

Lihore



DIY 'Frozen'

HOLIDAY DECORATING WITH ELSA, ANNA AND OLAF IN MIND **E8**

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A Christmas stocking with design and colors that say "Frozen."



HEATHER WALSH

Merry 'Frozen' C

DIYers are adding the movie's magic to their holiday decor

BY SYLVIA E. KING-COHEN
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Maybe you were too late to snatch up "Frozen" ornaments at Hallmark or searched in vain for Sven-like reindeer stuffed animals to display around your home. Don't worry, you can still get your supply of Olaf-worthy "warm hugs" this holiday season. Why not hang handmade Elsa and Anna ornaments from the tree? Or spread a little cheer the moment someone knocks on the door decked with an Olaf wreath you make yourself?

If you're the least bit crafty — or even if you aren't — ornaments, wreaths and other ideas inspired by the Disney blockbuster film are as close as your DIYer fingertips.

"Doing crafts are my stress reliever," says Anne Caminiti, 29, of Centereach, who writes the Momee Friends of Long Island blog (momeefriendsli.com) and also has a website (momeefriends.com). She says elder daughter, Mia, 3, is obsessed with everything "Frozen." "I save everything: cardboard tubes, tissue boxes, everything," says Caminiti, who uses them to make "Frozen"-inspired items at home. "If she smiles and loves it, I know it is a successful craft."

Caminiti is gearing up for the holidays by making a tree skirt and snow-measuring stick inspired by Olaf, the ever-optimistic snowman in the film. She also is crafting a statue, some ornaments and even place mats in Sven the reindeer's likeness.

"I'm always trying to figure out how to make things inexpen-

sive-ly, and things parents can do with their kids," says Caminiti, who adds that Mia works on all projects except those using a glue gun or sewing machine.

"I try to make a lot of no-sew things 'cause a lot of people are scared of using a sewing machine," she says.

SEW, SEW EASY

If you're new to crafting, you may want to take one of the workshops offered by your local Jo-Ann Fabrics (joann.com/stores). Classes include everything from teaching children and adults how to sew to more challenging crafts like making a blanket, table runner, place mats and clothing. With Christmas just around the corner, staffers are turning their creative minds to making it a merry "Frozen" Christmas under the tree and around the house.

Gorkin adds that the place mat, which has more pieces, takes about two hours to complete.

"If you don't want to sew

"We have both the official 'Frozen' fabrics and fabrics we feel go well with the 'Frozen' theme," says Phil Gorkin, 46, store manager of Jo-Ann Fabrics in Commack. "Even with my limited sewing skills, I could finish a table runner in an hour and a half," he says.

Gorkin adds that the place mat, which has more pieces, takes about two hours to complete.

"If you don't want to sew

something, you could trim your wreath or use fabric strips to make a wreath," Gorkin says. "You could use little strips of fabric to tie the silverware together."

He says the projects also can be done with fabric glue or adhesive fabric tape "if you're good with an iron."

Try adorning your project with a popular, inspirational saying from the movie, such as "It's funny how some distance makes

everything seem small," or ". . . test the limits and break through."

Staffers also can offer help matching complementary fabrics.

GETTING A HEAD START

Stefanie Schwaner, 35, of Holtsville and elder son Robert, 4½, started in May making fused glass Olaf ornaments at Paint a Piece Pottery in Commack (paintapiecepottery.com) as Christmas gifts for family.

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THE STARS OF THE SHOW
Elsa (on the cover) and Anna, along with paint swatches, fabric and other items for decorating with a "Frozen" theme.



Christmas



Anna and Elsa ornaments are popular tree decorations this year.

“We made 16,” Schwaner says of making two or three ornaments a month. “He was so proud he has already told everyone what they’re getting.”

Schwaner, Robert and 2-year-old Ryan, a fellow “Frozen” fan, also used clear ornaments to paint pictures of Olaf and add such sayings as “Do you want to build a snowman?” and “Sending you warm hugs this holiday.”

