



Lantern / Luminaries

Materials list:

- Clean, dry tin cans
- Paper for pattern (optional)
- Spray paint (we used gold and copper)
- Hammer and nails
- Tea light for finished lantern (votive candles may also be used)
- 16 gauge wire for handle (optional)



Directions:

1. Draw a pattern on the outside of the tin can or prepare a paper pattern for use if you want a specific design. The paper can be secured to the can with rubber bands or taped if it wraps completely around the can.
2. Fill the can with water and freeze until solid. The ice helps keep the can from buckling as you hammer into it.
3. When the water in the can is solid, lay it on a towel and use the nail tips to hammer in holes to complete your design. You can add two holes near the top for a handle if you chose to make it a lantern.
4. Remove any remaining chunks of ice and allow the can to air dry. The can is ready to paint as you wish. (This is not a suitable activity for young children as the container will have sharp edges inside and only adults should do spray painting.)
5. Use a bit of melted wax to secure the votive candle (or tea light) to the bottom of the can.

Suggestions and Tips:

- ↪ The ice melts quickly so be prepared by covering your work area and having a design ready.
- ↪ Paper patterns will start to get damp quickly and the nail may slip and cause tearing.
- ↪ Though some instructions we reviewed suggested freezing for a couple of days, we found that the cans we tried would buckle out at the bottom as the ice expanded if frozen for too long.
- ↪ This project takes some time and effort but is well worth the results. Place some citronella candles inside and place them around your deck for a whimsical nighttime display.

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