

# Tutorials, Techniques & Supply Sources

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*This file contains tutorials, techniques & sources for hard-to-find supplies. This file is sent to accompany ALL my Sew Many Prims patterns, but not all patterns will utilize the tutorials or will need all the supply sources listed. Please use only what pertains to the pattern you've purchased.*

## CRAFT SNOW TUTORIAL - SUPPLIES:

In the past, I carried a line of craft snow that was used in many of my winter-themed patterns. I've discontinued these snows since my wholesale suppliers no longer carry many of these items. Since the snows were such a big part of my winter patterns, I am providing this tutorial so you can learn how to make your own snow as well as providing you retail sources for the supplies involved.

### Gathering your supplies:

Most of the links provided in this tutorial are from amazon.com, just click on the picture if you want more info on that item as the links are active in this pdf. Please contact me if any of the links no longer take you to the product shown. You will also be provided with other ideas on how to source your materials.

#### **PERSONAL BLENDER** (used to grind the snow):

You're looking for something like these blenders. I have used both that are pictured & they do an equally good job. I've used other's that have burned out immediately, one was a Hamilton Beach personal blender. That didn't work for this purpose because the cup was very tall & the base was quite narrow, so steer clear from that one & others like it.

When looking for your personal blender, make sure it includes the following items:

- (1) tall cup
- (1) short cup
- (1) 2-blade cap
- (1) 4-blade cap

Keep in mind, you do not need to purchase an expensive blender for this task. You can certainly use something you've picked up at a thrift store or yard sale.

**NOTE:** Once you start using your personal blender for craft snow, set it aside for craft purposes only. Do not use it to blend food anymore.

#### Rocket Blender



#### Magic Bullet Blender



#### **STYROFOAM** (base for all snow):

Make sure it's 100% Styrofoam, not plastic. I tried a combo Styrofoam/plastic snow as my base & it came out looking pretty ugly & wouldn't grind down. It needs to be Styrofoam for this to work. The product linked says plastic (at the time I'm writing this tutorial), but I've purchased it to check & it is Styrofoam. Here are some additional ideas for sourcing your Styrofoam:

- White Styrofoam shapes (balls, cubes, rectangles..) that you find in craft & hobby stores, sometimes you can even find packs of balls in the floral section of the Dollar Stores.
- White packing peanuts (my local kitchen supply store gives them to me for free!)
- Old Styrofoam coolers, cup & food containers (cleaned, of course & nothing with print or logos- you want your Styrofoam completely white)
- White Styrofoam shipping containers (used to protect TV's, Computers & electronics)
- Check out your local floral or wedding supply stores. Some carry a coarse Styrofoam shred around wintertime to use as snow in their floral design or wedding themes...you can normally purchase it pretty cheap & in bulk at these places.

Almost any white Styrofoam will do...just keep your eyes open & you'll have no problem finding your own source.

#### Winter Snow



**NOTE:** The product linked above on amazon.com says it's plastic snow in the title. I purchased a bag to make sure it's Styrofoam & it is. It's apparently a typo on their site.

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## CRAFT SNOW TUTORIAL - SUPPLIES (continued):

### Continue gathering your supplies:

Click on the picture if you want more info on that item as the links are active in this pdf.  
Please contact me if any of the links no longer take you to the product shown.

#### **MICA** (used in sparkly snow, sparkly spiced snow & mica powder)

This is probably the most difficult supply to find for making the craft snows. I am hesitant to provide links since sources dry up pretty quick, but I will add a few that are good at this time & then give you some tips on what you are looking for in this material & what search terms will yield the best results.

The first image to the right is what I originally used: *Mica Snow from Primitive by Kathy*. I used to be able to find it on amazon.com, but it's no longer available there & as of this publishing (Sept 2017) I cannot find it anywhere in my searches. I just wanted to include the pic of the box so if you happen to stumble upon it, grab it!

The 2nd image/link is from an [Etsy store](#), but it sounds like they are limited in supplies. They are calling it Fine Mica Flakes - silvery white, they look like the right size maybe even a better size than what I had originally been using.

