

# 1 - 2 - 3 Christmas!

The most wonderful time of the year is often one of the busiest, but fear not, we will have you ready for Christmas in no time.

By Hayley Penrose



## REINDEER NOSES

Reindeer Noses are a fun way to give chocolates a festive feel, making them a great gift for children and adults alike.

### You will need:

- Maltasers
- Red bubblegum balls
- Small plastic favour bags

### What to do

- 1** Place 8 Maltasers in each bag, these are the reindeer noses

- 2** Add one red bubblegum ball to each bag for Rudolph's nose
- 3** Seal the bags

### GET CREATIVE!

Add a tag to your bag of noses. Make one on a computer or pull out your craft supplies.

If you want to give a bit more, use a jar and fill it with the treats. You could even use pipe cleaners for antlers and stick on eyes to give the jar a reindeer face.

## SHORTBREAD COOKIES

Christmas is the time of year for unexpected guests. Always have something on hand with this easy recipe. Your visitors will be impressed – if the cookies last that long!

### You will need:

- Melted butter to grease
- 1½ cups plain flour
- ⅔ cup rice flour
- ½ cup caster sugar
- Pinch of salt

- 225 grams cold butter, coarsely chopped
- Extra plain flour to dust

**What to do**

- 1** Preheat oven to 150 degrees Celsius. Brush two large baking trays with melted butter to lightly grease.
- 2** Combine flour, rice flour, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Use your fingertips to rub in the butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth.
- 3** Roll dough out until 1cm thick. Cut dough to your desired size and shapes. Place on prepared trays. Bake in oven for 45 minutes, swapping trays halfway through cooking, or until shortbreads start to change colour. Cool on trays for 1 hour.

**GET CREATIVE!**

The great thing about shortbread is it's so versatile! Dress it up or dress it down depending on your tastes and the occasion. For Christmas, why not make a reindeer face with using icing – don't forget a bright red nose for Rudolph! For a great gift idea, use cookie cutters to make stars and tie them with a bow.

**ORNAMENT WREATH**

Make a statement with a handmade ornament wreath these holidays.

**You will need:**

- A wire coat hanger
- Round Christmas tree ornaments in various sizes and colours

**What to do**

- 1** Take the coat hanger and bend it to form a circle. Untwist the end of the hanger using your hands or pliers.
- 2** String the ornaments onto the wire, alternating colours and sizes as desired. A glue gun can be used to reinforce or reattach the ornaments.
- 3** Use pliers to reattach the ends of the hanger and voila, a beautiful Christmas wreath.

**GET CREATIVE!**

Add a bow to your wreath for some extra flair, plus it doubles as a way to hide the



top of the coat hanger. If you have any gaps in your wreath you can use tinsel or ribbon to fill them in, or hot glue some extra ornaments in place.

**CHRISTMAS CARD DISPLAY**

Christmas mail is some of the most exciting to get, so why not show it off with this simple display. It's practical, and it doubles as a festive decoration.

**You will need:**

- 6" x 24" Particle board
- 5 metres of ribbon
- Vinyl lettering
- Paint
- String
- Staple Gun

**What to do**

**1** Paint your particle board. Starting with an oil-based primer will give you the best surface for decorating. If you are doing multiple layers, be sure that each one dries before you start the next one.

When dry apply the vinyl letters of your chosen phrase. It could be something like 'Seasons Greetings' or a simple 'Merry Mail,' it's up to you.

**2** You may wish to add some more paint at this point such as patterns

around the letters. While that is drying take the ribbon and cut it into five 1 metre pieces, or have different ribbons of the same length. Attach them to the particle board with a staple gun.

**3** Attach some string along the back for hanging and place on your wall. Use pegs to clip your cards to the ribbons.

**GET CREATIVE!**

When painting the board make some patterns with stripes, polka dots or swirls.

There are no limits when it comes to colour. Use the traditional red and green or choose your favourite colours.

