

# Decorate

## How you can create holiday memories

There's nothing like the glitter of Christmas decorating to liven spirits in the weeks before the holidays. With a little time and effort and using materials most people have in their homes during the festive holiday season, anyone can recreate the nostalgic flavor of Christmases of the 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 ric-rac, 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 ric-rac, cut the card to any size desired, border with ric-rac and adhere a scene (plucked from old cards, magazines or

Christmas gift wrap) 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, candles. The same effect can be achieved using felt squares.

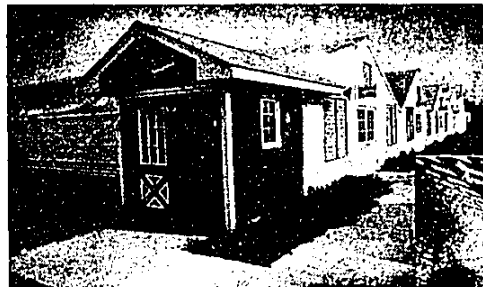
Beginning with a bare styrofoam ball, available in many sizes, you can design the simplest or most ornate hanging ornaments for the tree. Have on hand dozens of straight pins and beads and bangles of any shape and size.

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 with lacquer or hair spray and dusting lightly with glitter.

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

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