I really do recommend you do your own search to find a Mica that's not too costly & has reasonable shipping.

**So, what exactly are you looking for in Mica??** Well, first take note of the pictures, the color is silvery with a **very** slight brownish hue (think vintage), it should have distinct flakes - size of the flakes really won't matter as it'll be ground down when we make the individual snows. Here are some tips for searching:

- Search Etsy or eBay - it's your best bet.
- Use search terms: Natural Mica Flakes, Mica Snow, Mica Flakes, Vintage Mica (or any combo of those terms)
- Do not buy any that has color added, you want the natural flakes.

That should point you in the right direction. Don't worry if you purchase something & it doesn't look exactly like what's pictured here, as long as it shimmers it should be fine - you'll never notice the differences once it's ground down anyway. :)



#### **SPICE MIXTURE** (used in spiced snow & sparkly spiced snow)

This is just a mixture of powdered or ground cinnamon & cloves - nothing fancy here. I may have some available in my store [HERE](#), if not, it's simply made by adding 1 part cinnamon to 2 parts cloves. If you make your own, feel free to experiment with the ratio...more cloves will give it a darker color (but ground cloves can be very expensive so you may want to ration them a bit), using more cinnamon will give it a rustier color. Depends on your personal preference & the project you're working on.

If you plan on making large quantities of sparkly or plain spiced snow flurries, I recommend you buying these spices in bulk to save you some money (like what's pictured to the left). It could get very expensive if you're purchasing 2 oz shakers to make large batches of snow flurries. On the other hand, if you don't plan on making much, then check out your local dollar stores, I'm sure they have at the very least cinnamon in stock, maybe both!

#### **Bulk Cinnamon**



#### **Bulk Cloves**



**Now that you've gathered all your supplies it's time for the fun stuff...making the snow! Recipes are on the next page.**

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## CRAFT SNOW TUTORIAL - RECIPES:

*Please refer to the recipes below when you run across any of these snows in a Sew Many Primms pattern:*

### MICA FLAKES

*Supplies List:*

- **Mica Flakes**
- **Personal Blender** - optional
- **Tall blender cup** (that came with your personal blender) - optional
- **4-blade cap** (that came with your personal blender) - optional
- **mask** (*always wear a mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust particles*)

Nothing to do here unless your mica flakes are quite large & you'd like to grind them down into a more manageable size (smaller flakes are easier to adhere to your projects). If that's the case, place the mica flakes into the tall blender cup fitted with the 4-blade cap & pulse until the flake size is to your liking. You may need to tilt the cup (motor & all) as you pulse the blender to ensure even flake size, otherwise the flakes around the blade may get over processed & turn into powder. This goes really quick, so keep a close eye on the flake size.

### MICA POWDER

*Supplies List:*

- **Mica Flakes**
- **Personal Blender**
- **Short blender cup** (that came with your personal blender)
- **2-blade cap** (that came with your personal blender)
- **mask** (*always wear a mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust particles*)

Place the mica flakes in the short cup of your personal blender. I would do a cup at a time, but you can do as much or little as you'd like. Screw the 2-blade cap onto the cup. Blend in short intervals until your mica has been ground down to a fine powder. Now, this may take awhile so don't rush it. I normally would pick up the blender (motor & all) while its running and slowly tip it to the left & right, back & forth to get the flakes flying all over the cup. If you feel the motor heating up too much, just give it a break & start again after it has cooled down a bit. If you let it go too long you could overheat the motor.

### EXTRA FINE SNOW FLURRIES

*Supplies List:*

- **Styrofoam** (*see suggestions under supplies*)
- **Personal Blender**
- **Tall blender cup** (that came with your personal blender)
- **4-blade cap** (that came with your personal blender)
- **mask** (*always wear a mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust particles*)

1. **Preparation:** If you are using solid Styrofoam like cubes, balls, blocks or anything of the sort you'll want to cut it up into manageable pieces....packing peanuts are a perfect size, so you won't need to do any prep work on them.
2. **Grinding:** Place your Styrofoam (whether it be cut up chunks, packing peanuts, shred or coarse pre-packaged snow) into your tall blender cup fitted with the 4-blade cap. Turn on & tip the blender (motor & all) back & forth, left & right to get the pieces moving. This stuff gets staticy so you may need to turn it off & remove the cup & give it a good shake. This process shouldn't take long at all (especially the peanuts, shred & the coarse snow). If the cut up chunks are taking awhile to grind down, keep your eye on the heat produced by the motor. If it's getting too hot, just give it a break & start again after it has cooled down a bit. If you let it go too long you could overheat the motor.

