

# Rusty Techniques

## Materials\*

For product information, see sources on page 77.

- Apple cider vinegar, bleach, chopstick, Mason jar (or plastic/glass bowl or jar), measuring cup, newspaper, peroxide and vinegar (one part each), pins and bells (any color and any size), pizza box or shoe box (optional), plastic gloves and goggles (optional, but recommended), salt, tablespoon

\*Materials used will depend on technique; please read all instructions before beginning project to determine what materials you will need.

## Instructions

**Note:** I use a Mason jar, but a plastic or glass bowl or jar works well, too. I like to use the jar because it's the perfect size; I can cover it lightly with the lid and it's easy to put up on a shelf to keep out of reach of children and pets. (I know your pets are well-behaved and would never try to jump up on a table or counter when no one is looking—this is for that one naughty pet out there that has ruined it for everyone!) Please be safe and keep this out of reach. Also remember, stainless steel will not rust.

### Technique 1

1. Put bells and pins in jar. Add liquid; amount will depend on how much you need to cover them. You will want to fill about 1" above the top of bells and pins. If two cups will do, pour one cup of peroxide and one cup of vinegar into jar. Add two tablespoons of salt and stir gently (I use a chopstick). Put on lid and tuck away for a day or two—the longer you keep them in the liquid, the rustier they will become. If you think of it, give them a gentle stir once in awhile, but don't worry if you forget.

2. Discard liquid and pour bells and pins out on newspaper (sometimes I use a pizza box or a shoe box with a layer of newspaper). They will need to air-dry for a day or two, and will continue to rust as they dry. You do need to plan ahead a little, but this works well every time.

3. Discard liquid—but do not pour down the drain! Discard outdoors, or pour into a plastic milk jug, seal tightly, and then discard.

### Technique 2

1. Pour bleach into jar of bells until covered. Let sit for 24 hours, then discard bleach down any drain.

2. Cover bells and pins with apple cider vinegar and a few tablespoons of salt. Let sit for 24 hours, then discard vinegar down any drain. Allow to air-dry 24 hours. This can be an inconsistent method, but it sounds less volatile than other methods.

### Technique 3

1. If you are rusting unfinished tin, just spray with apple cider vinegar and allow to air-dry. Repeat as needed for the effect you desire.

**Important Note:** One rusting technique calls for bleach, vinegar, and salt, but this has a toxic chemical reaction that can damage lung tissue if you are not careful. I have never tried this technique, but if you choose to, please exercise great caution. ☹️

Rusty bells and safety pins are a staple for any prim crafter. I use rusty safety pins to attach rusty bells or aged tags to muslin gift bags, dolls, and ornie's, or to attach an aged string to use as a hanger for holiday ornaments. There is no limit, but there are a lot of different techniques, some dangerous and some inconsistent.

Technique 1 is what I use, and it works every time.

