



Debby's Touch

by Debby Forshey-Choma

Holiday Pockets



Debby Forshey-Choma

Published Artist

Royal Ambassador

DecoArt Artist

debby@debbystouch.com

www.DebbysTouch.com

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Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) this evergreen has twigs that fork around a flower cluster that produces white winter berries. The leafy twigs, toxic in volume, are a heart tonic, reduce blood pressure, slow heart rate, strengthen capillary walls, stimulate the immune system and inhibit tumors. Berries are poisonous and sticky and are used for glue. Mistletoe is sacred to the Druids and kissing beneath it echoes its ancient fertility symbolism.

Holly (*Ilex*) has been used for centuries in Europe and North America as decorations in houses and churches at Christmastime and were once called holy trees. Tiny flowers are white to greenish white, emerging in spring. Male and female flowers are borne on separate trees. When trees of both sexes are planted near each other, the female trees bear red or yellow berries in fall.

Pinecones are traditionally used to forecast the weather - a piece of country lore that does actually contain a grain of truth. Their scales can be open or tightly shut. Cones release their seeds in dry weather; when it is damp, the scales close up to keep the seeds dry.

Royal Brushes available through www.RoyalBrush.com

#1360 – sm & med Debby's Texture brushes

#2935 – ¼ filbert Wisp

#3080 - 1 Oval Wash Combo

#4150 - 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 Majestic shaders

#4160 – 5/8 Majestic angular

#4170 – 2, 4 Majestic filberts

#4585 – 10/0, 0 Majestic liners

#4700 – ¾ Majestic glaze wash

DecoArt Americana Acrylics

Black Plum 172

Bleached Sand 257

Buttermilk 03

Burnt Sienna 63

Burnt Umber 064

Dark Chocolate 065

Driftwood 171

Green Mist 177

Gooseberry Pink 27

Light Buttermilk 164

Marigold 194

Payne's Grey 167

Plantation Pine 113

Raw Sienna 93

Sable Brown 61

Santa Red 170

Snow White 01

Soft Black 155

DecoArt Sealers/Finishes

American Matte Spray DAS13

DuraClear Matte Varnish DS60

Multi-Purpose Sealer DS17

Beacon Adhesives, Customer Service, 800.865.7238, Mt. Vernon, New York, www.beaconcreates.com

3 in 1 Advanced Craft glue

Toner Plastics

Fun Wire – Icy Silver 22 gauge #84717 - 16" each x2 = 32"

available through Toner Plastics; 413.789.1300; www.tonerplastics.com

Surface Source

Flat Tin with hinged lid (3" x 4-1/4") x2 available through

Della and Company, 5208 Lake Charles, Waco, TX 76710; 254.772.6927; www.dellaandcompany.com.

Misc Supplies

6/0 red glass beads – x60

1/16" drill bit and drill

3/16" red satin ribbon – 12"

Candle with holder for marbling

Old stainless steel fork or tablespoon or palette knife

Gift tags or gift cards of choice

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Drill Holes

1. With the 1/16" drill, drill holes at the top left and right sides of each pocket.

Tin Prep

2. Wash the tin with warm soapy water, rinse thoroughly.
Use a final rinse of white vinegar and water to make sure that any trace of oil is gone.
Allow to dry by placing in a 170° oven on a cookie sheet for three minutes; this will dry out the crevices.
It is best to allow air drying for 24 hours before beginning any further prep.

Apply one coat of Multi-Purpose Sealer with the glaze wash in a slip slap stroke to both sides of the ornament.
Basecoat both sides of each ornament with Light Buttermilk + Multi-Purpose Sealer mixture 1:1.
Lightly sand with a small piece of brown bag. Wipe off with a lint-free cloth.
Re-basecoat with Light Buttermilk; achieve an opaque coverage. Allow ample drying time between all coats.

Smoke Marbleizing Technique

3. Read through the instructions before starting.
You might want to have a scrap of wood prepped to try this technique before going directly to the tin. Also you could try using the spoon, fork or palette knife to see the different effects each one makes. I used the palette knife.

