

HOW-TO

Ice-Mushroom Lights PAGE 109

► Supplies

Metal or plastic bowls
Disposable paper cups or plastic takeout containers
High-traction gloves
Drill
Flat boring bit, 1½ inches
Surform shaver
Battery-powered tea lights

Sources

Blanda Blank serving bowls, in *Stainless Steel*, from \$3 each, ikea.com.
Surform shaver, by Stanley, \$6.50, homedepot.com.

1. Fill bowls and cups or plastic containers with water, leaving 1 inch at top of each to give water room to expand. Freeze completely.
2. Run hot water over bottoms of vessels until ice pops out. **3.** Place bowl-shaped ice flat-side down on scrap wood. Wearing gloves, hold ice securely. Drill all the way through center of ice with boring bit, being careful not to let ice slip away. (If top or bottom of cup-shaped ice is uneven, use shaver to flatten.) **4.** Set cup-shaped ice outdoors, wide-side down. Set bowl-shaped ice “tops” flat-side down on “stems.” Place tea lights inside bored holes.

HOW-TO

Metallic Bow PAGE 110

1. With scissors, cut five 32-inch and five 28-inch pieces of flashing. Roll each piece so edge of short horizontal side aligns with vertical edge at opposite end; line up 2 corners. Snip off excess at an angle where the 2 ends overlap, as shown. Roll flashing into a cone shape and secure seam with tape. **2.** Position larger loops on wooden disk, spacing them evenly, with inner points facing center of disk. (Exposed wood at center of disk should resemble a star shape.) Predrill a hole into inner point of each loop, then drill a ¼-inch screw into each hole. **3.** Place smaller loops in center of disk, as shown. Drill a pilot hole at inner point of each loop, then drill a ¼-inch screw into each hole. With scissors, cut a 22-inch-long piece of flashing. Roll into a loop and secure with tape. Center loop on cube; drill a screw through bottom of loop into cube. Predrill a hole through center of disk. Place cube on top and drill a 1½-inch screw through back of disk into cube.

► Supplies

Aluminum flashing, 6 inches wide
Silver foil tape
Wooden disk, 18-inch diameter
Drill
Wood screws, ¼ inch and 1½ inches
Wooden cube, 2 inches

Sources

Aluminum flashing, by Amerimax, 6" by 50', \$18; **322 multipurpose HVAC foil tape**, \$8 a roll; and **edge-glued wooden round**, 1" by 17½", \$5, homedepot.com. **Wooden cube**, 2", \$1.25, craftparts.com.

HOW-TO

String-Light Snowflake PAGE 111

1. Following assembly plan (at marthastewart.com/string-light-snowflake), use miter saw (or ask your local home center or lumber yard) to cut wooden strips for the desired-size snowflake. Put 2 short angled pieces together so they form a V; place as indicated on plan. Holding pieces snugly together, use staple gun to attach V to strip; tap staples down with a hammer. Using plan as a guide, continue attaching Vs, alternating between securing them to the front and back of strips. **2.** Cross 2 lattice strips to make an X, then place third strip vertically on top. With a pencil, mark 2 spots about an inch apart at center where all 3 pieces intersect. Working on scrap wood, drill holes at both marks, through all 3 pieces of wood. Drill a long wood screw into each pilot hole. **3.** Working in a well-ventilated area, spray-paint snowflake; let dry completely. Position string lights so bulbs hang over edge of wooden strips. Staple down wire on both sides of each bulb, making sure that staples go over (not through) wire. Continue stringing entire snowflake, adding a second strand of lights if needed.

► Supplies

Wooden lattice strips, 1½ inches by 8 feet
Miter saw
Staple gun
Staples, ⅝ inch
Drill
2 screws, ¼ inch
Silver spray paint
String lights

Sources

Pine-wood lattice molding, ¼" by 1½" by 96", \$3 each, homedepot.com.

HOW-TO

Metal Garland and Ornaments

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► Supplies

Permanent marker
Round and square brass tubing
Pipe cutter
Mason's twine
Hacksaw
Gold wire, 24 gauge

Sources

Round and square brass tubing, by K & S Precision Metals, $\frac{7}{8}$ " by 12", from \$2 each, acehardware.com.
Large-diameter mini tube cutter, by HDX, \$11; and **twisted mason line**, in Pink and Orange, from \$4.50, homedepot.com.



