

Vintage Ballerina

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Posted 2022 December

One of the fascinations of browsing in thrift stores is re-discovering items you remember fondly but haven't actually seen since childhood. Take these vintage ballerina cake decorations, much coveted by my sister and me when they appeared on our friend Ruthie's store-bought birthday cakes. At our house we had lovely homemade cakes, but alas, no ballerinas. I guess that's why they made such an impression on us.

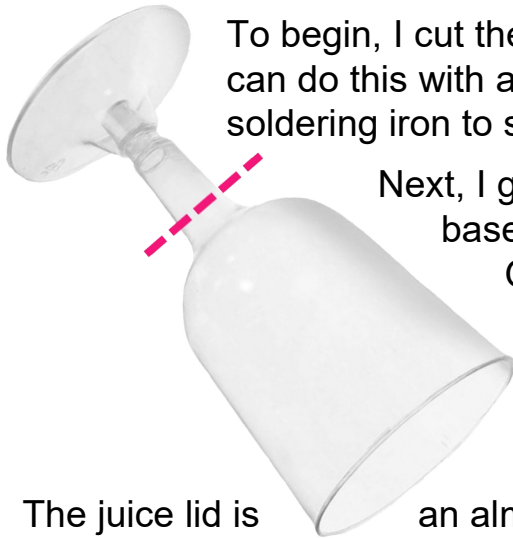


I was delighted to find one of them recently, a genuine vintage item, and I snapped it up right away. I suppose I could have added it to my trinket shelf, but – not surprisingly – I opted instead to make it into an ornament.

The ballerina is too tiny to simply hang on the tree on her own, so I decided to place her inside a dome. To make the ornament, I used one of these disposable wine glasses

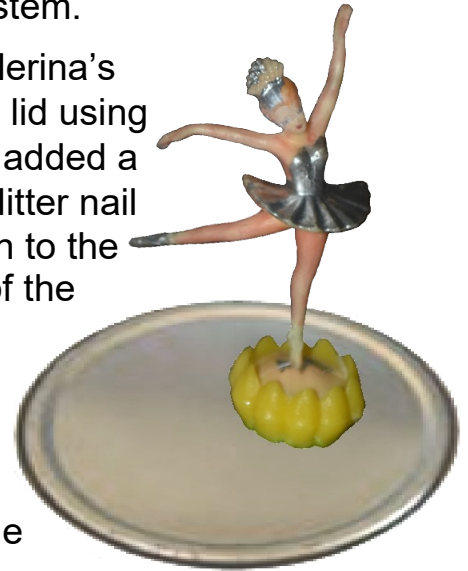


from the dollar store, a juice can lid, an ornament cap, and two different fused bead trims.



To begin, I cut the stem about 3/8" below the bowl. You can do this with a rotary tool, but in this case, I used my soldering iron to slice off the stem.

Next, I glued the ballerina's base to the juice lid using Goop. I also added a coat of glitter nail polish to the surface of the juice lid.



The juice lid is an almost perfect fit for the wine glass dome. Before gluing the dome in place, I added a string of iridescent fused pearls around the inside rim.



I glued the dome to the juice lid base with a thin line of Goop all around the edge, then added an additional string of fused beads chosen to match the colour of the ballerina's tutu (mine is wearing a silver costume, so the second row of beads is silver).

The large ornament cap, salvaged from a broken glass ornament, fits perfectly over the stub of the stem.

The acrylic dome will render my little ballet dancer easily visible, while keeping her well protected. I think she's going to look super cute on the tree.