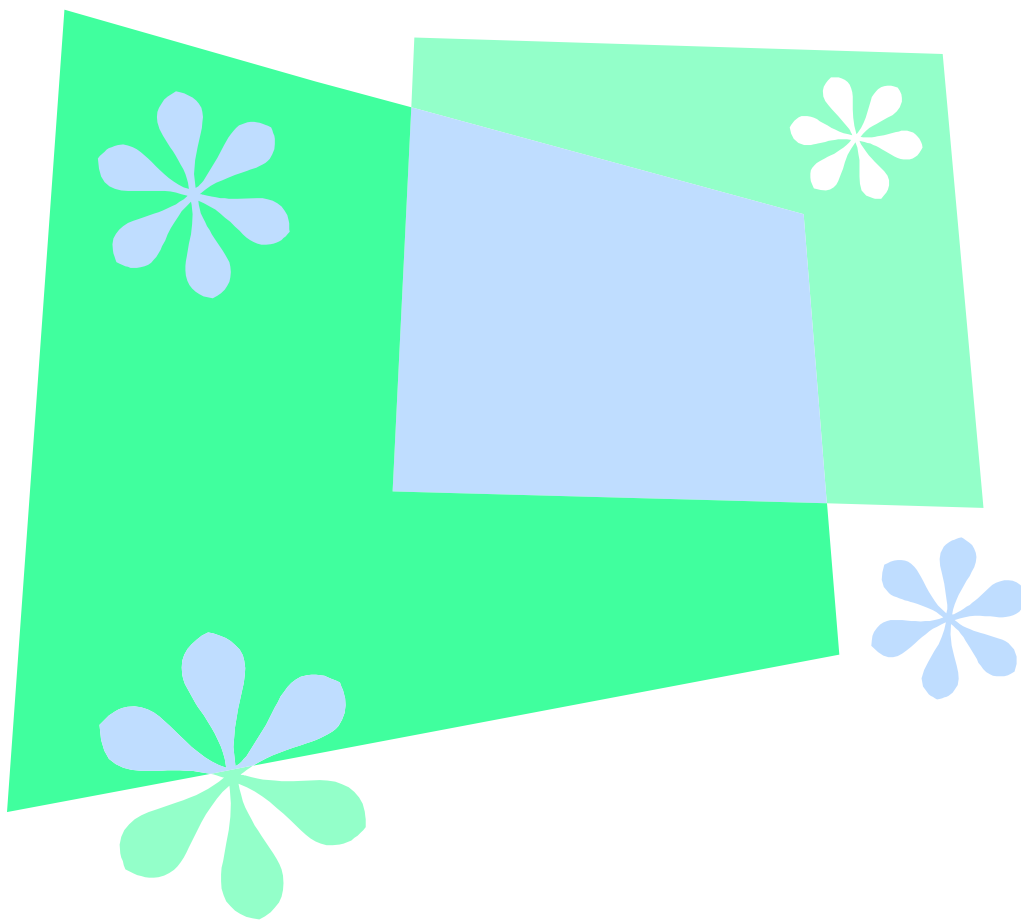


Crafty Crayon Presents...

Fun Craft Projects



Compiled & designed by Tabula Rasa i-Publishing, Co. 2005

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M&M

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Grape Vine

A Highway

Laundry Basket

Static Cling

Punk rocker

Priest

Crayon



1. A New Way to Use Old Snapshots

If you're like me, you have hundreds of photographs sitting in envelopes, pictures from birthday parties, weddings, family gatherings, anniversaries, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You have already put the best snapshots into albums and these are leftovers. You don't want to throw them away, but you also don't know what to do with them. Instead of letting your snapshots take up space and contribute to the clutter in your home, use them to make collages (at a cost of less than \$10 each) that you can give as Christmas gifts to family and friends. Here's how:

1. Assess your collection of pictures. Do you have several dozen of your spouse or significant other? Your parents? Your children? Grandparents? A friend? A beloved pet? Decide which person would like to receive these pictures and divide them into groups accordingly.
2. Buy a picture frame with glass (either 5x7 or 8x10) for each collage you are going to make. Department stores sometimes have sales on picture frames, and you can often purchase a suitable frame for \$5 or less.
3. Cut a sheet of paper (use cardstock, 24# paper or light cardboard) to match the size of the opening on the picture frame.
4. Cut out the background of the pictures, leaving just the people (or pets). Cut out enough pictures to cover the sheet of paper.
5. Arrange the cut-out pictures on the paper. Mix and match and experiment. Try placing the pictures at different angles.
6. After you have an idea of how you would like to arrange the pictures, glue them to the paper. (Check the label to make sure that you can use the glue with photographs.) Cover the entire sheet of paper with pictures.
7. When the glue is dry, insert the paper into the frame.

Collages are not only a good way to use your old snapshots, but the recipients also will cherish them for years to come as a special and thoughtful gift.



2. Wedding Favor Creator Unique Wedding Favor Ideas

Wedding favors have always been a nice, personal gesture to include in your wedding preparations. Unfortunately, there are too many "cookie-cutter" type favors out there, which portray the couple's lack of interest in providing something unique.

Here is a Wedding Favor Creator for you to use for your upcoming wedding or one that you're planning for your best friend. You can mix and match to your heart's content and according to the budget you have.

- ❖ Small containers to use for candies, chocolates, small floating candles, decorative soaps, etc. (many of them can be purchased at your local dollar store)
- ❖ tiny wicker baskets or straw hats
- ❖ egg cups
- ❖ candle holders
- ❖ flat shells (scallops)
- ❖ small filigree metal boxes
- ❖ decorated wooden boxes
- ❖ coffee mugs
- ❖ wine glasses
- ❖ small decorative dish
- ❖ tiny flower pots
- ❖ little tin watering cans
- ❖ small jars
- ❖ ceramic spoon rest

Fillings to add to your favor containers

- ❖ heart-shaped candies or chocolates
- ❖ Hershey's kisses and hugs
- ❖ small floating candles
- ❖ gourmet or flavored coffee - enough for one pot
- ❖ little decorative soaps
- ❖ wild flower seed packets or small quantity of seeds with
- ❖ planting instructions, wrapped in colored cellophane
- ❖ flower bulbs
- ❖ bath oil beads
- ❖ bath salts
- ❖ small bag of mixed spice (cinnamon/nutmeg) and your
- ❖ favorite apple pie recipe
- ❖ packets of specialty tea
- ❖ hot chocolate and cinnamon mix - enough for one mug

Sample sayings and poems to write or print onto a small note card along with your names and wedding date (punch a hole in the card and attach a ribbon to tie to your favors)



"Please plant these to celebrate our growing love." (for bulbs, seeds)

"All things grow with love." (for bulbs, seeds)

"Our flame of love will always be bright." (for candles)

"Hugs and Kisses from the new Mr. And Mrs!" (for Hershey's kisses and/or hugs)

"Heart-felt wishes from the new Mr. And Mrs." (for anything heart-shaped)

"Love lives in happy hearts." (anything heart-shaped)

"The best gifts are tied with heartstrings." (anything heart-shaped)

"May there always be spice in your life!" (for apple pie recipe and spice; for hot chocolate/cinnamon mix)

"We're suited to a 'T!'" (for specialty teas)

"Nothing can wash away the love we feel!" (bath oil, bath salts, soaps)

"Thanks for sharing this special day with us."

"Thank you for sharing in the celebration of our love." (or union, etc.)

"Thanks for joining us on our wedding day."

"Thanks for sharing in our special day."

Other Unique Ideas

- ❖ Personalized coasters made from CDs.
- ❖ Personalized CD mix of your favorite music - print out a liner for the CD case with your names, wedding date and a nice background or a photo of the happy bride and groom-to-be!
- ❖ Fortune cookies with printed fortunes that you create on your computer - or add your names and wedding date.
- ❖ Small picture frames that can double as place cards.
- ❖ Heart-shaped cookie cutters with your favorite sugar cookie recipe.
- ❖ Homemade bell-shaped or heart-shaped cookies decorated with your names and wedding date in hard icing.

