



UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension

Do it Yourself
Ideas for
Spring and Easter Décor



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Umbrella Wreath

Wreaths don't always have to be round and the umbrella wreaths are becoming very popular for spring door or wall décor. Use an old umbrella and turn it upside down. If your umbrella is quite tight, remove the ends from 2 or 3 of the ribs to create larger pockets.

You can add artificial flower stems to your umbrella pockets, making them as airy or full as you like—you might even let some of them hang down over the edge. Accents like bird nests or plastic Easter eggs on pipe cleaners or wire can be tucked in as well. I did not use any floral foam in my umbrella, but if you have heavier items or want your flowers more sparse or to stay where you place them, you may want to add a block of foam in the pockets. Tie a ribbon around the middle of the umbrella.

Three Cross Arbor Arrangement

Use a long, rectangular container and fill with floral foam blocks until level with the top of the container. Cut sticks from the yard and tie together with twine or raffia to form 3 crosses, making the center one slightly larger. Push the crosses into the foam to secure (so make them taller than needed). Using two long, sturdy stems of artificial flowers (with flowers all along the stem), cut them so that the stem pushes down into the foam in the center of each short end all the way to the bottom of the container with the flowers starting at the level of the foam. Bend to the center and wire together, creating a height that will come above the tops of the crosses. Trim out any excess flower branches and wire the ends of any side branches to the main branch. Cover the top of the foam with moss and secure with floral pins or U shapes of green wire.





Bunny Peeps Flower Arrangement

Use two glass vases that fit inside each other with about 3/4" - 1" between the two. I've used green Spanish moss in the bottom between the two vases and topped with malted candy eggs and M and Ms and then a row of yellow marshmallow peep bunnies. Artificial daisies go into the inner vase.

You can use just the peeps and make rows or you can use Easter grass instead of the moss or just the candies and peeps. If using real flowers, fill the inner vase with water.

It helps keep the peeps even in their row if you keep them attached like they come from the package and just break the front halves so they bend. You can use whatever color scheme you like.

Candy Jar Centerpiece

Here I used old fashioned clamp lid jars to create a candy centerpiece. Crimped paper Easter grass fills the bottoms of the jars and malted candy eggs rest on top. The larger jar has a molded white chocolate lamb in the center.

You can also use the chocolate bunnies in the center. If you have a small cake plate or glass stemmed pillar candle holders, use them to elevate some of the jars. You can also use mason canning jars, apothecary jars or clear glass food jars.





Candy Bunny Favors

These cute little favors can be used at each place setting on the Easter table or in Easter baskets or just as a little gift for someone special.

Use the netting rounds found in the wedding section of the craft store. Place a handful of candy in the center and gather up the netting around it. Tie tightly with a piece of yarn and fluff the ends for a tail.

Make a pom-pom with white yarn. Cut a piece of yarn and lay it along the long side of a 1/2" wide piece of cardboard. Wrap a large pile of yarn around the cardboard (over the piece of yarn). Tie the piece of yarn tightly, holding the loops together and cut the opposite side of the yarn loops. Fluff into a ball, trimming the edges as needed.

For the ears, cut two pipe cleaners in half (use one white and one pink or one light pink and one dark pink). Place the cleaners beside each other and bend in half so the darker one is inside. Glue the ends together and bend the ears slightly forward. Glue into the top of the pom-pom. Twist two 1 1/2" long pieces of the light pipe cleaner together in the center to make the whiskers and use the darker cleaner to make a little circle for the nose. Glue the nose on top of the whiskers and glue to the pom-pom. Glue two googly eyes. Place the netting ball on its side so that the ends form the bunny's tail and glue the head on top, using just a little glue so it doesn't get on the candy. (I would use a wrapped candy if wanting to eat the candies or giving as a gift).



Egg Bunnies

Fill a plastic egg with candies. Take a white paper napkin and a pink paper napkin and unfold once so you have a long rectangle. Fold the short ends over at a 45 degree angle so you have a point on each end. Make a pleat across the center of the pink napkin so it is 1/2" shorter than the white one. Place the pink napkin on top of the white with the folds facing each other. Fold the napkin in half lengthwise and crease. Unfold and fold each long edge to the center to the crease line. Fold back in half. Wrap around the egg and tie the top with yarn or ribbon to create the ears on top. Glue eyes and a nose (like above) onto the egg.

Bunny Napkins

To make this festive bunny napkin for your table, start with a well-starched square napkin. Fold the bottom third of the napkin up and the top third down, making a rectangle.



