

Decorated Clay Flowerpots

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The designs you create are only as limited as your imagination. These inexpensive, clay flowerpots are easy and fun to decorate.

You will need:

4- or 5-inch clay flowerpots (or larger if you like)

miscellaneous trims and embellishments, as noted on each set of directions

small pieces of fabric cut into circles large enough to line the pots (optional)

acrylic enamel indoor/outdoor paint such as "Patio Paint," a weatherproof gloss paint. (You can also use a water-base acrylic paint that is water "resistant". Directions for making it more durable are on the back of the bottle.)

a glue gun

white fabric glue (optional)

a pen or pencil

sponge brushes

a cup of clean water and paper towel

a disposable plastic dish

Basic directions:

Plan out your design. Then paint the pots using a sponge brush. Pour some paint into a plastic plate and dab it onto the pot, covering it completely with two coats of paint. For a more rustic effect, lightly dab on a thin coat of paint. Allow the pot to dry for several hours before you start to decorate it.

You can create underwater scenes, nature scenes, Christmas and valentine motifs; floral and gardening themes; oriental designs; or very simple country themes with gingham check fabrics and cotton lace. If you need a gift for a friend who has a special hobby or collection, try to find miniature pieces that relate to that hobby and create a themed pot especially for that person. Then fill it with an unusual plant or cat grass (oat grass) for his or her cat, or any of the little gifts you think he or she would like. Cut a large fabric circle about twice the circumference of the pot. This makes a nice liner so you can fill your pot with little special things and wrap it all in clear cellophane or pretty tissue paper and tie it up with a fancy ribbon. If you like, paint the inside of the pot, too, to finish it off, or glue in a fabric liner. Use a small cork to plug the hole in the bottom of the pot.

Country Garden

Paint the pot ivory. Dab it on lightly so that it's somewhat rustic-looking. Glue ivory cotton ruffled lace trim all around the top. Glue on a green and white check ribbon around the top of the lace, then make a bow and glue that



on to what will be the front of the pot. Purchase a little garden hat and fence pieces for embellishments; cut the fence pieces into strips of three posts in order to go around the curve of the pot and glue on. Glue 3-dimensional paper flowers or ribbon roses onto the fence; glue the hat onto the top of the pot with a tiny green check bow, and if you can find one, glue on a dark green flat watering can shape at the bottom. If desired, cut a circle of white sticky-back felt to fit the bottom of the pot.

Roses and Lace

Paint the pot white. Buy a length of white-with-pink-roses woven trim and glue it around the top. (Measure your pot to determine how much you need.) Glue white ruffled lace around the pot just under the rim; and glue another piece of lace inside the very top of the pot. Glue pink satin ribbon over the lace that is under the rim, twisting it as you go around the pot. Glue a pink satin bow onto the front; then glue on pink ribbon roses above that just under the rim. Glue on white pearl beads in a cluster just above the bow. Add more pearl beads around the pot as desired. As a liner, cut a circle of pink calico or satin or white lace and set inside. Add a circle of white sticky-back felt to the bottom.

Valentine Hearts with a Handle

Paint the pot red. Using a two-tone red cotton fabric, cut some small heart shapes and glue them on here and there around the pot. Use decorative silvertone and goldtone heart embellishments and glue to the center of each fabric heart. Tie a small key onto a red satin ribbon bow and glue it to the top of the pot. Cut a 10-inch long piece of 1-inch wide grosgrain ribbon and glue each end to opposite sides of the inside of the pot to form a handle. Use red tissue paper as a liner, and fill with valentine candy.

Ladybugs

Paint the pot light green. Glue narrow white cotton lace trim around the top, and glue on a narrow red satin ribbon. Make a bow, and glue it on. Buy a bag of ladybug embellishments (painted wood in two different sizes) and glue a few around the pot. Add a circle of sticky-back felt to the bottom if desired.

Purple Fish

Paint the pot ivory, then glue on ivory cotton trim around the top. Use four or five shades of green ribbon (1/8-inch satin or grosgrain ribbon works well) and cut short strips with angled ends and glue them vertically around the pot, alternating shades, to resemble seaweed underwater. Glue on a lavender fish appliqué, then glue on large blue, green, and white beads to mimic bubbles. Add a satin bow, and a few paper flowers and beads around the rim over the lace. If desired, cut a circle of white sticky-back felt to fit the bottom of the pot.

By the Sea

Paint the pot light blue. When that is dry, paint the bottom two-thirds medium blue with waves along the edge where the two blues meet. Glue small beach stones or pea stones in groups at the bottom of the pot. With white cotton cording, glue a double row around the top, then make three loops and wind the end of the cording around the loops to resemble a rope with a knot. Glue that to the top of the pot. Glue on two white seagulls (you can find white doves with the wedding embellishments) to complete the pot. Add a circle of sticky-back felt to the bottom as desired.