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Hand-Paint Christmas Glassware

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You have knitted socks for Dad and Brother Bill and have made the prettiest apron for Sister Sue but for Mom, why not give her a set of hand-painted (by you) Christmas glassware to make it a "completely did-it-myself" Christmas?

To paint on glass is a wonderful hobby—simple and inexpensive. Select an appropriate pattern, perhaps a holly design from one of last year's Christmas cards; then gather these supplies, most of which you will have around the house:

- set of 8 plain glass luncheon plates
- water color brushes
- can of clear varnish which acts as a fixing agent
- can of turpentine
- newspaper
- roll of cellophane tape
- piece of glass about the size of a small window pane
- box of tissues
- old table knife
- basic selection of oil paints—lamp black, white undercoating, American vermilion, chrome yellow (light), cobalt blue, and chrome green.

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Spread newspaper out on a table and arrange materials within easy reach. Put liquids in small containers such as custard cups or old muffin tins.
2. Select desired colors or mix those needed and put small amounts on the piece of glass which serves as a palette.
3. Using a knife, mix the oil paints with a few drops of varnish depending on the amount of paint you use. Do not mix to a runny consistency.
4. Attach design securely with cellophane tape on underside of plate. Choose a place on the plate which will not be covered with food so that design will show.
5. Dip a brush lightly in varnish and then in paint. Apply to plate which should be held at about a 45-degree angle with your body. Sit in a comfortable chair and rest your forearm on the table.
6. Outline, if you wish, a small part of the design and then fill in and complete the rest of the design. Wipe any excess paint or "mistakes" off immediately with a tissue. And if you find the paint on the palette drying, add a little more varnish.
7. Mix and apply all other colors in the same manner and when you have finished, put your plates in an open place where they can dry thoroughly. Do not stack.
8. Clean brushes and glass palette with turpentine and warm water and soap. Dispose of newspapers, tissues and used paints and liquids.