Finishing Details

- ❖ Wrap each filled favor in colored netting or tulle to match your wedding colors or line white or glitter netting with colored tissue paper before wrapping your favors.
- ❖ Wrap the favor bag with ribbon or lace and add your note card (hole-punched). Tie into bow and add a sprig of dried or silk flowers and it's ready for your special day!



3. Terra Cotta Birdbath



The Terra Cotta Birdbath is a simple and inexpensive crafting project that adds a definite flare to your yards or patios. This project is a must for bird lovers, but everyone will love the look and addition that this adorable project brings to their home. The Terra Cotta Birdbath offers your feathered friends a retreat and allows you the pleasure of relaxing while you view the birds that will flock to your home to play in the water! The cost of this project is minimal compared to what you could spend at a gardening store on a similar item. Few materials needed and it takes only minutes to complete.

What you'll need to complete the Terra Cotta Birdbath:

1. Two large terra cotta pots. These pots can be purchased at any of your local home and garden stores. 12 to 14 inch or larger size pots work the best, but depending on your personal taste you may want to go smaller or larger.
2. One large terra cotta saucer. Choose a saucer large enough to set in the top of one of the terra cotta containers. You could also use a terra cotta "bowl" shaped pot in place of the saucer, which can also be purchased anywhere you find gardening supplies.



To get started:

1. Decide first where you want to place the birdbath. I find that it works best when placed in an area with soil—such as a flower bed, so you can firmly place the base of the birdbath.
2. Dig an area large enough to place the terra cotta pot, upside down, in the hole with the bottom of the pot facing up. This will serve as the "base" of the birdbath. Secure the base of the birdbath by placing soil around the pot and pressing firmly. It works best to place the pot at least 2-3 inches into the soil, and to build some soil up around the base (approximately 1-2 inches) to ensure it will stay put.
3. Place the second terra cotta pot on top of your base. You shouldn't have to worry about how to secure this pot; the weight of the saucer and the water in the saucer is enough to hold the pot on the base.
4. Once you have placed the pot on top of the secured base, place the saucer into the top of the second pot. Fill with water, and your Terra Cotta Birdbath is complete. Yes, it's as

simple as that! Now you can sit back, relax, and wait for the birds to arrive!



Additional tips for this craft:

- ❖ Be creative! Decorate your terra cotta pots with acrylic crating paint before you begin the birdbath project.



- ❖ When purchasing your terra cotta pots you may want to splurge just a little and pick up pots that have etching and decorations already on them. Keep in mind you're not limited to using just plain terra cotta containers. Your local gardening store carries a large variety of containers in a wide range of shapes, colors, and sizes, so use your imagination!
- ❖ Make a "mini" version of this craft (just use smaller size terra cotta pots) and create a Terra Cotta Bird Feeder to compliment your birdbath. All you have to do is use bird seed in the saucer instead of water!

4. Sunny Day Window Shelf



This crafting project will instantly transform any window in your home! The completed shelf has many uses, and it's a given you will constantly find more uses for your own Sunny Day Window Shelf. I especially enjoy using my shelf as a beautiful and original way of displaying my plant collection.

Materials:

- ❖ A used coffee or side table of any size. For this, project I found a coffee table at a yard sale for \$4.00! (The table used in this project measures 54"x11"x6".)
- ❖ Paint in your choice of color. I used "latex semi-gloss wall and trim" paint left over from when I painted the bathroom and saved money!
- ❖ 2 to 4 wall brackets. The size and the number of the brackets will depend on the size and weight of the window shelf you will be mounting. You can purchase wall brackets at any of you local hardware stores or discount retailers.
- ❖ Sheet rock anchors. You may or may not need to use sheet rock anchors depending on the weight of your shelf combined with the weight of the item(s) you plan to display. To be on the safe side I would recommend using anchors in any instance just to prevent disasters! The anchors can also be purchased at a local hardware or discount store.

Tools you will need:

- ❖ Hand saw (or, if you have access, a circular saw or table saw will cut down on time and labor.)
- ❖ Sand Paper
- ❖ Level
- ❖ Hammer
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Screw driver

Let's start!

1. Using your saw, cut the legs off of the table. Be sure to take the necessary safety precautions during the sawing portion of the project (ie: protective eyewear, etc. And, Watch Your Fingers!)
2. Continue by dividing the table down the middle, using the level to ensure you are sectioning

it into equal halves. Draw a guide of where you will be sawing with a pencil after you have sectioned off the table.



3. Saw the table into halves.
4. Depending on what wood the table is made of, the finish on the table, and any designs the table may have (such as etching or bordering) you will need to sand the piece of you table you will be using for your window shelf.

5. Once you have sanded and cleaned any dust from the piece of the table-which is now your shelf- you're ready to paint. Get creative with this part of the project! Try using special painting techniques (such as sponging), stencil designs on to the shelf, decoupage, or add other personal touches. The sky's the limit!



6. (Note: Once your shelf has dried you may want to add a clear protective coating. This is optional.)

Mounting instructions:

1. Once you have chosen the window where you want to mount your Sunny Day Window Shelf measure the thickness of the shelf. (If the thickness of the shelf, meaning the thickness of the tabletop, is 1 inch, you will want to place the brackets 1 inch from where the windowsill meets the wall. This will ensure that the shelf, once placed, is flush with the windowsill.
2. Using your level and your tape measure section off the area where each bracket will be placed, an equal distance from one another. Keep in mind the shelf doesn't have to be the length the entire window.
3. Mount the brackets into the wall using the sheet rock anchors, following the instructions on the package.
4. Place you window shelf on the brackets and Voila! You now are the proud owner -- and creator -- of a Sunny Day Window Shelf.



5. Straw Hat Scarecrow Craft



Harvest time brings thoughts of cornfields, apple cider, pumpkin patches and scarecrows. Many communities around the world celebrate the harvest holiday which is also known as Thanksgiving. In Korea it is called Chu-Suk and in India it is known as Kerla Onam. In all of these countries, the harvest holiday is dedicated as a time to give thanks to their ancestors or to God for the harvest. This tradition is enjoyed by Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike. Because the scarecrow is thought to ward off predators that would take the harvest it is an important symbol. Using two straw hats, it is easy to make an adorable scarecrow to dress up your home for the harvest season.

You will need the following supplies for this craft:

- ❖ 1 Large Straw Hat
 - ❖ 1 Small Straw Hat
 - ❖ Hot Glue Gun
 - ❖ Decorative Crafting Ribbon (3 yards)
 - ❖ Dried Wheat Sprig and Silk Flowers
 - ❖ 1" or 2" Sponge Brush
 - ❖ Med. Stipple Brush
 - ❖ Natural Colored Raffia
 - ❖ Permanent Black Marker or Paint Pen
 - ❖ Acrylic Paints
 - ◆ Orange
 - ◆ Flesh Color or Off-White
 - ◆ Red and other Harvest Colors
 - ❖ Clear Coat Spray Sealer
1. Start by cutting the small straw hat in two right down the middle leaving half the brim and crown of the hat on one side and half on the other side. You will only need one side for this craft.
 2. Next, paint the crown of the large straw hat flesh color or off-white using your sponge brush. This will be the scarecrow's face. Do not paint the brim of the large hat, leave it the natural straw color to match the small straw hat.
 3. After the paint has dried, paint on the rest of the scarecrow's facial features. This part can be as easy or as advanced as you want it to be. For a simple scarecrow, painting the nose red or orange in the shape of a triangle. (pointy end up) Eyes can be oval or triangle-shaped as well. Always allow one color of paint to dry before applying the next. To paint the cheeks, use a dry stipple brush and work off most of the red paint blotting it on a paper towel. Using a pouncing motion gently pounce the cheeks in a circular motion. Feather lightly around the edges.