To smoke, light the candle in the holder and allow to burn for a few minutes until you have a good flame. Practice moving the scooped side of the tablespoon, the fork or palette knife wiggling and moving it up and down in the flame. Watch the steady stream of black carbon rising above, this stream of smoke is what adheres to the project piece.

Hold the piece about 6" above the flame moving the piece around so that the carbon will adhere to various places. Be careful not to let the palette knife touch the surface and handle with care - the carbon will smudge. If you get too much carbon, wipe off with a soapy cloth, redo the basecoating and re-try marbleizing. When you have achieved the desired effect, spray lightly with matte spray to avoid smudging.

When marbleizing a larger or awkward piece, you will have to smoke it in sections. Smoke one section, spray, let it dry and repeat steps to the other sections until the entire piece is marbleized.

The entire outside and lids of the pockets have been smoked.

Background Filler

4. Transfer the designs to the front of the two pockets.

Pre-dampen the background very lightly with water, then with Plantation Pine and the med Texture brush, dance filler behind and around the design.

For the proper use of the Texture Brush, use the following method.

Dampen the bristles with water to start the separation of bristles. Tap bristles into the paint on your palette, hold it perpendicular to your palette, pounce it up and down to get some of the paint off – keeping the paint sparse on the brush. Note – this brush can be used on the whole foot or just the toe.

Tap lightly on the surface, dance with the brush up and down, rolling the brush in different directions in between your fingers when it is up in the air (like dancing the twist, light on your feet). Allow some drying time in between dances so the paint sets up and you don't end up with a globby or muddy look.

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Basecoating the Design

5. Basecoat with the appropriate size shaders and filberts.

Plantation Pine - holly leaves

Green Mist - mistletoe leaves

Santa Red - holly berries (berries marked with an 'x')

Buttermilk - mistletoe berries

Dark Chocolate - pinecones

Raw Sienna/Dark Chocolate mix (1:1) - acorn caps

Raw Sienna/Marigold mix (1:1) - acorn nut

Holly Leaves

6. Corner load the angle with Payne's Grey, float shading along the backs, edges and under where two leaves meet.
Then corner load with Green Mist + Light Buttermilk, brush blend on your palette, float highlighting along the top edge and/or tips.

Mistletoe Leaves

7. Corner load the angle with Plantation Pine, float a shade on each leaf where it meets the stem, pulling the float out along the outside edge of the leaf.

Now corner load the angle with Green Mist + Light Buttermilk, brush blend on your palette, float highlighting along the tip of each leaf.

With the 10/0 liner and thinned Plantation Pine, pull the veins in each leaf..

Now double load the 0 liner with Plantation Pine and Burnt Umber, pull the stems.

Holly Berries

8. Corner load the angle with Black Plum, float shading along the back edge of each berry.
Now corner load with Gooseberry Pink, float highlighting along the front edge of each berry.

With the 10/0 liner and Snow White, place a highlight in each berry.

Mistletoe Berries

9. Corner load the angle with Driftwood, float shading along the back edge of each berry.
Now corner load with Snow White, float highlighting along the front edge of each berry.

With the 10/0 liner and Plantation Pine, place a dot at the bottom of each berry.
(refer to the line drawing for placement).

Acorns

10. Corner load the angle with Burnt Sienna, float shading across the top of each nut.
Then corner load the angle with Marigold, float a highlight across the bottom edge.

Corner load the angle with Burnt Umber, float a shade across the top edge of the each cap.

Then corner load the angle with Marigold, float a highlight across the bottom edge, where it meets the nut.

To apply a little texture to the caps, float C-strokes with Soft Black here and there on the caps.

Using the 0 liner with Soft Black, pull a stem at the top of the acorns.

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Pinecones

11. To create the petals on the pinecones float C-strokes, corner load the angle with Sable Brown, floats flow towards the back of the pinecone.

When dry, float a shade of Soft Black across the back of each pinecone.

Spruce Branches

12. With the 0 liner and Burnt Umber pull the center branch.

Then with thinned Plantation Pine, use the filbert Wisp to pull the needles on each branch.

