

Christmas DIY by Maddie Younge

The holiday season is right around the corner! Are you in the need of some simple DIY Christmas Gifts? Recipes? Decorations? I have gathered some simple and some more challenging Do It Yourself ideas for your perfect Christmas. Down below, I have a set of three for recipes, gifts, and decorations. All ideas listed are from the wondrous app Pinterest and from myself! Enjoy the listings below and have a Merry Christmas with your family and friends!

Recipes:

Peanut Butter Blossoms

Ingredients: 1 ¾ cups of flour, 1 tsp. Of baking soda, ½ tsp. Salt, ½ cup of shortening, ½ cup of peanut butter, ½ cup of granulated sugar, ½ cup of brown sugar, 2 tbsp. Milk, 1 tsp. Vanilla extract, 1 egg, and a bag of Hershey's Kisses

Step 1: Preheat oven to 375°F

Step 2: Sift together your flour, baking soda, and salt into a small bowl

Step 3: Beat together your shortening, peanut butter, and brown sugar until everything is mixed well

Step 4: Add in your egg, milk, and vanilla. Beat until smooth

Step 5: Beat in flour mixture gradually

Step 6: Shape your dough into little balls, and roll them in a bowl with your granulated sugar in it (cover the ball entirely)

Step 7: Place the dough balls onto a cookie sheet and bake for 8 min.

Step 8: After you take out the cookies, immediately press a Hershey Kiss in the center of the cookie firmly; then put them back in the oven for another 2-5 min.

Cookie Dough Truffles



Ingredients: ½ cup butter (room temp), ½ cup brown sugar, ¼ cup granulated sugar, 1 tsp. Vanilla, 1 cup and 2 tbsp. flour, ½ tsp salt, ⅔ cup mini chocolate chips, 3 tbsp milk, and milk and or dark chocolate bars (chopped/minced)

Step 1: Line a baking sheet with parchment paper

Step 2: In a small bowl, whisk flour and salt

Step 3: Beat butter and sugars (brown and granulated) until fluffy; add in vanilla and mix until well combined

Step 4: Beat in flour mixture gradually

Step 5: Slowly beat in milk; then stir in the chocolate chips

Step 6: Roll the dough mixture into equally sized balls and set onto the baking sheet

Step 7: Freeze balls for 30 min.

Step 8: Melt the dark and milk chocolate chopped bars until it is completely liquified (set aside some chopped pieces if you desire to use some for a decoration on top)

Step 9: Remove cookie balls from the freezer and dip the cookies into the melted chocolate with a fork. Place back onto parchment sheet and add drizzle designs or sprinkle the chopped chocolate that was set aside

Step 10: Refrigerate for 15 min. To set and enjoy

Cinnamon Apple French Toast Casserole



Ingredients: 1 lb. loaf sourdough or french bread (cut into chunks), 3 cups chopped apples (roughly 2 apples), 8 eggs, 2 cups milk, ½ cup heavy whipping cream, ½ cup granulated sugar, ¼ cup brown sugar, 2 tbsp. Vanilla, and 1 ½ tsp. Cinnamon

Streusel topping ingredients: ¾ cup flour, ¾ brown sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1 ½ tsp apple pie spice, and ½ cup butter (cut into pieces)

Step 1: Grease a 9 by 13 inch casserole dish

Step 2: Combine the bread chunks and chopped apples and lay in an even layer in the bottom of the dish

Step 3: In a large bowl, whisk together the remaining ingredients, minus the streusel, and pour evenly over bread. Cover the casserole and store in the fridge overnight

Step 4: When ready to bake the casserole, preheat the oven to 350°F

Step 5: Bake the casserole for about 35-40 min

Step 6: While the casserole bakes, in another bowl, combine the dry ingredients for the streusel. Add the butter and mash into the dry mixture until it forms a crumbly mixture

Step 7: Remove the casserole from the oven and crumble the streusel over the top of the casserole

Step 8: Continue baking casserole for about 5 min or until the streusel is melted over the top

Step 9: Serve the casserole warm with syrup

DIY Gifts:

Homemade Ugly Christmas Sweater

Materials: big solid color wool sweater (any color), small jingle bells, fabric paint, any christmas related fabric stamp, hot iron, needle, and thread (matches the color of the sweater)

Step 1: Put the sweater round the end of an ironing board (make sure the side you want ironed is facing up)

Step 2: Grab the christmas stamp and place it where you want on the sweater. Make sure it is exact before ironing it on. Keep ironing for 5-15 min (until it is sealed on)

Step 3: If you feel the need to hand sew certain areas of the stamp do this step now

These next steps can be up to your personal preference on how you want to decorate your sweater

Step 4: Decorate the sweater with the paint and or other decorating items that will fasten to the sweater nicely

Step 5: Place jingle bells where you want them, and sew the top of the bell to the sweater

