

# Christmas Guide 2015

*Merry  
Christmas*

— & —  
HAPPY NEW YEAR





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Get a free copy of Decorated Life's Christmas Decorating Guide - over 33 pages & 100 different Christmas ideas-Sweet!  
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Christmas is almost here! *Let's make it sparkle!*

We want our Christmases to be full of surprise, whimsy and extravagance; turning our homes into original Christmas masterpieces that *everyone*, even major department stores, will *envy*.

Good intentions....

We don't want to let anyone down, do we? This is a brilliant excuse to have fun, let creativity go crazy and watch *Miracle of 34<sup>th</sup> Street*..again.

Here's a delightful collection of Christmas decorating from all over the internet, linking back to original articles and tutorials, so you can enjoy Christmas with joy, merriment and hope for a wonderful year ahead.

There's a lot of pressure on Christmas.. it needs as much help as it can get to spread the vital message of Peace, Joy, Love and Hope. The world needs it. Are you ready? Then let's go!

Most ideas that follow are easy. Others are pure eye candy and inspiration. You can download, print, share and give away this guide to anyone, including friends and family... It's yours.

*Make this Christmas sparkle!* Fill your home with Christmas Joy!

*Merry Christmas....*

Christine McVeigh

*Decorated Life*

# TISSUE POM WREATH TUTORIAL

## TISSUE POM WREATH



From  
Tutorial  
Difficulty

[jonesdesigncompany.com](http://jonesdesigncompany.com)

Yes  
Easy

You Need

*3 packages of tissue paper, wire wreath form, fringe scissors, scissors, hot glue gun*

If you're into easy, here is a fun wreath to make! Change tissue color to make it more glamorous or fit your colors, spray paint it, add glitter, alternate pom-pom colors and add decorations or lights.



## METHOD

- Cut 5 layers of tissue into a 4 inch strip.
- Cut fringe along one side using fringe scissors



- Roll tightly from one end
- Hot glue to hold pom in place
- Attach-poms-to-wreath-frame



- Attach poms to wire wreath form with hot glue.

- Arrange the poms closely together, filling in your entire wreath form.
- Hang with a pretty ribbon tied in a bow.

For more details click [here](#)

## VINTAGE RUDOLPH GIFT TAGS

From *HomeRoad*  
 Tutorial *Yes*  
 Difficulty *Easy to Moderate*  
 You need *Sheets of yellowed paper, card stock, fairy vintage reindeer image (supplied), large punch.*



There is something whimsical about vintage gift tags.

These would look perfect on Holiday gifts!

## METHOD

- Using a large circle punch, punch 2 circles from card stock.
- Attached them around the 2 newspaper cones,
- Flatten the cones
- Print the [Graphics Fairy](#) Vintage Reindeer image 4 times onto a piece of card stock, then cut them out. Glue the reindeer onto the circle punch and add a baker's twine loop for hanging.
- Use red glitter glue for the reindeer's nose and to trim out the book pages.
- Use yellow glitter glue outlined the circle moon.

Here is another version using an angel and gold trim on the edges.



For more details click [here](#).



# 10 HOLIDAY READY HOME IDEAS



From  
Tutorial  
Difficulty

[Makinghomebase.com](http://Makinghomebase.com)  
No  
Easy to Moderate

Here are 10 wonderful Christmas projects.



From fabric covered boxes, etched glass candle holders, wreaths, glittered candles, the spray painted plate above to the Christmas painting below.



For more details click [here](#).

# GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

From [Its Overflowing](#)  
Tutorial No

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TREE!

Its Overflowing has put together a gorgeous range of Christmas trees in different shapes, sizes, styles and colors.

Here is a sample of what I think are the loveliest out of all. Its Overflowing has links to the various sites like this traditional tree from A Country Farmhouse below, if you would like to see more.



[A Country Farmhouse](#)



I love the simplicity of this tree, framed by the window behind it and the star lights.

Sprinkled with black and white ornaments and balanced with a rustic tin for support, this tree looks great.

[My Lovely Things](#)



This [BHG](#) Christmas tree is covered with white and silver ornaments.

Without lots of different shapes, colors and sizes grabbing your attention, this tree is peaceful and relaxing to look at.

[Decorated Life](#)





This flocked Christmas tree is overflowing with white, silver and gold ornaments and trimmings.