4. Using a black paint pen or sharpie permanent marker, outline the nose. Then, lightly draw a black line down the center of the face on either side of the nose. Add fun stitch marks to the dividing face seam line and around the nose if desired. Next draw on the mouth to connect the cheeks. You may want to dot a white glint in the eyes with the end of a paint brush and highlight the nose also for an added dimensional touch.
5. To protect the paint for many years of inside and outside decorating, lightly spray the face with a clear coat spray sealer found at hardware and crafting stores. Do not spray a heavy coat. Many black paint pens will run if sprayed to heavily. Several light coats of spray is sufficient.
6. Hot glue the cut small straw hat to the top the painted scarecrow face. Cut small bunches of raffia and hot glue in sections to either side of the scarecrow face. Full straggly raffia will cover any of the seam lines and give a finished look.
7. Embellish the scarecrows new hat by hot gluing silk flowers and a wheat sprig to one side of the small hat. Silk sunflowers or rusty colored chrysanthemums look especially cute!
8. Last, make a large bow with crafting ribbon and glue it under the scarecrow's chin.

You can hang your scarecrow on the wall or on your front door to greet your guests. You can hang your scarecrow on the wall or on your front door to greet your guests. You could also wire the scarecrow head to the top of a cross post and dress a real scarecrow body for a yard decoration.



6. Milkweed Pod Poinsettia Ornaments



At first glance, milkweed plants and poinsettias don't seem to have much in common. If you live in an area where milkweed grows wild, however, you can use the dried milkweed pods to make poinsettia ornaments for your Christmas tree.

Here's how:

1. Collect some dried milkweed pods. In the fall, the milkweed plants have already gone to seed but the dried pods will still be attached to the plant. You will need six "halves" of a milkweed pod for each poinsettia flower that you are going to make.
2. After you have collected the milkweed pods and have brought them into the house, put them in a warm spot for a few days or a week to dry out more. This is especially important if it has been rainy and damp outside.
3. Glue the milkweed pod halves together side-by-side in a circle so that they look like a flower. A hot glue gun works well for gluing the pods together.
4. Decorate your poinsettia flowers with spray paint and glitter, or, if you don't want to spray paint your poinsettias, just use glue and glitter. Mix and match and experiment with colors.
5. Glue a loop of string, yarn, twine or ribbon to the back of the poinsettia flower. Once the glue is dry, your ornament is ready to hang on the Christmas tree.

You could also give these as gifts — four or six to set, or however many you want to give.



7. How to Make a Girl's Journal



If you're looking for the perfect gift for a teen or pre-teen girl or female friend, then you might want to consider a handmade journal. Use these tips to get started, then use your own creativity to create a personalized work of art. These journals also make great birthday or graduation gifts.

To get started, pick out some pretty card stock for the cover, maybe a favorite color of the girl the journal is intended for. I used a paper cutter to cut the piece of paper in half. You should end up with two sheets of paper $4 \frac{1}{4} \times 5 \frac{1}{2}$. Select the paper you will use for the inside pages of the journal. I chose about 50 sheets of unlined copy/printer paper and cut them in half. Then you get to be creative and decorate the cover. You can look at my example photos for inspiration. For one I used decals used for scrapbooking and card making. I placed a floral border down the left side and used rubber stamps to stamp the girl's name vertically on a scrap of white card stock that I then glued to the right side of the cover.



On another cover I placed the girl's name horizontally on the top of the cover, also using rubber stamps to spell out her name. Behind the cardstock that the name was stamped on I glued a piece of mulberry paper (craft paper that is thin like tissue paper) that I had torn around the edges. To finish this journal, I placed a large floral sticker in the center of the cover. To bind the journal together, I used a comb binding machine. If you don't know someone who has one of these that you can borrow, you can go to a local office supply store like Office Max or Office Depot, and they will either let you do it yourself in their copy department, or they will do it for you for a small fee.



8. Homemade Beaded Candles

Today, candles are a must in any home's decor. Not only do they add a lovely and colorful touch to the room's surrounding, they introduce an inviting aroma to the whole house. At home decor stores, you could spend anywhere from \$5 to \$25 or more on beautiful and unique candles. If you hate to spend that kind of money, but long to have elegant candles in your home, here's a quick and easy solution. Decorate your own candles for pennies on the dollar! This crafting project will allow all the creative leeway you want and it is a perfect idea for gifts as well! In only a few easy steps you will be enjoying the glitter and gleam of your own homemade designer candles.

What will I need?



- ❖ Small crafting pins (I used small sequin pins)
- ❖ Beads
- ❖ Plain, inexpensive candles

How do I do it?

To get started, you will want to choose the candle you will be working with. Find a plain candle in any size, shape and color at a local crafting store or discount retailer. There are literally thousands of options to choose from. You could even pick up a few and make a collection of candles. Next choose the beads you want to add to the candle. There is a wide range of beads to choose from and most come in packages of 20 or more. When purchasing your crafting pins be sure to take note of the size of the hole in the beads you choose. You will need to make sure that the head of the pin is large enough to securely place the bead onto the candle. Packages of crafting pins can also be found at your local crafting store and usually come in packages of 100 or more. These pins come in both silver and gold tones, so you can choose which color best compliments the beads and candle you choose.

1. Decide on a pattern that you will be applying to your candle. You can place the beads randomly around the candle or chose a striped (or other) pattern.
2. If you decide create a pattern on your candle, use the point of one of the crafting pins and map out the pattern by making small pin marks into the wax. Not too deep though, you may decide later to change the pattern.



3. Using a crafting pin place the bead onto the candle by inserting the pin through the hole in the bead. Press firmly until the pin is inserted entirely into the candle. Due to having to insert the pin all the way into the candle you may want to choose the smallest length of pin that will allow you to place the bead onto the candle.
4. Repeat until you have completed your pattern or have placed the desired amount of beads onto the candle. You're done!

You now have a charming decorative candle for the fraction of the cost! Family and friends will delight in this thoughtful and creative gift.

Additional tips for this creative crafting idea:

- ❖ Make a matched set of candles. Purchase the same color of candles in differing sizes, or the same size of candles in differing colors.
- ❖ Display your candle collection on a glass plate (you can purchase these inexpensive candle trays at a local discount retailer or save even more money and look at the price of plain glass dishes. You can usually pick up a good sized glass plate for about a dollar).
- ❖ Add several different beads to one candle.
- ❖ Forgo using the beads and use just the crafting pins inserted into the candle as decoration.
- ❖ If you want to make a really fancy pattern on your candle, use a stencil and map out the pattern.



9. Holiday Gift Wrapping



Gifts can be store bought or home-made. Some have sentimental value shared by the giver to the recipient, while others mirror a person's interests, likes and preferences. A package that is thoughtfully wrapped and presented or placed under a tree will share delight even before it is opened.

Boxes come in all shapes and sizes. Many can now be purchased in a rainbow of colors. If you purchase or have a solid color box, cut out patterns such as snowmen, snowflakes, or other designs and line the box with tissue paper that is in contrast to the color of the box. This way the cut-outs will be shown with the hint of the tissue paper just behind. Use an X-Acto knife for best results - available at any hardware or craft store. Also remember that if you can't find tissue paper in the exact color you are searching for, layering the paper will increase the depth and magnitude of the shade that you are trying to achieve. Too dark – remove a tissue or two; too light - add more.

To add a special touch to your package or gift tags, choose a design that has features you can outline with a glitter pen. Then the sparkle and shine will add so much to the gift.

Raffia has been a staple accent for packages in the last few years. Cut 6" pieces and bundle in the middle with a twist tie. Make several of these bundles for a more pronounced showing; fluff out; and attach to the package with a glue gun. You can attach a small felt ornament to one of the strands or a jingle bell.

Wallpaper also makes a nice gift-wrapping material if you can find some really interesting designs.

Using those metallic star stickers that we are all familiar with and a plain index card, create a Christmas tree, wreath, or star and use as an attractive gift tag.

Creating your own gift-wrap from plain white paper and embellishing with designs can be an afternoon of fun for the whole family. Use light-weight felt or fleece and tie with yarn - add cut out snowflakes or other designs.

