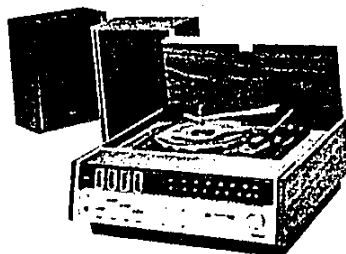


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YULE DECOR IS FAMILY FUN

A cry of despair that has risen from Christmas shoppers in recent years is that Christmas has become too commercialized and too expensive.

In response to that cry, home decorating and women's magazines have presented hundreds of ideas for making Christmas a do-it-yourself family project. Hobby shops and department stores have filled their shelves with the necessary materials.

For decorating the door, entrance hall, mantle or the Christmas dinner table, there are styrofoam forms to decorate with beads, aluminum garlands, plastic foliage or fabric.

THE FORMS, in the shape of Christmas trees, stars, wreaths, discs, balls and sleighs, are light-weight, inexpensive and easy to decorate.

A lovely and colorful table decoration can be easily made with a cone shaped form, green feathers and a few Christmas balls with an extending wire which may be stuck into the foam cone.

A wreath for the door may be made from any combination of plastic fir foliage, aluminum garland, plastic holly, berries, mistletoe, pine needles and cones, gold or silver leaves, ribbon, Christmas tree balls and pine figures.

Some of the prettiest Christmas tree balls are those made from styrofoam and satin balls. These may be purchased ready made or you can make them yourself.

If you choose to make the balls yourself, there is a tremendous assort-

ment of beads, spangles, trims, and sequins to choose from. There are small holes in the beads so that a straight pin may be inserted through the hole and into the styrofoam ball.

Gold and silver cording, old costume jewelry, ribbons and small trinkets may be added with a pin or glue.

THE BALLS range from one inch to eight inches in diameter and start at two cents each for the smallest. The satin covered ones are slightly higher but come in a large variety of colors and sizes. Other decorations for the Christmas tree include strings of lights, angel hair, tinsel, strands of beads or popcorn, clear plastic icicles, and small figures.

To cover the base of the tree there are aprons of various colors, fabrics and designs.

Candles of all colors and shapes always add warmth and color to Christmas decorations. Small ones may be placed on the tree with larger ones on tables and in centerpieces. Some varieties are scented.

When selecting a Christmas tree, you will be able to choose from green firs and long-needle pines, trees which have been spray-painted and artificial trees of aluminum and plastic.

For those who feel they are not creative or lack the time to make their own decorations, stores are filled with many ready-made decorations for tree and home.



Hand-decorated bulbs revive old German art to add new beauty to holiday trees.

MISTLETOE USED BY THE ROMANS

Mistletoe, one of America's favorite holiday decorations, brings to mind an especially pleasant custom: that of catching an unsuspecting (or so it may seem!) sweetheart underneath the sprig of mistletoe for a kiss.

The green-leaved, white-berried plant really does have quite a romantic history. References to it appear as

far back as the days of gladiators and real knights in armor.

The Romans made the first recorded use of mistletoe as a symbol of peace. Enemies meeting under it were required to discard their weapons and declare a truce.

No one had yet thought of the white flag