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BRIGHT IDEAS!

- ① Display vintage or rustic finds that fit your mantel's theme.
- ② Frame a cheerful holiday greeting or Christmas carol lyric.
- ③ Spruce things up with a strand of live cedar or pine roping.

[LIVE IT]

Holly Jolly Home

Twinkle up your mantel with silver bells, strands of garland and a tip or two from these merrymakers. **BY LEAH WYNALEK**



OPENING MANTEL: MYBLESSDLIFE.NET; PIANO: ASHLEY THURMAN OF CHERISHED BLISS

Play with Layers

“Start with a live garland as the base, and then add items that you love and have collected over time,” says Myra Yarbrough, lifestyle blogger at myblessedlife.net. “I have the sweetest friends and family who ooh and aah over my holiday decor. My dad has commented before that it’s like *I Spy* because he always sees something different.”

Create a Mantel

Ashley Thurman, the DIY guru at cherishedbliss.com, doesn’t have a fireplace, so she found a new space to hang her handmade stockings. “One day I was staring at this giant piano in my living room, and I knew it would take the place of a mantel. It worked beautifully! If you don’t have a piano, use a wooden shelf or media stand.”





Get a Little Glam

Jennifer Bridgman can't get enough Christmas greenery, but the blogger at chroniclesofhome.com always tries to add something shiny to her mantel, like this faux metallic strand. "It's made entirely of plastic ornament balls from the dollar store! All I had to do was string them onto a ribbon and they clustered into a thick, glittering garland."



Keep It Classic

"The older I get, the more I like keeping my holiday decorating easy and uncomplicated," says Julie Schock of lilacsandlonghorns.com. For this mantel, she stuck to a traditional red-and-green color scheme, embellished candles with ribbon, and made a big message board using a frame, hardboard and some chalkboard paint. ■



GLAM MANTEL: JENNIFER BRIDGMAN; CLASSIC MANTEL: JULIE SCHOCK



BRIGHT IDEA!
Sew cozy sweater stockings for your family. Go to page 26 for an easy tutorial.