

## Bottle Brush Christmas Tree

Text and photographs

Submitted by Ellie Arnould-Tomb

Get your dollhouse ready for Christmas by making a bottle brush tree. Decorate it with the suggested trims from the craft store, or use your imagination to find baubles, beads, and paper scraps around the house and make your own decorations.



1. Using a toothpick, dab white glue all over the tree. Be sure to get to the inside near the "trunk."
2. Roll tree in glitter. Tap off any excess over a paper plate.

### What You'll Need

- Bottle brush trees (3" high or smaller)
- White glue
- Toothpicks
- Glitter (multicolor, silver, gold or red, etc.)
- Tiny beads with or without holes (multicolor, silver, gold or red, etc.)
- String of miniature stars for tree toppers (optional)
- Red, gold, white or silver ribbons for faux bows (Knot the ribbon and trim the ends at an angle.)

3. Dab dots of glue on the edges of the "branches." Place your choice of decorations evenly around the tree.

4. Cut the radius (from edge to center) of felt or patterned fabric circle.

5. Wrap circle around base of tree.

6. Overlap and glue the open ends.

7. Glue a little star to the top of the tree.

8. Return unused glitter to jar.

### For the older kids:

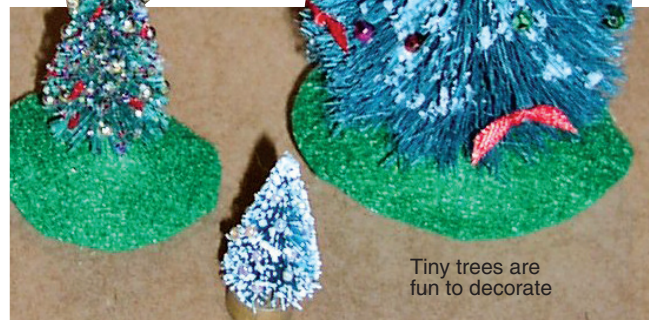
1. Decide whether to use one or two specific colors or

- Other tiny glittery items, faux berries and/or mini pine cones
- Paper plate
- Plate or pan to hold small items
- Green felt or cloth with a holiday pattern (Cut  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter circle for a 1" tree and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " circle for a 3" tree.)

For older or more experienced children, add glittered holiday faux decorative branches in red, gold, white or silver



Left: Older children might enjoy the challenge of adding glitter-covered holiday greens.



multicolor decorations on your tree.

2. Snip off the ends of glitter-covered holiday "greens." Make each snip about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long.

3. Put glue on the cut end.

4. Tuck greens one by one into the bottle brush tree. Lay them in on the bottle brushes so that they create a new outer layer on the trees. (This is time consuming and requires some patience, but the results are wonderful.)

5. Trim the new branches to create the right shape.

6. Finish as pictured. ■

*Ellie Arnould-Tomb is a member of the M-1 NAME chapter in Morris Plains, New Jersey. This is a project she has done with children.*

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