Its elegant and would look stunning in any home..

Better Homes and Gardens



You better have your best decorations for this tree because the Silvertip Christmas Tree from Pottery Barn lets you see every ornament.

This tree is wonderfully colorful without being overly crowded and weighed down with a million distractions.

[Pottery Barn](#)



This is also a Silvertip Christmas Tree but with a gold theme and topped with a gold angel.

The thinner branches make the tree look lighter and much easier to show off your ornament collection.

For more details and more trees click [here](#).

[Decorated Life](#)

# BELGIAN DESIGNED FESTIVE ORNAMENTS AND TRINKETS

From *Belgian Pearls*  
Tutorial *No*



Looking for something a little different?

These beautiful Christmas baubles were designed by Belgian company [Goodwill M&G](#).

These Belgian made Christmas decorations are a great gift for the serious ornament collector!

For more ornaments and details click [here](#).

# HOW TO MAKE A CHICKEN WIRE CHRISTMAS TREE

From *Thistlewood Farm*  
Tutorial *Yes*  
Difficulty *Easy to Moderate*  
You Need *chicken wire, wire cutters, needle nose pliers, pink spray paint, square block of wood, dowel rod, gloves.*





## METHOD

- Wear gloves because chicken wire is sharp.
- Cut a square of chicken wire. The square of wire will naturally roll into a cylinder.
- Cut pieces into 12" square for the smaller tree and 18" square for the larger tree.
- Use the border of the chicken wire for your base.
- Wrap the wire into a cone shape, overlapping the back of the cone.
- Shape and then attach wire at a few key places.
- Cut away the excess.

For more details on how to make your Chicken Wire Christmas Tree click [here](#).

## TIN HEART BLING ORNAMENTS

From	<a href="#">Home Road</a>
Tutorial	Yes
Difficulty	Easy
You Need	tin tiles, scissors or cutters, paint or spray paint, punch, wax, bling .



## METHOD

- Trace a heart onto tin tiles.
- Cut them using a scissors.
- Sand the edges to smooth.
- Paint in your favorite color.
- When the paint dries sand so the color underneath peeks through.
- Waxed to protect the hearts.
- Punch a hole in the top and the bottom to add any bling.

For more details on how to make your Chicken Wire Christmas Tree click [here](#).

## CHRISTMAS LADDER LOVE

From [French Country Cottage](#)  
Tutorial No

*What a great idea from French Country Cottage. This old orchard ladder creates a spectacular Christmas decoration, especially if you don't have a staircase or mantel to decorate.*

*Of course, you do need a ladder..*





# MONOGRAM WREATH

## TUTORIAL

From [Its Overflowing](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Moderate  
You Need *MDF, ruler, pencil, safety goggles, clamps, sanding and cutting attachments, white paint, wire cutters, artificial greenery, red and pearl berries and a hot glue gun.*



WWW.ITSOVERFLOWING.COM

This looks amazing but you do need a few skills. You can place it on a mantel, hang it, lean it, inside or outside.

For more details on how to make your Chicken Wire Christmas Tree click [here](#).

## EASY DIY NO SEW COFFEE COZY

From [A Splash of Something](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need *A clean sock, felt, scissors, fabric glue, buttons*

This is a cute stocking filler for those wintery days. You can use Christmas colors or just go for a Christmas theme like this snowflake. I think I would add ribbon or finish off the bottom in some way so it doesn't fray.



[Decorated Life](#)

## METHOD

1. Measure 3 inches down from the top of the sock.
2. Cut a straight line across the sock.
3. Add embellishments using felt pieces, buttons and fabric glue.
4. Allow glue to dry completely before using the cozy.

For more details go to [A Splash of Something](#).

## CREAM SWEATER WREATH

From [Design Dining and Diapers](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need a large straw wreath base, a cream sweater with a nice collar and cable knit detailing, hot glue, and scissors.



## METHOD

Here's the short version.

Head over Design Dining and Diapers for the full run down and more photos.

- Measure the width of your wreath and cut out the front panels to use around the base of the sweater.
- Pull the edges tightly together and secure with hot glue.
- If you're left with a large hole at the top of the wreath use some extra pieces to cover.



