

ORNAMENT TREATS YOU CAN EAT



FAMILY FEATURES

As you set out to make this a holiday to remember, your creativity doesn't have to be limited to your craft room. Let your imagination loose in other areas, such as the kitchen, for delicious treats that taste as good as they look.

These simple pretzel candies, created by the crafting experts at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, are sure to be a hit, whether you let them brighten up the dessert table at a holiday party or package them in clear cellophane with a bold bow for a sweet gift.

Look for more ideas to spread holiday cheer throughout the house at joann.com.

Easy Christmas Ornament Pretzel Treats

Prep time: 1-2 hours

Skill level: No experience necessary

Makes: 12 pieces

4 ounces Red Candy Melts
Candy
4 ounces Dark Green Candy Melts Candy
2 ounces Bright White Candy Melts Candy
Christmas nonpareils
Gold sugar pearls
Pretzel rings
Granulated sugar
Mini marshmallows

Wilton food-crafting supplies:
Parchment paper
Cookie sheet
12-inch disposable decorating bags
Food-safe scissors

Place pretzels on parchment paper-covered cookie sheet.

Melt red and green candy, separately, in disposable decorating bags according to package directions. Cut small point off tip of disposable decorating bag. Use melted candy to fill hole in pretzels. Allow to cool in refrigerator, about 10-15 minutes. Reserve remaining melted red and green candy.

Dip food-safe scissors in granulated sugar. Cut 1/8-inch off top and back of marshmallows.

Melt white candy in disposable decorating bag according to package directions. Use candy to attach marshmallows to top of pretzel ornaments. Allow to cool in refrigerator, about 3-5 minutes. Reserve remaining melted white candy.

Use reserved melted white candy to pipe line across top and bottom of pretzels. Add nonpareils. Use melted red or green candy to pipe line across the center of ornaments. Allow to cool in refrigerator, about 3-5 minutes.

Use melted green or red candy to pipe lines across top and bottom of pretzels. Use melted white candy to pipe line across the center. Add gold sugar pearls. Allow to cool in refrigerator, about 3-5 minutes.

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HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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A holiday-ready home is filled with small touches that celebrate the season. Welcome guests with these easy DIY projects that lend an extra special feel to your home.

Extend a warm greeting with a faux fur wreath that dresses up the front door, such as this design from the crafting experts at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores. Then, put some empty Mason jars to use with a display perfect for an entryway table or ledge. Make it even prettier by nestling the jars among some evergreen branches and finish them off with a pretty bow or twine.

Find more ideas for DIY projects to spruce up your home this holiday season at joann.com.

Pompom Fur Wreath

Crafting time: Weekend project
Skill level: Some experience necessary

Supplies and Tools:

Pompom makers: 2 1/2-inch, 3 3/8-inch, 4 1/2-inch

Bernat Softee Chunky Yarn: Grey Heather, Taupe Grey, Natural (2 skeins each)

Scissors
Hard foam tubular 12-inch wreath

Bernat Faux Fur Pompoms: Grey Lynx, White Rabbit (2 each)

Hot gun and glue sticks
T-pins or 2-inch pins with pearl heads

Decorative ribbon: 2 1/2-inch-by-12-foot, blue-grey

Follow directions on pompom maker packages to create three different sizes of poms of various colors using chunky yarn. If desired, mix yarn to give some pompoms a speckled look. Make about 50-60, depending on the fullness of the desired look.

After making pompoms, place pompoms around wreath, varying sizes and incorporating fur pompoms, as well. The overall look should be a kind of hilly terrain look to give it depth.

Once desired placement has been

achieved, glue them in place with hot glue. If needed, secure poms with T-pins or pearlhead pins.

Using blue/grey decorative ribbon, create a bow with trailing ends and glue in place with hot glue.

Rose Gold Holiday Mason Jars

Crafting time: 1-2 hours
Skill level: No experience necessary

Supplies and Tools:

Smooth Mason jars
Jelly jars
Rose gold spray paint
Provided templates: Deer head, tree, snowflake

Scissors
Pencil
Sharpie

Detail paintbrush
White enamel paint
Gold acrylic paint

Medium flat paintbrush
Scrap strips of fabric
Baker's twine

Lightly spray inside or outside of smooth Mason jars and jelly jars with rose gold spray paint. Allow each coat to dry completely.

Locate templates at joann.com by searching for the project title; print templates and trim shapes. If the outside of the jar was spray painted, trace the shape with a pencil. If the inside of the jar was spray painted, trace the shape on the glass with a Sharpie.

Fill in each design using a detail brush and white enamel paint. Apply additional coats as necessary.

Paint jar rims gold.
Apply a thin layer or dry brush gold acrylic paint on jelly jars for added texture and dimension.

Embellish jars by making bows and knots with scrap strips of fabric or baker's twine around rims of jars. Fill with sprigs of dried flowers or branches or other seasonal decorations, or for jars painted on the outside, fill with candies or treats for an edible gift.

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Exploring the colors of Christmas

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Decorations adorning homes and businesses in the familiar colors of red and green are popular come the holiday season. Even gift wrap, greeting cards and clothing tend to lean toward red and green as the holiday season hits full swing. It is difficult to think of Christmas without envisioning everything awash in these popular colors, broken up only by the inclusion of gold, white or silver accents.

The colors of Christmas are often taken for granted, and many celebrants are unaware of how these colors became symbols of

the holiday season and why they remain so to this day.

Several theories exist as to why red and green became the hallmarks of Christmas. One such theory is that the colors evolved from pagan celebrations similar to the evolution of Christmas traditions. Prior to the arrival of Christianity, many cultures viewed the color green as the symbol of life. It is believed that, during harsh winters, evergreen trees were cut down and brought indoors to symbolize that life still exists and thrives despite the cold and darkness of winter. Other pagan holidays featured the use of green, red and gold, including the festival of Yule.

As Christianity spread across Europe and eventually other parts of the world, red and green were linked to Jesus Christ. Green still represented life, but now this was the eternal life offered by Christ. Red was said to symbolize sacrifice, namely the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross. Some Christians believe that Jesus wore a crown of holly thorns whose berries were originally white. As Jesus' blood touched the berries, they turned red.

Some theorize that the red of the holiday season represents the apples on the tree of paradise in the Garden of Eden. Around the

14th century, the faithful would put on Paradise Plays on December 24 to share the story of creation with those who could not read. It is nearly impossible to find a fruit-bearing apple tree in the winter, so a pine tree adorned with red apples was used instead. Bishops also wore red robes, further tying the color red to religious masses and celebrations.

Gold is frequently used in holiday decorations as well. Gold can represent the sun and light, both important ways to ward off the dark winter. In addition, gold was one of the gifts brought to baby Jesus, making it a color of significance within the Christian faith.

Red and green poinsettias also are a symbol of the holiday season, but they didn't start the colorful tradition. Poinsettias are a relatively recent addition to Christmas symbolism, as they were only first introduced to America in 1828, when they were brought back from Mexico by Joel Poinsett.

The holiday season is filled with many different colors that brighten up homes and businesses. Combined with the many twinkling lights used on displays, red and green decorations can add vitality to the dark days of December.



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