

# Holiday Handbook

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## How-to Guide

All of our craft and style projects from the current issue.

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# Holiday Handbook

## GOOD THINGS

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## Spun-Cotton Ornaments

### HOW-TO

#### Ice Cream Cone

##### SUPPLIES

2 spun-cotton balls, each 50 millimeters

Hot-glue gun and supplies

2 paintbrushes

Pale-green, pink, and red craft paint

1 paper cone, 4 inches

Craft glue

Pale-green, pink, and red glitter

1 spun-cotton ball, 14 millimeters

Gold-filled wire, for hanging

1. Press down on top of one 50-millimeter ball to make a flat indentation. Apply hot glue to indented area to attach second 50-millimeter ball; press to adhere, and hold to let it set. Paint top ball with pale-green craft paint; paint bottom ball with pink craft paint. Hot-glue bottom ball to cone; hold to let it set. Let paint dry.

2. Apply craft glue to 50-millimeter balls with a paintbrush. Sprinkle each ball with a thick coat of matching glitter. To avoid mixing glitter colors, hold ornament over a receptacle, cone-end down, to sprinkle with glitter on bottom ball only; for top ball, sprinkle with glitter over receptacle cone-end up. Let dry.

3. Paint 14-millimeter ball with red craft paint. Let dry, then apply craft glue with

brush and sprinkle with red glitter. Hot-glue 14-millimeter ball to top of 50-millimeter ball; hold to let it set. Poke hole in 14-millimeter ball with hanging wire. Remove wire, apply a spot of craft glue to end, and reinsert. Let dry.

**THE DETAILS:** Smile Mercantile spun-cotton balls, 50 mm, \$7.25 for 8; and 14 mm, \$4.50 for 24; and mini pressed-cardboard craft cones, 4", \$5.50 for 6, [smilemercantile.etsy.com](http://smilemercantile.etsy.com). Fire Mountain Gems 12-karat-gold-filled wire, \$6.50 for 5 ft., [firemountaingems.com](http://firemountaingems.com).

### HOW-TO

#### Cherries

##### SUPPLIES

2 spun-cotton balls, each 30 millimeters

2 paintbrushes

Dark-red craft paint

Craft glue

Dark-red glitter

Floral wire

Brown floral tape

Faux leaves

Gold-filled wire, for hanging (optional)

1. Paint balls with craft paint and let dry. Apply craft glue to balls with a paintbrush, then sprinkle with glitter and let dry.

2. Wrap a 7-to-8-inch piece of floral wire with floral tape; bend at center to create two "stems." Glue faux leaves to wire at top; let dry.

3. Poke a hole in top of each ball with floral wire. Remove, apply a spot of craft glue to ends of wire, and reinsert. Let dry. If desired, twist a loop of gold-filled wire through stem for hanging.

**THE DETAILS:** Smile Mercantile spun-cotton balls, 30 mm, \$5.50 for 18, [smilemercantile.etsy.com](http://smilemercantile.etsy.com). Lanmok floral arrangement kit (for tape and wire), \$11, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Victoria Lynn small single faux-leaf spray, in Green, \$6.75, [michaels.com](http://michaels.com). Fire Mountain Gems 12-karat-gold-filled wire, \$6.50 for 5 ft., [firemountaingems.com](http://firemountaingems.com).

### HOW-TO

#### Strawberries

##### SUPPLIES

1 spun-cotton strawberry

2 paintbrushes

Bright-red craft paint

Craft glue

Bright-red and black glitter

Green paper

Hot-glue gun and supplies

Gold-filled wire, for hanging

1. Paint strawberry with craft paint; let dry. Apply craft glue with a paintbrush, then sprinkle with bright-red glitter; let dry.

2. Apply little dots of craft glue all over strawberry, then apply black glitter to glue dots with finger. Let dry.

3. Cut out a four-pointed star shape from green paper. Affix to top of strawberry with hot glue.

4. Poke hole in strawberry through center of green paper with wire. Remove wire, apply a spot of craft glue to end, reinsert, and let dry.

**THE DETAILS:** Smile Mercantile spun-cotton strawberry, \$5 for 8, [smilemercantile.etsy.com](http://smilemercantile.etsy.com). Fire Mountain Gems 12-karat-gold-filled wire, \$6.50 for 5 ft., [firemountaingems.com](http://firemountaingems.com).

### HOW-TO

#### Wrapped Candy

##### SUPPLIES

Red-striped crepe paper

1 spun-cotton ball, 30 millimeters

Paintbrush

Craft glue

Red glitter

Gold-filled wire, for hanging (optional)

Cut out a 4-by-4-inch strip of crepe paper. Wrap crepe paper around ball, twisting ends to secure. Apply craft glue to stripes with paintbrush, then sprinkle with glitter. If desired, poke wire through paper into ball. Remove wire, add a dot of craft glue to end, reinsert, and let dry.

