inch squares. This does not have to be perfect.

Take a pen with the tip retracted and wrap a piece of your pattern around the end.

Put some hot glue on the end and stuff it into your cone shape.

Repeat, repeat, repeat. Repeat many, many times. The tighter you get them the fuller your tree will appear in the end.

**Visit [The Country Chic Cottage](#) for creative farmhouse flair!**

## Silvery Christmas Vignette

Hello, I'm Melissa! [320 Sycamore](#) is about bringing out the charm and potential in our homes and families, with a bit of nonsense and good deals scattered here and there. I am a stay at home mom of 5, I'm so NOT a professional, but I love to look at possibilities of what can "become" with limited time and money.

Originally posted on [320 Sycamore](#).



*Pick up silver ornaments, bells, ribbon and containers during after-Christmas clearance sales to make this gorgeous silver vignette!*

### Supplies:

- Silver ornaments
- Silver bells
- Containers

### Directions:

Arrange various ornaments, bells, ribbons and trays in a corner of your home. Play with it until it feels just right!

**Visit [320 Sycamore](#) for home decorating inspiration!**



## Snowball Men

Amy Huntley is the owner/author of [The Idea Room](http://TheIdeaRoom.com). A mother of five, who enjoys sharing her love of all things creative in hopes of inspiring other women and families.

Originally posted on [The Idea Room](http://TheIdeaRoom.com).



*These snowball men add a touch of winter to my any home décor!*

### Supplies:

- Styrofoam balls
- White acrylic paint
- Black cardstock
- Hole puncher
- E6000 glue
- Orange paper
- Elmer's spray glue
- Glitter

**Directions:**

I simply took some left-over Styrofoam balls and painted them white with some acrylic paint.

Then, I waited (not very patiently) for them to dry. I punched some holes in black cardstock and glued them on for the eyes and mouth with my E6000 glue.

I then cut a small triangle out of orange paper and rolled it up to make his carrot nose. I snipped off the bigger end so that it was flat and then glued it on his face with E6000 glue as well.

I sprayed him with Elmer's spray glue and added a bit of glitter to give him a little sparkle. I placed some in the kitchen table centerpiece and in a couple of apothecary jars in various rooms.

**Visit [The Idea Room](#) for cute Christmas décor ideas!**

## Subway Art Pillow Tutorial

Jen Hadfield is the creator of the DIY decorating/craft blog [Tatertots & Jello](http://Tatertots & Jello). She loves being creative. She started TT&J as a place to keep her creative ideas and projects and it has turned into a place where she shares creative tutorials and ideas every day.

Originally posted on [Tatertots and Jello](http://Tatertots and Jello).



*I love Subway Art and just had to try my hand at a Subway Art Pillow.*

### Supplies:

- Red and green duckcloth
- Matching thread
- Sewing machine
- Silhouette
- Heat transfer vinyl
- Pressing cloth
- Iron/ironing board
- Embellishments, as desired

### Directions:

To start, I figured out the size of pillow that I wanted to make. Then I split the pillow up into a green part which is smaller and a red part which is larger. It ended up being 5 inches in height for the green and 8 inches in height for the red. Then I sewed the two pieces together.



I decided to make an envelope back so I added 6 inches to the width of the back and cut the back in two--so the back overlaps by three inches. I sewed the pillow together.

I used my Silhouette and Heat Transfer Vinyl for the letters. I love that stuff!

I laid it all out on my computer and then cut it on my [Silhouette](#).

Then I ironed on the lettering. Note—Do NOT let the heat transfer material overlap like I did. It makes the heat transfer material stick to the vinyl. *Very bad!*

The last thing I did was make a flower for a little extra embellishment. I attached the flower to the pillow and voila! I was done!!

Now I have a little Christmas Subway Art to ring in the Holiday Season!!

**Visit [Tatertots and Jello](#) for more ordinary-to-extraordinary crafting!**

## Star Garland

I'm a southern gal and mommy of three: the one who constantly wears paint stains on her clothes, a small price to pay for living out my love of creating every day. I share simple ideas for others to use in making their homes one of a kind havens, to love for years to come. Find me at [The Handmade Home](http://TheHandmadeHome.com).

Originally posted on [The Handmade Home](http://TheHandmadeHome.com).



*When I got the West Elm catalog in the mail before Thanksgiving, I was oogling over these cutsie little star garland thingies via David Stark. I thought it was the most precious little design, and I've just come to the apparent realization that I have this thing for stars, especially for Christmas.*

*I decided to make my own for free with things I already had lying pointlessly around in my disturbingly cluttered crap pile makeshift studio. And you can too. What you will need:*

### Supplies:

- Wire: a smaller gauge found in the jewelry aisle of Michaels or Hobby Lobby
- Small wire cutter
- Yarn: A thick, fluffy kind.
- Tape
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Star-shaped ornament or cookie cutter to use as a template

**Directions:**

Take the ornament or cookie cutter and tape it down. This will anchor it so you can wrap the wire around the edges.

Cut off extra wire (depending on how large your star is in proportion to your wire length leave a little excess so you can join the two open ends) and anchor that with a piece of tape.

Repeat until you have all your wire pieces. (Plug in your glue gun.) They don't have to be perfect. I think it makes for more of a delightful little homemade look, myself.

Take a wire piece, and a generous amount of yarn. With your glue gun, put a small amount of glue to anchor the yarn.

With the yarn anchored, start wrapping, very tightly, until you have completed your star.

Repeat until you have covered all your desired stars.

Take another piece of yarn (I used a thinner piece for hanging) and pre-measure your desired hanging space. (I anchored mine at the top of two cabinets in my kitchen using a piece of tape). Put the string through each star, then come back through once with a single loop. (I hope this makes sense. It's just wrapping the yarn once around each star...this anchors them into place, but also makes for easy sliding once all stars are up and you can determine actual spacing between each one.)

