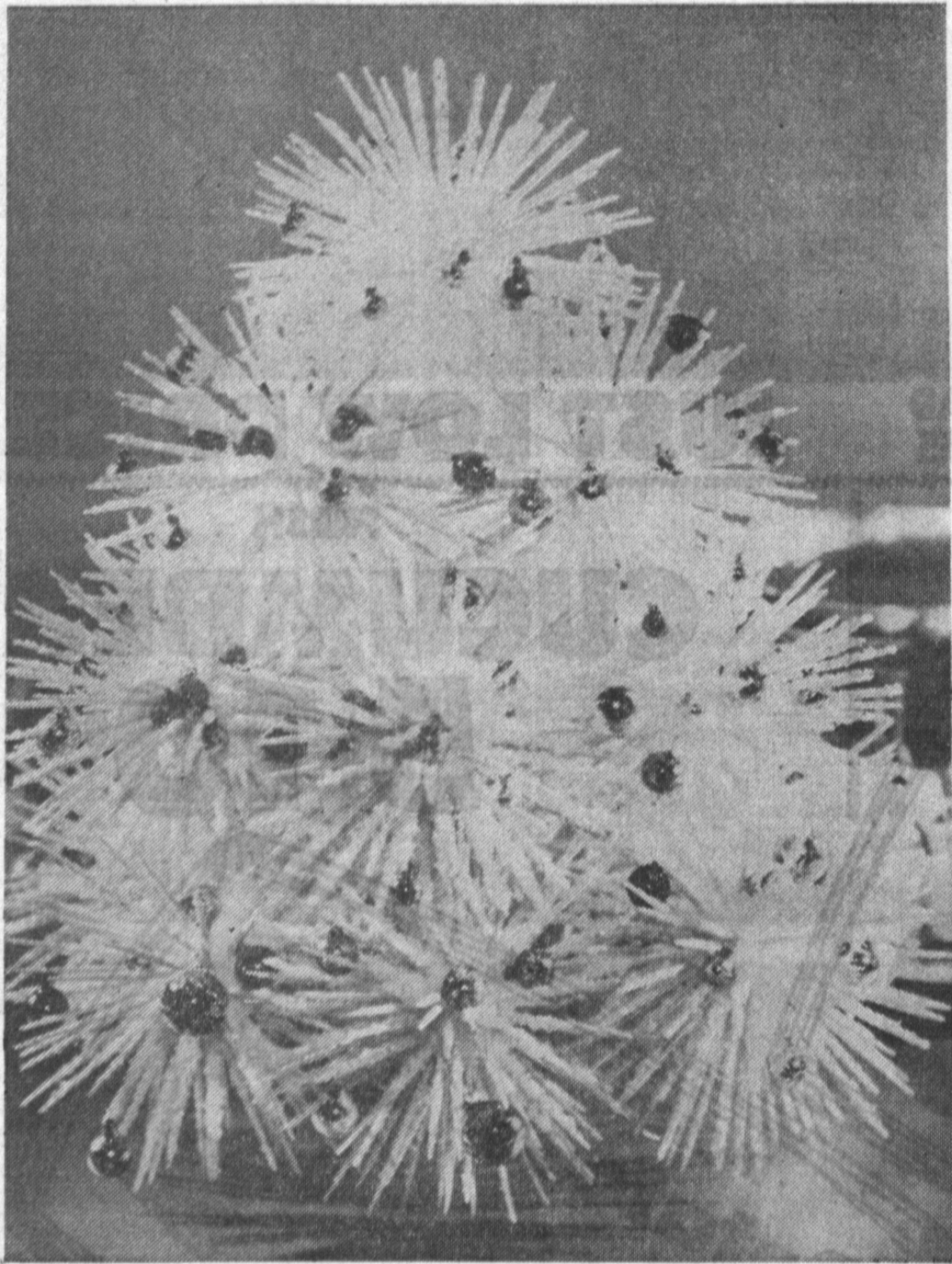


DIY & FAMILY



TOOTHPICK TREE can be prepared by family at one session. Tree is comprised of styrofoam balls studded with eight boxes of toothpicks, piled on platter, sprayed with canned snow, and decorated with miniature Christmas tree ornaments. Holiday angels and choir boys also take to toothpick trimmings.

Toothpick Ornaments Add to Holiday Decor

Bright as Christmas, frosty as snow are these glistening toothpick ornaments you can make yourself. The cost is practically pennies, and the family from the littlest to the biggest can share the fun.

They make a wonderful kindergarten or baby-sitting session, too, or your group might consider the ornaments a good fund-raising project.