1. Find the center along the top fold and fold the top corners down, making sure the bottom ends are even.

2. Fold up the outside bottom corners.



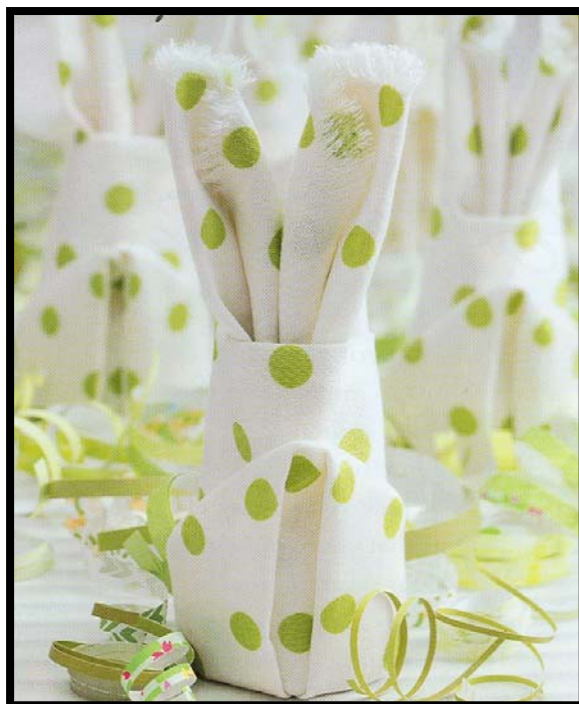
3. Fold left and right sides so that they meet in the center.

4. Turn the napkin over and flip the top to bottom. Fold bottom point up.



5. Fold the left and right corners to the back and tuck one corner into the other to hold.

6. Hold the tucked corners securely and pull out the bunny ears on the other end.



Perle Cotton Eggs

Materials and Tools

Small balloons

Liquid starch

Small bowl

Perle cotton skein or ball (#8, #5 or #3)

Trims—silk flowers, leaves, braids, ribbons, etc.

Perle Cotton Easter Egg How-To

1. Blow up balloons to large egg size and tie off.
2. Pour liquid starch into a bowl and place ball of perle cotton into the starch, rolling it around to coat all of the thread.
3. Wrap the thread around the balloon in all directions until well covered. Tie a piece of the thread to the top of the balloon and tie another knot to create a hanging loop. Place the loop over the handle of a wooden spoon suspended between two boxes and let dry completely (overnight).
4. When dry, poke the balloon with a pin and pull out the balloon through the openings in the thread. To make a new hanging thread, use a large tapestry needle to run a piece of thread under a couple of the stiffened threads at the top of the egg. Tie off to make a loop.
5. Decorate the egg as desired with flowers, leaves and other trims. Hang from a branch spray painted white and placed in a pot of sand or plaster of Paris.

Napkin Tussie Mussies

These cones are made with cloth napkins and are filled with treats for the season (you could also do this for Christmas by altering the colors and filler). Try to use a napkin with an interesting edge, like contrasting crochet, tatting, fringe, etc. or a pretty spring print.

Fold a square cloth napkin in half to form a rectangle. Starting at one end, fold the short side over to form a cone and roll up until the entire napkin is part of the cone shape. Tie with a wired ribbon into a bow to secure, keeping the cone open all the way down. Fill the top of the cone with crimped paper Easter grass and then tuck in candies, artificial flowers or little trinkets.



Silk Dyed Eggs

Materials and Tools

Small- to medium-size raw eggs

Glass or enamel pot

Silk ties, blouses, or boxers, cut into pieces large enough to cover an egg

White sheets (or pillowcases or old tablecloths), cut into pieces to cover silk-wrapped eggs

Twist ties

3 tablespoons of white vinegar

Warm water

Vegetable oil

Paper towels

Tongs or spoon

Silk Tie Easter Eggs How-To

1. Cut silk into a square (or a piece) large enough to wrap around a raw egg.
2. Wrap a raw egg with a piece of silk, making sure the printed side of the material is facing the egg. Silk can still be used if it doesn't fit perfectly around egg.
3. Place the silk-wrapped egg in a piece of white sheet, pillowcase, or old tablecloth and secure tightly with a twist-tie.
4. Place the egg(s) in an enamel or glass pot. Fill pot with water to cover eggs completely. Then, add three tablespoons of white vinegar.
5. Bring water to a boil, turn heat down, and simmer for 20 minutes (longer if you plan on eating the eggs).
6. Remove eggs from water with tongs or spoon and let cool.
7. Remove silk from cooled egg.
8. For shiny eggs, wipe with vegetable oil after completing step 7.

Resources

Silk goods such as ties, blouses, and boxers can be purchased at rummage sales or thrift stores. Silk can be reused on eggs.