



You can have a lovely holiday table without spending a lot of money. These decorative items, including the wreath on the cake, were all made using marshmallows and colored sugars.

Use marshmallows

Elegant table fun to create

The holiday season is the time to bring out exciting desserts that are gaily decorated and served at festive tables. But your own creative touches don't have to involve expensive gadgets and hours of time. You can create an elegant holiday effect with just a few ingredients from the supermarket, using techniques that are easy enough for children to learn.

A festive Christmas Wreath Cake, uses marshmallows as the easy decorative touch. The cake is frosted with creamy Angel Mallow Frosting, a fluffy, easy-to-spread recipe that owes its lightness to marshmallow cream and stiffly beaten egg whites. The professional-looking wreath atop the cake is made using marshmallows and colored sugar. Using a pair of scissors dipped in water, cut marshmallows into crosswise slices, then dip the cut edges in green-tinted sugar for a Christmas-y effect. Make three rings of the marshmallow slices around the top of the cake and "tie" your festive wreath by affixing a bright red ribbon to the top of the cake.

The same technique can be used to decorate your table by making "wreath" candleholders. Simply attach two rings of sugared marshmallow slices to cardboard around the base of a bright red candle. Marshmallow Christmas poinsettia blossoms are used to decorate napkin rings, serving platters and individual dessert plates. These are made by overlapping five marshmallow slices, dipping the flower in red decorative sugar, then adding a halved miniature marshmallow as the center.

This cake and all the trimmings make a great family project on Christmas Eve, to be served at a gaily Christmas dinner the next day.

THE BASIC techniques for making marshmallow creations are simple. Ordinary scissors dipped in water are used to cut the marshmallows. A standard-size, white marshmallow, cut into fourths miniature marshmallows. When using heart-shaped marshmallows, cut five slices from each marshmallow.

No glue is necessary for these projects. The cut sides of the marshmallows stick together, and adhere to other uncut marshmallows and candles. Marshmallow cream may also be used to secure uncut marshmallows and other materials together.

Wreath Cake
Fill and frost two 8- or 9-inch round cake layers with one recipe Angel Mallow Frosting. Arrange marshmallow slices dipped in green colored sugar in three overlapping rows around edge of cake. Add red ribbon bow.

ANGEL MALLOW FROSTING
1/4 cup sugar
2 egg whites
2 tablespoons water
1 7-oz. jar marshmallow creme
1/4 teaspoon vanilla

Combine sugar, egg whites and water in double boiler; beat with electric or rotary beater over boiling water until soft peaks form. Add marshmallow creme; continue beating until stiff peaks form. Remove from heat; beat in vanilla.

Candle Holders
Cut cardboard circles 1 1/2 to 2 inches wider than the diameter of candles. Center candles on cardboard and secure with florist clay. Spread a thin layer of marshmallow cream on the cardboard. Beginning along outer edge, attach marshmallow slices dipped in colored sugar in overlapping rows until cardboard is covered.

Napkin Rings
Cut rings 1 to 1 1/4 inches wide from cardboard cylinders (from bathroom tissue or paper towels); wrap with colored ribbon or colored paper, and secure with tape. Make Marshmallow Flowers, dip in red sugar to create poinsettia. Secure to rings with marshmallow cream.

Marshmallow Flowers
1. Cut marshmallows into four crosswise slices.
2. For each flower, arrange five marshmallow slices on waxed paper in a daisy design, slightly overlapping tips.
3. Dip inside of flower into colored sugar to coat cut sides of petals.
4. Cut a miniature marshmallow in half and press one piece, cut side down, in center of blossom.

Happy Holiday

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