

Halloween Greetings

Designed by Nancy Evers

Materials

Empty and clean 28 oz. can (label removed)

The Warm Company 10" x 14" Warm 'n Natural cotton batting, two

Scraps of muslin and cotton batting

DecoArt Americana

Acrylic Paints in Black, Buttermilk, and Burnt Orange

Water-based Stain: Dark Walnut

Royal & Langnickel Aqualon brushes in Series No. R2700 1" glaze/wash, Series No. R2160 1/4" angular,

Series No. R2595 10/0 liner

18" length of 1/2"-dia. dowel rod

10" x 14" pieces of burlap, two

8 1/2" x 11" piece of cardstock in tan or kraft-colored

3 assorted buttons, any size

2" x 23" piece of cheesecloth

Sand or kitty litter, Spanish moss, floral foam, white glue, 1 cup of ground spices (cinnamon, cloves, allspice or any combination of these), fiberfill, black crochet thread, end of a large paintbrush, tablespoon, measuring cup, instant coffee, very hot water, sandpaper, tracing paper, water-soluble pen, ruler, 3" doll needle, tacky glue, foam brush, iron, ironing board, hole punch, length of string, water, scissors

For product information, see sources on page 77.

Instructions

For pattern, see pattern pull-out.

1. Create a mixture of white glue, a little bit of water, and some cinnamon mixture and apply to can.

Allow to dry. Repeat this process, but while the glue mixture is still wet, roll the can in the spices making sure every part of the can is covered well. Turn upside down to dry.

2. Using the foam brush, paint the dowel rod Black. Once dry, sand well and then stain with Dark Walnut stain. Set aside.

3. Place about 3/4" of sand or kitty litter into the can. Cut a piece of floral foam slightly larger than the can and push down into the can. Put some glue on top of the foam and insert the dowel rod into the center of the foam, pushing down as far as it will go. Cover the foam with Spanish moss. Set aside.

4. Sandwich the two pieces of cotton batting between the two pieces of burlap. Trace the tree pattern onto the top piece of burlap using a water-soluble pen. Stitch on the lines, leaving an opening where indicated on pattern. Do not cut the tree out at this point.

5. Sandwich two pieces of cotton batting between two pieces of muslin. Trace three crow shapes and two circles onto the top piece of muslin using a water-soluble pen. Leave at least 1" of space between each shape. Stitch on the traced lines, leaving no openings. Do not cut shapes out at this point.

6. Use the 1" glaze/wash brush to paint the crows Black and the circles Burnt Orange, extending the paint at least 1/2" beyond the stitched lines. Allow to dry and repeat on the other side. When paint is dry, sand well.

7. Lightly trace the features for the face onto one side of the circle. Use the 1/4" angular to paint the eyes, nose, and mouth. When dry, use the 10/0 liner and Black paint (that has been thinned to ink consistency) to outline the facial features. Finally, dip the end of a large paintbrush into the Black paint and make dots for the center of the eyes and nose. When all paint is completely dry, cut crows and circles out approximately 1/8" from the stitched lines.

8. To coffee stain, add two heaping tablespoons of instant coffee to a cup of very hot water. When cool, use a foam brush to apply the coffee mixture to the tree, cheesecloth, and muslin pieces. Wring out and allow to air dry completely. If you want your pieces to be darker, repeat process until you reach desired darkness.

9. When the trees are dry, cut out trees approximately 1/4" from the stitched lines. Stuff firmly with fiberfill. Using the photo as a guide, attach crows, faces, and buttons to the tree using black crochet thread. To do this, use a 3" doll needle and insert it into the front of the piece you are attaching and into

the tree, taking a small stitch and passing back out through the front of the piece. Tie a knot and clip threads close to the knot.

10. Place the tree on the dowel rod and use a small amount of tacky glue around the opening to keep the tree from turning on the rod. Tie the piece of cheesecloth around the can. Using a foam brush, stain a sheet of tan or kraft-colored cardstock with the coffee solution and allow to dry. Use a warm iron to smooth out the stained cardstock. Copy the “Halloween Greetings” tag onto the cardstock. Cut out on lines and punch a hole in the end. Use a piece of string to tie the tag onto the stick.