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## DIY MOD PODGE AND SOLSTICE LANTERNS

DECEMBER 2012 BY DANIELLE ( — 16 COMMENTS) SUPPORT CREATIVITY WITH YOUR DONATION TODAY!

We are just a few days away from one of my very favorite days of the year – the winter solstice. It's not that our family really celebrates it, although sometimes I wish that we did. It's more that it signals an outward shift that nudges along an internal one. An important one.

I'll be honest, amidst all this wintry holiday extravaganza I'm usually left feeling a little rundown. Maybe it's the hustle and bustle. Or the cold. Or the stress, **no matter how much I try to avoid it**. Sure, it could be all those things. But I actually think it is the light, or lack thereof.

Today, in Chicago, we had a mere 9 hours and 7 minutes of day. Tomorrow will be 14 seconds shorter. And so it has gone for the past few months, since the autumnal equinox. And so it will continue for just a few more days. Each day just a little bit shorter.

But on Friday, on the Solstice, it switches. Each day after that will be a tiny bit longer. Each day we'll get a little bit more light. And with that switch, I feel a sense of optimism. Instead of getting darker and darker, as it has for the past few months, it starts getting lighter. Even though we have several more months of winter to go, the light is already beginning to return. And with that light comes the promise (and hope) that other things – warmth and green and picnics – will return as well.

Even though the days will start getting longer, it does come slowly. Perhaps you'd like to make a few special lanterns, as we did, to help light up the evenings as we wait for the light to slowly return.

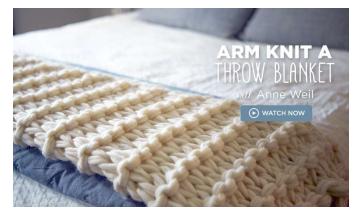
### WE BELIEVE

...that everyone can be creative  
...that crafting doesn't have to be hard  
...that creativity is an essential part of life

We offer practical inspiration, creative support, and real glimpses into the lives of creative folks and families, all to help make living a creative family life just a little bit easier for you.



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### YOU WILL NEED

#### For the DIY Mod Podge

- Elmers Glue-All
- Water

#### For the Lanterns

- Jars
- DIY Mod Podge
- Food Coloring
- Paint Brushes
- Candles

### WHAT TO DO

**Make the mod podge.** In a lidded jar mix one part glue and one part water. Stir or shake or both. For the lantern project you'll need about 1/2 cup of DIY Mod Podge. Leftovers keep well for other projects.



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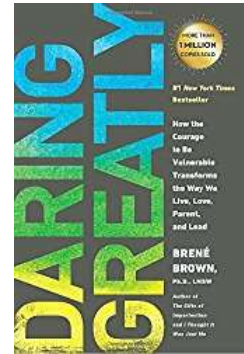


### BOOKS WE LOVE



**Choose your lanterns.** Any glass jar will do, just make sure it'll be easy enough to get a candle in and out. Also make sure the jar has a lid.

**Color the inside of the lantern.** In the bottom of your chosen jar, add a couple tablespoons of your DIY Mod Podge. Then add some food coloring – how much you add will determine how opaque your jar will appear.



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**Put on the lid and shake.** Keep going until the entire inside of the jar is coated.





**Drain out the extra.** Take the lid off and put the jar upside down to drain out the extra mod podge.



**Let it dry.** Overnight is best, but a handful of hours will do. Keep it upside down.

**Make more colors.** In a handful of small dishes, mix up a few more colors of DIY Mod Podge.

**Decorate the outside.** Keeping the lid on, to prevent any more mod podge from getting into the jar, have your little one paint the outside of the lantern.





**Let it dry.** Again, overnight is best.

**Light it up.** Admire and enjoy!





*Note: The DIY Mod Podge works very well for the Making Art : : "Stained" Glass Windows in the [Winter Cozy](#) issue of our publication.*

## EXPLORE MORE

What else could you use to decorate the outside of your lanterns?

What happens when you mix different colors of mod podge on your lantern – red on the inside, yellow on the outside? Blue on the inside, red on the outside?

