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## MAKING A SIMPLE BUD VASE WITH HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Are you looking for a quick and easy project to add some festive bling to your holidays? This is an inexpensive yet whimsical activity that takes less than 20 minutes to create. By adding a few evergreen snippets from your garden, your bud vase might find a perfect spot on a night table in a guest room or powder room. The vases also make a great homemade present to give to your friends.

What's particularly fun about this is the huge array of variations you can do. You may want to make a collection in different colors or a collection of all the same flowers and decorations. Let your creativity take the driver seat and think of it like cooking, substituting ingredients here and there.

For this project, I used glass Christmas balls that were embossed with a raised bird design that I found at Tuesday Morning for \$4.99. You may be so lucky as to have a few boxes of glass Christmas balls in your attic that are looking for a breath of life. What's most important is that you are able to remove the hanging part of the decoration so that water and plant material can be added.

Here are the steps:



1. Gather your supplies. You will need a glue gun, an ornament, extra glue sticks and a coaster or something else that can hold the ornament. (I used a thick wood slice with bark around the edges. Driftwood, a ceramic dish or a terracotta dish from the bottom of a planter will also work).
2. For plant material, I used only what I could find in my backyard. Naturally, fresh flowers would raise the bar considerably but for this particular plan, I wanted to encourage fellow creators to look around their yards for

inspiration which also keeps the price low. Pictured is my tableau of moss, abelia, euonymus with bright red berries opening up, liriope (for the berries), dusty miller and salvia (the very last bloom of my 2020 garden). Here is another opportunity to be creative with so many options. You may just want to put in a few stems of one specific plant (holly, boxwood, cedar, pineapple salvia, etc.) or you may prefer to go more decorative and use a combination. You may want to make a batch or two while you have the tools and supplies out.





3. After you have all of your pieces assembled, put a generous blob of hot glue in the center of the coaster and put the ball on top. You can keep it centered or if you're feeling a bit crazy, set it slightly off kilter. Hold the ball in place for a minute. Next, lightly squiggle glue to the coaster around the base of the ball. Very carefully take the moss and cover the base of the coaster so no glue is showing. (Can you think of something else besides moss?)

4. Fill the container with water and then add your plant material. Here are a few examples of what I did but to be honest, my favorite is the simplest one with a stem in the center. What one do you like best?



*One stem of euonymus and red berries*



*Pineapple salvia with black berries of liriop*

Just a few words of caution (as learned by the author's trial and error):

1. If using glass, hold the ornaments gently or else they will shatter.
2. BE MINDFUL OF HOT GLUE. Genius in its effectiveness, getting glue on skin really, really hurts.
3. When cleaning the ornament, consider adding BB shot and gently swish or use a very small brush, like the kind used for steel straws.



*Euonymus and dusty miller*

*Note: Photos and Design by Samantha McCall*