

# Restoring Santa's Teddy

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I love this time of year: the thrift stores have their Christmas stock out, and there are fun bargains to be found! I picked up a bag of miscellaneous ornaments last week for \$4.49, and it included this adorable Santa, a Lustre Fame ornament from 1992.

He's super cute just as he is, but that slight mark on his beard made me suspect that something might be missing.

Sure enough, when I looked him up on line, I discovered that he had originally been

holding an adorable teddy bear on his lap.

I could have kept him as I found him; apart from that little blemish, he didn't actually look as though anything was missing. But once I knew he was supposed to have a teddy, I couldn't leave him without it. Time to break out the polymer clay!



To make the replacement teddy, I shaped simple body parts out of clay and pressed them together before baking them in my toaster oven for a few minutes. Now all I need to do is paint the features

(eyes and nose) with black acrylic paint. (He sure is teeny!)





I glued my first little teddy in place on Santa's knee, and I was quite happy with him, until I had an inspiration: since I was making an all-new teddy anyway, why not give him a blond topknot like Punkinhead, who always rode with Santa in the Toronto Eaton's Santa Claus Parade?

That parade was televised nationally each year when I was a child, and my sibs and I never missed it.

Once the idea occurred to me, I couldn't resist giving it a try. In the end, I made three versions of my teeny teddy and asked DH to select which one should accompany Santa in the sleigh.



He ended up choosing the Punkinhead version with the yellow topknot. My little teddy doesn't look like the one that would originally have come with the ornament,

but then, there's no real reason why he should have to. The homage to Punkinhead brings a touch of both nostalgia and Canadiana, and makes the little ornament uniquely ours.

Either way, Santa's got his teddy companion, and he's going to look great with the rest of my Santa ornament collection.

