

Coke Santa

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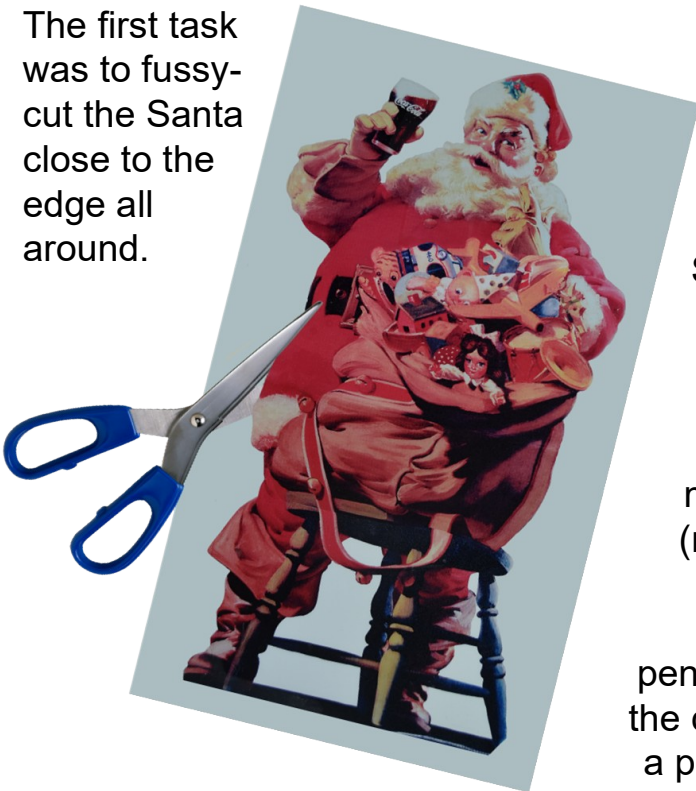
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At an antique mall a few years back, I spotted one of those life-sized Coke Santa cut-outs from the 60s. I would love to have bought it – we had a similar one at home when I was a youngster – but I was travelling at the time and it was much too large to carry on the plane home. And I'll admit that the \$100 price tag stopped me.

By way of compensation, my friend took a photo of the Santa, and made me an 11x17" printout, which I've been intending to mount for display. In the spirit of checking items off my long-term project list, I finally decided to tackle the Santa.



The first task was to fussy-cut the Santa close to the edge all around.



These large Santa cut-outs are made of sturdy cardboard so they can stand up. I decided to mount mine on hardboard (masonite) instead.

To begin, I used a pencil to trace around the cut-out Santa onto a piece of hardboard, leaving a small border all around.





Once I had traced Santa's outline onto the piece of hardboard, I used my scroll saw to cut out the shape along the pencilled line.

Next, I painted the edges of the hardboard shape with white acrylic paint.



When the paint was dry, I used Mod Podge to paste the Santa cut-out to the hardboard base.



Finally, I sprayed the image with a satin clear coat to help protect the delicate inkjet photo print from damage. (Actually, I wish I had sprayed the photo *before* gluing it to the hardboard, as I did get a slight smear of Mod Podge on the print while mounting the photo. Fortunately, the blemish isn't too visible, but if I make another, I'll be sure to spray it before gluing.)



I plan to add some kind of hinged bracket to the back of my Santa so he will be able to stand, as the old cardboard ones did.



For the time being, I'll just lean him against the wall among my other Santa ornaments.