- Make the bow out using the collar from your sweater.
- Use the back, larger area of the collar for the bow, fold and glue.
- Use the narrow front panel pieces as the hanging ribbon end of the bow.

For more details go to [Design Dining and Diapers](#).



# HOW TO KEEP GREENERY FRESH

## THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

From [Making Home Base](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy – it's remembering that's hard

# How to Keep Greenery Fresh THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Whether you buy or make greenery yourself, you want it to last.

There's nothing worse than your guests being greeted with a wilted wreath.. not a lot of ho, ho, ho, in that is there?

Making Home Base has this wonderful way of keeping greenery last 4 weeks! Which is perfect for Christmas!

### METHOD

- It's all about water retention! Soak greenery overnight in water in a tub or sink to absorb as much water as possible before use.
- Mist greenery daily. This keeps your holiday greenery moist.
- Never mist greenery in direct sunlight. It will burn the greenery.
- Garlands above your mantel will dry out if you use your fireplace.
- Check for freshness every few days. Remove or replace any dead or dying pieces.

For more details go to [Making Home Base](#).

# FAST AND EASY CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

From  
Tutorial  
Difficulty

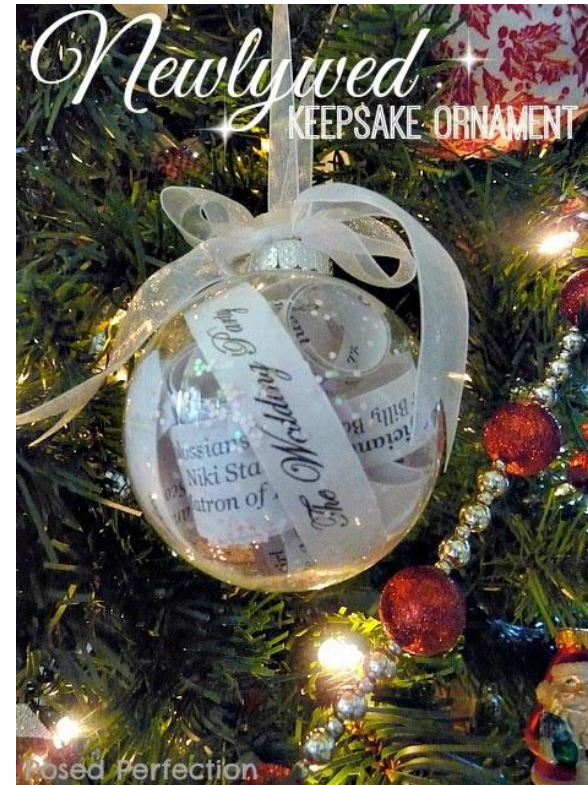
[Design Dining and Diapers](#)  
No – but where you can link to.  
Easy to moderate



What's Christmas without making a few Christmas crafts?

Here are 10 fast and easy Christmas crafts found at Design Dining and Diapers. I like the glitter monogram ornament from Shop Girl Maria and the Newlywed keepsake from Posed Perfection.

You could use this for almost anything.. first birthday, first grandchild, every child, new house.. put a year and some other details and its a great keepsake or gift.



For more crafts, photos and ideas go to [Design Dining and Diapers](#).

[Decorated Life](#)



# CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR KIDS

From [Making Home Base](#)  
Tutorial No – but where you can link to.  
Difficulty Easy to moderate

With such a great selection of crafts for kids, I'm not sure who would have the best time creating them...



For more crafts, photos and ideas go to [Making Home Base](#).

