

A Tiny Lobster Trap

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This year, I finally got around to making one of my free-standing lace lobster ornaments for my own tree. I like him a lot, but I kind of thought he needed an extra something.

I like to add an extra bauble to my hand-made ornaments – a little beaded element, some jingle bells, or a small charm -- just to add movement and visual interest. In fact, the right little “extra” can really complete the look of an ornament.

I played around with some of my bead collection, but nothing seemed quite right for my lobster ornament, until I had one of those *Eureka!* moments.



What I needed was a teeny lobster trap, or “pot”, as they were called when I was growing up. It wouldn't need to be a perfect replica, just a stylized suggestion of the real

thing. And since it's just a bauble to augment the ornament, I wouldn't need to worry about the scale. After all, my lace lobster wasn't going to be inside.

I didn't have a teeny lobster pot in my stash, but I did have the materials I needed to make my little bauble: cardboard, canape sticks, and a teeny embroidered lobster embellishment.



Here are the components I used to make my lobster pot: I snipped off the ends of the canape sticks and cut them in half; all together I needed 7 pieces to go around the top of the pot and another 4 to trim the bottom. The cardboard template formed the base and the ends.

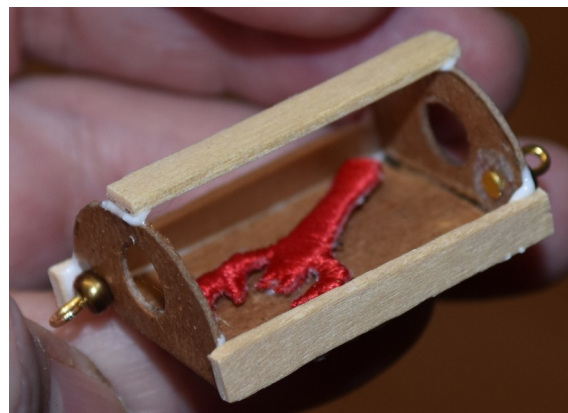


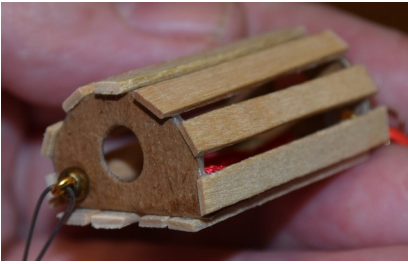
The cardboard template is just under 1" wide and just over 2" long, with rounded ends. I folded up the ends along the marked lines, then punched a 1/4" hole in each end panel. I gave the cardboard a skim coat of antiquing Mod Podge, and when that was dry, I added the head pins to make my lobster pot into a dangle, offsetting them so the lobster trap will hang on a slight angle.

Once that was done, I glued one of my embroidered lobster embellishments in place using tacky glue.

I also used tacky glue to add the staves to the sides, beginning with the top centre one and then adding the bottom side pieces.

Then I added two more evenly spaced slats on either side to complete the pot. It's just too darned cute!





You can just glimpse the teeny lobster inside the trap, through the gaps in the slats.

They weren't necessary, but I also glued an additional four slats to the bottom of the lobster pot; though they

are not structurally required, they do add some extra verisimilitude.



Many of the sibs already have an FSL lobster, so they need only the lobster pots to complete their ornaments. The one sister who didn't previously have one of these will be receiving a blue one, in keeping with her favourite colour. (Blue lobsters actually do exist, but are very rare indeed --- it's estimated that only one in 20 million lobsters has the genetic anomaly that colours them blue).

As for me, I'll be content with the red one for my tree. Either way, I really like how the mini lobster pot adds movement and visual interest – you can just catch a glimpse of the teeny lobster through the slats as the large lobster swings freely from the jump ring.

And, of course, it's also funny -- my sister laughed out loud when she first saw the photo!



Shhh! The blue lobster ornament is to be a Christmas surprise for my sister! Don't tell her you saw it here!



I'm very pleased with how this bauble completes the ornament. It's just the effect I was looking for, and I

can't wait to add it to the other lobster decorations on my tree!