

CountrySampler®

Cardboard Tube Candles

Turn a common household recyclable into sparkling faux candles that make a centerpiece-worthy statement when gathered in a tray.

Materials and Tools

- 7 cardboard tubes from paper products
 - Decoupage medium
 - Hot glue gun and glue sticks
 - Ivory chalky-finish paint
 - Silver glitter paint
 - Decorative tray
 - Floral foam blocks
 - Spanish moss
 - Artificial greenery, picks and holiday decor
 - 7 battery-operated tealights
 - Paintbrushes
 - Scissors
4. Cover the tubes with two coats of ivory paint. Top with two coats of glitter paint. Let dry between each coat.
 5. Apply a line of hot glue around the inside of each tube about ½" from the top, or the depth of the tealight. Let dry. This "ledge" will prevent the tealights from slipping down into the tubes.
 6. Fill the tray with foam blocks and push the tubes into the foam in a group. Cover the foam with moss and build a full arrangement by adding greenery, picks and decor. Switch each tealight on and set in place.

Instructions

1. Trim cardboard tubes to different lengths using scissors.
2. Brush the outsides of the tubes with three coats of decoupage medium to stiffen the cardboard, letting dry after each coat.
3. Holding a tube vertically, apply hot glue generously around the outside of the top edge. To mimic the melting of a wax candle, tap the bottom of the tube on your work surface to make the glue drip down the sides of the cardboard. Set aside to dry and move to the next tube. Once all the tubes have one layer of glue, repeat the process to add a second layer of glue. Let dry.

