

Partylite Fireplace

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I fell in love with this this beautiful fireplace scent diffuser from Partylites.

It's even pretty from the back!

Part of its charm is the little ceramic Christmas stockings dangling from the mantelpiece.

Unfortunately, mine had broken free and needed to be reattached. Sounds simple, but here's the challenge: The little stockings have a wire hanging loop embedded in the upper back, which originally connected to a corresponding loop on the fireplace. As is the case with many such items, the wire loops on the fireplace were broken off (in the photo, you can just see the nub indicated by the yellow arrow).



At first, I hoped to simply drill into the ceramic and attach new wire loops, but the surface proved to be just too hard for my tiny drill bits.



Unable to drill into the hard ceramic of the fireplace, I knew that whatever solution I chose would involve gluing some kind of anchor point to the fireplace. I decided to try gluing a short loop of wire in position on the fireplace front, tucking the other end beneath the leafy garland.





So far so good, but now another problem presented itself: it turned out to be almost impossible to manoeuvre the stocking onto the open loop because of the ceramic garland trim on the fireplace and the placement of the corresponding loop on the back of the stocking. Plus, the stocking loops are fragile, and I feared snapping them off while trying to link them to a

loop on the fireplace. And finally, there was no room to get pliers into position to close the fireplace loop. Clearly this solution wasn't going to work.

After mulling over the problem for a while longer, I thought of those little hooks from a hook-and-eye set, normally used on clothing. An open hook would allow me to place the stockings without the necessity to get in there with pliers. I chose the black, so they'd be less visible when glued to the dark brown fireplace mantle.



None of my other glues seemed to hold to the hard surface of the fireplace, so I decided to go with quick-setting epoxy.

I applied a small gob to the fireplace and set the hook in approximately the same spot on the fireplace where the original loops had broken off.

I didn't want the hooks to pull away from the fireplace surface when I attempted to attach the stockings, so I gave the epoxy 24 hours to completely cure, to ensure as good a hold as possible.



Once the glue had set, I daubed it with brown paint to blend better with the background.

Although this repair is not invisible, it's secure, and it's sufficiently unobtrusive to pass without much notice when the fireplace is on display.

Best of all, I was easily able to slide the stocking loops onto the hooks, and once they were in place, I used a small screwdriver to gently squeeze the hooks closed. Success!



I picked up my little fireplace for \$4.50 at a thrift store, which turned out to be a bargain, as I saw when I found a few listings for this very item on line. The one reproduced below is typical; despite the price, several did not include the little stockings.

Buying on ebay is frequently not a bargain, as the shipping is almost always prohibitive. Even without the shipping factored in, the fireplace was nearly \$50 – too much for my budget. Needless to say, I wouldn't have bought it at such a cost, though it's kind of nice to know the full extent of my bargain!

Partylite Cozy Comfy Aroma Melts Warmer Candle Holder Christmas Fireplace P9972



Price: US \$35.00
CDN \$48.29

Shipping: US \$39.27
CDN \$54.19

Total CDN:
\$48.29
+ \$54.19
\$102.48

I probably won't use the fireplace as a scent diffuser, but just in case I want to, my fireplace even came with three of the aroma-melt pucks, in a lovely French vanilla scent.

Here's a view of the finished fireplace, with the repair complete.



Of course, I would like to have been able to achieve an invisible repair. Perhaps if I'd had a stronger drill bit, I might have been able to drill into the hard ceramic of the fireplace to insert new wire loops, but since that wasn't possible with the equipment I have, I'm satisfied that this is the best result I could hope for.

And I honestly don't think a casual observer will notice the repair when the fireplace is on display.