

Greetings Everyone-

Some of my favorite Christmas decorations come from this book. It is an old book, but it is available from the library or as a used book on Amazon for under \$10. I have included instructions for two ornaments – Cinnamon spice bundles and Spiced orange decorations. You can make the ornaments for your tree this year and save them for the fair next year! For the Manitowoc County Fair they fall under Home Environment/Home Furnishings, Department 28.

Have fun!

-Kevin



Cinnamon spice bundles

☆☆☆ LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

With its distinctly warm, aromatic smell, cinnamon spice can instantly create a familiar festive scent in any room. Golden-red cinnamon sticks, which are actually pieces of bark from the evergreen cinnamon tree, are easy to purchase and make striking natural decorations. Try finding long cinnamon sticks to make these spice bundles for your Christmas tree.



1 Secure the cinnamon sticks in a bundle with the elastic band. Thread the wire under the elastic band and secure it tightly in a loop.



2 Thread a nutmeg onto the raffia, down to one end. Tie a knot in the end of the raffia to secure the nutmeg. Repeat at the other end.



3 Wrap the raffia around the cinnamon bundle a couple of times so that the elastic band is completely hidden. Secure in a knot.



4 Glue the star anise onto the front of the orange slice, then glue the orange slice onto the raffia so that it covers the knot.

materials

For each decoration

- 6–8 cinnamon sticks
- 1 recycled elastic band
- Length of thin wire, approximately 6 in (15 cm) long
- 2 nutmegs with a hole drilled through the center of each (use a clamp and fine-bore drill bit)
- Length of recycled natural raffia, about 20 in (50 cm) long
- Eco-friendly adhesive glue
- 1 star anise
- 1 dried orange slice (p. 65)

Spiced orange decorations

☆☆☆ LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

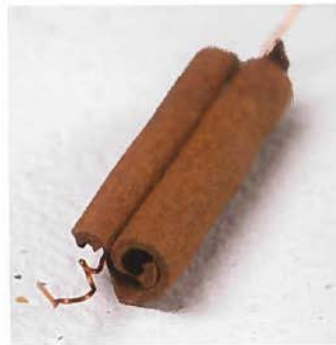
Even after they have been dried thoroughly, oranges retain enough of an aroma to fill a room for many days with their citrus scent. Their mellow orange hues and cylindrical shape also means that they make naturally attractive decorations, especially when hung from the vibrant green branches of a real conifer tree.



1 Glue the star anise onto the front of the orange slice, and the bay leaf onto the back. Secure a length of wire in a loop at the top of the orange.



2 Stick cloves into the clementine in a pattern. Push a skewer through the fruit, thread wire through the hole and secure one end in a loop.



3 Thread wire lengthways through the cinnamon stick. Bend one end over, thread the other end through the clementine loop, and secure.



4 Attach the loose wire at the top of the clementine to the orange slice. The three parts should now all be joined together by wire.

materials

For each decoration

- Eco-friendly adhesive glue
- 1 star anise
- 1 dried orange slice
- 1 flat, dried bay leaf
- Several lengths of thin wire
- A handful of cloves
- 1 dried, whole clementine
- Skewer or knitting needle
- 1 cinnamon stick

Craft tip

Dehydrating fruits

Arrange the slices and whole fruits in a single layer on a piece of cheesecloth on a wire rack. Leave to dry in a very low oven or a warm cabinet, which can take 48 hours or longer. (See page 311 for more information on drying fruits.)