A light-weight towel (bath or kitchen) adds a special second gift.

Christmas material can also be purchased by the yard to use as wrapping paper.

Drapery tassels can be used to "tie" up a gift and give it a "Victorian" feel.

Paper doilies over solid color gift wrap gives a package a "delicate" feel.

A very large gift in a very large carton - spray paint the box (removing the gift first), and then replace the item. Add some features such as stencils or other effects and no paper is needed. Tie with festive cord and you are ready to go.



There is no end to the possibilities.

The most important gift is your love and your time - creating your own wrappings, cards, tags, etc. gives the recipient double the gift value – ENJOY!



10. Heart Cut-Out Picture Frame

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and that special someone deserves to know how much you care. Maybe you have given up on the commercialized gifts that are available today or maybe you just can't find something perfect enough for your Valentine. Whatever your reason, you're looking for something unique, personalized, creative and one of a kind, right? Look no further and grab a pen and paper because you'll want to write down the materials needed and the very, very simple instructions to this adorable photo frame. In no time at all you will have this frame finished, wrapped, hidden away, and will be back in the arms of that special Valentine before you know it. After all, isn't loving your loved one what Valentine's Day is all about?

MATERIALS:

- ❖ One picture frame, preferably in a light color, with minimal detailing or decoration
 - ❖ Red acrylic paint
 - ❖ Paint brush
 - ❖ Heart-shaped cut-outs (you can purchase these small, flat, hearts at your local crafting store, they are usually wooden and come in packages of 10 or so. You may opt to create your own cut-out out of heavy paper or cardboard. If you do create your own, be sure to make several.)
 - ❖ Hot glue gun and glue sticks or tape
1. To begin, remove the glass from the photo frame and place it to the side.
 2. Cover your work space with some newspaper or other protective material as not to damage it while working on your project.
 3. Using the heart shaped cut-outs, decide how you would like to arrange the hearts on the frame. The cut-outs will be removed at the end of the project so that the natural look of the frame shows through the paint on the frame! Depending on the size and shape of your frame you may want to add a few hearts or several. You could even purchase or make different sized heart cut-outs to use.
 4. Once you decide on a pattern you can begin to attach the hearts to the frame (temporarily). In



this project I used wooded cut-outs and attached them to the frame with hot glue. The hearts were quite easy to remove from the frame once it had dried.



5. When you are sure that you have the heart shapes attached well and there are no visible areas where paint could sneak under the heart shape, you can begin the painting. Depending on the finish on the frame, the original color of the frame and other factors, you may have you use several coats of paint to cover the frame completely. In this project I used a frame with a natural wood finish. I applied only a sheer coating of red paint to give it that popular “weathered” look. You have many options! Don’t forget the sky’s the limit. Be sure to let your own personality as well as your Valentine’s shine through in your work.
6. Set the frame aside to dry. I recommend letting the frame dry overnight. In the morning it’s safe to remove the heart cut-outs and view your completed creation!
7. If there are any areas where the paint may have blotched up you can take a small paint brush and fill in some of the spaces. For my frame I embraced the “mess-ups”! They add to the uniqueness!
8. Wrap this adorable photo frame up for that special someone and make this the most Happy Valentine’s Day yet!



11. Handmade Mulberry Paper Card



Materials

- ❖ 1 8.5 x 11 Yellow Mulberry Kozo Paper (heavier Mulberry paper)
- ❖ 1 12 x 12 Wheat Vellum
- ❖ Gold Thread
- ❖ Picture (photo or scanned)

Instructions:

1. Trim unwanted portion of picture off (use it all if you like)
2. Fold Mulberry Paper in half
3. Cut a piece of vellum 10 x 7.5"
4. Cut another piece of vellum 3.75 x 4.5" (or the right size to matte your picture & greeting).
5. Print poem or message for inside of card on right half of large vellum (cut a piece of white paper 10 x 7.5" and test print on it first)
6. Fold vellum in half.
7. Print message or greeting on small vellum for front of card the same way and set folded vellum inside handmade paper.
8. Put gold thread on a needle & sew a large 'stitch' through vellum & handmade paper on the fold to hold them together. Start at outside so you can tie the gold thread on the outside of the card. You can also sew a small stitch starting at the inside in the top corners of the vellum if you like (tie on inside). Alternatively vellum can be glued in place. Make sure you choose an adhesive that won't show through the vellum.
9. Glue small piece of vellum to the front of the card. Use a glue stick or glue that won't show through the vellum. Glue picture on the vellum below the message.

Variations:

There is an endless variety of cards you can make this way by using different mulberry papers and

vellums, such as:



- ❖ add stickers or other embellishments
- ❖ substitute stickers or embellishments for the picture
- ❖ have the vellum insert just on the right side of the card
- ❖ cut the mulberry paper in half for a smaller card.
- ❖ use cardstock instead of handmade paper.



12. Halloween Painted Rocks

If you are looking for some inexpensive, easy crafts for your kids this Halloween, head out to your backyard to start the fun. Have the kids hunt around for different shaped rocks. Long, slender rocks for ghosts, oval shapes for spiders, and just about any stout rock will make a great pumpkin!

PUMPKIN

- ❖ stout, roundish rock
- ❖ orange tempura paint
- ❖ black marker
- ❖ small amount of raffia
- ❖ 3-4 silk leaves
- ❖ tacky or hot glue
- ❖ 3/4" piece of green chenille stick
- ❖ bits of Kleenex tissue

The texture of the rock for the pumpkin can be smooth, bumpy, or even jagged, as was in our case. Before you begin, stand the rock up in the position you would like it to be when your craft is complete. Ours was a little tricky, we just leveled him off using the raffia and tissue.

Paint the rock orange and let it dry. Using a black marker, draw on pumpkin's face. Glue silk leaves to the bottom of your pumpkin. Using bits of Kleenex for leveling and bunches of raffia, glue rock onto "straw bed". Top off your pumpkin rock with green chenille for the stem by folding in half and gluing on top of pumpkin's head.



GHOST

- ❖ long, slender rock
- ❖ white tempura paint
- ❖ black marker
- ❖ handful of cotton batting
- ❖ tacky or hot glue
- ❖ white glitter glue



Paint rock white and let dry. Draw face onto ghost with black marker. Glue cotton batting to the bottom of the rock to give the appearance of a ghostly trail following him. Smear white glitter glue down the sides of the ghost.

SPIDER



- ❖ oval rock
- ❖ black tempura paint
- ❖ pair of wiggle eyes
- ❖ 6-8 12"-long black chenille sticks
- ❖ red glitter glue
- ❖ small piece of paper plate or white paper
- ❖ scissors
- ❖ tacky or hot glue

Paint rock black and let dry. Wrap chenille sticks around body to secure legs in place. Bend sticks to form legs. Glue chenille sticks in place on the bottom of the rock. Glue on two wiggle eyes. Cut little fangs from paper plate or paper and, using red glitter glue, glue onto rock-face, underneath wiggle eyes. use red glitter glue to create a few drops of blood on fangs and paint around mouth to finish up.



Editor's Note: Be sure to keep these cute crafts out of the reach of small children under the age of 3 years. Wiggle eyes can be easily removed and swallowed, or worse yet, choked upon.



13. Fun Decorations for the Holidays



The arrival of Santa Claus is always a vital part of Christmas. His elves, those little helpers, that make the toys and package them, do come along for the ride - in fact, they keep on working well into the night. These elves do not have the magical powers to come down chimneys and back up again. They have to enter your home and arrange those packages under the tree, and straighten out those ornaments and lights and finish off all those cookies and milk treats.

Place an elf entrance by your front door or near your fireplace, if you have one. This is a very special entrance and can only be used by Santa's helpers. This elf entrance is simply a 26-inch piece of cardboard covered with Christmas wrap, cut in the shape of a doorway. It is attached to wall or side-door with double stick, no-marring tape, and felt and other decorations alongside to make it festive. A tiny wreath, ribbons and a doorknob made of a plastic cap painted in red and green. A doormat is a 7-10 inch piece of cardboard covered with terry cloth glued or taped on. It can be in red or green. A sign should also be hung out - "Elves Only" or "Elf Entrance" or whatever slogan you think appropriate. Watch the giggles and enjoy the compliments when your family and guests see that you even considered those "little helpers" that make Christmas merry.