Garland

1. Using marker, mark 2-inch intervals on round tubing. **2.** Place tubing into pipe cutter; align blade with first marking on tubing. Tighten pipe cutter until blade just touches tubing. Rotate tube to score it, tighten cutter slightly, and rotate again. Repeat until tubing is cut. Continue cutting more tubing. **3.** Thread mason's twine through 3 tubes, then thread back through first tube to form a triangle. **4.** Repeat step 3 until garland reaches desired length.

Christmas Tree

1. Using marker, mark sections that measure $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $3\frac{3}{4}$, 5, and $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches on square tubing. Use hacksaw to cut tubing at each mark. **2.** Cut a 6-foot length of mason's twine and tie an overhand knot at center. Thread both ends of twine through $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch tube (for tree trunk).

Thread 1 end through right side and out left side of $6\frac{1}{4}$ -inch tube. Thread other end through left side and out right side of same tube. Continue threading in same manner through 3 remaining tubes. **3.** Leave some slack in twine to form top of tree; tie off.

Star

1. Using pipe cutter, cut twelve 2-inch-long tubes. **2.** Thread a 3-foot-long piece of wire through all tubes, bending after each tube to form points of star. **3.** When you reach starting point, twist ends of wire together; cut off excess. **4.** Tie 4-inch piece of wire to 1 end of a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -foot length of twine; use wire as a needle to thread twine through tubes. When you reach starting point, tie off. Use excess twine to hang ornament.

For house-ornament how-to, go to marthastewart.com/metal-house-ornament.

HOW-TO

Ribbon-Candy Decoration

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► Supplies

Spray paint
Wooden beads, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch hole
Aluminum flashing, 10 inches wide
Permanent marker
Drill and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bit
Coupling nuts, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
Threaded rod, $\frac{1}{4}$ by 24 inches
Eye bolts, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ by 2 inches
Paracord

Some flashing is two-tone, with gold on one side. Look for it at the store.

1. Working in a well-ventilated area, spray-paint beads; set aside to dry. **2.** Unroll a sheet of flashing. Measure 7 inches in from one end of sheet and mark at center with marker. Then measure and mark at 14-inch intervals (ours measured 238 inches total, with sixteen 14-inch intervals). Measure a final 7-inch-long section and cut sheet with scissors. **3.** Working on top of scrap wood, drill a hole at each marking. **4.** Screw a coupling nut halfway onto one end of rod. Screw an eye bolt into coupling nut (to use for

hanging). **5.** Working from other end of rod, slide wooden bead onto rod. Then slide rod through first hole in flashing, fold flashing over, and slide rod through next hole. Continue threading rod through flashing, adding a bead between each section. (When you near end of rod, you will need to push flashing down to prevent it from springing up.) **6.** After last section of flashing, add final bead. Screw a coupling nut onto end of rod, then screw an eye bolt into coupling nut. Hang using paracord.

Sources

Wooden beads, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " with $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole, \$4.75 for 10, craftparts.com.
Aluminum flashing, 10" by 50", \$16 a roll; and **zinc threaded rod**, by Crown Bolt, $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 24", \$1.50, homedepot.com.

HOW-TO

Snow-People Lawn Ornament

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► Supplies

Aluminum flashing, 6 inches wide
Drill and $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch bit
Zinc-plated hex nuts, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch
Threaded rod, $\frac{3}{8}$ by 72 inches
Silver foil tape
Spray paint

Sources

Zinc threaded rod, $\frac{3}{8}$ " by 72", \$6, homedepot.com.

1. Following assembly plan (at marthastewart.com/snow-people-ornaments), cut flashing to indicated lengths with scissors. **2.** Working on top of scrap wood, drill holes in flashing according to plan. **3.** Screw a hex nut onto rod; turn to move down rod. **4.** Roll each piece of flashing so holes 1, 3, 5, and 7 align; secure with tape. Starting with largest snowball, thread rod through holes 1, 3, 5, and 7. Screw on a nut (to hold bottom of snowball down). Screw on another nut (to hold next section of flashing up), then thread rod through hole 2. Add a nut; thread through hole 4. Add a nut; thread through hole 6. Repeat for remaining snowballs. Continue moving snowballs and nuts down rod according to plan. **5.** Make hat: Cut flashing, spray-paint it, then drill and fold according to plan. Slide rod through bottom; add 2 nuts (one to hold up hat top, one to push down bottom). Slide rod through hat top; add nut.

