



Do-it-yourself... for Christmas

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In lieu of the usual printed Christmas poster which you receive from us, we have put together this article with some ideas to help and inspire all of you to make wonderful Christmas displays of your own. The methods have purposefully been kept simple and inexpensive, as time and money are always at a premium.

The following items can either be made with the bare basics or with more opulence, depending on your budget. The challenge of procuring interesting materials and objects could be fun. Our examples are medium sized but you can certainly go larger or smaller. Templates shown can be enlarged to A4 or A3 size on a photocopier, depending on the display area available.

We have selected items to be used for hanging mobiles but they can also be used on

Christmas trees or bookshelves with decorated pine cones and the Father Christmas stand. The mobiles are ideal for items with shiny materials and glitter, because they catch the light as they twist and twirl.

String of stars

You will need polystyrene containers for the first version of the three-dimensional star. The large flat ones which hold the fruit and vegetables from supermarkets, are ideal. Ask everyone to start collecting. They are easy to cut with a cutting knife and are light-weight to hang.

- Use one of the templates to draw the outline of a star on the polystyrene and cut out two stars with a cutting knife.
- Decorate the stars with glitter glue, sequins or cover with thin foil.
- Cut a slit in one of the stars and slide the other star into the slit. The resulting three-dimensional star presents you with a myriad of possibilities.

- Make bows with oblong pieces of clear Cellophane. Fold the Cellophane in half and gather it in the middle. Secure with a piece of ribbon.
- Join the stars with a piece of cotton or string and attach Cellophane bows in between stars.

Coat hanger star mobile

The same star design can be used for a different effect.

- Make stars in different sizes as described above from sturdy cardboard and paint with gold, silver and bronze acrylic or poster paint. Collect boxes in everyday use such as those for cereal, tea, tissues, et cetera for this purpose.
- Use a wire coat hanger to dangle these from. Cover the coat hanger by wrapping tinsel around it and attach the stars with different lengths of string.



Decorated pine cones

A walk in the forest will yield one of nature's beautifully-designed ornaments, namely the pine cone. A can of gold or bronze spray paint and glitter or sequins glued onto the ends will transform the cone into a Christmas ornament. Spray paint is expensive but you could also use poster paint and apply it with a brush. Apply glitter glue to the edges of the pine cones to achieve a sparkling effect. Be sure the pine cones are dry and sand free.

Arrange the painted pine cones in a basket or bowl with colourful Christmas decorations in your Christmas display for a festive look. For variation glue a length of ribbon to the base and hang them individually or in a bunch.

Father Christmas stand

And what would Christmas be without the man himself? Complement your Christmas display with a Father Christmas concertina stand.

Fold a A4 size sheet of red cardboard in half depthwise. Trace the template which you have enlarged on the photocopier on the top layer. Cut out the template. That will leave you with two halves. Join the two rows of figures and fold like a concertina. Add finishing touches with cotton wool and decorate the faces of the little men. For a longer stand more figures can be added.

Have fun decorating your library for the festive season!