**THE DETAILS:** Smile Mercantile spun-cotton ball, 30 mm, \$5.50 for 18, [smilemercantile.etsy.com](http://smilemercantile.etsy.com). Castle in the Air crepe paper, in Red and White Stripes, \$4 for a 20" by 8' roll, [castleintheair.biz](http://castleintheair.biz). Fire Mountain Gems 12-karat-gold-filled wire, \$6.50 for 5 ft., [firemountaingems.com](http://firemountaingems.com).

### HOW-TO

#### Cupcakes

##### SUPPLIES

Craft glue

1 spun-cotton ball, 45 millimeters

Iridescent white and red glitter

2 paintbrushes

Pink and red craft paint

Gold mini-muffin cup

1 spun-cotton ball, 14 millimeters

Hot-glue gun and supplies

Gold-filled wire, for hanging

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1. Apply craft glue liberally to top of 45-millimeter ball. Let glue drip down sides of ball; move it around to control shape of "frosting." Sprinkle white iridescent glitter on glue; let dry.
2. Paint area of ball under "frosting" with pink craft paint; let dry. Apply craft glue to bottom of ball and adhere in muffin cup. Let dry.
3. Paint 14-millimeter ball with red craft paint; let dry. Apply glue with a paintbrush, then sprinkle with red glitter; let dry. Hot-glue small ball to top of bigger ball; hold to let it set. Poke hole in small ball with wire. Remove wire, add a spot of glue, and reinsert. Let dry.

**THE DETAILS:** Smile Mercantile spun cotton balls, 45 mm, \$6.50 for 8; and 14 mm, \$4.50 for 24; smilemercantile.etsy.com. Party City mini baking cups, in Gold, \$2 for 75, partycity.com. Fire Mountain Gems 12-karat-gold-filled wire, \$6.50 for 5 ft., firemountaingems.com.

## STAR MATERIAL

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HOW-TO

### Pinwheel Gift Topper

#### SUPPLIES

**Crepe-paper streamer, cut to preferred size**

**Clear tape**

**Adhesive dot**

Pleat streamer accordion-style. Tape ends together to form a circle. Affix to gift with an adhesive dot.

HOW-TO

### Bow-Tie Gift Topper

#### SUPPLIES

**Crepe paper, cut to preferred size**

**Clear tape or craft glue**

**Adhesive dot**

**Ribbon**

Form crepe paper into a loop. Cinch it in the center with another piece of crepe paper. Tape or glue to secure. Attach to a ribbon with an adhesive dot, and tie around gift.



HOW-TO

### Christmas-Tree Surprise Cone

#### SUPPLIES

**Papier-mâché cone**

**Card stock**

**Green crepe-paper streamer**

**Clear tape**

**Tinsel**

**Pipe cleaner**

Trace cone opening onto card stock; cut out circle. Stick a few slender surprises (temporary tattoos, barrettes, fortune fish) on cone. Wrap with streamer to hold in place. Keep wrapping and tucking in more little presents; tuck end into cone. Stuff cone with candy, tape card-stock circle on base, and decorate with tinsel and pipe-cleaner ornaments.

**THE DETAILS:** Darice DIY Crafts papier-mâché open-bottom cone, 7" by 3", \$9 for 3; and JijAcraft glitter pipe cleaners, 6mm by 12", \$10 for 240, amazon.com. Smile Mercantile Craft Company tinsel garland, in Silvery Pink, \$9.50 for 12 ft., smilemercantile.com.



HOW-TO

### Power Poinsettia

#### SUPPLIES

**Coral and yellow crepe paper**

**Paintbrush**

**White craft paint**

**Fringe scissors (optional)**

**Piece of floral wire, 6 inches long**

**Floral tape**

1. Lay out a sheet of coral crepe paper and splatter with white paint; let dry.
2. Cut out a 2-by-8-inch strip of yellow crepe paper. Make cuts along one 8-inch side, 1/8 inch apart, or use fringe scissors. Roll around one end of wire and secure with floral tape to create center of flower (or stamen).
3. Cut painted coral crepe paper into leaf-shape petals: seven small and seven slightly larger.
4. Tape base of small petal to floral wire just below stamen. Repeat with remaining small petals, then with larger petals. Bend petals back to create an open flower. To attach to gift, tape loose end of wire to gift.

