

Autumn Baubles



I'm sure you'll agree Summer this year has been changeable but one thing for certain is that in September we have the official start of Autumn. I love the late blooming sunflowers at this time of year, the way they follow the sun throughout the day and their glorious vibrant colour. Hanging baubles have become popular home décor, not just for the festive season, with many having all year round ornamental branches festooned with seasonal baubles. These are a quick and easy make that can be decorated and filled with anything you choose whatever the season or reason. Only one half of a photo bauble is used for each so an economical make.

Materials:

- 8cm round wooden bauble shape, 8cm photo bauble (or any size you choose)
- Music paper (or paper of choice), pencil, ink, splatter stamp
- Tacky PVA glue, gel glue/hot glue gun, paint/opaque paint pens, glitter glue
- Scissors, sandpaper, ribbon
- Embellishments:
MDF sunflowers, small wooden bee, small resin mushrooms, reindeer moss, fake greenery/acorns, fabric craft leaves, paper sunflowers

Instructions:

1. Draw round the MDF shape on music paper. An alternative is to paint a background, decoupage an image, or paint, stamp and colour an image.
2. Cut out the shape outside of the pencil line, the excess will be sanded off for a neater finish. Add plenty of tacky PVA to the wooden bauble and spread over evenly.

3. Add the paper shape, smooth down so it is firmly stuck with no air bubbles. Leave to dry a couple of minutes then go round the edge with sandpaper to remove the excess.
4. Add a 'splatter' with the ink and stamp, or you could paint splatter, or leave as is.
5. Run the ink pad around the edge to distress and blur the edge of the paper. I decorated the other side in the same way but this could be left undecorated.
6. Arrange and glue the 3D embellishments with glue gel/hot glue gun/PVA leaving a small gap around the edge for the dome of the photo bauble to fit over. Leave to dry/set before adding dome. If you have a flat decorated background you could add matching 'sprinkles' of some sort as a lovely extra to make into a shaker bauble.
7. Add a blob of PVA glue to a non-stick/wipeable surface, leave to dry a little so it is less runny. Run the dome edge through the glue blob and place over the MDF shape. Hold in place till you can feel it is sticking. As the glue dries wipe away/pick off any excess.
8. To finish (if wanted) glue ribbon around the edge. Add a short length of ribbon through the hanging hole. The baubles are now ready to hang.
9. Sunflower painted yellow then orange overlaid on the petals. The centre painted in browns. White and black marker pen line highlights with added dots of glitter glue. There is no half dome over this version as its size was larger than 8cm but it makes a good contrast to go with the domed versions.



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