

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING

TAKING A SIMPLE GROCERY
STORE WREATH FROM DRAB
TO FABULOUS



TOOLS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Floral wire
- Clippers
- Scissors
- Gloves (if preferred)
- Hot glue gun (optional)



ITEMS USED

My inspiration was a natural looking yet elevated holiday wreath with a punch of color. I love adding fruit to wreaths and arrangements and chose oranges to complement the green shades and textures of the wreath. Lemons, apples, limes, persimmons or pears also work great.

I used a combination of foraged and purchased items, including:

- Cinnamon sticks
- Navel and clementine oranges with cloves
- Dried lotus pods
- Seeded eucalyptus
- Magnolia leaves
- Winterberry (could use holly or other red berries)
- Helleborus leaves
- Dried Japanese forest grass
- Juniper
- Eucalyptus pods





STEP 1 - PREP ITEMS

Slice 2 navel oranges thinly and dry slices in oven @ 200 degrees for 4 hours.



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Push whole cloves into 3 clementines in varying patterns.



STEP 1 - PREP ITEMS

Tie bundles of 3 cinnamon sticks with raffia, kitchen twine or yarn, then run wire through the back of the wrapping and bend in half to be used for wiring into wreath in later step.



STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

TIPS:

- I think it's easiest to maintain visual balance by layering materials into the wreath one at a time. (e.g. put in all the lotus pods, then all the oranges, etc.)
- Work with odd numbers of items (usually 3) and think of positioning them at points of a triangle when wiring or tucking things into the wreath. This distributes items somewhat evenly and keeps balance.
- The eye is drawn to clusters, so positioning things together is appealing. (e.g. orange slices tucked next to a pine cone with berries popping out to the side)

STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

Start by adding 3 lotus pods or some other large, textural natural element around the wreath.

These can be tucked into wreath or glued.



STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

Place wire through bottom half of 3 clementines with equal lengths on each side and wire into wreath randomly using the earlier tip for balance and spacing.

TIP: Be sure to tuck in the wire ends on the back of the wreath so they don't scratch your door when hanging.



STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

Place wire through 2 dried orange slices near the rinds at the bottom and wire into the wreath - similar to process of wiring in the clementines. Wire in three sets of these orange slices.

Next wire in the three cinnamon stick clusters.



STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

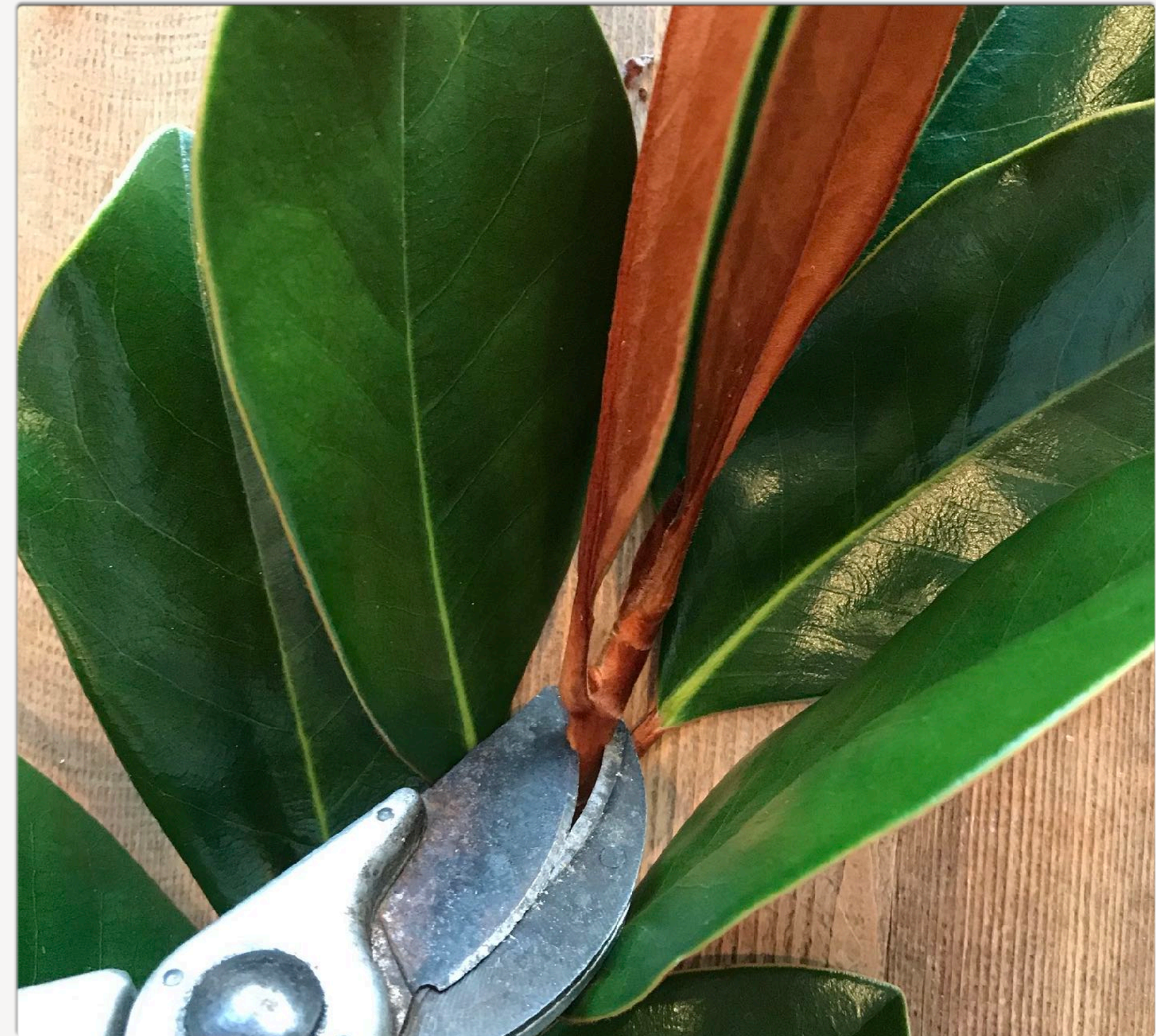
Tuck magnolia leaves, juniper, helleborus leaves and small clusters of seeded eucalyptus randomly around wreath in pockets where there is space and needing some filler. (3 - 5 of each)

TIP: If pieces feel loose, a small dot of hot glue on the end of the stem can help hold them in place and keep items secure. Wiring in is also an option.



STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

TIP: Magnolia leaf clusters and some greens can be too large for wreaths so snip part way down the branch to create more manageable sizes. Often 1 branch can yield 2 or 3 pieces to be used in a wreath.



STEP 2 - LAYER IN MATERIALS

Strip berries from bottom part of stem to give a section for inserting into the wreath, then add to wreath near oranges.

