

Make Styrofoam trees

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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 into the shape desired, or cut the cardboard to fit.

Mix up a soupy bowl of white flour and water and tear newspapers into strips 1-1½ inches thick. One at a time, dip the strips into the flour-water mixture and warp around the wire skeleton. Let them dry thoroughly (about a week) and finish, by painting with enamel poster colors or adhere pieces of felt, glitter, lace or whatever is on hand.

A manger scene, Santa Claus or Christmas dolls may be created with the cardboard rolls and some yarn and beads. Wrap the plain roll in construction paper, adding wings, arms or a songbook with different colored paper. Attach a Styrofoam ball head with glue and allow to dry about an hour. Cut strips of yarn for hair and fill in the facial expression using tiny beads or bangles.

STYROFOAM TREES can be designed in any shape and color, using an assortment of beads, ric-rac and large-head pins. They are easily applied in any de-

sign, and colors can be mixed and matched to preference. The finished trees may be hung on walls, mantles or placed in windows where the beads reflect nicely in the glow of Christmas lights.

Other wall hangings can be designed by using construction paper, felt and pieces of material. Simply draw a design on the paper, cut the pieces of felt and material to fit and glue in place.

Using a full felt square as background, and adding pipe cleaners, ric-rac and Q-tips, a winter scene can be created all in white. Border the square with Q-tips, which adhere easily with glue and build a tree of cotton swabs in the center. A snowy ground can be created with cotton, pipe cleaners or ric-rac.

Above the tree, dot the felt lightly with glue and sprinkle silver glitter on the scene. Other designs may be added or deleted for the particular effect you hope to achieve.

Using leftover material in any bright pattern, some cotton and lace trimming, you can create little stuffed hearts and bells for hanging on the tree. Cut two pieces of material into identical patterns, then stitch lightly with matching thread, leaving about an inch open near the top. Stuff the material with cotton, and sew up the remaining inch. Add ric-rac around the borders, using small, tight stitches to fasten both ric-rac and material securely.

ONCE THE TREE is trimmed and tinsel, lights and other additions are in place, the final step is stringing popcorn and cranberries. Large-kernel popcorn is best, and cranberries should be purchased not earlier than the day before the planned stringing.

Using carpet thread or double-stranded

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