On the outside of your home, using a spare snow shovel and a basket or bushel of some type, reserve a place for Santa to tie up those reindeer. Put a bright plastic or weather-resistant ribbon on the shovel and a sign that tells Santa to "hitch up" his reindeer and don't forget to provide some food for munching while Santa's inside "doing his thing." A bit of bird seed mixed with dried corn works really well and the fact that birds and small animals will munch will make the reindeer food disappear. A touch of nostalgia and a great outdoor decor item.

For the inside of your home - a few red and green "extra" blankets on beds, wire greenery to picture frames and use a fresh pineapple in your centerpiece - it is the symbol of hospitality and abundance.

On your table - clusters of pinecones clipped to place mats, silverware tucked into mittens with a scarf as a table runner, and candy canes and silverware tied with a Christmas bow become a pleasant surprise for dinner guests.

Fill metal Christmas tree cookie cutters with one-color crushed candy and melt in the oven. When cooled and hardened, place on a mirror or silver tray. Placing votive candles behind or between the "trees" will illuminate the candy colors. Inspiring, different and festive. However you decorate - ENJOY!



14. French Style "Cafe" Sign



This crafting project is quick and easy and a cute, cute, cute addition to your kitchen (or any other room in your home!) All of the materials you'll need can be purchased at your local crafting or discount retailer store. You can probably find many--or all--of the materials around your house.

Materials:

- ❖ A piece of wood in your choice of size. For the "Cafe" sign, a 16-inch board was used.
- ❖ acrylic crafting paint
- ❖ crafting wire
- ❖ small nails
- ❖ stencils (optional)
- ❖ old rags
- ❖ hammer

Let's get started:

1. Choose the paint colors for your sign. You will need one color of paint for your "base" coat (the bottom layer of the sign) and as many other colors for the lettering and design as you choose. Quick tip: To keep this project simple and quick only two colors, red and white, were used and white was chosen as the "base" color.
2. To complete the "base" of your sign choose the base color. I used white with varying shadings and painting techniques (like the "weathered" finish with the checkerboard pattern). Check out your local crafting stores for a wide variety of stencil options that you could also use to complete a "base". Let the base coat dry. To achieve the "weathered" look of this sign I first painted the entire board with white crating paint, wiped it with a slightly wet rag, and then repeated. Then apply the stencil (or freehand). Let this "base" coat dry completely.
3. Next you will be painting your wording on the sign. Again, I just free handed the lettering, but lettering stencils are available. A tip on lettering: Look through magazines at story titles for type settings you like and try to duplicate it. You really can't go wrong with this part of the craft because you want the sign to look old and weathered. Just let your creativity guide you! Let



the sign dry.



4. To prepare the sign to be able to be mounted you will use the small nails, crafting wire and a hammer. Turn the sign over and place a pen mark where you will place the nails.
5. Select the length of wire you want to use to hang the sign. I didn't want the wire to show after I mounted my sign on the wall, so I stretched the wire taut across the back before I hammered in my nails. I used a 26 gauge crafting wire because I already had it handy with my crafting supplies. To ensure that it was strong enough to hold my sign I doubled the wire over to increase the thickness. Your local crafting store should have several wire gauges available.
6. Take your nail and wrap the crafting wire around it 4 to 5 times. Place the nail on your marked spot and hammer it in. Repeat on the other side. And that's it! Choose to display the completed craft in heavily trafficked areas of your home so everyone can remark on your beautiful sign. And be prepared to answer "Where did you get that adorable sign?"

The options with this project are unlimited. Make them as gifts for friends and family-personalizing them for each individual. These signs are so easy to make-and so inexpensive-you may even want to make 2 or 3 for yourself.

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS:

- ❖ Garden theme signs
- ❖ Bathroom theme signs with phrases such as "BATH 5 cents" etc...
- ❖ Kitchen theme signs such as "Daily Special"
- ❖ Instead of using nails to secure the wire to the sign, get creative and purchase inexpensive hooks from a hardware store and create a "hanging" style sign. Hang this sign above your house plants!





15. Fall Leaves Embossed Paper Bookmark



This bookmark makes a wonderful gift for the friend who loves to read or use it yourself in your favorite book! You'll want to make several for gifts and for yourself!

Materials Needed:

- ❖ Decorative Paper (a 12" x 12" page will make 8 bookmarks)
- ❖ Cardstock (coordinating or contrasting with the paper)
- ❖ Ruler and Scissors or Paper Trimmer
- ❖ Light Box
- ❖ Brass stencil
- ❖ Embossing tool
- ❖ Fine grit sandpaper
- ❖ Chalk
- ❖ Cotton swab
- ❖ Glue stick
- ❖ Small hole punch
- ❖ Thin ribbon
- ❖ Fine-tipped marker

Directions:

1. Cut your decorative paper to 6" x 3" and cut your cardstock to 5" x 2"
2. Place your stencil on your illuminated light box and place the cardstock face down on top of the stencil. Use the embossing tool to trace around the inside edges of the designs on the stencil.
3. After all embossing is complete, use a small square of sandpaper to lightly sand the top edges of the embossed areas.
4. Use the cotton swab to lightly brush chalk over the sanded areas – the chalk will highlight these areas.
5. Trim the edges of the cardstock with decorative scissors, if desired.
6. Glue the cardstock to the paper – be sure to leave room at the top for the ribbon.
7. Punch two small holes, approximately 1" apart and insert the ribbon and tie with a square knot.



Decorate with a fine-tipped marker, if desired.



16. Easy Dried Apple Crafts

Do you remember the last time you were in someone's home that had an apple pie baking in the oven? Ahhh, the aromas of a fresh baked pie -- it is simply irresistible! Well, now you can recreate this delicious scent in your own home, or in the homes of your loved ones, by making dried cinnamon scented apple crafts.

None of them are hard to make and results are wonderful! Hang one of these on your wall and you will surely impress all of your guests.

For *each* apple craft, you will need

- ❖ Juice of approximately 8-10 lemons
- ❖ 2 teaspoons salt
- ❖ 8 - 10 large firm apples
- ❖ 8 teaspoons cinnamon
- ❖ 2 teaspoons allspice
- ❖ 1 teaspoon cloves
- ❖ 8" - 10" sturdy, heavy gauge wire (for a wreath)
- ❖ Jute (for garland or apple stacker)
- ❖ 1 - 1 1/2 yards of ribbon or fabric scraps

To prepare and dry your apples

1. Place lemon juice in a large bowl, and stir in salt.
2. Peel, core, and slice apples horizontally into 1/4" thick circles.
3. Soak slices in lemon juice bowl for approximately 6-10 minutes, making sure each side of the slices has a chance to absorb some of the lemon juice.
4. Meanwhile, mix spices in a bowl and blend well.
5. Remove the slices from the bowl and place them on paper towels. Pat tops of apple slices with paper towels.
6. Dust apples slices with spice mixture. Turn slices over and repeat on opposite side.
7. Place apples slices in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake at 150-200 degrees F for 6 hours or until completely dried. Apple slices should be slightly pliable.

To Create An Apple Wreath

1. Fold each apple slice in half, and then into quarters and thread the apples slices onto the

wire. Continue to pack on the folded apples until the wire is completely filled.



2. When the wire is completely covered, use pliers to bend ends into hooks so that they can connect and close. Carefully shape wire into desired shape. I recommend either a circle or heart shape.
3. Using your ribbon or fabric scraps, create a hanger for your wreath.
4. Hang on your wall, or package as a gift for someone special.

