

Imaginative Decorations Help Make Home Christmaslike Inside and Out

Gather greens and gay red berries . . . bring out the ornaments and candles . . . fill your home with Christmas this year!

Nothing adds so much to the gaiety and happiness of the holiday season as bright decorations throughout your house.

Start with the front door! Your door can be transformed into the biggest, gayest Christmas greeting ever and your holiday guests will step across the threshold caught up in the warm welcome your entrance way has expressed!

For truly effective doorway decorations, start by outlining your door with Christmas greens. These greens can be wired together and hung in a swag over the doorway for a particularly dramatic effect. Or, cut a strip of chicken wire about one foot wide and tack around door as a frame. Into the wire tuck twigs of evergreen until your door stands in a frame of lovely holiday greenery.

Whether you use the swag or the frame, decorate the greens with bright Christmas tree balls or colored lights.

Gay Doorway Greetings
For your door itself, you have a choice of dozens of clever decorating schemes. If your door is painted a gay color, paste oversize snowflakes cut from paper doilies on it. Or, tie wide ribbons around it to make it look like a huge Christmas gift tied with a big bow.

Yuletide scenes can be created on the door with cut-out figures or can be painted with washable poster paints.

If you prefer a decoration to hang on the door, there is a limitless choice of imaginative ideas.

The favorites seem to be the evergreen spray and the Christmas greens and wire them together into a graceful spray. Wire tiny pine cones into it, or center it with a big greeting card. Tie bunches of red berries into the spray or decorate it with colorful mid-size tree ornaments. But, always finish your door spray with a huge bow of bright Christmas red ribbon.

Holiday-Spirited House
Yuletide decorations throughout the house radiate holiday cheer and it's fun for the whole family to help plan and decorate.

Decorate your mantel or the top of a bookshelf or a table with Christmas greens and red berries. An arrangement of white-painted twigs hung with tiny ornaments, or a heart-warming wreath.

And, always highlight every Yuletide decoration with the bright glow of candlelight! Those gay red candles dramatize every arrangement and are available in all shapes, sizes, and figures.

Merry Christmas Tables
For a long-to-be-remembered Christmas dinner, add a gay Yuletide centerpiece. Here,

again, cheery red candles will star. Form a long, low spray of greens around the base of the candles and tuck holly, red berries, or bright ornaments into the twigs. Or, center your table with a small Christmas tree, either real or of glittering plastic. Children will love a table decorated with a miniature sleigh piled with tiny gifts, or a chorus of candle choir boys.

So, this year give your home a wonderfully cheery Merry Christmas air with imaginative decorations!

Practical Gift For the G. I.

You may think that the average serviceman or woman will be "tickled" to receive your gift, that just any old trinket will do.

Perhaps no group of people is so finicky about gifts than men and women of the U.S. armed forces at home and abroad. They have to be, the old truism that "an army travels light" still applies. And if the gift isn't something that really comes in handy it will certainly "fall by the wayside."

What, then, makes a "practical" gift for the man or woman in the service? The usual gifts of cigarettes, cigars, toilet preparations are obtained almost at cost, at their post exchanges and ships' services.

Articles that are hard to come by include good cigarette lighters, always in short supply, especially at overseas stations. If your man is addicted to "exotic" brands of shaving cream and/or lotions, colognes and other toilet preparations, you can ring the bell with these as service installations rarely stock any but the most standard brands.

If your man or woman is in uniform, he or she lives by the clock—and a good wrist watch is almost a necessity. These, too, are available at most service stores, but often are in short supply. In any case, you can bet that a watch will be most welcome. And if it's for a man, please, please see that it has a luminous dial!

Portable radios make perfect gifts, as do wallets, money clips, and other "invisible" jewelry. Gifts of candy, cookies, cakes, nuts — well wrapped to last the journey, are always welcomed.

In short, a good rule to keep in mind when buying gifts in tended for service personnel in this: can he take it along conveniently next time he moves? If he can't forget it!

DECORATIVE TIP

Don't let that broken Christmas tree bulb get away with it! Make it serve its decorative purposes anyway — and without a drain on your budget.

Here's how: Pick up the fragments with a piece of wet cotton. Cut stars or other snazzy designs from cardboard; then cover the cut-outs with shellac.

While shellac is still wet, sprinkle the cut-out with the fragments, attach strings to each one and attach to the tree.

FOR HER HOLIDAY BRIGHTNESS!



All a-glow — and ready to go Christmas partying — with her hair holiday bright with **BLENSOL** — a wonderful shampoo that colors, washes and conditions the hair in just-about-shampoo time. Give her the "betress" look with sparkling pins, earrings and bracelets that boast the beauty of design and settings of delicate "precious stones . . . here, in the newest "glitter and gold" jewelry fashion.

Yule Toys Realistic and Exciting; Great Variety

A cross-section of the toy world reveals a realistic concern with things-as-they-are and will be. Key words with toy manufacturers this season are "realistic" and "futuristic."

DOLLS make exciting news for every little girl's fancy — from soft-as-flesh cuddly dolls that cry and wet, to walking and talking dolls — and, dolls dressed in every imaginative costume from bridal gown to miniskirt.

ONE MANUFACTURER stars four different dolls-with-a-purpose to teach proper young ladies the fine points of hair care, makeup, sewing and first aid.

THE PLAY-PEN set gives a rousing hurrah to a complete menagerie of clever, stuffed

animals. These go gay in nursery-keyed peppermint stripes, dots, checks, and other designs, in safe-color, washable fabrics!

"CAREER TOYS" give purpose to play this year as never before. Young "M.D.'s" will be thrilled with a 12-piece ambulance set, complete with Cadillac ambulance and assorted miniature "doctor's" instruments.

