



Tied With a Bow

HARDWARE HELPERS

Aluminum flashing,
wooden base, drill
and screws

Santa sees plenty of aluminum flashing when making his rounds—it is often used on roofs to make seams watertight. The thin metal sheeting, sold in six-inch-wide rolls, is a natural choice for outdoor decorations, as it can stand up to the elements. Arrange loops of it together and screw them to a wooden base, creating a gleaming bow that looks uncannily like the stick-on ones sold by the bag. At two feet across, this one would have to go on one giant gift—or, more likely, on the wall or front door.





Light Up the Night

HARDWARE HELPERS

Wooden lattice strips, miter saw, staple gun, silver spray paint, string lights

For a radiant outdoor display, think beyond trellises and fences and deck out wooden lattice strips with lights. Form lengths of the wood into snowflake silhouettes, paint them silver, and then staple string lights to the frames. (For how-tos for all the projects in this story, see page 165.)



HOLIDAY HARDWARE

With a little wintry magic (and a staple gun and some spray paint), it's easy to turn inexpensive home-center supplies into dramatic, long-lasting decorations. Any of the ones on these pages is sure to make your front door, yard, or Christmas tree shine bright.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN LIEBE



Geometric Beauty

HARDWARE HELPERS

Brass tubing, pipe
cutter, mason's
twine

Triangles of thin brass tubing—commonly used for home details such as curtain rods—hang like modern icicles among the branches of this silver-tip fir. To make the garland, snip pieces of tubing with an inexpensive cutting tool and string them onto mason's twine; the fluorescent string, used in bricklaying, adds a subtle hit of color. Silvertip tree, silvertiptreefarm.com. Antique Baroque armchair, dienstanddotter.com.



Visions of Candy

HARDWARE HELPERS

Aluminum flashing,
threaded rod,
spray paint, coupling
nuts, eye bolts,
cord

Inspired by ribbon candy, a trio of larger-than-life ornaments sets a sweet holiday tone. Strips of silver- and gold-toned flashing are drilled through and then woven back and forth along threaded rods, with painted wooden beads as separators. Hang them outdoors, where the sculptural beauties will withstand even the snowiest of winters.



Pipe Lines

HARDWARE HELPERS

Brass tubing,
pipe cutter or
hacksaw, gold wire,
mason's twine

These shiny ornaments, fashioned in the symbols of the season, are created much as the garland is (see page 112). To help some ornaments hold their striking silhouettes, the lengths of tubing are threaded with sturdy gold wire, along with the colorful mason's twine. Use a small pipe cutter to slice through round tubes; a hacksaw cleanly cuts square tubing. You can wrap the strings around the branches for an accent.





Having a Ball

HARDWARE HELPERS

Aluminum flashing,
threaded rod, hex
nuts, spray paint

Aluminum flashing finds yet another way to shine, this time as the “snowballs” in this meltproof metal pair. Threaded rods serve as sturdy spines and, when stuck into the frozen ground, keep the couple upright. A coat of spray paint on their magic hats makes this dandy duo come alive.

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