

Gingerbread Baking Day

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #34977 Embossed Brick Sheet
- #5007 Traditional 24-Light Window
- #76834 6-Pc. Dining Nook
- #88628 Unfinished Round Pedestal Table
- #33079 Jessie
- #33038 Donna
- #33074 Jenna
- #77621 Rustic Lantern
- #44341 Peppermint Twist Wreath
- #34016 Gold Candlesticks Trio
- #63626 Painted Metal Gnome
- #85008 Golden Rainbow Christmas Tree
- #79260 8-Pc. Bowl Set
- #82803 Gumdrop Roof Gingerbread House
- #61165 Three Gingerbread Men Cookies
- #1374 Nine-Inch Garland

Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.



Crafty Extras:

- Embossed Brick Sheet is painted white.
- Traditional 24-Light Window is painted black with the side extensions and every other vertical muntin removed.
- The Dining Nook is refinished in aged grey with thin cushions covered in custom-printed fabric. The stool is painted antique white.

- Colored microbeads are used in bowls to suggest candies.
- Stiffened bakers twine is used for candy canes.
- Short pieces of the Nine Inch Garland is used to make candle rings on candlesticks and lantern.

Tiny Trees

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Materials & Tools:

- Chenille stem in colors of choice, one will make many trees
- Small sharp scissors
- Wire cutters
- Hemostat (preferred, but you can use needle-nose pliers, tweezers or a small, strong clamp)
- White glue
- Perler bead caps (or other small beads) as bases
- Double-stick tape
- Craft stick/popsicle stick or scrap of wood



Put a piece of double-stick tape on the craft stick and stick several Perler bead caps (or your choice of tree base) to it, at least 1/2" apart. Set aside.

With scissors, trim away the fibers from about 1/8"-3/16" of the chenille stem. Get as close to the stem as you can. This is the trunk; clamp it in the hemostat.

Cut the stem/wire for the tree height you want (about 1/2" is good; the taper will make it seem shorter). Trim away the fibers to achieve the tapered shape. Work all the way around, trying to keep it even.

When it looks the way you want it, put a drop of glue in a bead cap and plant your tree. Repeat. (A lot, they are addictive!)

Industrial-Style Pedestal Table

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Materials & Tools:

- #88628 Unfinished Round Pedestal Table
- #1249 Weldbond or White glue
- #16001 Light Duty Knife with Safety Cap
- #10115 12" Stainless Steel Ruler
- #600021 Self-Healing Cutting Mat
- #55670 Razor Saw Kit with 2 Blades & Handle or Serrated a knife

Pencil
Fine sandpaper
Triangular file
Thin black cardstock
Wood stain (of your choice) and sealer
Black paint
Half-dome Fingernail decorations

Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.



The unfinished table required an alteration to make it level before use. Yours may not need this adjustment but if it does, or you want to lower the height of the table, here's what to do: Determine the height you want. Measure the thickness of the table top and subtract that from the overall height to get the base height measurement. Turn the table upside down and use a pencil and ruler (or template cut to measure) to mark the base height on both sides of all four legs. Score the mark with a craft knife and use a fine-tooth saw to cut the legs. Set the table, upright and flat, on a sheet of sandpaper and sand in a circular motion to smooth any rough edges.

To get the look of individual boards with iron banding, mark a few straight, parallel lines across the top of the table, being careful to follow the grain of the wood. With a ruler and craft knife, score the lines; then use a small triangular file to deepen the grooves.

Don't forget to go over the edge to indicate the boards are the full thickness of the table. Use fine sandpaper, working with the grain, to smooth any roughness. Stain and seal, paint the base black.

For the banding, cut two $\frac{1}{8}$ " strips of thin black cardstock (circumference is a little more than 11") and curl slightly on a firm-but-giving surface, such as a mouse pad or fun foam. Use a piece of dowel or the barrel of a marker, pressing along the length of the cardstock strip on the foam, until it begins to curve on its own. Avoid bends or creases. Plan the seam with your boards, glue a short length (about an inch in my case) of the curled strip in place in the groove, then glue the long strip to cover both ends of the short one. Apply half-dome fingernail decorations as bolt heads to appear to secure each board plus additional bolts evenly spaced in other areas.