But if the whole household isn’t into “Frozen,” you might have to say “Let It Go” to the idea of turning your home into a tribute to the movie. Or you could try creating decor that whispers, rather than screams, “Frozen.”

UNDERSTATED, ELEGANT

If you share a home with a “Frozen” fan but don’t want your holiday decor overwhelmed, designer Wendy Lepkoff, owner of Wendy Interiors in Baldwin Harbor, suggests touches that hint at the movie rather than shout it. “When your inspiration for

the room is something as recognizable as ‘Frozen,’ less is more,” says Lepkoff, whose grandchildren actually keep a set of the dolls at her house awaiting their visits. “If you cram too much into the space, it ends up looking like a hodgepodge, giving the eye too much to look at.”

Instead, Lepkoff suggests using the colors of the outfits — green, black and pink for Anna, and turquoise, silver and white for Elsa. In a child’s room, she would include an accent wall in one of the colors or paint the trim, door and molding one of the colors. In the common rooms, add a pillow or throw in complementary colors. Why all the effort? Because “some people are worth melting for,” as Olaf tells Anna.

“Someone into ‘Frozen’ will recognize it immediately,” Lepkoff explains. “Someone not into ‘Frozen’ will just see it as an interesting holiday touch.”

Make your own decorations

Tackling “Frozen” decor is as easy as 1-2-3, with a little help and planning. Here are ideas to add to your holiday decorations worthy of “warm hugs,” as Olaf says.

OLAF WREATH

SUPPLIES

12-inch plastic foam wreath
White acrylic paint
Blue glitter
1 roll of 1-inch-wide ribbon
White foam pieces
2 plastic snowflake ornaments
5 sticks from outside trees (for arms and hair)
1 sheet of blue paper
Black Sharpie marker
Orange Sharpie marker
Paintbrush
Scissors
Hot glue gun

DIRECTIONS

(Courtesy of reader/blogger Anne Caminiti of Centereach)

1. Paint wreath white, and while it is wet, sprinkle the blue glitter on top, then let dry.
2. Wrap the dry wreath in ribbon.
3. Cut white foam into pieces that will form Olaf; large circle, medium circle and Olaf-shaped head, two small circles for the feet.
4. Hot-glue them together to make Olaf.
5. Using black Sharpie, draw Olaf’s face and buttons on his body.
6. Color in the nose with the orange marker.
7. Cut blue paper into two pieces in a wave shape. Write “warm” on one and “hugs” on the other.
8. Glue the paper onto the wreath along with the snowflakes.
9. Attach twigs for arms and hair.



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TABLE RUNNER

This reversible table runner does double duty, with one side distinctly “Frozen” and the other silvery and elegant. Check your local Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts store for a schedule of sewing classes for the runner and matching napkins and place mats.

SUPPLIES

84 inches of fabric (if making a reversible runner, buy equal lengths of two fabrics)
Twice that length of fringe edging, plus an additional 24 inches
Needles and complementary thread
Fabric tape or fabric glue (if you want to do less sewing)

DIRECTIONS

(Courtesy Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts)

1. Cut two pieces of fabric about 24 inches longer than the table you want to cover and about one-third the width of the table. For example, a 36-by-60-inch table would have a finished runner about 12 inches wide and 84 inches long, allowing for the 12-inch overhang on both ends. So, cut the fabric 14 inches wide and 86 inches long to allow for 1-inch seams. These pieces can be of either the same fabric or complementary fabrics.
2. Place pieces of fabric right-sides together. Starting on one side and leaving a 1-inch seam, sew the two pieces of runner together, leaving about a 6-inch opening to enable you to turn the fabric inside out.
3. Open seam and iron flat, so edges will lie flat. At the corners, trim fabric to within about ¼ inch from stitching so fabric doesn’t bunch up when you turn it right-side out.
4. Turn runner right-side out. With small hand stitches, close opening.
5. Iron runner on both sides with warm — not hot — iron.
6. Sew or use fabric tape or fabric glue to attach fringe along the edges of runner.

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