HOW-TO

### Twin Tassels

#### SUPPLIES

**Crepe-paper streamers, in two colors**

**Clear tape**

**Shoestring**

**Craft glue**

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Use scissors to fringe one side of a 7-inch-long streamer. Roll it up, tape end, and secure top with a thin strip of streamer in a contrasting color. Repeat, then fasten pair to shoestring by dipping each end in glue and pushing them into tops of tassels.

HOW-TO

## String-Light Decorations

### SUPPLIES

**Packing peanuts**

**Miniature papier-mâché egg forms**

**Green crepe paper, plus more in assorted bright colors**

**Green string**

**Craft glue**

For each "light," glue half of a packing peanut onto an egg form to create bulb shape, then wrap base in green paper and top in a bright color. Attach to string with glue.

**THE DETAILS:** Darice Craft Designer papier-mâché eggs, 2½", \$3 for 6, unitednow.com.

## ALL IS CALM AND BRIGHT

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HOW-TO

## A Magic Menorah

### SUPPLIES

**Manzanita branch**

**Faux ferns**

**White chalk paint (in both liquid and spray forms)**

**Brass flowers and leaves**

**Hammer and nails**

**Metal glue**

**Gold-plated cord end caps**

**Hot-glue gun and supplies**

1. Brush branch and spray leaves with chalk paint. Let dry.

2. Nail brass flowers into branch, then use metal glue to attach cord end caps to center of flowers, to hold taper candles. Let dry.

3. Hot-glue chalk-painted leaves and brass leaves to branch, tucking some stems under the brass flowers. Let dry.

**THE DETAILS:** Manzanita branch, available at floral supply stores. Ashland faux Boston fern bush, \$13; Krylon Chalky Finish spray paint, in Classic White, \$11; and Aleene's jewelry and metal glue, \$4.50 for 0.7 oz., Michaels.com. Annie Sloan chalk paint, in Pure White, \$35 for 1 qt., shop.thepurplepaintedlady.com. Toho Shoji N.Y. large flowers #2137, in Raw, \$2 each, tohoshoji-ny.com. Beach Castle Beads small brass flowers STA-105, \$5 for 2, beachcastlebeads.etsy.com. Artbeads.com Satin Hamilton gold-plated cord end caps, \$1.25 each, artbeads.com. Metalliferous brass stamping leaves BR2030, 2¼" by 3", \$2 each, metalliferous.com. Majestic Giftware Premium Collection Chanukah candles, 5", in White, \$17 for 45, amazon.com.



HOW-TO

## A Signature Greeting

### SUPPLIES

**Paintbrush**

**White chalk paint**

**Wood round**

**Construction adhesive**

**Wooden accent**

**Monogram stencil**

**Liquid gilding**

1. Use paintbrush to apply chalk paint to round; let dry.

2. Adhere accent to round; let dry. Brush assembled medallion with another coat of chalk paint; let dry.

3. Using stencil and gilding, add monogram to plaque; let dry.

**THE DETAILS:** Art Boards maple round art panel, 20" diameter, ¾" thick, \$49, dickblick.com. Annie Sloan chalk paint, in Pure White, \$35 for 1 qt., shop.thepurplepaintedlady.com. Gorilla construction adhesive, \$5 for 2.5 oz., homedepot.com. Decorators Supply Colonial Wreath relief, 18¾" by 19" by ¾", \$116, decoratorssupply.com. ArtMinds DIY Home Elegance alphabet stencils, \$20 for 26 sheets; and Martha Stewart Crafts liquid gilding, in Gold, \$8 for 0.75 oz., Michaels.com.

HOW-TO

## Plaster Dip

Plaster of Paris powder is very light and fine, so wear a dust mask while mixing to avoid breathing it in. It also hardens quickly, so do not dispose of it in a sink, drain, or toilet, where it can cause clogs. Instead, let it dry in the mixing container, tap to loosen the edges, and empty into the garbage. To remove plaster from mixing utensils, scrape off hardened plaster, wipe with a damp cloth, and wash as usual.

### SUPPLIES

**Dust mask**

**Newspapers or plastic sheet**

**Aluminum foil**

**Bucket**

**Measuring cup**

**Plaster of Paris powder**

**Bowl or other mixing container**

**Spoon or spatula**

**Wire and wire cutters**

**Object(s) to be dipped**

**Coat hanger**

1. Cover work area with newspapers or plastic. Lay down aluminum foil to serve as a drying station.

2. Mix 2 parts plaster of Paris powder to 1 part water. Because it dries very quickly—you can work with it for about 15 minutes before it becomes too dry—you should mix small batches, one at a time. Sprinkle powder into water, covering surface evenly. (Don't pour powder in just one spot or it may clump.) Gently mix until plaster is smooth and uniform, with a consistency like that of pancake batter. Let stand 1 minute.

