**Holiday Decorating and Table Decor Ideas**

**Orange Pomanders**

**Materials needed:**

Naval oranges

Whole cloves

Wooden skewers or other sharp object

Ribbon (optional)

**Directions:**

Use the skewer to make holes in the orange wherever you want to put the cloves. You could make a design or cover the whole orange in cloves if desired. Put a clove into each hole. You can wrap a ribbon around the orange to hang it up or you could place the oranges in a bowl to make a pretty and fragrant tabletop decoration.

If you want to display your pomander for more than just a few days, it is recommended that you use spices to help preserve it and keep it from getting moldy. One technique involves mixing a tablespoon of cinnamon, ground cloves, and nutmeg with a few drops of sandalwood oil in a paper bag and putting the finished orange into the bag and rolling it in the spices so it is coated. Leave the orange in the bag and let it dry out, rolling it in spices every day and checking for mold.

Another technique is to cover the orange in cloves and then a mixture of ¼ cup ground cinnamon, ¼ cup ground cloves, 2 Tbsp. ground nutmeg, 2 Tbsp. ground allspice and ¼ cup powdered orrisroot (may be available at natural food stores).

Inspiration for this project:

<http://abbyandjuddlangham.blogspot.com/2009/11/christmas-pomanders.html>

<http://www.sheknows.com/home-and-gardening/articles/1570/easy-to-make-pomanders>

<http://www.simplebites.net/how-to-make-spiced-orange-pomander-balls/>

**Ornament Vase Centerpiece**

**Materials needed:**

Glass vase

Ornaments in various sizes and color scheme of your choice

Artificial snow or Epsom salt (optional)

Decorative pine cones and greenery (optional)

**Directions:**

Make this easy ornament vase in minutes by using ornaments you already have on hand or that you can purchase cheaply at stores like Dollar Tree or Wal-Mart. I bought a tall cylinder vase for .97 at Wal-Mart and used some of my own ornaments for this project. The snow cost less than $3 at Pat Catan’s. You can purchase artificial snow covered pine cones and other wintry floral pieces inexpensively at Pat Catan’s too.

If you are using fake snow, put some snow in the bottom of the vase and then layer ornaments by size to get the effect you want. The nice thing about this kind of display is that you can easily change it to match your color scheme and you can reuse everything.

Inspiration for this project:

<http://frugalwifewealthylife.blogspot.com/2010/12/decorating-for-holidays-on-budget.html>

**Thankful Tree**

**Materials needed:**

Vase

Branches (real or artificial)

Artificial leaves, pine cones, fall colored floral gems, etc. (optional)

Paper leaves

String or ribbon

Hole punch

Pen or pencil

**Directions:**

Fill a vase with branches. If desired, first put artificial leaves, pine cones, etc. in the bottom of the vase. Print out the leaf template (see link below) on fall colored paper or trace onto construction paper and cut out. Punch holes in leaves. Cut small pieces of string or ribbon. Guests can write what they are thankful for on the leaf and hang on the tree.

I used this template for the leaves:

<http://liagriffith.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/FallLeaves.pdf>

Inspiration for this project:

<http://thehappyhousewife.com/home-management/how-to-make-thankful-tree/>