

# Ornament Repair

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Our home has hard floors, which means that fragile items that happen to fall will almost always break. We also have Scampers, who delights in pushing items over the edges of tables and cabinets. It's been a tough combination when it comes to the survival of our ornaments and knick-knacks over the past couple of years.

I can't claim that every broken item has been Scampers' fault, and I haven't been able to repair all of them, but I have managed to resurrect several. Here's how I did it.



This one actually was Scampers' doing: I happened to be in the room when he biffed this brand new resin ornament – a gift from a friend -- over the table edge, snapping off its two front paws. They were clean breaks, fortunately, and I was able to reattach them with Beacon Magna-tac adhesive. So far the repair seems to be holding up and I'm hoping it will stand the

test of time. In the photo you can just make out the repair, but in real life it's almost invisible, and my new kitten ornament will be ready to grace the tree next year. It actually looks kind of like Scampers himself, so maybe it's fitting that this ornament bears the marks of his handiwork.



Not all repairs are quite so straightforward. This pretty ceramic Santa was a favourite of mine until Scampers knocked him off the table last year, and he splintered into dozens of tiny pieces.

I wasn't even sure he was salvageable, but I saved the pieces anyway, and they sat in my loft for more than a year.

I didn't think to take photos of the broken figure, but the black lines on the photo may give an indication of just how smashed up he was.



Several of the

shards were too small to reassemble, and some were missing entirely, and at first I wasn't sure how I'd fill in the gaps. I finally decided to try an air-drying clay recipe

that I found on line. I began by gluing the larger pieces together using Barge cement. Then I patched the gaps with the clay and let it dry thoroughly. Finally, I lightly sanded



the filled bits and painted over them with acrylic paint.

Although I wouldn't exactly call this an in-

visible repair, it is subtle enough not to call attention to itself when the figure is displayed on a Christmas shelf or table, and I'm pleased to have my little Santa back.





I can't recall how exactly my decorative cat plate got broken, but when it hit the floor, it smashed into several pieces. I gathered the bits and eventually glued them back together using Barge cement, but the cracks in the plate were still really

visible. I wasn't sure how best to fill them, so the plate languished for several months until I was repairing Santa using the homemade air-dry clay. The plate was



pretty much a write-off anyway, so I decided I had nothing to lose by trying the clay.

I smoothed it into the cracks as best I could, then when it dried, I lightly sanded it, taking care not to damage the finish on the rest of the plate. I painted the repair with black acrylic paint and gave it a light touch of varnish.



This is not a perfect repair,

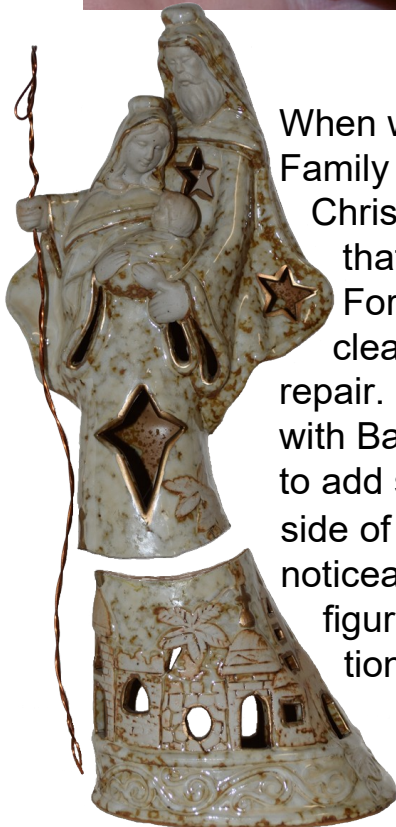
not by a long shot, because with the air-dry clay I couldn't get as smooth a finish as I'd have liked. But in the end, I was able to salvage my plate, and I learned something at the same time. And when the plate is up on the wall, the repair isn't too noticeable to a passerby, unless she looks really closely. I'd call that good.



This resin Santa-in-a-rowboat ornament came to me with a chip out of the prow. I used air-dry clay to make a repair, then let it dry before sanding to smooth it out.



I finished by painting the repair with matching acrylics. The ornament is pretty small, so it was a little tricky to get a neat finish with the homemade clay. But once it's on the tree, the repair won't be visible.



When we opened this beautiful Holy Family votive holder/figurine on Christmas morning, we discovered that it had been broken in transit. Fortunately, the break was clean, so it was a relatively easy repair. I glued the pieces together with Barge cement, then used Goop to add some reinforcement to the inside of the break. The repair is barely noticeable, so I'll be able to display the figure as part of my Nativity collection next year.

Doing small repairs like these can extend the life of pretty items, and also helps keep things out of the landfill. I'd call that a win-win.