**Visit [The Handmade Home](http://lifeyourway.net) for beautiful ideas you can afford!**

## Winter Felt Wreath

Melissa Michaels is the creator of [The Inspired Room](#) blog. In real life, she is a mom of three and church planter's wife.

Originally posted on [The Inspired Room](#).



*Do you remember my [square felt garland](#) from last year? Well, don't faint at my craftiness, but I've reinvented it this year into something I love even more, a Winter Felt Wreath!*

### Supplies:

- Felt in desired colors, enough to make several hundred squares
- Sharp sewing scissors
- White dental floss
- Needle
- Wood wreath frame
- Floral craft wire
- Christmas bell or other decoration (optional)

**Directions:**

Gather lots of felt (you can use what whatever colors you want; I used a white, a cream and a taupe) and cut out hundreds of approximately 2-inch squares while you watch a twenty-hour holiday movie marathon. Just kidding. It didn't take that long. If you have sharp sewing scissors this will be super easy. Don't obsess over the squares; they don't have to be perfect.

Then you use white dental floss and a needle to string the squares together. Easy! Now you have the garland made!

Lay the garland around your wreath frame (I used a wood one). I put a ribbon around the wreath frame at this point just to make it ready to hang when I was all done. You could also hang it with a hook and no ribbon.

I started wiring it down in the middle of the garland. Use your floral craft wire (I used white) to secure the dental floss to the ring at a few points. Secure it in enough places that your wreath will stay round. You can tie it tight, so the felt smashes in a little bit.

Tie and trim the ends of the wire once you are all done tying it to the frame.

When you get to where you have the two ends of the garland, you can see how much felt you need to remove in order to make it fit nice and tight. Remove the excess squares and tie the two ends of the floss together. Now secure that portion to the wreath frame.

I hung a bell on mine, but that is optional. You could remove it after Christmas or hang something else, or hang nothing at all.

Voila! You made a wreath. And it was easy!

**Visit [The Inspired Room](http://lifecycleofadream.com) for doable DIY ideas!**

## Yarn Wreath

Michelle is a design-infatuated Georgia girl who loves renovating her 1952 home, working on DIY projects and hanging out with her husband and two dogs. When she's not busy working as an attorney, you can find her blogging about her home and life adventures at [Ten June](#).

Originally posted on [Ten June](#).



*This yarn wreath is my favorite Christmas project from this year. Here's the lowdown.*

### Supplies:

- A couple balls of yarn
- Felt squares
- Straw wreath
- Push pins
- Fresh pine trimmings

**Directions:**

When you get started, leave the straw wreath in its plastic wrapper. This makes things a bit neater as you wrap the yarn around.

Next up? Wrap the yarn around the wreath! It's a little time consuming, but definitely easy. Here's my almost-finished product.

Then, I simply cut some large circles out of felt squares in a spiral shape. I folded each spiral into a flower shape and pinned each onto the wreath with a tack.

I then stuck in a few branches of fresh tree trimmings and, voila! You've got a Christmas yarn wreath.

I put the wreath in our kitchen on a door that goes into our sunroom. It's the perfect thing to spruce up the area in a cozy, Christmas way!!

**Visit [Ten June](#) for DIY inspiration!**

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## About Myra and My Blessed Life



Myra is wife to her childhood sweetheart and mommy to a rambunctious two year old named Ridley. She enjoys blogging at [My Blessed Life](#) about thrifty home decor, diy projects, crafts, recipes and more to inspire you to creatively thrive in your home.

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## About Mandi Ehman and Life...Your Way



You might wonder, with a name like [Life...Your Way](#), whether I believe in any absolutes. Let me assure you that I do.

I believe in right and wrong, the God of the Bible, the covenant of marriage and the sanctity of life.

However, I also believe there are lots of gray areas where each of us have to make our own decisions. Some of these are a good/better/ best kind of thing. But most are simply to-MAY-to versus to-MAH-to.

In this internet age, we're hit with opinions, facts and information from every angle every day — about food, finances, motherhood, success and more. And each day we have to wade through it all and try to decide what's best for ourselves, our family and our children.

Life...Your Way has one goal: to help you sort through all of the facts and opinions so you can make an informed decision about what works best for your preferences, your needs and your lifestyle.

### About Mandi

Nine years ago I married the guy who lived across the street.

We set off on a cross-country adventure, moving 3,000 miles away from our family to a city where we knew no one. We made a lot of stupid decisions and did a lot of growing up, and two years later our oldest daughter was born. In the five years that followed, we had three more babies, moved three times and built our dream home on a little slice of heaven in the middle of nowhere. We made a few more mistakes, and our hearts broke as we said goodbye to three babies that we never got to hold in our arms.

These days, my husband has the privilege of being a stay-at-home dad, and I have the incredible privilege of pursuing my passion — writing, blogging and more — while also being home for all of the milestones I wouldn't want to miss and the boobos that need kissing. We're a homeschooling family, which means we get to spend every day together. And most days we consider that a blessing!

Although it might sometimes seem like I've got it all figured out, let me assure you that I don't. There are probably dirty dishes in my sink right now, and I end up wasting time on Facebook more often than I care to admit. Our marriage is beautiful, but not perfect, and I still get buyer's remorse after a stupid impulse purchase. I'm the spokesperson for [Plan to Eat](#), but sometimes I totally ignore my meal plan and we end up eating out because mama doesn't feel like cooking.

But through it all, we're just a family trying to make the best decisions we can while pursuing our passions and enjoying each other. And here at Life...Your Way, I try to share the things I'm thinking about and the lessons we're learning along the way.