

COME HOME TO COMFORT

COUNTRY LIVING

198 bright holiday ideas

- * Dazzling Decorations
- * 75 Gifts Under \$25
- * Festive, Frugal Party Tips

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ornaments
for
pennies!

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2010 \$3.99

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BUDGET MAKEOVER

A Change of Hearth

Make your fireplace the most festive spot in the house with these elegant, wallet-friendly transformations.

 Come December, as soon as stockings make their way out of storage, the mantel becomes every home's focal point. To take this one (*below*) from everyday to holiday, we decorated with items most people already have on hand this time of year, such as greeting cards, ribbons, and tissue paper. Finishing touches unearthed from the backyard (free pinecones!) give the scene a rustic feel, while inexpensive craft-store extras, like mica snow, add subtle sparkle. The result: A winter wonderland with a sophisticated look that belies its modest cost. —JOURDAN CROUCH



Mirror A plain mirror gains seasonal edge with this shimmering frame of tissue paper leaves. We alternated between silver and white and taped the foliage at varying angles to add dimension.



Candleholders Small glass votives filled with pearlescent mica flakes (\$12.50 for 32 ounces; micasnow.com) offer an unexpected home for tapers. Provide extra stability with candle putty (\$2.39; save-on-crafts.com).

Stockings Understated alternatives to traditional red-and-green felt, these rustic booties telegraph a desire for gifts—without going over-the-top. (From left: Vintage lace trim, \$42; raphaeldesigns.com. Linen adorned with seed pods, \$35; simplementebianco.com. Recycled magazines, \$24.95; patinastores.com)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMEE HERRING; PROP STYLING BY CHRISTINA LANE