## MAKE CONNECTIONS

What does your family do to make your mealtimes special? How might your lanterns become a part of your families rituals?

If you were to prepare a special meal to have with your first lantern-lit dinner, what would you prepare? Why?

## CONNECT WITH US

How did your lanterns turn out? Did you keep them for your own family or offer them as a gift to someone else? Please share your stories and pictures in the comments section below, on our [Facebook page](#), or [email us](#) and we will feature you on our site – we look forward to connecting with you there.

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COMMENTS

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Mary Ellen says  
January 2013 at

I am enthralled by this project. I am assisting a friend in decor for a St. Patrick's Day party. She and her five year old will have great fun making these!

[Reply]

REPLY

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Lauren Craig says  
August 2013 at

Love this idea. So stinking cute. I'm planning on doing this for our mantle. I love mommy and kiddo crafts.

[Reply]



Danielle Reply:  
August 10th, 2013 at

Thank you, Lauren! They look lovely! I almost can't wait for Fall again, just to start having our candlelit dinners once more!!

[Reply]

REPLY

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Cassie says  
October 2013 at

I have done the first step of this project. However, a lot of the color didn't stay and on some of the jars, they are practically clear now that they are dry. What could have gone wrong? I don't want to finish the second step if it's going to dry pretty clear. Just not enough food coloring? Too much modge podge? help!

[Reply]



Danielle Reply:  
October 29th, 2013 at

Cassie, well, that won't do!! My best guess would be that you'll need to use more food coloring. I did that project a little over a year ago, and the photos don't help me, but I may have used my concentrated food coloring that I had from King Arthur Flour. Give it another go with more food coloring, an extra layer on the inside won't do any harm. If it still doesn't work out you could use the mod podge and some tissue paper to decorate the outside of the jars. That also gives a lovely effect!

[Reply]

REPLY

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Sixtine et Victoire says  
December 2013 at



I love, love, love candles and this is going to be such a lovely project for us to try! Thank you!

[Reply]



Andrea Reply:

December 22nd, 2013 at

Oh wonderful! It is such a relaxing project as well, and I think the end result speaks for itself :)

[Reply]

REPLY



Sugar Aunts says

January 2014 at

Love it! We're featuring your post tomorrow on Share It Saturday over at Sugar Aunts. Thanks for linking up :)

[Reply]

REPLY



Jennifer says

September 2014 at

These are beautiful! Looking for projects for our museum's Winter Break day (the theme this year will probably be "winter traditions") and this looks ideal.

[Reply]

REPLY

## TRACKBACKS

**"Stained" Glass Candle Holders** ◀ says:

January 2013 at

[...] Wee One and I made gorgeous painted candle holders this week. We followed this wonderful tutorial from Crafting Connections' blog. Super easy and we had everything on hand to make them. I had [...]

Reply

**9 Upcycled Gift Ideas for Her** says:

April 2013 at

[...] Lovely Glass Lanterns – Mason jars, spaghetti sauce, jelly and jam jars. Save them up and create some beautiful candle holders or night lights for the patio. [...]

Reply

**Creative Process and Final Product :: The benefit of both** says:

October 2013 at

[...] :: Painted Mod Podge Lanterns :: [...]

Reply

**Rainbow Christmas Activities and Crafts for Kids** says:

December 2013 at

[...] solstice lanterns from Crafting Connections are absolutely stunning, and a fun way to connect with your little ones [...]

Reply

**"I just want it" |** says:

December 2013 at

[...] we are home and focusing on making a little joy and light in simple ways. I want to make these solstice luminaries and some homemade hot cocoa mix. Possibly some baking for gifts, too. Today, at least for me, [...]

Reply

**Learn + Craft for Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, & Kwanzaa - Swoodson Says** says:

December 2014 at

[...] Mod Podge Solstice Lantern from Crafting Connections [...]

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**Escuela Infantil GRANVIA » Archivo del weblog Manualidades para niños: cómo hacer cola casera - Escuela Infantil GRANVIA** says:

December 2014 at

[...] Imagen principal: Crafting Connections [...]

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