

Drop Dead Ornaments

NO-CRAFTING-TALENT-REQUIRED GLASS BALL ORNAMENTS

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(Find more Christmas ornament designs on Anastasia's Killer Crafts & Crafty Killers blog.)

With only a few basic craft supplies (available at craft stores, fabric stores, and online) and a minimal amount of time, even readers who claim they were born without a crafting gene will be able to create these decorative and sophisticated-looking Christmas ornaments.

Note: All the ornaments will require a piece of ribbon for hanging. You'll need approximately 9"-12" of 1/4"-1/2" wide satin or grosgrain ribbon in a complementary color. As an alternative to the ribbon, you can use yarn, twine, thin braid, or a thin strip of fabric.

Marbled Paint Ornament

Materials: clear glass ball ornament, 2-3 colors DecoArt Americana Crystal Gloss Enamel paint (or any glass paint in squeeze bottles), disposable plastic cup

Carefully remove the metal cap from the glass ball.

Squeeze a small amount of paint into the glass ornament. Rotate the ball to swirl the paint around the interior of the ornament. Repeat with the second color. Add a third color if desired.

Allow paint to dry. To keep paint from pooling at the bottom of the ornament, turn the ornament upside-down and set over the disposable plastic cup. Any excess paint will drain into the cup.

Reattach the metal cap. Tie ribbon through the loop for hanging.

Sequin and Glitter Ornament

Materials: clear glass ball ornament, decoupage medium (you can also use either liquid floor wax or thinned tacky glue), disposable plastic cup, assorted sequins, glitter

Carefully remove the metal cap from the glass ball.

Pour decoupage medium or thinned tacky glue into the glass ornament. Rotate the ornament to swirl the glue around the interior to coat the entire ornament.

Turn the ornament upside-down and set over the disposable plastic cup to drain excess glue.

Add sequins, rotating to distribute around inside of ornament.

Pour glitter into ornament. (You can make a funnel from a piece of rolled paper for easier pouring.) Place your finger over the opening and shake the ornament to distribute the glitter. Pour out excess.

Allow glue to dry with cap off until glue turns clear. This may take up to several days, depending on temperature, humidity, and the type of glue used.

Reattach the metal cap. Tie ribbon through the loop for hanging.

Melted Crayon Ornament

Materials: clear glass ball ornament, two crayons in the same color family or opposites (examples: pink and red, yellow and orange, blue and yellow, blue and pink, etc.), crayon sharpener or craft knife, hair dryer

Use the crayon sharpener or craft knife to shave pieces from the crayon.

Carefully remove the metal cap from the glass ball.

Place a small amount of the shavings into the glass ball. Hold the hair dryer close to the area of the ornament where the shavings are and heat the ornament to melt the crayons. Be careful you don't touch the ornament with the hair dryer. As the crayon begins to melt, turn the ornament to spread the color. Alternate colors, continuing until the desired look is achieved.

Reattach the metal cap. Tie ribbon through the loop for hanging.

Note: If the ornament becomes too hot as you're working, take a break to allow it to cool. You may also want to use an oven mitt or glove to protect your hand from the heat.

Metallic Braid Ornament

Materials: clear glass ball ornament, 5-yds. 5mm braided metallic cording (choose silver, gold, or 2-toned combination colors such as red/gold or black/silver)

Carefully remove the metal cap from the glass ball.

Feed metallic braid through opening into ornament.

Reattach the metal cap. Tie ribbon through the loop for hanging.

Basket Filler Ornament

Materials: clear glass ball ornament, crinkle-cut paper or excelsior (the kind used for gift basket filler) in your choice of color/colors

Carefully remove the metal cap from the glass ball.

Fill the ornament with the paper or excelsior.

Reattach the metal cap. Tie ribbon through the loop for hanging.

Other Ideas for Filling Ornaments

Scraps of yarn	Mini pinecones
Colored tissue paper	Rickrack
Plastic beads	Miniature gift packages
Small-scale potpourri	LEGO pieces
Small feathers	Sand and small seashells
Tinsel	Twigs
Faux Christmas greenery	Ribbon roses
Mini jingle bells	Assorted silk florals
Pompoms	Cloves/cinnamon sticks
Confetti glitter	Bottle brush trees/ fake snow
Tulle	Family photos
Netting	Candy
Ribbons	Popcorn

Scraps of fabric cut into strips with pinking shears