

Decorating

Holiday glitter ideas abounding

There's nothing like the glitter of Christmas decorating to liven the spirits in the weeks before the holidays. With a little time and effort, using materials most people have in their homes during the festive holiday season, anyone can recreate the nostalgic flavor of Christmases past.

Designing and creating your own decorations for the mantle, tree or under the tree isn't an art, a talent or even a skill. Anyone can do it — and it can be great fun.

Brightly colored paper, glitter, bits of ribbon and bric-a-brac, fresh fruit and a little felt are the basic materials necessary to create Christmas cards, hanging ornaments, decorative wall scenes and gift attachments.

With the addition of Styrofoam balls and trees, beads and pins, one can fashion lasting decorations that save not only money but also hours away from the mashing crowds shopping for commercially manufactured items.

HAND-MADE CARDS are quick and easy, and their designs are endlessly adaptable. Using standard size construction paper, scissors, glue, glitter and bric-a-brac, cut the card to any size desired, border with bric-a-brac and adhere a scene (plucked from old cards or magazines) or draw your own.

Pictures may be bordered in matching or contrasting glitter. Be sure to inscribe the message inside the card before decorating with glitter. This gives the glue time to dry and saves clean-up afterwards.

Cutting strips of brightly colored advertising from magazines, you can create

your own Christmas designs — shaping the colors into bells, holly, ornaments, trees and candles. The same effect can be achieved using felt squares.

Beginning with a bare Styrofoam ball, available in many sizes, you can design the simplest or most ornate hanging ornaments for the tree. Have on hand dozens of straight pins, and beads and bangles of any shape or size.

Lightly draw a design on the ball, and fill it in with whatever color or colors of beads desired. An alternative is spraying the ball lightly with lacquer or hair spray, and dusting lightly with glitter.

FELT ORNAMENTS are designed in much the same way. Strips of ribbon, bric-a-brac or glitter applied to felt pieces cut to portray candy canes, round ornaments, bells and candles are easy and originally yours. Felt can be used to cover styrofoam balls before applying beads to the glitter.

Some of the prettiest and most natural of all tree ornaments are also the least expensive — pine cones. In abundance during November and December, the cones are placed in a warm oven for about 30 minutes to open and shed their seeds. While still warm, the cones should be sprayed with lacquer or hair polish. Then the glitter may be applied, if desired, or the cones may be left undecorated.

Wrap a metal ornament hook around the cone tip, and you have dozens of ornaments that last years. And they're unbreakable.

Papier-mache ornaments for under the tree need only wire, cardboard rolls, newspaper and white flour. Twist the wire

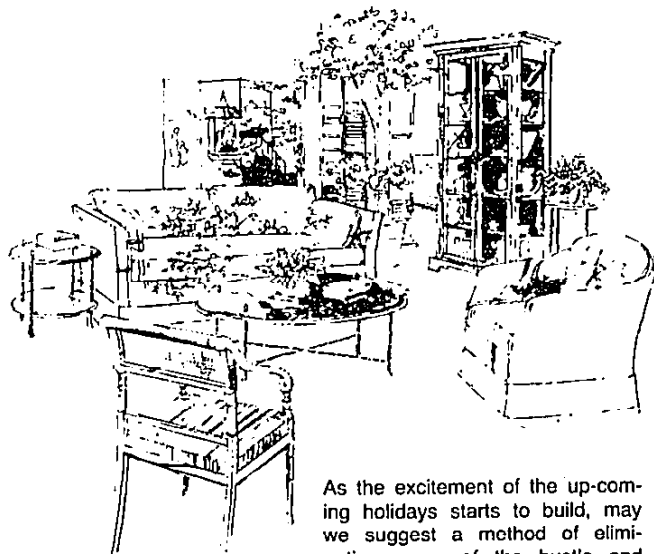
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Decorating of another kind is exemplified in this photo of a holiday maker stringing popcorn and cranberries.

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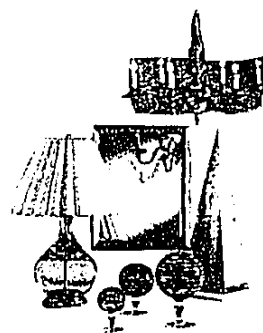
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