To Create An Apple Garland

1. Cut of enough jute for your desired length of garland - remember, your apple garland shouldn't be too long, but approximately 2-4 works well. Also, it is always better to have too much, than not enough.
2. Start stringing on apple slices. Push one end of jute through the middle of each apple slice.
3. Consider alternating several apple slices and then a piece of tied on fabric strip.
4. Hang on your wall!

To Create An Apple Stacker

1. Using an approximate 12" piece of jute, tie one end to about three cinnamon sticks that are laid in a bundle.
2. Being to string on apple slices by pushing jute through the center of each slice. Consider alternating several slices with a piece of fabric tied on.
3. When apple stacker is the desired length, end with three more cinnamon sticks in a bundle and tie a loop so that you can hang your apple stacker proudly!



17. Easy Autumn Wreath



Autumn is my favorite time of the year. I just can't get enough of the pumpkins, fall leaves, and cool days! I am constantly creating and purchasing new items for my home to create a warm, fall look during this time of the year. One of my very favorite Autumn craft projects, just happens to be one of the easiest and the most inexpensive. Follow my directions and in no time your home will

be shouting: "Autumn is loved here!"

You will need:

- ❖ 1 grapevine wreath, undecorated
- ❖ 1/2 to 1 yard of Autumn or Harvest themed fabric
- ❖ Raffia

What you do:

1. Take your fabric and cut it into strips that are approximately 1.5" x 18".
2. After you have a good supply of strips, tie each strip onto the wreath into a bow in various places.
3. Continue adding bows until it has a look that you enjoy. After tying on your bows, take a large bunch of raffia and tie it in a bow at the top of your wreath.
4. Hang as you desire.





18. Creative Chalk Art



I just love creative art ideas for children! I am always on the lookout for fun ideas, and just ask my kids, we are always experimenting to find new ways to use everyday items! Here is an inexpensive art project that offers sensational results!

Materials:

- ❖ Liquid Starch
- ❖ Large Flat Paintbrush
- ❖ Construction Paper
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Colored Chalk

Procedure:

1. Using newspaper, cover your workspace.
2. In a small plastic container, mix equal amounts of starch and water.
3. Give child a piece of construction paper and a paint brush.
4. Have child dip the paintbrush into the starch and brush it onto the construction paper.
5. Then using the chalk, the child can draw a design onto the wet construction paper.
Remember, let your child create whatever their heart desires!
6. When the project dries, the starch acts as a fixative and won't rub off.

This method creates beautiful art -- which definitely deserves the best spot on the refrigerator door!



19. How to Make Candles Using Old Crayons



If you've always wanted to try making candles but don't want to invest in expensive materials, here is an inexpensive way to get started.

Materials:

- ❖ 1 wax carton (quart) (milk, fabric softener, or orange juice)
- ❖ 1 pound of paraffin wax
- ❖ 4 or 5 old crayons
- ❖ two trays of ice cubes
- ❖ a double boiler (or an empty coffee can and a saucepan)
- ❖ 1 piece of ordinary white package string about six inches long.

Caution: Do not heat paraffin directly over the burner. Paraffin is easily combustible.

Use a double boiler or a two-pound coffee can set in a pan of water. I put the coffee can on top of home canning jar rings (the rings, not the flat lids). If the can is not set on top of something, the concave bottom creates a vacuum when the water begins to heat up, plus if it's on the bottom of the pan, it's just that much closer to the burner.

Trim the top part of the carton off so that what remains is about six inches high. Cut the string so that it is six inches long. (To make a wick that lasts longer, try braiding three pieces of string together. Melt the paraffin wax over medium heat in a double boiler or a coffee can in a pan of water. Use three-quarters of a pound for a somewhat smaller candle or use all four squares for a larger candle. Once the water begins to boil, it will take 10 or 15 minutes for the paraffin to melt.

Break the crayons into small pieces and add to the paraffin. If the crayons are added first before the wax is melted, the color makes it difficult to see if all of the paraffin is liquefied. Use a pair of tongs (a scissors works, too), and dip the string into the paraffin. Dipping the string will ensure that it is coated with paraffin since the ice cubes may prevent some sections from coming in contact with the liquid wax. Hold the string so that it is in the middle of the carton and fill the carton with ice cubes. Pour the hot paraffin over the ice cubes.

The candle will be set in about 30 minutes. Let the candle stand for another hour or two until most of the ice cubes are melted. Pour off the water. Peel off the carton. Place the candle in a tray or on a plate to catch the rest of the water from the ice cubes as they finish melting. Let the candle dry for a day or two.



The candles I have made with a single piece of string only burn for an hour or so and burn quickly enough so that most of the paraffin remains intact. To use the paraffin again, melt the candle and pour the wax into other containers to make solid candles.

Solid Candles

To make solid candles, select several glass containers. Pint or half-pint canning or jelly jars work well. For the wick, measure out a few more inches of string than is needed to reach the bottom of the container.

Tie the string around a pencil. Put the pencil across the top of the container to hold the wick in place. When the paraffin and crayons are melted, pour the liquid wax into the container(s). When the candle is set, snip off the wick about a half inch above the wax.

Scented Candles

To make scented candles, put three or four teaspoons of vanilla extract into the bottom of the double boiler (or the coffee can) and then add the paraffin and crayons. When the wax is melted, pour into containers.



20. Butterfly Candle Holders



Butterfly candle holders are easy to make and a great gift idea. The materials are very inexpensive, and you can use your imagination for a variety of designs. To get started, you will need:

Materials:

- ❖ Small glass candle holders
- ❖ Butterfly wrapping paper
- ❖ Yellow tissue paper
- ❖ Decoupage
- ❖ Cuticle scissors
- ❖ Small paintbrush
- ❖ Damp paper towel

You can buy whatever glass candle holders you like (or use some you already have laying around). I bought mine at Wal-mart for about \$0.59. You could also find them at thrift stores or yard sales.

I chose butterflies for my design, but you could choose whatever design you'd like--maybe keeping in mind the tastes of the person you're making them for. You can cut out pictures from anywhere, including calendars, greeting cards, magazines. Thin paper decoupages best.

After you have some pictures in mind, use cuticle scissors (the kind you cut your fingernails with) to cut out the pictures. These scissors work best on small pictures and cut rounder corners than regular scissors. If you're not going to use the pictures right away, store them in ziploc bags.



You can buy decoupage at any craft store. It is normally found with the glue. It allows you to permanently affix a picture to another object, giving the object an overall glossy effect. Make sure the glass you're working with is clean. Tear a piece of tissue paper into small (approx. 1 inch) pieces. Using the paint brush, brush some decoupage on to the back of one of the pieces of tissue paper.

Position the tissue paper on the glass and then brush some more decoupage on top of it. Continue gluing on pieces of tissue paper, overlapping at the edges, until the entire candle holder is covered (including the bottom--set the candle holder on its top to dry). Brush one last coat of decoupage over the entire candle holder. Use damp paper towel to wipe off any excess decoupage.

After the decoupage has dried for about an hour (or more), position the butterflies (or other pictures) on top of the tissue paper. First brush some decoupage on the backs of the pictures and place them on the glass. Brush another coat of decoupage over the entire glass and set the candle holder on its top to dry again. After the decoupage has dried, add 2 or 3 more coats of decoupage after each coat has dried.



That's it! These candle holders are only limited by your imagination. Use different colors of tissue paper and a variety of pictures for different themes. You could make these with holiday themes, like for Christmas or Easter. They also make great birthday presents, hostess gifts, or party favors. They are very easy to make and you can make several of them at one time.



21. Alphabet Blocks



Alphabet blocks with just one letter on each block are a great toy to have for your preschool child. You'll find she can learn a great deal through playing with them, especially with you. Not only can she become the architect of great buildings, roads or skyscrapers (which are fun to knock down), but building can also help budding coordination skills. When you work with your child, ask her to hand you blocks by using the name of the letter on them. As she picks up blocks, ask her to tell you the name of each block, also.