JUNIOR "DENTISTS" and "nurses" will go for a dental unit with its toy forceps and detachable drills.

"SEAT" TOYS are "held over" this year in locomotives, trucks, space ships—all done in thrilling miniatures! Rocker-mounted or free-swinging coil sprung "bronces" give young cowboys and girls a real action ride!

Little misses will get early lessons in "good housekeeping" from the wide variety of home-making toys. She can have a just-like-mother's range, refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, washer, dishes, pots and pans . . . sewing machine and others, most of them—working models in miniature!

Newest trains cross trestles with muted thunder, trailing smoke, and with piston-timed "choo-choos."

Young "Casey Jones" will thrill to fully-throated depots, automatic station-announcers, and other fabulous railroad accessories.

JUNIOR'S AUTOMOBILE will feature take-apart wheels and tires. Under the hood he will find a plastic engine with crankcase and gas tank that can be filled or emptied, and—the luggage compartment will contain a full-set of "tools."

EDUCATIONAL TOYS feature Chemistry, Sculpturing, Ceramic, Mural, Oil Color and other wits designed for the child with an artistic flair.

IMAGINATIVE TOYS — build-it-yourself gas stations, factories, amusement parks and "Space Academies"—are a recent development that is catching on in Juniorsville.

SIGNIFICANT in all of Toyland is the challenge of newer toys that stimulate original thinking and creative doing—as well as the always popular, traditional toys kids have enjoyed through the passing years.

Christmas Legend of Scandinavian Origin

Our well-loved legend of Santa Claus coming down the chimney on Christmas Eve originated in the Scandinavian countries. Their Christmas legend is that the Goddess Hertha appears in the fireplace, bringing happiness and good fortune. A jolly old man, representing good fortune, comes down the chimney to meet her.

Santa Claus appears in various costumes throughout the world. However, in most countries, he is a roly-poly old man with a long white beard, usually dressed in red. Sometimes this is a long red coat, worn with a big red hat trimmed with white fur.

In The Netherlands his red robe is that of a Bishop and Sinter Klaus carries a bold scepter and wears a large jeweled miter on his head, while in other mid-European countries he is dressed in the robes of a priest.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

The Christmas Seals which add cheery notes of color to our packages and letters were originated in Denmark in 1903 to help raise money for children's hospitals. Today, Seals help raise funds for worthy charities in almost every country.

Gifts You Make Yourself Reflect Christmas Spirit

Hand-made imaginative gifts for Christmas giving seem to capture the real old-fashioned spirit of the season!

These gifts show thoughtfulness and reflect the hours spent in making them—and, are sure to be appreciated!

Start gift making early! Enjoy the warm glow of the Christmas season for a longer time as you leisurely plan and make your gifts.

Hand-made gifts should be pretty and practical—with a bright note of originality.

Every homemaker needs gay little bridge sets and you can make these from 1½ yards of inexpensive cotton! Take one yard of 36-inch brightly printed cotton, and simply pull the threads to fringe the edge for about one inch wide. It is wise to stitch the edge and then fringe to the stitching.

These sets are unusually attractive if you use a plain color for the napkins. Cut four 12x12-inch napkins from two-thirds of a yard of a harmonizing solid color cotton. Stitch about one-half inch from the edge, and then pull threads to make a narrow fringe around the napkins.

Or, try printed napkins with a plain cloth for a clever gift set.

Cotton, fairly heavy, in a

homespun type weave can be cut and fringed to make attractive place mats—particularly smart done in deep-toned decorat colors.

Aprons — always a welcome gift — can be made quickly and inexpensively. Especially nice are the pert, little hostess style aprons of sheer cotton, trimmed with frilly ruffles. Rounded and dressed styles are smart in print-up aprons and there are many attractive patterns available.

For the straight style apron, simply cut a piece of fabric about 34-inches wide and 20-inches long. The waist band should be about 18-inches by 5 inches, folded in half length-wise and stitched, gathering in the apron skirt as you stitch. Add hemmed apron ties, about 24-inches long, hem the apron skirt, and lo! — a wonderful, colorful gift!

There are dozens of other gifts you can make: knitted socks and ties for men (start early!) dainty satin sachet bags of dark terry cloth, pot holders and gayly embroidered tea towels, to mention only a few.

And, don't overlook the grand gift possibilities of home-made jams, jellies, cookies and candy — gift-wrapped and sent as fond remembrances!

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Toiletries Suitable For Children's Gifts

If there are children on your Christmas list and you are looking for something a little unusual to give them, check the gift ideas in children's toiletries!

This year, manufacturers have come out with many cleverly packaged toiletry gifts with a grown-up look that will delight the youngsters. Here are gifts that will capture the fancy of the small fry and encourage them in good grooming habits.

For little boys, there are packages of bubble bath with nursery, "space" and cowboy designs. All children love a bath that's frothy with bubbles.

Toiletries for little girls are sheer enchantment for the youngest glamor girls!

Gift-packaged sets include a pure, castile shampoo and soap, after-the-bath powder, hand lotion, and a dainty fragrance suitable for a very young lady . . . all excitingly boxed!

Popcorn Balls Fine For Trimming Trees

The kiddies will love these edible Christmas tree ornaments — delicious popcorn balls!

To make them: Mix ½ cup of water with 1 cup of molasses and add 1 cup of sugar and 1 t. salt. Blend together and cook over low heat until candy thermometer reaches 240 degrees F. Add 1 t. vinegar and 1 t. vanilla and cook until 270 degrees F. Remove from heat and add 1 T. butter or margarine. Pour mixture over 3 cups of popped corn, tossing with a fork until all kernels are coated.

When cool, shape into balls with buttered hands. Wrap in waxed paper and colored cellophane and hang on the Christmas tree.

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