

Christmas Tree Centerpiece



Create a Christmas tree centerpiece for your holiday table or enjoy as a holiday decoration year after year.

Materials Needed:

- Decorative Papers
- Styrofoam Tree
- Wood Dowel (½" or larger)
- Plaster of Paris
- Disposable Rubber Gloves
- Small Metal or Terra Cotta Pot
- White Tacky Glue
- Decoupage Medium (matte)
- Disposable Plastic Plate
- Brushes
- UV Spray
- Acrylic Sealer Spray
- Felt
- Acrylic Paints (Optional)
- Small Ornaments (Optional)

Mark the center on the bottom of your tree and draw a circle the same diameter as your wooden dowel. Carefully dig at least an inch or two into the tree, where the dowel will eventually be inserted. Cut the wooden dowel to your preferred length (approximately 8" for a 10" Styrofoam tree; 12" for a 15-18" tree). Tape the dowel to the bottom of the metal or terra cotta pot. Follow the directions on the plaster of Paris container and fill the pot at least ½ full. You might need to prop the dowel up straight while the plaster hardens. (Sometimes the terra cotta pots develop a small crack from the plaster--it is no big deal. They will be tightly covered with paper and glue so they are not going to fall apart.)

Rip your paper into 3-4" pieces, removing any cut edges and make a pile. If you are anxious to start, don't forget to put on your rubber gloves! Mix your decoupage medium with a little water in the disposable plastic container. You can either dip your papers into the medium, or brush the medium directly onto the Styrofoam tree and apply the dry papers. We use a combination of both. Just make sure to overlap the layers as you go and get a good even coverage. Cover the bottom of the tree, leaving the hole open. Set the tree aside to dry.

After the plaster has set, coat the top 2" of the dowel with tacky glue and put some of the tacky glue into the hole of the tree. Push the tree down onto the dowel to the desired height. Make sure the tree is straight. Apply small pieces of paper from the bottom of the tree onto and down the dowel, over the

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plaster, and on all sides of the container. Cut the felt for the bottom and glue into place. At this point, if you are satisfied with the coverage and have used colored decorative papers, apply UV spray to help protect against fading. Finish the tree with a coat of Acrylic Sealer. You can add tree toppers and/or other ornaments if you like. Our attitude is that applying paper is just the beginning.

Tree #1 (Red and Green)

The tree and dowel were covered with Silky Lace Green (I-3624), and the base was covered with Reversible Red/Green (TRU-2223). Embossed Whirls (TE-2820) was torn closely to the edges, applied, and painted with acrylic paints. A little red and green glitter paint was added for a little extra holiday magic, and to camouflage imperfections.

Tree #2 (Red)

The tree, dowel, and container were covered with Metallic Gold (TM-2170), and then a layer of Red Ogura Lace (JR-1548) was added. Natural color Boda Leaves were applied with decoupage medium. A few red map tacks in the right size were glued in to place as finishing touches—beads on straight pins would work equally as well, just don't forget a spot of glue to keep them from falling out of the Styrofoam.

Tree #3 (Green)

Even though Styrofoam trees are available in taller sizes, the diameters do not vary much. To make the tree more proportionate to the base, and to create a slightly more interesting shape, we used some flexible Styrofoam tubing. After the tubing was glued into place, and a layer of Confetti Royale Green (TC-2990) applied, the tree was attached to the base. The ultra rich color is achieved with layer upon layer of the papers and separate metallic pieces, and a coating of gloss UV liquid. To enhance the horizontal pattern created by the tubing, costume jewelry and chains were glued into place. Bells were placed on the bottom chain using jewelry connectors.

If you decide to use these trees as inspiration for your own centerpieces, please send us photos of your finished project. We would love to see them. Questions or comments are welcomed.