How to make it:

Before beginning to build, help put the blocks into sequence in a long row beginning with Aa. Then say or sing the ABC song 2 or 3 times as you touch each one. This will help her to learn to recognize each letter as she plays with the blocks. You can also talk about the shapes of each letter. Point out those lower case letters that have tails that hang down or tall sticks that reach up.

Don't forget to talk about the sizes of the boxes as you play. This will help increase your child's vocabulary as you choose big, little, middle size, bigger, smaller, large, tiny, etc. blocks. Once she knows the letter's names and sounds, you can begin to spell out simple words placing the boxes next to each other in what can be humorous configurations.

Materials Needed:

- ❖ 26 boxes with tops. Any size will work--all the same or different sizes
- ❖ White wrapping paper (not tissue) or newsprint paper
- ❖ White glue

Activity Steps:

1. Cut the paper to the right size to cover each box.
2. Spread glue on the edges of the box so the paper will stick smoothly to all sides as you wrap the box.
3. Print an alphabet letter, either capital or lower case or both, on the boxes.
4. Let kids build with their new alphabet blocks.



22. Wood Scrap Snowmen



If you have access to some small wood scraps, or perhaps a board you can cut up, you can make these cute little additions to your holiday shelves. But wait, don't stop there! The creative possibilities of this craft are endless; try Santas, Christmas trees, reindeer, Nativity scenes, elves, and more!

You will need

- ❖ wood scraps in various sizes and shapes
- ❖ sandpaper
- ❖ acrylic paint in white, black, and orange
- ❖ brown antiquing stain
- ❖ material scraps
- ❖ children's socks
- ❖ ribbon
- ❖ raffia
- ❖ buttons
- ❖ white craft glue
- ❖ small and large paintbrushes
- ❖ dry rag

Sanding & Painting

Begin by sanding any rough edges from the wood to avoid painful splinters. Paint wood white on all sides and at one end (the other end will be covered with a hat). Allow paint to dry, then apply a second coat and allow that to dry as well.

Leaving enough room at the top of the "head" for the hat's brim, paint on face by dotting on two black eyes and black dots for the mouth. Using a small, fine paintbrush, paint on an orange nose.

Allow to dry completely or the antiquing you do below will smear your hard work!

Prepare Your Embellishments

While waiting for the paint to dry, choose and trim your embellishments. Use tea dyed socks and gingham prints for the antiqued snowmen, use traditional primary colors, or the popular ice blue, for your white snowmen. Fringe the ends of your scarves with sharp fabric scissors, string small pieces of raffia through button



holes and tie in knots or bows, cut small scraps for patches, trim the feet off of children's socks and fringe ankle ends for hats.



The Antique Look

This step is optional. Some of ours are antiqued, some are not. When the paint has dried completely, brush on a layer of brown antiquing stain, ensuring that all cracks and crevices are filled. Immediately wipe off with a dry rag. This will create an antiqued look. Notice how the brown stain remains darker inside the little cracks and crevices giving it an aged look. Allow the stain to dry.

Finishing Touches

Tie scarf around neck, reinforce it with a bit of craft glue. Place the cuff of the children's sock on the snowman's head (the end that is not painted!), glue brim in place. Trim the "top" of the hat but cutting it in a fringe fashion. Tie a ribbon or piece of raffia around the fringed top and tighten. Fluff up the fringe by pulling and adjusting the fringes with your fingers. Add buttons to hat and/or body, you can also glue a small patch on the hat brim. You may also use material scraps to fashion a hat and glue a pom pom on the top.



23. How to Air-Dry Flowers



Air-drying flowers is a simple, fun hobby that can save you money by providing free material to make dried flower decorations for your home or to give as gifts. It's very simple to air-dry flowers. All you need is a place to hang them out of direct light, rubber bands and either paperclips or florist wire. I have used wooden pegged coffee cup hangers and pieces of lattice attached to the kitchen wall as places to air-dry flowers. You can also insert cup hooks into a wall and use those.

Once you have a place to hang them set up, you can begin to find flowers to dry. Hopefully you have a variety of flowers growing in your yard to experiment with. If not, you can find wildflowers growing alongside roads or in forests. If you are using these flowers, be sure to take care of the plants you take the flowers from. This ensures that there is plenty of plant growth for insects, birds and other wildlife to use.

Some flowers that have air-dried well for me are: Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), pompon Dahlias (*Dahlia hortensis*), Poppy seed heads (*Papaver somniferum*), Roses (*Rosa*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Delphinium, Larkspur (*Consolida ambigua*), Lavender (*Lavandula Augustifolia*), African Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*), Strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*), Globe Thistle (*echinops ritro*), Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*), Globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*), and Love-in-amist (*Nigella damascena*) seed heads.

To find flowers that air-dry well, it's good practice to experiment. If it doesn't dry well, you gain the knowledge not to use it next time. Sometimes, an air-dried flower that doesn't look good to one person may look pleasing to another.

With most flowers, the best stage to dry them is when they are just beginning to open. Depending on the flower, if you hang it too late, the petals will fall off. You will learn this as you experiment. Others, you will want to wait until the seed head is developed because this is the decorative part.

The best time to cut flowers for drying is late morning after the dew has dried and on a dry day. I like to take a wicker basket with a handle and my scissors with me and take a walk around the yard snipping what looks appealing.

Once you have your flowers picked, you can prepare them for air-drying. To do this, bundle eight to ten stems with a rubber band at the cut end of the flowers. The rubber band works especially well because as the flowers dry, the stems will shrink and the rubber band will shrink to the appropriate size of the bunch. Now you can insert an unraveled paper clip or florist wire inside the rubber band and bend it to form a hook that the bunch can hang over a peg, piece of lattice or hook. Hang the

bunch of flowers upside down and depending on the weather, they will probably take anywhere from one to three weeks to dry completely. You can tell they are dry completely when they feel crisp to the touch.



Air-drying flowers make a fabulous decoration by themselves, but when they are dry, you can take them down and make dried flower arrangements, Christmas ornaments, dried flower wreaths and more.



24. Creative Costumes for Halloween

As the years have come and gone, parents and children have become more and more creative in selecting costumes, from the adorable to the unusual. Here are a few to choose from!

Flower

- ❖ green or brown hooded sweatsuit
- ❖ 2 plastic headbands
- ❖ 2 sheets yellow or white posterboard
- ❖ craft glue
- ❖ green felt
- ❖ small stuffed bumble bee

From posterboard, cut out petals. From green felt, cut out long leaves. Glue petals to one headband and glue green felt leaves to the other headband. Put petal headband on head and leaf headband around neck. Glue a small stuffed bumble bee to sweatshirt. You can fashion one from felt or posterboard.

Fisherman

- ❖ flannel shirt
- ❖ floppy fishing hat
- ❖ blue jeans
- ❖ cardboard
- ❖ life jacket
- ❖ silver spray paint
- ❖ rubber boots
- ❖ black marker
- ❖ fishing pole (real or made from a stick or branch)
- ❖ 12" piece of yarn
- ❖ hole punch

Cut four fish out of cardboard. Spray paint silver on both sides, let dry. Use marker to draw an "X" in place of the fish's eyes. Punch hole near mouth of each fish and string from a piece of yarn. Carry fishing pole in hand and sling fish over shoulder.

Artist

- ❖ red beret or other hat
- ❖ cape or smock
- ❖ cardboard
- ❖ paint brush
- ❖ craft paint in several colors

Have child wear hat tipped sideways. Draw on a black mustache with eyeliner or face paint. Cut out an artist's paint palette from cardboard. Paint five or six circles in different colors around palette. Hot glue paint brush onto palette or hold in hand.



Firefighter

- ❖ Yellow or red raincoat rubber boots (yellow, red or basic black)
- ❖ toy fire hat
- ❖ cardboard
- ❖ aluminum foil
- ❖ stuffed Dalmatian toy

Make an axe out of cardboard and aluminum foil. Get dressed and carry puppy!

Farmer

- ❖ flannel shirt
- ❖ straw hat or baseball cap
- ❖ overalls
- ❖ plastic pitchfork (or fashion from cardboard)
- ❖ galoshes
- ❖ stuffed pig or chicken

Very simple, just get dressed! Carry pitchfork and stuffed farm animal.