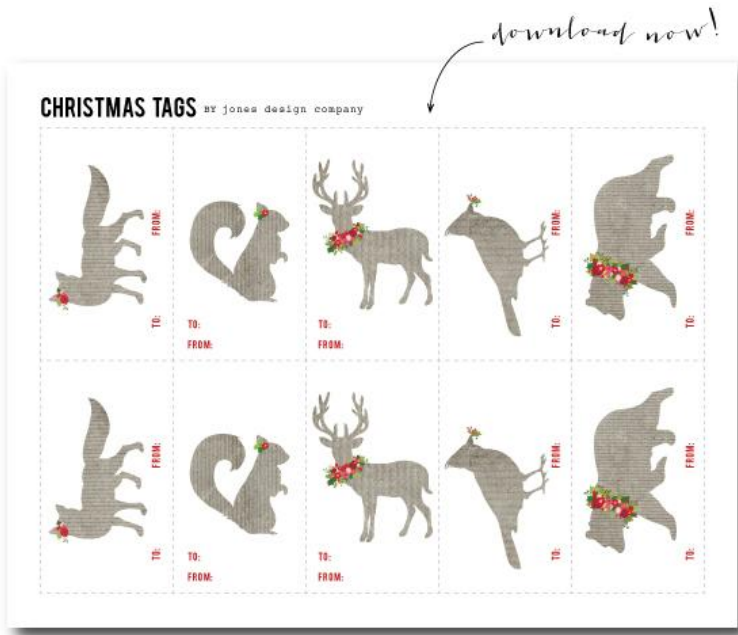
# GORGEOUS WRAPPING ~ WOODLAND CHRISTMAS TAGS & GIFT WRAP GUIDE

From [Jones Design Company](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy to moderate  
You Need A printer, your favourite paper, templates provided.

There are so many wonderful gift tags in this lengthy guide from Jones Design Company. Here are just a few .. okay, someone stop me! This woodland tag range is a free downloadable PDF.



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Others are part of a brand new 44-page guide from Jones Design Company with 50 original printable tags and several envelope templates.



Very cute, don't you think?



For more information go to [Jones Design Company](http://Jones Design Company).



# 12 AWESOME CHRISTMAS PLACE CARD HOLDERS

## RIBBON AND PEARLS PLACE CARD HOLDER

From [Shelterness](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy to moderate  
You Need ribbon, glue, a long pearl head pin, pearls in different sizes from large to small.



This is very elegant.. but I'm not quite sure how to use it. That's no problem there are 11 other designs to choose from including these.





For more information go to [Jones Design Company](#)

# PRESERVING BOXWOOD SHRUB

From [Crafting Rebellion](#)  
 Tutorial Yes  
 Difficulty Easy to moderate  
 You Need Boxwood shrub, glycerin, dye (optional),  
 hammer, glass or ceramic container

You can use preserved boxwood shrub for so many things, so this is a really handy tutorial from Crafting Rebellion. The tutorial has lots of great steps, photos and where you can purchase boxwood and glycerin. Here are a few examples of what you can make and the next Christmas craft uses it too. I told you it was handy.



For the full tutorial go to [Crafting Rebellion](#).



# HOW TO MAKE A BOXWOOD KISSING BALL

From *HGTV* and Miss Mustard Seed  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy to moderate  
You Need 6" foam sphere, 8-10 preserved boxwood branches, wire cutters, scissors, 1 1/3 yards double-sided ribbon, 6-7 quilting pins



I told you the tutorial above on preserving boxwood shrub would come in handy.



For the full tutorial click [here](#).

# HOW TO MAKE A BOXWOOD CHRISTMAS WREATH

From [HGTV](#) and Miss Mustard Seed  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy to moderate  
You Need 10" grapevine wreath form, 8-10 preserved boxwood branches, florist wire, wire cutters, ribbon for hanging and any desired embellishments



Find the details and tutorial [here](#).

## EASY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS KIDS CAN MAKE





From [BHG](#)  
Tutorial *Yes- 23 of them!*  
Difficulty *Easy to moderate*

## MAKE AN EVERGREEN TREE ORNAMENT

You Need *patterned paper, straight- and decorative-edge scissors, double-sided adhesive tape, green wire, glue gun and hotmelt adhesive*

### METHOD

- Draw 5-, 4-, and 3-1/2-inch circles, and cut each out with straight-edge scissors.
- Cut a slit to the center on each circle, using straight-edge scissors.
- Trim around each circle using decorative-edge scissors. Leaving a small opening in the top, wrap each circle into a cone shape and hot-glue the ends.
- Cut three 18-inch-long wires.
- Holding the wires together, wrap a short wire around the wire bundle.
- To form the tree, thread the cones, one at a time and in graduating sizes, onto the wire bundle, hot-gluing them in place on the inside.
- Curl the ends of all the wires, trimming their lengths as needed.

There are 23 great kid's crafts including glittered baubles, salt dough ornaments, and personalized ornaments. Here are two more easy paper projects.



Find more projects and details here at [BHG](#).

