

Nativity Christmas Ornaments - DIY Ball

Add a little bit of the true meaning of Christmas to those DIY fill-it-up clear plastic Christmas balls. Add a double sided picture of the Nativity or other religious pictures to the inside! Glue two images of the same size onto a popsicle stick. They were glued onto it back-to-back. When the glue is dry, gently fold the image and push it into the ball. After that, we unfolded the picture. Voila! Beautiful Christmas ornament fit for the season! Don't forget to add fake snow, evergreens, hay, glitter, sequins or more! The possibilities are endless!!

About the plastic balls:

For those who don't know about the clear plastic Christmas ball, they are very simple Christmas balls that are made with clear plastic. The top of the ball comes off and the ball can be filled with anything that your heart desires - well, it does need to fit into the small hole in the top! We bought our ornaments at the Dollar Tree - 2 for a dollar - like those pictured here. Ours are about 2.5 inches wide with a half inch opening at the top. These ornaments come in many shapes and sizes. I have also seen them at Walmart, AC Moore, and Hobby Lobby. When buying your plastic balls make sure the opening is larger than a popsicle sticks widest side, otherwise the balls are not going to work.



About the images we used:

Many of the images we used were Nativity stickers. They worked very well. Some of the images were small pictures which we cut from old cards or mission mail. Some images are added to this PFD. These may help you get started. Of course, these may not fit in the Christmas balls you have since not all balls are the same size. Our balls are 2.5 inches in width. If your ornaments are smaller, you may need to cut off some part of the image so they will fit into smaller balls. If you have larger ornaments, then you will need to find some larger images for larger balls.

What did we put inside the ornaments?

Here is a list of items we added to the inside:

- raffia (for hay) - cut-up in small 1 inch pieces (or smaller)
- small sprigs of fake evergreen branches
- sequins in many shapes:
 - round
 - stars
 - snowflakes
 - hearts
- fake snow dust
- glitter in many colors: gold, silver, blue, red, etc.
- sand
- small stones
- any other small item we found and liked



How did we make them?

After getting the plastic balls and finding images that fit the size of our balls, we dug through our craft boxes and pulled out anything that we thought might work or fit into the balls. (see list above).

Find a cup or lid that will hold your ball in place so it won't roll around as you fill it. Now begin to add your hay, snow, greens or any other crafty items you think look nice. If you are adding tiny items like fake snow or glitter then you may want to use a funnel. If you don't have a funnel, then roll-up a piece of paper to form a funnel and staple it together. Now add your tiny items. Add only enough snow/hay/greens to cover the area below the picture.

Now take a popsicle stick and place it down into the ball - straight up and down - make sure it is touching the bottom of the ball. Make a mark on the stick at the point where the popsicle stick extends out of the ball's opening. Now remove the stick and cut just below that mark with a knife or cutters. Cut out your images - make sure they are the same size.

Cover the back of one image with glue, then place the popsicle stick in the middle of the image. Be sure to leave enough room above the image so the stick can extend into the ball's neck. Now add glue to the second image and place it back-to-back on the first image - sandwiching the stick in between the two images. Many of our images were stickers, which we stuck back-to-back on the popsicle stick. NOTE: We still added glue when using the stickers, because stickers will not stay stuck together if they are stored in a hot or humid area - such as an attic or a basement. Because we store our Christmas decorations in an attic, I wanted to be sure that these stay stuck together, so we could enjoy them for years to come.

Your image on the popsicle stick should look similar to the one pictured above. It should have an image on both sides. Now gently and loosely fold the image so it can be slid into the ball.

Once you have the image totally in the ball, try to fold the image open by flipping it around and gently pulling it back up the neck of the ball opposite the fold so it will stay open. You can also use another popsicle stick to flatten out the fold. When the image is opened, nestle the bottom end of the stick into your sand, hay, greens, etc.

Now, put the top back on the bottle and hang it up!



Finished ornaments to inspire!

In this ornament, the image sits among little fake evergreen clippings, fake snow, tinsel clippings, glitter and a tiny fake candy cane.



This sweet ornament is filled with fake snow and loads of multi colored glitter and sequins.



This ball was in honor of the **Feast of the Holy Innocents**. The image depicts the Flight into Egypt. The ball holds sand, small stones, a little silver glitter and small silver stars.



This ornament is filled with small strips of raffia - hay for the stable. It also has a little bit of silver and blue glitter, as well as, large blue star sequins.



This adorable ornament is simple yet beautiful! It's filled with fake snow and blue glitter and star sequins.



This ornament was very difficult to get a picture of. It is only filled with fine textured glitter: silver and gold as well as a little bit of blue. It really is very pretty in real life, but the picture does not do it justice!



For small 2 to 2.5 inch balls: (print on regular paper)





These images are for larger Christmas balls.

Print on regular paper.





We hope you enjoyed this craft! It's one of our free ideas which we hope will help you have some creative fun with your faith. May God bless you for all you do to spread the faith!

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