For a family session, play carols on the phonograph, gather round the kitchen table, and see to it that each member has his chore. Ingredients you'll need for the glistening Christmas tree are:

Round toothpicks — about eight boxes 16 one-inch Styrofoam balls (available in supermarkets, five-and-dime and novelty stores).

One can of snow spray. Miniature tree ornaments. Start by preparing the Styrofoam balls — you'll want to stick each one as full of toothpicks as possible. To heighten the fun you might try a toothpick race — see who gets his filled first!

Use a silver tray — or pretty plate — for your base and arrange seven finished balls in a circle around it. Five more balls arranged in a circle on top of these make the next layer of the tree. Three balls go on top of that layer, and finally, a single one makes the tip of the tree. Now douse the whole thing with white snow spray — and decorate the "boughs" with your tiny tree ornaments.

Christmas Wreath
Put your tree aside to admire, and go to work on a colorful wreath that will never fade! Ingredients are:
Round toothpicks — about five boxes.

Six 3-inch Styrofoam balls.
Red and Green food coloring.

One can of white snow spray.

First step here is to cut the Styrofoam balls in half

with a sharp knife. Place the halves flat side down around the rim of a nine inch plate. This will help form the wreath. Important, join halves very, very securely with lots of toothpicks.

Meanwhile, another member of the work party can color the remaining toothpicks. Pour the red and green food coloring into small glasses, about 1/2 inch deep.

Technique is to hold several toothpicks in the hand, dip the ends into the red or the green coloring, then let them dry (it happens quickly on old newspapers). Spread them well apart to hasten drying.

New put on your thimble, and insert the uncolored ends of the picks into each half ball. Do one red, and the next green — each half takes about 100 toothpicks. For a brilliant finishing touch, spray the wreath with snow spray — or glue and glitter.

Your wreath will look wonderful in the window, on the door or as a centerpiece at Christmas.

HOLIDAY ANGELS

Gum drops and marshmallows, crepe paper and doilies will make cherubic angels and choir-boys for your mantelpiece, to peek out from the window sill, to guard trays of Yule snacks at guest time. Make them by the dozen.

For each angel you will need:

- 1 8 round toothpicks
- 1 large gum drop
- 1 large marshmallow
- white crepe paper
- 6 inches of 3/4 inch yellow ribbon
- food or water color.

To make the head and body grasp 10 toothpicks firmly, and insert in the rounded top of the gum drop. Stick the other end of the picks into the marshmallow.

Cut a five inch by 14 inch piece of white crepe paper for the robe. Crease one long side one-half inch from the

edge — place the fold over a ruler and push so that you shirr the paper. This makes the robe billow out. Place the robe around the body below the head — insert three inches of ribbon under the shirred fold and tie.

No angel is complete without a halo. To make it, cut eight toothpicks in half, tint yellow, insert in the head in halo shape and trim with remaining ribbon. Or omit ribbon. Paint your angel's features with a toothpick dipped into coloring.

Choir-Boys

Choir-boys are made just about the same way. You will need:

- 12 round toothpicks
- One large gum drop
- one large marshmallow
- food or water color
- red crepe paper
- 1 round 5-inch paper-lace doily
- green gift wrap paper or foil
- bit of colored yarn.

Make the head and body as you did for the angel, but make the shirred robe of red crepe paper and tie around the neck with twine. Surprise is made by cutting a tiny circle from the center of the doily, and slitting down one side. Place this over the robe, and secure in back with a toothpick.

Now frizz the end of 3/4 inches of yellow, red or or brown yarn for hair, and keep it in place by using a halved toothpick. Draw the face. Hymn book is a 1-by-2 inch piece of folded foil or paper stuck into the body with a toothpick.

All set? Know how now? Try miniature lollipops (picks topped by tiny gum drops) to top children's presents — or make a toothpick "bow" for a grown-up gift. A Styrofoam ball full of snow-sprayed or glittered picks would listen beautifully on your tree.

Look over your left-over bits and pieces, and see what else you can make for Christmas with a toothpick or two!

Do-It-Yourself Candles Challenge Yule Giftgiver

Candles have come a long way from the time when they were only a source of light. Severe or elaborately trimmed, today they can be found in every size, shape and color or combination of colors.

If you have priced fancy candles in the shops you know how expensive they can be. Made at home, they are far less costly and can be just as beautiful. Making candles is a truly creative project for any age-group and they are fun and easy to do. Most of the supplies needed can be found right in your home.