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## CRAFT SNOW TUTORIAL - RECIPES (continued):

### SPARKLY SNOW FLURRIES:

#### *Supplies List:*

- **1 cup Extra Fine Snow Flurries** (following directions on page 2)
- **1/2 cup Mica Flakes**
- **Personal Blender**
- **Tall blender cup** (that came with your personal blender)
- **4-blade cap** (that came with your personal blender)
- **mask** (always wear a mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust particles)

Place 1/2 cup Mica in the tall blender cup first, then add the 1 cup extra fine snow flurries & screw on the 4-blade cap. (I put the mica in first because it's heavier & will help push the snow down towards the blade). Turn on & tip the blender (motor & all) back & forth, left & right to get the pieces moving. This stuff gets staticy so you may need to turn it off & remove the cup & give it a good shake. Stop once the Mica has been ground down to your liking & it has been incorporated well into the snow. Always be mindful of the heat produced by the motor. If it's getting too hot, just give it a break & start again after it has cooled down a bit. If you let it go too long you could overheat the motor.

### SPICED SNOW FLURRIES:

#### *Supplies List:*

- **1 cup Extra Fine Snow Flurries** (following directions on page 3)
- **1/4 cup spice mixture** (1/8 cup ground cinnamon & 1/8 cup ground cloves)
- **Personal Blender**
- **Tall blender cup** (that came with your personal blender)
- **2-blade cap** (that came with your personal blender)
- **mask** (always wear a mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust particles)

Place 1/4 cup spice mixture in the tall blender cup first, then add the 1 cup extra fine snow flurries & screw on the 2-blade cap. (I put the spices in the cup first to help push the lighter snow down into the blade) Turn on & tip the blender (motor & all) back & forth, left & right to get the flurries moving. The spices stick to the cup so it'll be hard to see what's going on. I normally stop it to look inside. If things aren't blended to my liking, I put the cap back on, give it a good shake & turn it back on. Stop once the spices have been well incorporated into the snow. Always be mindful of the heat produced by the motor. If it's getting too hot, just give it a break & start again after it has cooled down a bit. If you let it go too long you could overheat the motor.

### SPARKLY SPICED SNOW FLURRIES:

#### *Supplies List:*

- **1 cup Extra Fine Snow Flurries** (following directions on page 3)
- **1/2 cup Mica**
- **1/4 cup spice mixture** (1/8 cup ground cinnamon & 1/8 cup ground cloves)
- **Personal Blender**
- **Tall blender cup** (that came with your personal blender)
- **2-blade cap** (that came with your personal blender)
- **mask** (always wear a mask to avoid breathing in the fine dust particles)

Place 1/2 cup Mica in the tall blender cup first, the spice mixture second and the extra fine snow flurries last. Screw on the 2-blade cap. (I put the heavier items in the cup first to help push the lighter snow down into the blade) Turn on & tip the blender (motor & all) back & forth, left & right to get the flurries moving. The spices stick to the cup so it'll be hard to see what's going on. I normally stop it to look inside. If things aren't ground up to my liking, I put the cap back on, give it a good shake & turn it back on. When the mica has been ground down to your liking & everything has been well incorporated, you are done. Always be mindful of the heat produced by the motor. If it's getting too hot, just give it a break & start again after it has cooled down a bit. If you let it go too long you could overheat the motor.

