

★ *Masterclass* ★

Bar humbug!

Corinne Bradd shows you how to add a minty fresh twist to your festive crafting

These exclusive Christmas peppermint moulds from The Soap Kitchen are perfect for making your very own bars of soap. There's nothing more exciting than receiving homemade goodies and these indulgent gifts are guaranteed to add a touch of seasonal nostalgia. When working with melt and pour soap, it is vital to work with speed to ensure the soap doesn't set too quickly, especially during the colouring stage.

- YOU WILL NEED:**
- Craft essentials (see p94)
 - Christmas peppermint mould set
 - Melt and Pour soap base; white, clear
 - Heat-resistant measuring jugs
 - Isopropyl alcohol (or witch hazel)
 - Peppermint oil
 - Soap colourants

Christmas soaps

- 1 Fill the mould with water and weigh it on the scales to calculate how much soap base is needed for each cavity. This will be approximately 60g.
- 2 Cut the solid white soap base into small chunks and melt in the microwave using a microwave-safe jug for 30 second bursts. Carefully stir the soap until all the chunks have completely dissolved, revealing a smooth consistency.
- 3 Repeat with the clear base: you will only need a little to

fill the accents of the moulds. Add a colour of your choice to the soap and mix in 2ml of essential oil to every 100g of soap base.

4 Using a pipette, add each desired colour to the accent sections to achieve the swirly and striped patterns. Spray with alcohol and allow to cool, before adding the white soap base. Spray a little more alcohol and leave to set.

5 Allow the soap to completely harden before you try to remove it from the mould. You can speed up this process by placing it in the fridge.

Mini baskets

1 Cut a 6.5cm wide circle from coloured card. Trim several smaller circles in different colours and layer together in the centre of the first. When the glue is dry, cut the entire piece in half.

2 Take a 4.5cm x 10cm strip of card and score down both long sides, 1cm in from the edges. Clip along the edges of the score lines to make a fringe.

3 Fold in and glue the fringe to the inside edge of the semi circles to make a basket. Cut a 2cm x 21cm strip of card, round off the ends and glue to either side of the basket to hang.

Sweet wraps

1 Take a 6.5cm diameter circle of card. Cut a 3.5cm x 21cm strip of card. Score one long side of the strip, 1cm in from the edge and clip this portion into a fringe.

2 Glue the strip into a circle, overlapping the ends by 1cm, then fix the fringe to the top of the card disc. Cut a second circle of card and use this to cover the fringe.

3 Decorate the outside of the circular tray with narrow strips of tape, pierce a small hole in the side and thread with an embroidery floss loop. Adhere folded fan shapes to each side of the tray with double-sided tape, then draw stripes to represent crease lines.

TOP TIP
When you measure the soap base, use a little extra than required because a small amount will cling to the side of the jug



"I recommend using the Zenicolor 5 colouring system to add pigment to your soap. These colours are non-bleed and make it incredibly easy to mix various hues to achieve the shade you desire"

CORINNE BRADD, DESIGNER

HANG US ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Shop Stop
Christmas Peppermint Mould Set,
thesoapkitchen.co.uk