You will need household paraffin, all purpose dye in the colors of your choice, cord for wicks or old wicks saved from discarded candles, adhesive or cellophane tape, a pencil or other small stick, glue, scissors and whatever you wish for trim. A double boiler or a coffee can and pan will also be needed and spoons or something for stirring.

Vary Molds

Molds used for candles are limited only by your imagination. Cardboard milk cartons or malted milk containers, soup cans, brandy snifters, pretty glasses, a clear glass cup and caucer, or frozen juice cans are just a few suggestions. Many of the empty plastic bottles from household products make interesting candle molds also. Forms for smaller candles might include cone paper cups, muffin tins, or gelatin molds.

Start by covering your work area with plenty of newspaper. This not only protects the counter or table surface but simplifies the job of cleaning up when you

are finished.

Melt paraffin in double boiler or in coffee can set in pan of hot water. Never melt over direct heat and be sure water container never boils dry. Spills can be dangerous so do not fill the can too full.

One pound of paraffin fills three frozen juice cans or makes five star-shaped gelatin mold candles. One and one-half pounds of paraffin are needed to make a one quart milk carton candle or to fill eight muffin tins. Each pound of paraffin requires two teaspoons of dry dye to color it.

Melt Paraffin

The actual technique is to melt the paraffin as directed, stir thoroughly three to five minutes for good color dispersion. Let stand a few minutes before pouring into mold.

Because of the density of wax, you will find the lighter shades of dye produce the brightest colors. Color deepens as the wax solidifies. The following colors are recommended for best results: Yellow, Coral, Gold, Peach, Pink, Rose Pink, Orchid, Light Blue, Evening Blue, Turquoise Blue, Peacock Blue, Chartreuse, Light Green and Jade Green.

To prepare molds, punch small hole in bottom center of can or carton. Run cord through hole and up through mold. Tie end to a pencil or stick and place across the top of mold; then turn mold over and pull cord taut. Cut cord and secure end to bottom with adhesive or cellophane tape and dribble some wax over it to completely seal the hole.

For molds that cannot be punctured, cut cord an inch

longer than depth of molds and dip into hot wax. Set aside to dry and harden. When candle begins to solidify, push wick into center of mold.

Cool Wax

When wax has cooled slightly, pour into chosen mold very slowly and carefully. When using glass container warm the glass first as an added precaution. Let candles stand until solid. Time required varies but a milk carton, for instance, will take eight to ten hours to harden completely.

Unmolding is easy. Remove tape holding wicks. Peel off paper molds or dip metal molds quickly in very hot water to loosen; then gently shake candle out into hand. Plastic bottles can be slit with a razor blade, and then removed.

Ease muffin-tin candles out with a table knife. Candles made in glass molds are usually left in the container and the container is trimmed if additional decorations are desired.

SPECIAL EFFECTS

One lovely special effect is to have glitter throughout the candle. For this, wait until most of the wax has hardened, then sprinkle the top slowly and lightly with glitter, which will drift gently down in suspension. If the glitter is put in too soon, it will fall to the bottom and the effect will be lost.

Frosted beauty can be achieved by edging or completely covering a candle with whipped wax. To whip, allow wax to cool until film forms over the top. Whip gently with a fork until it reaches frosting consistency. Rapidly spread whipped wax onto candles using spoon or

fingers. If it becomes firm melt and whip again. Dust with glitter for an even more festive look.

Poster paint can be used on candles by adding liquid detergent to the paint or by rubbing the wet brush on a bar of soap before dipping it in the paint. This makes the paint stick to the wax for painting lines of bricks on a milk-carton-chimney or for writing names or messages on candles.

Holly trim or other leaves and petals can be made easily and added to a candle. Tint paraffin desired color and pour a small amount on waxed paper and let cool until firm but not really hard.

Cut out desired shapes with a sharp knife. Lift from paper, warm over a flame, and stick to candle individually or in groups. Holly will have a more natural look if the edges are slightly curled. Used Light Green for leaves and Coral for berries.

A Greek key design is simple to add by tracing it on candle lightly with a pencil and then cutting pattern out with a sharp knife. Fill with household cement, stick on gold or silver cord. Glitter, decals, braid, rickrack, metallic ribbon, lettering or sequins may also be used for trimming and should be applied with household cement or, for some things, round-headed straight pins.

Although in use twelve months a year, at no time are candles quite as important as during the Christmas season. The warmth and beauty of candles are considered a message of friendship and a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem.



CHRISTMAS CANDLES can be made at home for holiday giving, decorating or club treasury boosting. Forms for the candles in the picture were milk cartons, paper cups, cookie cutters, frozen juice cans. Candles were made of melted paraffin-mixed with dye and decorated with glitter.