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## TECHNIQUES:

*Rusty Tin is getting harder & harder to find nowadays which can be very frustrating since many of my patterns call for rusty tin embellishments. Fortunately, I've come up with this technique so you can make your own!*

### FAUX RUSTY TIN:

*Supplies List:*

- **Brown Canvas Duck Cloth**
- **Delta Ceramcoat Acrylic Paints: Spice Brown, Burnt Sienna, Antique Gold**
- **Instant tea granules, unsweetened** (I put mine in a shaker bottle so it's easier to apply to my projects)
- **Mod Podge, matte finish**
- **Water in a spray bottle**
- **Ground Cinnamon - optional**
- **Paint brushes** (you can get a nice set of flat/shader brushes in the craft dept. at Wal-Mart for a decent price)
- **Stencil Brush or sponge**

Trace out the shape for your rusty tin piece onto the canvas (in many of my patterns I've included the shape of the rusty tin piece - use that as your template). Cut out an oversized shape **around** the traced lines, **not on the traced lines**. Paint a basecoat of mod podge on the front & back of the canvas, making sure to go past the traced lines. Set aside to dry. Once dry, cut out on traced lined (basecoating with mod podge first ensures crisp edges & helps to prevent fraying). Dip 1/2 of your stencil brush/sponge into the burnt sienna paint & the other half into antique gold. Tap brush/sponge on paper towel to blend the colors. Lightly dab the brush/sponge over the canvas shape, moving the brush/sponge in different directions to create a mottled, rusty tin effect. Do not cover the entire shape with the rusty colors, you'll want to let some of the brown canvas show through. If there's not enough brown peeking through the rusty colors, dip your brush/sponge into the spice brown paint & lightly dab the shape with this color. You may need to go back & forth between these 3 colors until you achieve the result you desire. Once you're happy with the results, paint a coat of Mod Podge over the shape & lightly sprinkle with the instant tea...just a few granules will do. They should melt on the wet mod podge, if not, **lightly spritz** with the water to semi-melt the granules - the dark brown color melting from the granules should spread across the "rusty tin". Don't use too much water or it will completely melt the granules, it look more realistic if some of the granules remain intact. Let dry completely. At this point you can very lightly sprinkle some cinnamon over the shape, if you get too much on, just brush off & try again. Finish & seal with a coat of Mod Podge. If both sides of your rusty tin piece will be visible on the project you are working on then you will need to repeat this process on back side.

*No need to spend tons of money buying primitive or grungy candles/tea lights. You can pick up those cheap white battery operated candles/tea lights at the dollar store & create your own grungy version! Here's how:*

### GRUNGY TEA LIGHTS/CANDLES:

*Supplies List:*

- **Electric or Battery Operated Candle or Tea Light**
- **Delta Ceramcoat Acrylic Paints: Spice Brown**
- **Instant tea granules, unsweetened** (I put mine in a shaker bottle so it's easier to apply to my projects)
- **Instant coffee granules** (brand doesn't matter - just get the cheapest you can find)
- **Mod Podge, matte finish**
- **Water in a spray bottle**
- **Ground Cinnamon**
- **Paint brushes** (you can get a nice set of flat/shader brushes in the craft dept. at Wal-Mart for a decent price)

Paint the base of the candle/tea light with spice brown & sprinkle with cinnamon before the paint dries. Set aside to dry. Mix 1/2 tablespoon of Mod Podge with a large pinch of instant coffee granules & stir until the granules have dissolved. You may need to add a little water to thin down the Mod Podge a bit, you want the consistency to be more like paint than glue. Paint an even coat of this mixture over the cinnamon & sprinkle with another coat of cinnamon. Spritz the cinnamon lightly with water & then sprinkle with instant tea granules. The tea granules should melt from the water, if they haven't then lightly spritz again with the water...don't overdo it with the water, you just want it damp enough to melt the tea & create a nice contrast between the cinnamon & tea color. You may need to go back & forth between the tea & cinnamon until you achieve the result you desire. Let dry & then apply one last coat of the Mod Podge mixture to seal. Let dry completely.

