

UNBORED zine

Unbored Zine highlights different activities to get you interested to try something outside of your normal routine. Each issue has a theme, so you can select which (or all) you'd like to try.

All issues are initially released for free digitally on my blog, larajla.com. They will be available for a week before they move to my Etsy shop, larajlacreates.com.

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Simple Ornaments All Around

Try one or more of the ornaments described. Remember, go beyond Christmas. You can have ornament fun all year long.

**Share your creations
with your family and friends.**

Simple Ornaments

Hand / Finger Prints

Mix up a dough and make hand or finger print prints as a keepsake ornament. Don't forget the pets here . . . a paw print for our four-legged friends works as well as a hand print for people. Be sure to keep the clay as thin as possible because you don't want your ornament to weigh too much. You can press into the clay or use a paint on the hand or paw.

For spring, we have "thumb bunnies." Basically, make a thumbprint and then add ears and tails if it's a behind view and ears and facial features if it's a front view. Look, you're already working outside of the "Christmas" mind set. Check out Ed Emberley for some inspiration for other finger critters you can make.



Design Your Own

Designing your own ornaments can be even more fun than following someone else's directions . . . even if they are simple.

Start by looking through the craft supplies and other items we've mentioned to create your own ornaments. If you don't have something, brainstorm items you do have that you can substitute.

As you create your own masterpiece, either note down the steps or take pictures as you go. This will give you something to reference if you decide you want to make more. Yes, you can skip this. However, I've found that I spend more time trying to recreate things than creating them in the first place.



Container for Filled Ball Ornaments



I've been discussing filling ball ornaments. However, you can substitute any jar or container with a lid that you can hang as a ball ornament. This might be old spice jars, baby food jars, purchased shapes from a craft store, bath supply containers or any other container.

So, it needs to be . . .

- Clear with all labels / adhesive removed
- Sealable, temporarily or permanently

Depending on the lid, you may want to cover it with ribbon, lace, fabric, paint or other material. Since there are so many possibilities, I'm not going to go into how to prepare the surface, glues to use, etc. You have the Internet. Use it!

- Crafted miniature items
- Doily
- Dried flower petals
- Dried herbs
- Fabric piece
- Faux greenery
- Faux snow
- Feather(s)
- Fuse beads
- Graduation tassel
- Jingle bells (small)
- LEGOs — shapes or loose pieces
- Memory notes
- Miniature ornaments
- Moss
- Office supplies
- Old book pages
- Origami shape(s)
- Paper — gift wrap, cellophane, strips, etc.
- Pebbles or small gravel
- Photos
- Pinecones and branch (small)
- Pom-pom(s)
- Ribbon
- Rubber bracelets
- Sea glass
- Sequins
- Sheet music

Filled Ball Ornaments

Filling a clear ball ornament with items is another simple ornament you can make. If the item you're adding is heavy, you may choose to use plastic instead of glass. The glass ornaments are very fragile. I've broken enough to know.

Be sure to clean your ball ornament before you start filling it. Residue from processing, packaging and shipping can make the ornament dull. If you choose a plastic ornament with two halves to put together, cover the seam with a cool ribbon.

To help you out, here's a short list of items that you might fill your ornament with.

- Baby's breath
- Beach scene
- Beads and wire
- Beads only
- Birch bark
- Buttons
- Charm dangling in center
- Chenille stems
- Christmas bows
- Confetti
- Cotton balls

Decorated Ball Ornaments

So, we've looked at filling them, now let's look at decorating them. You can use paint, ink, glitter, melted crayon or just about anything on the inside to coat the inside of the ornament. This is great to color-match your theme.

You can also decorate the outside. Some things to consider include:

- Broken, reflective CD or DVD
- Decoupage image or photo
- Paint creatures or scenes
- Randomly cover with paper
- Rub on letters / images
- Ribbon wrap
- Rubber stamp
- Stencil
- Twine / string wrap
- Yarn wrap
- Zendoodle

Combined with a "fill", you can even add more variety. For example, adding painted fish to your beach scene inside gives your ball ornament even more character.



- Shells
- Specialty knots
- String, twine, etc.
- SWAPs
- Tinsel
- Vintage jewelry
- Winter scene

NOTE: While items like popcorn may seem cool, remember the critters in your house that are looking for food when your ornaments are packed away.

Still Christmas?

I know you're thinking about your Christmas tree and following that theme. Stop. Right now.

Push yourself to think outside this use of ornaments.

A piece of driftwood featuring clear ornaments with sand and shells might be a unique decor item for your home. A thousand origami cranes in a mobile can do more than grant a wish. Keepsakes can be put into ornaments and then a bowl on your table as a way to share your family stories. Got it? Good!