

Assault with a Deadly Glue Gun

CRAFT PROJECTS

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The Bride Wore Tennies

Oh those aching tootsies! Most brides, if given the choice, would opt for a foot massage rather than the honeymoon suite at the Plaza once the reception ends. Just ask any of your married friends. But why suffer the blisters in the first place? After posing for the wedding photos, remove those torturous stilettos and slip into a pair of handmade bridal tennies to boogie the night away.

And if you want a unique gift for your bridesmaids, have tennies dyed to match their gowns. Trim with coordinating or matching colored laces and trims.

Materials:

one pair of white canvas tennis shoes; an assortment of lace appliqué; pearl, sequin and rhinestone trims; satin ribbon roses; 2-1/2 yds. 1-3/4-inch wide lace; white craft gem glue; scissors.

Remove shoelaces from tennis shoes. Arrange appliqué and trims on front and sides of shoes as desired, with one shoe being the mirror image of the other. Glue appliqué and trims in place. Allow glue to dry thoroughly. Cut lace in half. Thread a piece of lace through eyelets of each shoe.

Birdseed Roses

Rice is out; birdseed is in when it comes to showering the bride and groom in an environmentally friendly way. Use elegant satin roses to store the showering seed, and your guests will have a beautiful memento of the day to take home with them.

Materials:

satin fabric in white or to match the wedding colors (one yard of 45" wide fabric will make 77 roses); matching sewing thread; 6" lengths of 18-gauge stem wire; green floral tape; silk rose leaves, one or more per flower; pinking shears; sewing machine

Using the pinking shears, cut a 4" x 5" piece of satin for each rose. With right sides together, machine baste 4" sides of satin together with 1/4" seam allowance. Turn right side out. Hand gather lower edge of tube, wrapping thread ends tightly around gathers to form the base of rose. Insert stem wire through bottom, bending the end inside the rose into a loop to keep it from slipping out. Wrap the base and stem of the rose with floral tape, adding leaves as you wrap. Fill each rose with a teaspoon of birdseed. Tuck in the top edge of satin about 1-1/2" to keep the birdseed contained. A flick of the wrist will release the birdseed to shower the bride and groom.

Recycled Jeans Placemats

Stop! Before assigning those favorite but now threadbare jeans to the rag heap, carefully cut out the back pockets for these nearly no-sew, perfect-for-a-picnic placemats.

Materials:

denim fabric (1 yd. will make 6 placemats); one jeans back pocket per placemat; red bandana fabric (1-1/3 yds. will make 6 napkins); red and blue sewing thread; basic sewing supplies; fabric glue.

Pre-shrink denim and bandana fabric. For each placemat, cut denim to 15" x 18". Machine stitch around perimeter of denim, 1" from cut edges. Fringe all four sides of placemat to stitching. Position pocket at lower left of placemat. Glue in place around sides and bottom edges.

For each napkin, cut bandana fabric to 16" x 16". Machine hem all four edges. Fold napkin and insert into pocket. Place silverware in pocket over napkin. (For an even quicker project, use store purchased napkins instead of bandana fabric.)

Fourth of July Clay Pot Candles

Party the night away by the light of these easy-to-make patriotic candles.

Materials:

4" diameter clay pot and matching saucer; white primer spray paint; red, white, and blue acrylic paints; satin spray varnish; paint brushes; 1" x 1" compressed craft sponge; tacky glue; pencil; scissors; 3" red pillar candle. (NOTE: Allow paint to dry thoroughly between steps.) Spray paint cup and saucer with primer. Paint inside and outside of saucer red. Paint inside of pot and outer rim in red. Paint remainder of outside of pot blue. Paint white vertical stripes around pot rim.

Draw a star on compressed sponge. Cut out. Wet sponge to expand. Using white paint, sponge paint stars randomly around blue portion of pot.

Glue pot to saucer. Apply several coats of varnish. Insert candle.

Decoupage Flag Tray

In just a few easy steps you can turn fabric scraps and an unfinished wooden tray into a red, white, and blue patriotic masterpiece.

Materials:

unfinished rectangular wooden tray (available in craft and hobby stores); white primer spray paint; blue spray paint; clear acrylic varnish; scrap of red bandana fabric large enough to cover inside of tray; scraps of blue print fabric and white fabric measuring 1/4 the size of tray; pencil; scrap of cardboard 1/4 the size of tray; scissors; decoupage medium; brush.

(NOTE: Allow paint to dry thoroughly between steps.) Wash fabric to remove sizing. Spray paint tray with primer, then two coats of paint.

Using the tray bottom as a template, cut a piece of bandana fabric to size. Place inside tray. If necessary, trim fabric slightly until it fits within tray without puckering.

Draw star on cardboard and cut out to form template. Using template, trace around cardboard on white fabric. Cut out star. Position blue fabric in upper left corner of tray. Place star centered over blue fabric. Adjust dimensions of blue fabric and star until satisfied. Remove fabric from tray.

Brush the inside of the tray with decoupage medium. Position bandana fabric, right side up, inside tray. Brush right side of fabric with more decoupage medium. Repeat for blue fabric and star, applying decoupage medium over entire fabric surfaces each time. Allow to dry. Apply two coats of clear acrylic varnish to entire tray.