

during festive weeks

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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 bric-a-brac around the borders, using small, tight stitches to fasten both bric-a-brac and material securely.

ONCE THE TREE is trimmed, and tinsel, lights and other decorations are in place, the final step is stringing popcorn and cranberries. Large-kernal popcorn is best, and cranberries should be purchased no earlier than the day before the stringing.

Using carpet thread or double-stranded sewing thread, thread the needles to about 10-15 inches, and put the needle through the center of the kernal.

Alternate or pattern cranberries between the popcorn tying a large knot at the end of the needle. Strands can then be tied together and draped across the tree.

Other naturals to string on the tree are dried flowers, pods, pretzels and fresh dough cookies, shaped into Christmas fashion.

For special scents in your Christmas home, try homemade pomander balls, made from fresh citrus fruit and cloves. Oranges, lemons and limes make the best balls, and the skins are thin enough to allow entry of the cloves without difficulty.

Simply tie a Christmasy ribbon around

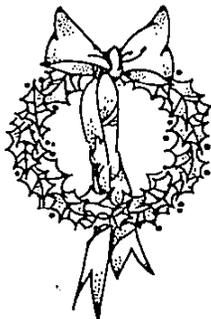
the fruit, anchoring it in place with a straight pin. Circle the fruit with whole cloves, piercing the skin deeply enough to allow about one-eighth of an inch of the clove to penetrate.

WHEN THE FRUIT is covered with cloves, place it in a paper bag with a teaspoon of cinnamon. Place in a dark, dry place for about two weeks, allowing the fruit to skrink and harden.

Finished balls may be hung from the tree, or placed in decorated bowls for sweet-smelling rooms throughout the season.

If you have tired of hectic pace of the holiday decorating and long for a return to a more traditional, homey Christmas, try you hand at one or all of these decorating ideas.

Not only will you have the atmosphere of an old-fashioned Christmas, you'll have the satisfaction and pleasure of having created it yourself.



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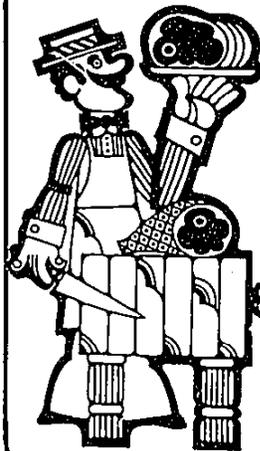
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