

Do-it-yourself holiday gift project

Beautiful furniture doesn't have to be expensive and can be made relatively easily at home by someone who's never done carpentry or design before. The furniture created will bear the mark of an individual design scheme because the color and theme of the decoration will be personally selected. End tables, particularly, are perfect for decorating any room.

Coffee and plant tables can be practical as well as elegant when the top is tiled with Italian ceramic tile. Tile is waterproof and will not stain.

You will need one 24-inch-square cube table, which can be found in any unpainted furniture store, sandpaper, four 1½-by-½-by-24½-inch strips of lattice, wood glue, 1-inch finishing nails, masking tape

and paint in the desired color. From your local tile distributor buy nine 8-inch-square Italian tiles, tile cement and tile grout. Your tables can reflect your choice of color and pattern since Italian tile is available in every conceivable shade.

Following the manufacturer's instructions, cement tiles to the top of the cube, sealing the joints with grout. With sandpaper smooth the edges of each piece of lattice, then glue the four strips to the sides of the cube, placing the top edge flush with the tile surface. Nail the corners of the strips of lattice to the table.

Cover the edge of the tiles with masking tape for protection and paint all wood surfaces. Let dry completely and paint a second coat. Remove tape.



Family pictures

Don't forget to buy film and keep your camera loaded for that priceless picture that the family will treasure for many holiday seasons to come.



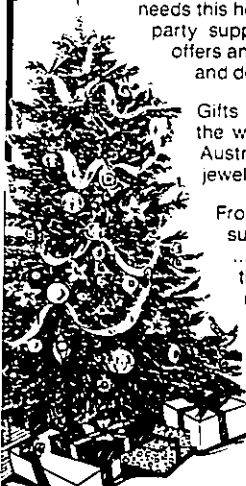
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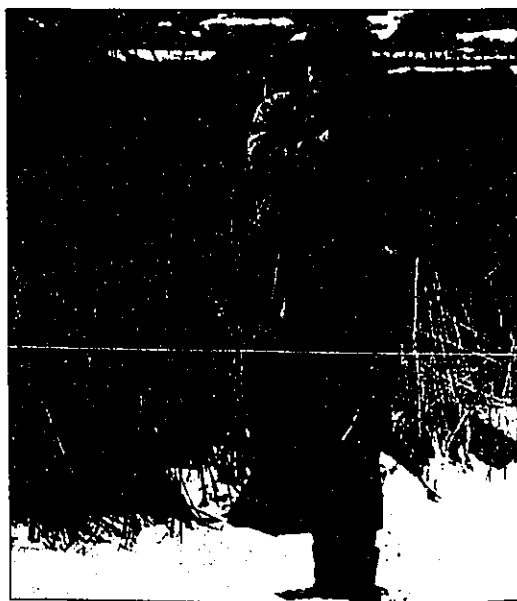
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