

## **Cranberry Vase**

ANGELO SURMELIS

Items:

- Two clear glass vases or tall bowls of similar size, but one slightly smaller in diameter and height than the other (one should fit into the other)
- Favorite flowers, preferably white
- Fresh cranberries

1. Fill smaller vase with water and place inside large one.
2. Fill gap between the vases with cranberries all the way to the top, so smaller vase is no longer visible.
3. Arrange flowers in the center vase.

# Red Ornaments

ANGELO SURMELIS

Items:

- Old red holiday ornaments in various sizes.
- Clear, hollow candlesticks, trifle dishes and clear vases of different sizes
- Piece of sturdy cardboard

1. Turn candlesticks upside down and fill from the bottom opening with small red ornaments. Then cover opening with cardboard and turn candlesticks back upright (cardboard will keep ornaments from dropping out as candlesticks are turned over.) Once they are upright, slide cardboard out and discard.

2. Fill clear vases, bowls or trifle dishes of different sizes with ornaments.

3. Group the pieces together for maximum impact.

# Holiday Mirror

JENNIFER BERTRAND

Items:

- Small, framed mirror from craft store (unfinished wood frame)
- Primer
- Acrylic paint (two colors of your choice)
- Artists' brushes (2)
- Stencils (optional)
- Decorative glass balls (small)
- Faux cranberry branches
- Craft adhesive
- Candle(s) (optional)

1. Remove mirror from the frame to avoid getting paint on it. (It will pop out easily, like a photo in a picture frame with tabs holding it in place.)
2. Prime wooden frame to ensure that paint will stick
3. Paint frame a solid color using an artist's brush.
4. Using a second color, paint or stencil a design onto the frame. Get creative, says Bertrand, by stenciling words from a favorite holiday song or a message to loved ones. (Optional: After painting, spray frame with water-based polyurethane and allow to dry following the directions on can.)
5. Once frame is dry, put mirror back inside.
6. Remove hooks from the glass balls (so that balls are open at one end), then glue the balls onto the frame using a craft adhesive. Create any sort of pattern you'd like, clustering them together or sprinkling just a few on the frame. Balls located in the corners can be turned with their openings upward and used as tiny bud vases.
7. Cut faux cranberry branches to a smaller size to fit into the bud vases. Or cut individual cranberries off the branches and glue them in a decorative band around balls that have been attached to the frame.
8. With the mirror lying flat on a table, place one or more candles in the center to create a centerpiece. If you'd prefer to hang the mirror, leave the center empty.

# Table Top Wreath Centerpiece

FRANK FONTANA

Items:

- Old red Christmas balls (medium to small) and a few gold and bronze for additional color
- Cranberry garland
- Shimmery or glittered gold and bronze leaves pulled off other old ornaments for filler
- Foam floral ring as a base
- Hot glue gun
- Spray paint in antique gold color

1. Spray paint foam floral ring gold.
2. Once dry, wrap cranberry garland around floral ring to evenly cover as much of surface as possible
3. Randomly insert red ornaments into sides of foam ring using hot glue and slight pressure (be careful not to damage the ornaments).
4. Glue leaves on to fill in blank areas of ring.
5. Fill center of the ring with extra red, gold and bronze ornaments. (You can also fill the open center area with a bowl of holiday candy or guacamole.)

# Holiday Cranberry Vase

FRANK FONTANA

Items:

- Fake decorative cranberries
- Small glass vase
- Spray paint in antique gold color
- Hot glue gun
- Two Christmas ornaments (to be used inside the vase)
- Cinnamon sticks
- Gold ribbon

1. Carefully spray inside of vase gold and let dry.
2. Using glue gun, adhere cranberries to the vase until it is completely covered.
3. Insert ornaments and cinnamon sticks.
4. Use gold ribbon to create a decorative bow on the front.

# Cranberry Photo Vase

JOHN GIDDING

Items:

- Cranberries (preferably fake, though dried would work)
- Plastic jewels (or glittery ornaments)
- Large cylindrical vase
- Plastic foam half-sphere that fits into vase
- Pearl-tipped pins
- 3-5 family photos (preferably black-and-white)
- Red acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Newspapers to protect work area

1. Paint the plastic foam half-sphere red (so that when cranberries are pinned to it, any plastic foam showing though won't be obvious).

2. Line inside of vase with photos.

3. Fill the vase with cranberries and the sparkling ornaments to a few inches below rim.

4. Using pearl-tipped pins, pin cranberries in orderly rows on painted plastic foam, until it is covered.

5. Place cranberry dome on top of the cranberries in vase.

6. Display as a centerpiece, on mantelpiece or in foyer as a welcoming decoration.

# Cranberry and Christmas Ball Clock

JOHN GIDDING

Items:

- Fake cranberries
- A dozen small red Christmas balls
- Hot glue gun
- Straight pins
- Twig or branch wreath
- Plastic foam ring (medium, to fit within wreath), and plastic foam disk (small, to fit inside ring)
- Clock mechanism (available in crafts stores)
- Silver gel pen
- Red acrylic paint
- Paintbrush

1. Paint plastic foam pieces red.

2. To create the clock numbers: Using glue gun, attach a sprinkling of cranberries on the twig wreath in groups of two or three, and attach a few single cranberries farther out on the branches. While it dries, write the numbers 1 through 12 using the silver gel pen on the red Christmas balls. (Practice writing the numbers attractively on paper first.) Affix the numbered balls sequentially onto outer area of twig wreath (Christmas balls with a small wire attached are easiest to use, but they can also be glued on).

3. To create the middle ring of the clock face: Pin cranberries in neat rows to completely cover plastic foam ring.

4. To create the inside ring of the clock face: Affix the clock mechanism to the plastic foam disk as the face of the clock, and pin cranberries to edge of the disk (so they don't impede the movement of the clock hands).

5. To put it together: Attach cranberry ring to the wall where you'd like to display the clock, then affix the twig wreath so that it fits around the ring. Affix the clock face and mechanism in the very middle of the ring.

# **Wine Glass “Jewelry”**

KIM MYLES

Items:

- Wine or martini glasses
- 8 (per glass) mini Christmas ball ornaments (pre-wired)

1. Create a strand of mini Christmas balls by twisting one ball onto the wire of a second ball. Keep the balls close together, like pearls on a necklace. (You don't want to see excess wire.)
2. Keep adding balls until you've strung eight together.
3. Wrap the strand of balls around the base of the glass several times, securing the wire ends together to keep it in place.

# Cranberry “Gift” Place Card

KIM MYLES

Items:

- Empty clear acrylic box
- Ribbon
- Fresh Cranberries
- Name tag

1. Fill the box with cranberries.
2. Wrap the ribbon around it as you would a normal present.
3. Add the name tag, then place on top of each guest's plate.