# DECORATING WITH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

From [BHG](#)  
Tutorial *Yes - 24 of them!*  
Difficulty *Easy to moderate*



Turn left over or orphaned ornaments into this colorful Christmas wreath.

## METHOD

- Spray-paint a foam wreath form with silver paint and allow to dry. This one is 24-inches and needs about 140 ornaments to cover it.
- Using hot glue, secure the largest ball ornaments to the inside and outside circles of the form.
- Fill in the rest of the wreath with smaller ornaments. Fill in bare spots with bunched up lengths of bead garland.

You could paint the foam wreath gold, green, white or even red and change the bauble colors to match your Christmas decor. There are 23 more bauble projects including these below.

## ORNAMENT GARLAND



This elegant ornament garland is created over a simple brass bicycle chain from hardware stores.

Tack the chain into place, with the middle of the chain in the center, secured with brads.

Add ornaments to the chain using ornament hooks. Add holly and secure with floral wire.



## HOLIDAY WOW



Here's a centerpiece that will wow everyone.

Start by decorating any plain ornaments with glitter and glue.

You can draw stripes, stars or circles on the baubles with crafts glue and sprinkle with glitter. Tap off excess glitter and allow to dry.

Glue ornaments to mirrored discs, from craft stores. Remove the ornament hangers, pour water in the ornament and insert flowers and berries.

You can also line them up in a row and add thin candles to every alternate bauble.

## OUTDOOR ORNAMENTS



Simple ideas are simply the best.

Fill galvanized buckets with seasonal evergreens to display outside. Then trim each bucket with small ornaments strung onto tinsel.

For more information on the other 20 [click here](#).

## EASY HOLIDAY ORNAMENT IDEAS

From [By Stephanie Lynn](#)  
Tutorial *Yes*  
Difficulty *Easy to moderate*



You can create this gorgeous Christmas tree by staining natural wooden ornaments, often selling in some high end retailers in finished sets for \$40 and up, for less than \$2 a piece.



You won't believe how easy it is.

For information on exactly how to do it, just click [here](#).

## WOODEN JENGA ORNAMENTS

From [Home Road](#)  
Tutorial *yes*



These look great and are perfect if you have a Silhouette machine to print out the words love, peace and hope and glue to each block. More details right [here](#).

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# FAUX ANTLER WREATH

From [Blue Sky Confections](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Moderate if you can handle clay



*This looks pretty amazing.. and perfect if you are happy at creating your own antler shapes. Otherwise you are on your own.*

For amounts and more details click [here](#).

# BURLAP CHRISTMAS TREE

From [DIY Beautify](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need A cardboard cone, various squares of burlap and/or drop cloth material in your choice of color, hot glue gun and a pencil with a flat end.





Simple but impressive transformation!  
For the full tutorial click [here](#).

# DIY RUSTIC PINE CHRISTMAS TREES

From  
Tutorial  
Difficulty  
You Need

[Liz Marie Blog](#)

Yes  
Easy  
3 Styrofoam Cones, pine kindling and hot glue gun.



## METHOD

- Layer the bottom by hot gluing pine kindling to the styrofoam.
- Add one shim at the top.
- Lean the top layer on the top shim. Complete top layer.
- Add a middle layer to hide the seam between the top and bottom.



For more details and photos click [here](#).

[Decorated Life](#)



# I'LL HAVE COLOR WITH THAT

From [Thistlewood Farms](#)  
Tutorial No

If you want a different kind of Christmas, this could be for you!  
It's full of light, bright color.



Totally inspiring and playful, just like the  
Chicken Wire Christmas Tree on Page xx!



From wrapping to a white Christmas Tree,  
you can see more [here](#).

# DELICIOUS TREATS YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF

From [Shelterness](#)  
Tutorial No – links to other sites



This is a wonderful collection of  
handmade treats that look  
amazing!

Here is just a small sample of what  
you can expect.

So, if you love cooking and have a little time these are worth looking,  
just for the inspiration!



# EASY DIY TABLE TOP DISPLAY

From [BriedawithaB](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Moderate  
You Need plank of wood (new or old) approx 42 in long  
and 11 in wide, galvanized metal for basket



Get all the details [BriedawithaB](#).

