

Crafts for Christmas giving

By Nanette McFadden

No one would guess at the humble laundry basket beginnings of these radiant ornaments. A laundry peg, when separated from its wire coil, becomes, essentially, two narrow wedges of wood. All it takes is the magic of Christmas... and perhaps some glitter, to transform these versatile shapes into truly beautiful keepsakes. Please note that to ensure durability, we did the projects over two to three days.

For the christmas star, you will need:

- ✓ disposable foam or paper plate
- ✓ 8 to 10 laundry pegs, taken apart
(for 16 to 20 wedges of wood)
- ✓ white glue and a glue brush
- ✓ masking tape or bull clips for clamping wood
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ thread for hanging
- ✓ glitter and sequins for decoration

- 1. Cut a circle, about 3” in diameter, out of the disposable plate. This will be the backing for the star. Arrange the laundry peg halves on this circle to plan your design. The wooden pieces should be touching at the centre of the star.**
- 2. Glue the laundry pegs together, back to back in pairs and clamp to dry overnight. Small strips of masking tape or bull clips work well for clamping.**
- 3. Next day, remove the masking tape. Spread a generous amount of glue on the circle and rearrange the laundry peg sections on this surface. As each wooden piece is set in place, it should have a bit of glue brushed at the base, to adhere to adjoining wooden pieces. Again, set aside to dry overnight. We found placing a small jar over the centre of the star helpful in holding the design together, while drying.**
- 4. When dry, cut away the exposed parts of the foam backing. Brush the white glue all over. Now for the fun part, generously sprinkle on the glitter. If the results are insufficiently gaudy, sequins and small beads can be added for decoration!**

5. Run a thread through one of the holes on the star. Tie the thread ends together and hang it on Grandma's tree as a lovely Christmas surprise.

Tag Ornaments

Get out the glitter and make way for a little activity that will see even the most reluctant crafter churning out decorations by the dozens. These multi-functional tags are versatile enough to identify gifts, spruce up the tree or hang off the backpack zipper. The metal-rimmed cardboard rounds that are the basis for this activity can be purchased most inexpensively from an office supply store.

You Will Need:

- ✓ 1 package of key tags (either with string or a metal ring attached)
- ✓ Magic markers or water paints/paintbrush.
- ✓ Transparent glitter
- ✓ Glue and glue brush
- ✓ Stickers, glitter glue, pipe cleaners and other colours of glitter optional

1. Draw a picture on the tag with magic markers. Go for bold design over fine pen-work and cover the whole surface with colour. If you are making a gift tag, leave the other side blank for the gift inscription. If you are making a decoration, you can draw on both sides.

2. When the ink is dry, lightly spread a thin layer of white glue across the entire drawing.

3. Working over a large plate and while the glue is still wet, sprinkle the transparent glitter over the surface of the tag. Wait until this side is dry before glittering the back of the decoration.

4. Now you are ready to deck every bough on the tree and every zipper in the hall with these festive tags!

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