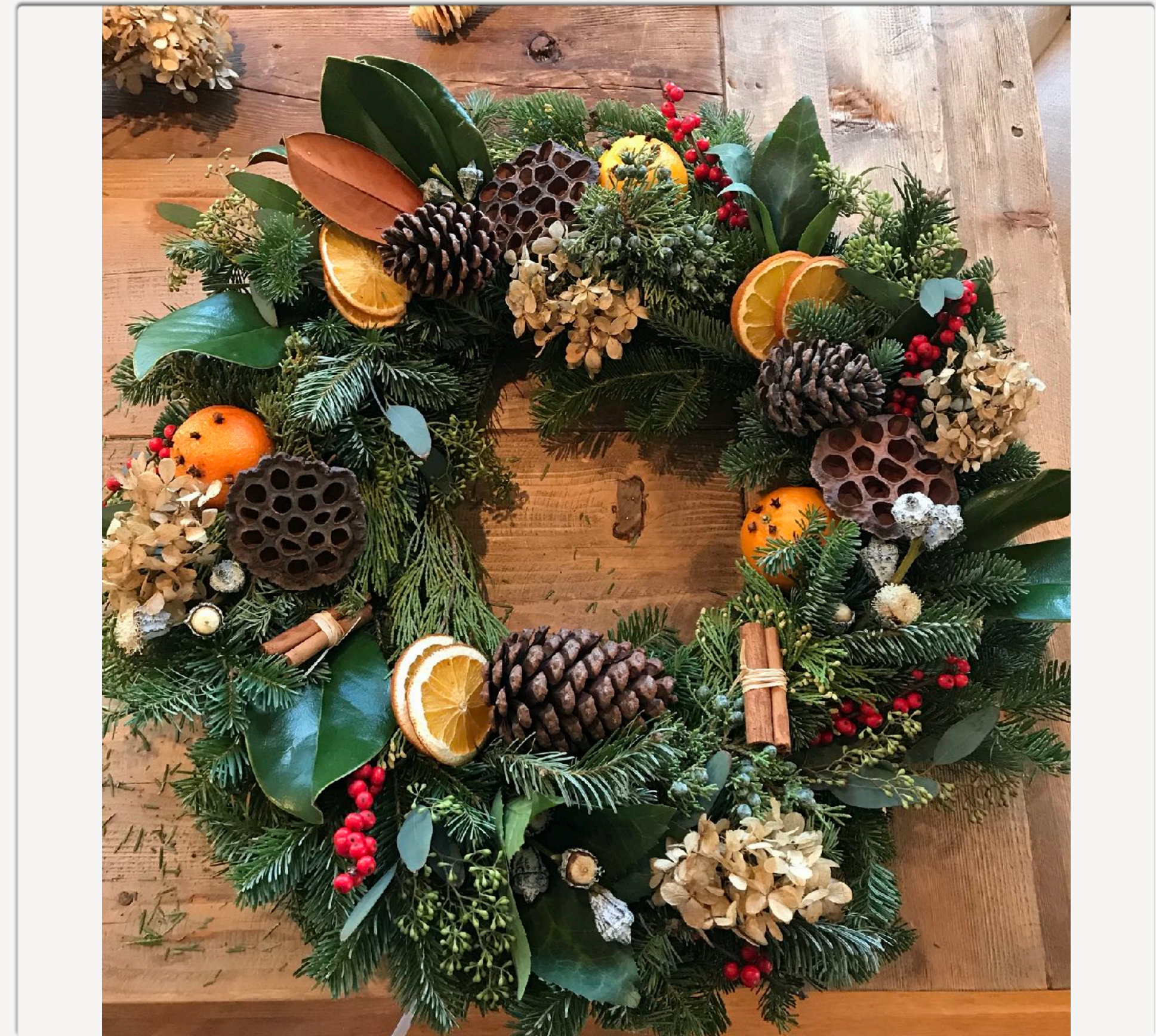


STEP 3 - FINAL ELEMENTS

Step back periodically and take a look at how things are taking shape.

Sometimes I lay an element on top of the wreath in places where I think it could be positioned to see if it adds to the composition in a positive way.

In this case, I added small clusters of dried hydrangea to see how I liked the addition.



STEP 3 - FINAL ELEMENTS

I decided it was distracting to the look and was too busy, so removed it.

NOTE: Honestly, the hydrangea looks pretty nice in the prior picture, but in person it just wasn't working for me. It seemed to fight with the oranges and overpowered the textures of the seeded eucalyptus and cedar. If you like it, go ahead and add to yours - it can be lovely in a wreath.



STEP 3 - FINAL ELEMENTS

To add airy movement around the wreath, wrap clumps of dried Japanese forest grass with wire and tuck into the outer edges of the wreath in a clockwise pattern so the wisps are arching in towards the wreath.



STEP 3 - FINAL ELEMENTS

I decided the top of this wreath will not have a bow, so to add some visual weight and a bit of a moment at the top, I tucked in 3 of these carved wood flower-like cone figures I found at the flower market.

Other options - grass plumes, feathers, or something else with an interesting shape or texture from your garden



YOU'RE FINISHED!

ON TO THE FUN OF HANGING IT
WHERE IT CAN BE ENJOYED...



I used this herringbone black and white ribbon for attaching the wreath to the door hook. I wanted to blend a modern and traditional look while not distracting from the colors of the wreath.

Red, green or natural burlap ribbon would also look beautiful.





HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED THIS "MESSY MOMENT" AND HAVE FUN CREATING YOUR OWN BEAUTIFUL WREATHS.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!