Step 6: Let the sweater dry and set

DIY Christmas Bath Bombs



Materials: 1 cup baking soda, 1 cup citric acid, 1 cup epsom (fine), ½ cup cornstarch, 4 tbsp coconut oil, 3 to 6 drops of fragrance (whatever you'd like for the Christmas season), 2 to 4 drops of red food coloring, green, red, and white pearl sprinkles, and a bath bomb mold (any spherical shaped mold)

- Step 1:** In a bowl, add in corn starch, citric acid, and baking soda; stir well
- Step 2:** Add in coconut oil and stir with a fork to keep light and fluffy
- Step 3:** Put half of the mixture in one bowl and the other half in another. Add fragrance to both bowls and coloring to one bowl. Stir well
- Step 4:** Using the spherical mold, add a few sprinkles and put in the reddish-toned mixture into one side, and the other mixture to the other
- Step 5:** Put together the mold and let it sit overnight to dry
- Step 6:** Carefully open the mold and you have your bath bomb

Picture Cubes

Materials: 4 inch wooden cube, mod podge photo transfer (medium), matte finish mod podge, foam or regular paint brushes, 4 inch square photocopies (whichever photos needed), White paint, and a washcloth

- Step 1:** Cover all sides of the cube with a generous amount of paint and set to dry
- Step 2:** Photocopy all of the pictures needed at the right size of the cube (make sure if your photo has text to photocopy it reversed)
- Step 3:** Coat the pictures with a thick layer of the Mod Podge photo transfer medium. Make it thick enough so you cannot see the image
- Step 4:** Lay down the image face down and smooth out with fingers
- Step 5:** Repeat steps 3-4 for all of your pictures and allow it to dry overnight
- Step 6:** Use a wet washcloth to saturate the papers on the cube
- Step 7:** Rub the cube with your thumb to remove the paper On all sides of the cube. Make sure to not rub so much that you remove the image underneath
- Step 8:** Let the cube dry and then coat it with a layer of mod podge matte finish to protect it. Set it to dry

DIY Decor:

DIY Christmas Ornaments

Materials: Red or silver ornament balls, crafter's paint, mini bells, glitter spray, and matte spray finish

- Step 1:** Find a design or phrase that you want on your ornament, and print out a copy if needed (this is optional, you may freehand as well)
- Step 2:** If desired, spray on the top or bottom some glitter spray paint; set to dry for a few hours so it does not mix with your design
- Step 3:** Paint on, carefully, your design or phrase with small detail brushes
- Step 4:** Set your design or phrase to dry overnight (if in a rush, wait for a few hours. Letting it set overnight is a more assured way of knowing it is 100% dry)
- Step 5:** Spray the ornament with matte finishing spray (clear) and let it set to dry
- Step 6 (optional):** Tie on mini bells to the top of the ornament for a little music!

Reindeer Balloons

Materials: Brown balloons, thin foam board, brown fabric (darker color than the balloon; woolly/cotton fabric), hot glue gun, Exacto knife, and craft paint

Step 1: Stretch out and blow up the balloons to your desired size

Step 2: Sketch out a design of a reindeer face on a sheet of paper. After you have your final design, carefully paint on the design onto the center of the brown balloon. Set to dry

Step 3: while waiting for the reindeer faces to dry, sketch out a pair of antlers onto a piece of paper, and then transmit it to the thin foam board. Carefully cut out the antler design with an Exacto knife

Step 4: With that same paper design, lay out the fabric and sketch the design on the fabric twice for each antler (add an inch of fabric to the antlers. To do this, just get a ruler and measure out an inch around one of the designs and cut it out)

Step 5: Wrap the fabric around the foam board and hot glue the two pieces together (if desired, you can add detail to the antlers with a black marker)

Step 6: Put hot glue along the bottom of the antlers and make sure it is mostly cooled before placing it on the balloons (you don't want the balloon to melt!). Make sure you know exactly where you want the antlers to go and you're done!

Christmas Mason Jars (Candles)



Materials: smooth sided mason jars, frosted glass spray paint, clear matte sealer, stick on letters or stick on designs, spray paint for the lids (optional), LED votive candles, and Wire ribbons, mini ornaments, and bells

Step 1: Place design or letter stickers on the jar, centered as best as possible (helpful tip: put tape at the very bottom of the jar to make sure the design is aligned with the bottom)

Step 2: Spray paint the jars with the frosted glass paint (light coats, let it dry for 15 minutes between coats). Let dry for at least 1 hour after the last coat before adding the clear matte sealer: let dry overnight

Step 3: If desired now is the time to spray paint the rings and lids, let dry for at least an hour

Step 4: Remove the stickers (pro tip: heat up the stickers with a hair dryer so it is easier to peel off and the paint won't scratch)

Step 5: Using wire ribbon, tie the bells and mini ornaments to the ribbon and wrap it around the top of the jar (twice)

Step 6: Add the LED votive to the bottom of the jar to see the candle glow