# FABRIC COVERED CHRISTMAS TREE

From [The Creativity Exchange](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need A cardboard cone, cloth material in your choice  
of color, hot glue gun and lots of ribbon, tassels  
and other embellishments.



This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
The Creativity  
Exchange has  
created these  
amazing fabric  
Trees.

You can easily  
create them by  
making a cone  
template.  
Then decorate  
with fabric.

Or go to the site  
and buy the  
template with full  
instructions.



# FOLK ART WINDOW

From [House To Home \(UK\)](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need *Berry-red felt to make curtains, enough white felt hearts to spread across, glue gun, garland of padded Christmas motifs.*



## Method

- Make up simple curtains in festive berry-red felt. Red can be overpowering, so a small to mid size window works best.

- Decorate the curtain border with folk art white hearts. You can buy these inexpensively or make them.
- Glue the hearts to the bottom of the curtain, spreading them evenly across.
- Complete the effect by stringing up a garland of padded Christmas motifs.

There are more great ideas [here](#).

# DIY SNOW GLOBE

From [Shelterness](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need *Clear glass baubles, small trees, white spray paint, glue, a wooden skewer, scissors, tweezers and white glitter.*



## Method

- Cut the tree so that it fits into the bauble.
- Lightly spray paint it.
- Dab some glue on the end of the skewer. Gently place the glue in the bauble, pressing the glue into the centre.
  - Using the tweezers, place the tree into the bauble securing it to the glue.
- Sprinkle glitter into the

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bauble and replace the top.

- Leave to dry.
- Give away or decorate your tree.
- 

More photos and instructions at [Shelterness](#).

## COUNTY CHRISTMAS WREATH

From [House to Home \(UK\)](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need Plain wreath base, wire, pine, eucalyptus and mistletoe (fresh or artificial and creamy roses).



## Method

- Start with a plain wreath base,
- wire on pine, eucalyptus and mistletoe. If you are using fresh remember to water or mist to hydrate.
- Dress your wreath with creamy roses.

More details at [House to Home \(UK\)](#).

## FESTIVE MESSAGE

From [House to Home \(UK\)](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need Small twigs, brown paper luggage or parcel labels, red string or ribbon, glue.





## Method

- Cut your twigs into small pieces.
- Write your Christmas message onto your luggage labels, one label for each letter.
- Glue the twigs on to labels using your markings as a guide.
- Add to your string or ribbon,
- String across the window.
- Wrap presents in traditional brown paper and secure with ribbons in burgundy, green and cream.

See more here at [House to Home \(UK\)](#)

## FESTIVE SLEIGH WREATH

<i>From</i>	<a href="#">Homeroad</a>
<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Difficulty</i>	<i>Easy</i>
<i>You Need</i>	<i>Sleigh, paint, stencil, rope.</i>

## Method

- Paint your sleigh one color,
- Use a stencil to create your welcome message,
- Tie some rope to hang to your front door.

If you want something a little different on your front door this year then what about an upcycled sleigh? A little paint and a stencil are all you really need. Great idea from [Homeroad](#).



# STOCKING WALL

From [House to Home \(UK\)](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need Wainscoting, stocking selection in mixed stripes, wreath, stars.



This look is great in a hallway or entry, but you could also add it to a kitchen or living room .

## Method

- Pin your stocking selection with mixed stripes in a row on country wainscoting.
- Finish the display with a selection of wreaths.

# FUDGE BROWNIE CHEESECAKE BITES

From [Simply Gloria](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need freshly made (or store bought) brownie cheesecake, chocolate.



This was in my post [Thank You Gift Ideas](#).

They are perfect as a Thank You Gift or to eat over the festive season because they are just plain yummy.





## Method

- Using a small scoop, make balls from the cheese cake, crust and all.
- Freeze.
- Roll into balls.
- Dip in chocolate.
- Allow to cool and set.

[Simply Gloria](#) for more details.

# WINDOW PAPER ANGELS

From [House to Home \(UK\)](#)  
Tutorial Yes  
Difficulty Easy  
You Need angel template, paper, scissors, double sided tape.



## Method

- Create a template of your angel on thick card.
- Trace the angel shape onto as many white paper pieces as you need to cover your window panes.
- Stick the angels in place with small pieces of double-sided tape. You can see more details [here](#).

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE 2015 ROUNDUP OF

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

# Merry Christmas 2015

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