

Heirloom Photo Ornaments
Oct. 2009 IRGS meeting
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Materials:

- Clear glass ornaments (flat is easier to use)
- Decoupage glue or Mod-podge (Elmers can be used but must be thinned down)
- Small flexible brush, bottle brush or even a mascara brush will work
- Glitter
- ¼ inch ribbon for bow
- Copy of photo

Method:

1. Remove the flange from the glass ornament, carefully (glass is thin so breaks easily). Rinse the ornament with a solution of bleach and water to prevent mold. Place upside down on a paper towel, let dry thoroughly.
2. Choose your photo, copy your photo, resize to fit your ornament, make a copy of your photo on regular printer paper (glossy photo paper does not work). Printer ink needs to be water fast, water soluble ink will run. Copies of photo can be made at any copy shop. Just ask for a water fast copy. Color or sepia prints can be made on the laser printer.
3. Carefully cut around the copied photo, leaving about ¼ inch border. If using the round ornament, you will need to cut into the photo every ¼ to ½ inch to allow the photo to fit smoothly. The cuts won't show in the finished ornament.
4. Pour the glue into the ornament, try not to get on the neck of the ornament. Tilt the ornament to coat the inside of the ornament.
5. Roll the copied photo (image side out), I use the handle of the brush. Place the rolled photo inside the ornament and position it with the brush. Smooth out from the center to the edges to prevent air bubbles. If you are working with large photos you can make small pinholes in the copy, these holes will not show on the finished ornament. I have started putting names and dates on a small slip and put it in the back (inside) of the ornament.

6. Pour the glitter into the ornament, roll the ornament to evenly cover the inside of the ornament. Pour out excess glitter and turn upside down to dry completely.

7. When thoroughly dry, replace the flange, be sure it fits tight. With hot glue attach the ribbon. If you want you can add a small paper tag with name/s, dates etc. of the person/s in the photo.

**** If you make a mistake you can start over by rinsing out the ornament with chlorine bleach, let dry and back to number 2.

Reference: <http://genealogy.about.com/cs/holidays/p/ornament.htm?p=1>