Tired Woman

- ❖ well-worn nightgown
- ❖ well-worn terry bathrobe
- ❖ big fuzzy slippers
- ❖ curlers
- ❖ plastic coffee mug

Get dressed. Put curlers in child's hair. Have her carry a coffee mug and hang a sign around her neck that says "I'm Not a Morning Person!"



Pretzel

- ❖ brown hooded sweatsuit
- ❖ dark brown tights
- ❖ cotton batting or old pillow stuffing
- ❖ hot glue
- ❖ white packing peanuts

Stuff tights with cotton batting or pillow stuffing. Fold into a pretzel shape and hot glue in place. Use white packing peanuts as salt and hot glue on.

Teletubbies

- ❖ red, blue, yellow or green hooded sweatsuit
- ❖ 2 matching colored chenille sticks
- ❖ plastic headband
- ❖ thin cardboard
- ❖ silver spray paint

Twist chenille sticks onto headband for antennas. Paint child's face same color as sweatsuit. Cut a tummy sized square of cardboard and spray one side with silver paint, let dry. Glue to tummy of sweatsuit.

Pizza Slice

- ❖ 2 sheets of red, yellow or orange poster board
- ❖ yellow, green, red, and brown construction paper OR craft paint

Cut the posterboard into 2 pie shapes (triangle). Then on one side of each piece, glue on red circles for pepperoni, brown splotches for sausage, green squares for green peppers, and yellow strips for cheese. You can use pieces of posterboard or construction paper, or you can paint them on. Then when you are done, use some more posterboard to connect the two slices, by cutting two long strips and attaching them to the wide end of the slice and draping them over the child's shoulders (imagine those signs that people where in the city streets, the walking billboards of yesteryear). Pizza!

Patch of Dandelions

- ❖ green sweatpants or leggings
- ❖ light blue sweat shirt
- ❖ yellow felt
- ❖ big yellow buttons
- ❖ green felt
- ❖ white pompoms
- ❖ cotton batting or cotton balls



Cut leaves out of green felt and glue or stitch onto green pants. Cut yellow felt into circles, slitting them to make fringe around the edges. Hand stitch on over green leaves with big yellow buttons. Hand sew white pompoms on to make dandelions that have gone to seed. Glue cotton batting or cotton balls onto blue shirt for clouds. Cut a large yellow circle from felt for the sun.

Bubble Bath

- ❖ white sweatsuit
- ❖ small white balloons
- ❖ shower cap
- ❖ bath scrubby (with rope to hang from wrist)
- ❖ rubber ducky

Pin small white balloons all over shirt. Put on shower cap, hang bath scrubby from wrist and carry a rubber ducky or glue him to the shoulder of the shirt.

Bag of Jelly Beans (or gumballs)

- ❖ clear plastic bag (dry cleaning bags are great)
- ❖ balloons, several different colors
- ❖ bright colored scarf
- ❖ white posterboard
- ❖ black marker
- ❖ craft glue

Have child step into bag to make holes for the legs and arms. Fill bag with balloons use a bright scarf to tie around the top of the bag. Cut a square of posterboard to create a sign that says "Jelly Beans 5¢". Glue it to the front of the bag.

M&M

- ❖ black sweatsuit
- ❖ 2 pieces of cardboard
- ❖ craft or spray paint, any color of M&Ms
- ❖ black craft paint or markers
- ❖ heavy duty string

Cut two large circles out of cardboard. Paint. Draw or paint on "m&m" onto both circles. Use heavy duty string to attach the 2 pieces together and hang over shoulders, sign style.

Table for One

- ❖ cardboard
- ❖ red checkerboard table cloth
- ❖ play dishes
- ❖ play food
- ❖ silk flowers
- ❖ plastic headband

Cut cardboard into a circle, cut out a hole for your head. Put head into hole and rest on your shoulders. Cover with a red checkered tablecloth. Make your head into a centerpiece by gluing silk flowers to the headband. Glue play dishes and play food onto the table, add accessories (salt and pepper shakers, napkins, menu, etc.).



Mr. Potato Head

- ❖ black sweatsuit
- ❖ burlap bag
- ❖ old shirt or rags
- ❖ white felt
- ❖ black felt
- ❖ red felt
- ❖ peach felt
- ❖ brown felt
- ❖ Velcro fasteners
- ❖ fiber fill
- ❖ red clown shoes
- ❖ white gloves

Fill the burlap bag with old shirts or rags. Using felt, cut out the eyes (black and white), nose (peach), mouth (red), and mustache (brown). Attach Velcro to the backs of the pieces of felt. Use fiberfill to stuff each part. Attach the Velcro backs to the suit.

King & Queen of Hearts

- ❖ 4 pieces of white posterboard
- ❖ 2 pieces of cardboard (from nylon package)
- ❖ gold spray paint
- ❖ red lipstick

Draw the King of Hearts face on one side of the white posterboard, then just hearts on back side. Put a strap (scrap of material) stapling the two posters to fit over child's head on to their shoulder. Make gold crown out of nylon cardboard. Put a heart of lipstick on child's cheek. Repeat for the Queen.

Grapes

- ❖ purple or green sweatsuit
- ❖ purple or green balloons
- ❖ double-sided tape or adhesive Velcro circles
- ❖ chenille sticks or raffia

Stick balloons to clothing. If using tape, twist it around tied-off end of balloon and crimp tightly onto

clothing. Velcro circles come apart. Each half can be attached to a balloon and the clothing. Make a "stem" by twisting together brown and green pipe cleaners or raffia and attach to hat. This works best as an indoor party outfit and should not be worn by children under five -- balloons are a choking hazard.



Grape Vine

- ❖ brown sweatsuit
- ❖ brown shoes
- ❖ double sided tape
- ❖ purple balloons

Cover your body with double sided sticky tape. Then fill up purple balloons and attach the balloons to the double sided tape. You may use a garbage bag tie to attach the balloon to the double sided tape. This is preferred if you are going outside in the wind.

A Highway

- ❖ black sweatsuit
- ❖ yellow craft paint or yellow tape
- ❖ small plastic toy cars

Paint two solid yellow lines down the middle of the shirt, or use 2 inch pieces of yellow tape. Glue on plastic cars.

Laundry Basket

- ❖ hooded sweatsuit, any color
- ❖ small round laundry basket
- ❖ string
- ❖ odd socks
- ❖ armful of clothing
- ❖ empty detergent bottle
- ❖ empty fabric softener bottle

Cut a hole in the bottom of the laundry basket to fit to child's body. Attach twin strings to act as suspenders to hold the basket up. Fill it with clothes and empty detergent bottles.



Static Cling

- ❖ Mismatched clothes
- ❖ safety pins
- ❖ dryer sheets
- ❖ socks
- ❖ small towels
- ❖ hair gel

Wear any kind of mismatched clothes, pin one pant leg up, pin dryer sheets on you as well as socks, small towels, etc. Use hair gel to make your hair look like it has static.

Punk rocker

- ❖ black pants
- ❖ leather jacket
- ❖ colored hair spray
- ❖ sunglasses
- ❖ hair gel
- ❖ hair spray

Use hair gel and hair spray to tease hair into crazy spikes. Color.

Priest

- ❖ black pants
- ❖ black button-down shirt
- ❖ black shoes
- ❖ white posterboard
- ❖ rosary
- ❖ bible

Create a priest's collar from white posterboard and insert into front collar area of shirt. Works best if you use a shirt that has the same type of self-faced collar as priests wear, or you could tuck under the collar points for a similar effect. Add rosary and bible. Especially a cute costume for a boy who is constantly in trouble!

Crayon

- ❖ any color sweatsuit
- ❖ matching color construction paper or posterboard
- ❖ black marker

Paint the word "crayon" sideways in black, and use the same color construction paper to make your pointed hat. Staple a string on it and tie it under your neck to keep it secure, you can paint your face the same color too.

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