Create Your Christmas

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Create Your

Some of the best ways to share the Christmas spirit are to send greeting cards designed by you and to decorate your room with your own inventions.

Quite different from the conventional Christmas candles or holly wreaths are free-swinging mobiles which effectively flutter your season’s greetings. A modern idea, these moving designs are ones that you can make from assorted odds and ends: knitting needles of wood and metal, Christmas tree balls, bright yard, greeting cards, a novelty bow, a tinkling bell and other things that will make your mobile look festive.

The true mobile is the perfectly balanced one. To achieve this, you should begin your construction from the bottom. With Scotch tape secure a gadget to each end of the first knitting needle. Then you are ready to loop yarn around the knitting needle. Holding the free end of the yarn, dangle the needle from it. You can move the loop back and forth until the needle is level and doesn’t tip. Secure the loop at this point with Scotch tape.

Now you are ready to hang all of this on one end of the next needle and fasten some ornament at the other. With a second piece of yarn you can find the exact center of balance for the second needle. In this manner you can build the mobile to the top, the top being where you, the designer, want it to be. Build the other side by the same method.

Christmas

by Karla Baur
Home Economics Sophomore

Then you should fasten two knitting needles together with yarn and reinforce with tape. Now is the time for you to tie one mobile section to each end of the extended knitting needles. Finally you should suspend your construction well out in space so it will move freely and remain balanced.

Designing your own greeting cards will produce interesting results, too. Home-manufactured Christmas cards are more original and cheaper than the store variety.

A heavy quality paper is better for Christmas cards than regular typing paper. To give a neater appearance to the finished card, you can substitute clear fingernail polish, which holds indefinitely, for paste.

Now to get down to a few specific inspirations for your homemade Christmas cards. A complex card where parts of several photographs are combined to produce an unusual effect is a version of the favorite photograph card. The various elements of this card may be combined photographically or may be pasted together. The cost of this project is difficult to estimate accurately, but if a commercial photofinisher does the work, each card will cost about ten cents. This is no more than one usually pays for Christmas cards, and these will be uniquely your own.

If you wish to paint your cards, choose simple subjects. You also can draw pen and ink sketches, make caricatures of people or use Christmas symbols. The varying widths of pen points available at stationery stores make designs fun to draw. You can achieve a similar result by creating stylized designs of colored cellophane tape on Christmas cards.

Turning out your own hand painted card is easy with a soap eraser stamp. First, you should cut a large soap eraser to suit the size of the designs. Then you can draw a design on thin paper and run a pencil over the back. Remember to reverse the letters. Next you transfer the design to the block and with a razor cut along the design outline and scoop away the outside surface.

For printing, you should mix one jar of flat white tempera to your water colors to give more body. A brush is handy to swish the paint across the stamp, and that is all you need in equipment. You can experiment on scrap paper until you are able to spread colors evenly.

Greeting card designs can be patterned to fit any mood, gay or serious, so let original Christmas cards chorus their holiday sentiments to your friends.

For Christmas Giving

Choose from lovely selections of fine Diamond Jewelry. Watches, Silver, China and Crystal.

Plumb's name on the box adds much to the gift, but nothing to the cost.

Your Charge Account is cordially invited

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Plumb's name on the box adds much to the gift, but nothing to the cost.

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