Background Filler

13. Use the sm Texture brush and Plantation Pine to touch up or fill in any holes in the background filler.

Gold Outlining

14. With the 10/0 liner and thinned Glorious Gold, loosely and randomly outline parts of the design.

Finishing

15. To protect finished pieces, varnish with the DuraClear Matte Varnish.

Use the Oval Wash Combo to apply the varnish; this brush doesn't leave any visible brushstroke marks after the varnish has dried.

Finishing Touches

16. Coil a 16" piece of the Silver Fun Wire by wrapping around the handle of a brush.

Place 30 beads on the wire.

Place small dots of 3 in 1 glue in the holes of some of the beads to hold into place.

Pull wire through the holes of the pocket, bend wire ends over.

Repeat steps with the other pocket.

For questions concerning this project, you can contact Debby at debbyforshey@gmail.com, www.DebbysTouch.com or on Facebook.

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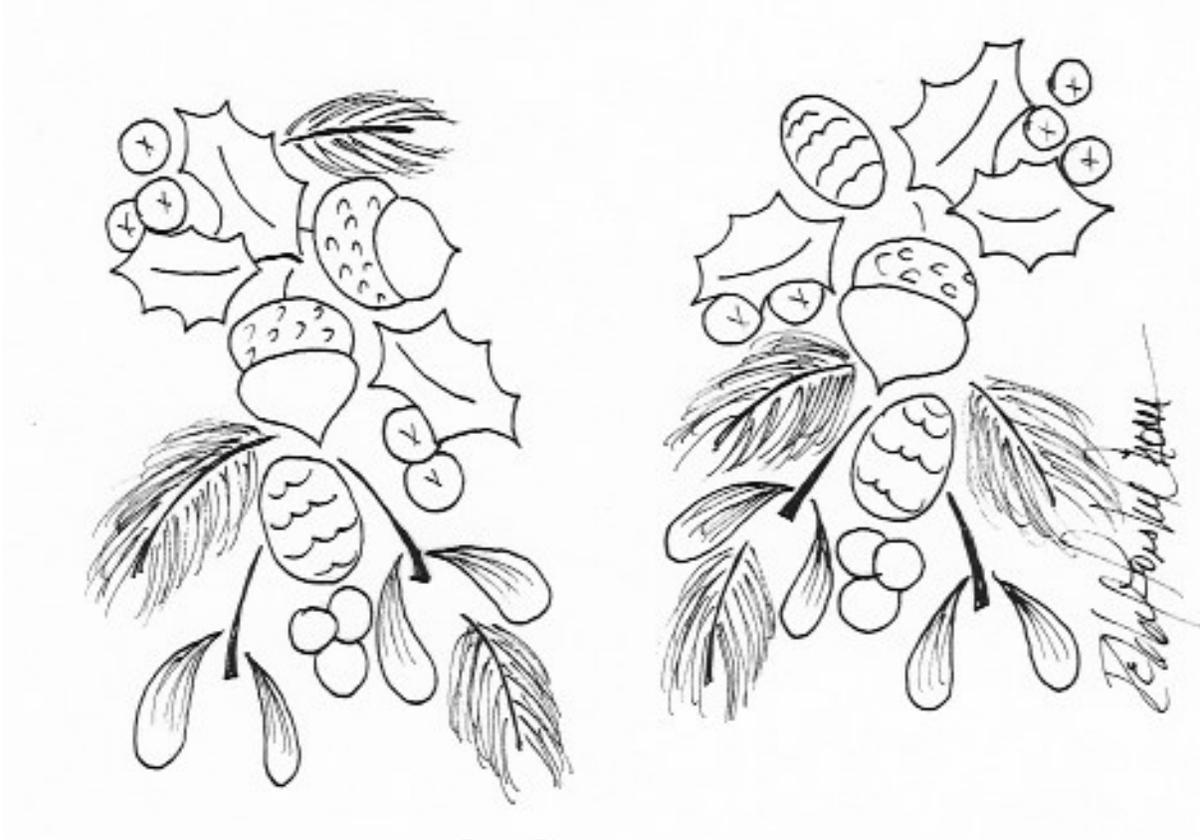
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