HOW-TO

Citrus Garland

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► Supplies

Copper-mesh tubing
Artificial or real citrus
Floral wire
Fresh bay leaves
Colorful ribbon
Cord or twine

Sources

Artificial kumquat and lemon branches, by Winward, from \$7 a branch, pansilk.com. **Grapefruit Orange** (VPG192), **Weighted Grapefruit Orange** (VQG093), **Weighted Orange** (VQO825 and VQO918), and **Lemon** (VPL182), from \$2.25 each, Allstate Floral, 800-433-4056. **Copper mesh**, \$30 for 100', shopwcs.com.

1. Open copper-mesh tubing and add fruit 1 piece at a time. Move pieces of fruit down tubing, twisting mesh between fruit to separate them. For a natural look, add fruits in random order. Continue adding fruits until garland reaches desired length.
2. With floral wire, attach small bunches of bay leaves and kumquats in between citrus; add ribbon.
3. Tie finished garland to banister with cord or twine.

HOW-TO

Citrus-and-Spice-Scented Candles

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► Supplies

2 pounds soy-wax chips
Wick, 6 inches, with tab
Copper shells
Wooden skewer
Gold wax dye
Essential oils

Sources

EcoSoya CB-XCEL soy candle wax, \$4 a lb., and **cinnamon-bark, clove-bud, and cardamom essential oils**, from \$2.50 for ½ oz., bulkapothecary.com. **Copper-shell half-ball**, 0.32" (2½", 3½", and 4" diameters), from \$7.50 each, necopperworks.com. **Clementine, blood-orange, and bergamot essential oils**, from \$3 for 1 oz., thesage.com.

1. Place wax chips in a heatproof glass measuring cup. Heat in microwave for 30 seconds; stir. Repeat until completely melted.
2. Dip wick tab in melted wax and center at bottom of a copper shell. Wrap other end of wick around skewer; knot. Rest skewer across top of vessel.
3. Add small pieces of dye to melted wax; stir. Continue adding dye until wax is golden yellow.
4. Stir in about 40 drops of oil total for each cup of wax, following about a 1-to-3 ratio of spice scent to citrus scent. (We combined cinnamon bark and blood orange, clove bud and clementine, and cardamom and bergamot.)
5. Fill shells, leaving a ¼-inch rim at top. Let set until firm; trim wicks.

HOW-TO

Threaded Pomander Balls

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► Supplies

Whole dried cloves
Oranges, grapefruits, and lemons
Beading cord, 0.5 mm

1. Insert cloves into citrus at points of an arrow, diamond, or other shape, spacing them evenly around fruits' circumference.
2. Tie one end of cord around head of a clove, leaving a 2-inch tail.
3. Wrap cord around each clove head to form desired shape. Some designs (like diamonds) may require tying off cord after a couple of shapes and retying cord to another clove.
4. Continue wrapping cord around cloves until you reach starting point. Tie together end of cord and tail left at start. Trim off any excess.

Simple graphic patterns pop when strung in neon cord.

HOW-TO

Sweet Snow Globes

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► Supplies

Royal icing and gingerbread cookies, some with "stained glass" details (for recipes, go to marthastewart.com/snow-globe-cookies)
Assorted candies, such as spice drops, sprinkles, sour strips, sticks of gum, candy sticks, wafer candies, and hard candies
Jars with lids
Gesso
Craft paint and paintbrushes
Sugar

1. Decorate cookies with candies as desired, adhering candies as "architectural" details with royal icing. Let icing dry.
2. To make candy trees, preheat oven to 275°. Place several hard candies (striped mints or Jolly Ranchers work well) on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake until candies soften and melt together, 5 to 9 minutes. Using oven mitts, take candy (still on parchment) off baking sheet and use scissors to cut into a triangular tree shape. Let cool, then peel off parchment.
3. Prime jar tops with gesso. Paint with craft paint; let dry.
4. Use thick royal icing (with consistency of toothpaste) to anchor cookies, trees, and other pieces in jar. Let dry thoroughly with lids off, up to 2 days. Cover bases with sugar and screw on lids.