3. Wrap a length of wire around object, or poke it into base. Dip object in plaster mixture, gently swirl to coat, then remove and let excess drip off; hang object by wire from hanger and let dry completely, about 24 hours. Depending on object's shape, you may also hold it in your hand to dip it (the stem of a leaf, for example). Lay object directly on foil to dry, keeping in mind that places where plaster touches foil won't be completely covered and will show pooling at edges. For that reason, place areas that won't be seen in your finished project, such as the base of fruit or bottom of leaves, on foil. For a more opaque finish, let items dry completely, then dip again.

**THE DETAILS:** DAP plaster of Paris dry mix, in White, \$8 for 4 lb.; and HDX mixing bucket, 10 qt., \$4.50, homedepot.com.

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HOW-TO

## A Graceful Garland

Follow plaster-dipping how-to, previous page, cutting individual leaves off faux floral spray to dip. When leaves are dry, twist several into a cluster with floral wire; repeat until you have enough clusters to dot along length of a premade bay leaf garland. Secure clusters to garland. Accent garland with ivory velvet bows.

**THE DETAILS:** Ashland Floral Essentials faux magnolia-leaf spray, \$5, [michaels.com](http://michaels.com). M&J Trimming velvet ribbon, 5/8", in Off White, \$1.75 per yd., [www.mjtrim.com](http://www.mjtrim.com).



HOW-TO

## A Fruitful Flourish

Follow plaster-dipping how-to, previous page, then arrange dipped fruit on a tray. Or set individual pears or apples at each place setting on your holiday table.

**THE DETAILS:** Ashland Garden Fresh mixed faux fruit, \$13 for 5 pieces; Garden Fresh faux small purple grape cluster, \$4; large foam lemon, \$2; and faux red apple, \$3.50, [michaels.com](http://michaels.com). KPM Arcadia soup cup and saucer, \$275, [tableartonline.com](http://tableartonline.com).



HOW-TO

## Springerle-Mold Cards

SUPPLIES

Pre-shredded linter paper

Springerle-cookie mold

Blender

Mesh strainer

Sponge

Paper towels or terrycloth

Wire cooling rack

Premade cards, or card stock and envelopes

Hole punch (optional)

Ribbon or wire (optional)

1. Measure out enough linter-paper shreds to cover surface of mold. Place in blender with 3 cups water. Blend on low for several seconds, then on high for 45 seconds. Pour blended linter through strainer, reserving water for next batch if desired.
2. Pour strained pulp onto mold, patting it into the design and maintaining a uniform thickness. Tilt mold over bowl and use fingers to press excess water out of pulp, then press with sponge to remove even more and push pulp into detailed areas of mold. Finally, press again with paper towel or terrycloth to remove last bit of excess water.
3. Let pulp dry in mold until set, about 1 hour. (Drying time will depend on thickness of cast and humidity level.) Carefully remove paper from mold. Transfer to wire rack on a flat surface to dry completely, about 24 hours.
4. Glue cast paper onto cards and let dry completely. Or trim paper, leaving a border just wide enough to punch a hole in, and thread ribbon or wire through for hanging.

**THE DETAILS:** The Springerle Baker Bitburg fruits mold, in Small, \$36, [thespringerlebaker.etsy.com](http://thespringerlebaker.etsy.com). Änis-Paradies May Bells #2215, \$36, [springerlecookiemold.com](http://springerlecookiemold.com). Arnold Grummer's preshredded cotton linter, \$16 for 8 oz., [arnoldgrummer.com](http://arnoldgrummer.com). Recollections A7 cards and envelopes, in Gold, \$5.50 for 10 sets; and A2 card and envelope sets, in Gold Shimmer, \$4 for 10, [michaelsweddings.com](http://michaelsweddings.com).

## THE WILD BUNCH

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HOW-TO

## Wreath

1. **Gather.** If you're hosting, provide (or have guests bring) 6 to 8 large branches of greens for each wreath, as well as decorative elements such as berries and pinecones, in a mix of textures, scents, and colors.
2. **Assemble.** Cluster the foliage into small, bouquet-like bundles, with denser greens in back and berries and flowers in front. Bind them with thin (20- to 26-gauge) paddle wire. Plan on making at least 16 to 20 per wreath.
3. **Attach.** Place the first bundle on a frame at a 45-degree angle, and secure it tightly with a few wraps of paddle wire. Tuck in a second bundle beside the first, overlapping slightly, and secure again with wire. Repeat until the frame is evenly covered, inserting greens to fill holes. If desired, use floral wire to add balls, bows, or bells.