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## SUPPLY SOURCES:

*Please check my site first to see if I have what you need. If I don't, check Amazon.com as they have almost everything you can imagine, but prices are unpredictable. Sometimes you get a good deal & sometimes the prices are outrageous...it all depends on the seller - be sure to shop around. I'm also including links, but suppliers dry up fast so the links may no longer be valid by the time you receive this file (I've had to remove many links from the last update in June). If you need to do some searching on your own, try Etsy, I buy a lot of my retail supplies there & prices have been more than reasonable - many sellers will combine shipping. Ebay would be another great option, you never know what type of deal you may find there.*

**UPDATE:** *The overwhelming response to this supply list is that many of you would prefer to purchase the supplies straight off my site instead of shopping around at different sites/stores. I've added some of the harder to find products to my site and will continue to do so as I find deals in order to keep the prices reasonable for my customers.*

**The following links were updated & fully functional as of Sept 2017**

### DOLL HAIR & EYES:

At the time of this publishing you can still find wool doll hair, doll eyes (black buttons & beads) as well as some misc. crafting & doll making supplies on my [Sew Many Primms website](#) & soon to be added to my [Etsy Store](#).

### GARLANDS:

*NOTE: Grapevine & Primitive Grapevine are interchangeable in my patterns - you don't really need both types.*

- Sew Many Primms - [Grapevine Wire & Pip Berry Garlands](#)
- Hobby Lobby - [Grapevine Wire](#)
- Amazon.com - [Grapevine Wire](#), [Primitive Grapevine Wire](#), [Pip Berry Garland](#)
- Jo-Ann Fabrics - [Grapevine Wire](#)
- Factory Direct Crafts - [Grapevine Wire](#), [Pip Berry Garland](#),
- Craft Supplies Unlimited - [Mini Ming Pine](#)

### RUSTY TIN:

- Sew Many Primms - [Corrugated Wire](#), [Bells](#), [Stars](#), [Safety Pins](#), [White Snowflakes](#)
- Factory Direct Crafts - [Shapes](#), [Wire](#), [Corrugated Wire](#), [Bells](#), [Dimensional Stars](#)
- Over's Country Store - [Shapes](#), [Wire](#), [Bells](#)
- Streetcar Junction (Etsy) - [Shapes & Bells](#), [Wire](#), [Safety Pins](#)

### FABRICS:

- [Sew Many Primms](#) (muslin, shaggy felt & I will also be offering the fabrics I have in stock that were used when releasing a new pattern, most of these fabrics will be in limited availability & not restocked.)
- [Sweet Stuff by Jen \(Etsy\)](#) (wool felt sold by the sheet & yard (by special request)) She has a variety pack of 9"x12" sheets featuring the colors I use most frequently in my patterns - you can find that [here](#).
- [Prairie Point Junction](#) (wool felt sold by the sheet & yard)
- [Jo-Ann Fabrics](#) (wool felt - poor online selection, I usually have better luck at my local Jo-Ann's store)
- [Over's Country Store](#) (homespun by the yard)
- [Amazon.com](#) (homespun bundles)

### BASIC SUPPLIES:

*I get all the supplies listed below from Jo-Ann Fabric Store (or any local hobby/fabric store) & Wal-Mart. If for some reason I can't find what I'm looking for at those two places I'll hop online & check Amazon.com.*

- **Stuffing:** Poly-fil fiberfill & Poly-pellets weighted stuffing beads
- **Threads:** DMC embroidery floss, sewing, quilting, upholstery & button
- **Tools:** Turn-It-All tubes, doll making needles, basting needles, needle grabbers, seam rippers, water soluble markers, disappearing markers & Tailor's chalk
- **Adhesives:** Heat' n Bond Adhesive, Glue Sticks, Aleene's Tacky Glue & Elmer's Craft Bond Spray Adhesive
- **Fabrics:** Muslin, osnaburg, flannel, canvas, wool felt & Warm & Natural batting
- **Ribbons & Laces** (by the yard or prepackaged on a spool for embellishing)
- **Painting supplies:** Acrylic paint, paint brushes, stencil brushes & Mod Podge matte finish
- **Buttons:** novelty & miniature colored
- **Jute & Sisal** (in all different plies & weights for embellishing)