



DRY LEAF BOWL

This little pot is ideal for displaying tea lights. You'll be charmed and delighted by the patterns cast on the walls from the flickering flames through the dry leaves.

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THESE DRY LEAF BOWLS LOOK SO DELICATE AND AS IF THEY COULD TAKE OFF IN THE SLIGHTEST BREEZE — PERFECT ETHEREAL BEAUTY.

DRY LEAF BOWL HOW TO...

MATERIALS

- Wallpaper glue
- Small round bowl (as a mould)
- Clingfilm
- Water-based varnish
- Washing soda (not baking soda)
- Leaves - waxy ones work well (I used small rhododendron leaves)
- Tissue paper
- Bleach
- 3 litres of lukewarm water
- 7 sheets of scrap white paper without any shine or wax
- about 10 felt sheets
- Tissue paper
- Bleach

EQUIPMENT

- Old plate for glue
- Blunt knife
- Bottle (as a prop)
- Paintbrush
- A big enough container to hold the water and fit the mould
- A mould to make the paper (an old frame with stretched netting)
- A sponge and a blender
- A big pot
- Paintbrush
- Rubber gloves
- Spatula
- Two big bowls

FOR THE SKELETON LEAVES

♥ **STEP ONE** Wear the rubber gloves and place the leaves in a big pot. Cover it with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of washing soda and 4 cups of water. (Be careful when you use washing soda.)

♥ **STEP TWO** Place the pot onto the heat and allow to boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 1 hour 40 minutes. It looks really ugly, but keep going and add more water so that the pan doesn't dry out. Keep the leaves wet all the time.

♥ **STEP THREE** After about 2 hours of simmering, the leaves will be see-through. Remove them with a spatula and rinse them in a bowl with cold clear water and then put them onto tissue paper.

♥ **STEP FOUR** Use the small paintbrush and gently remove any excess pulp.

♥ **STEP FIVE** Place them in a bowl with a mild bleach mixture (two spoons of bleach to 1 litre of water) for a nice white skeleton leaf. Remove them gently (still wearing the gloves) and place them on tissue paper to dry overnight. This sounds like a long process, but it's worth it. You can make a lot of paper and leaves at once and keep them for whenever you need them.

FOR THE HOMEMADE PAPER

♥ **STEP ONE** Tear the paper into small pieces and place in the blender.

♥ **STEP TWO** Add 5 cups of water.

♥ **STEP THREE** Mix everything together in the blender for one minute.

♥ **STEP FOUR** Deposit the blended mix into the big container.

♥ **STEP FIVE** Add another 4 cups of water to the mix and incorporate well. You should now have a fine pulp of paper.

♥ **STEP SIX** Get your mould and submerge it completely into the paper pulp.

♥ **STEP SEVEN** The pulp should form a fine layer over the mould's screen (netting).

♥ **STEP EIGHT** Pull it out of the container and let the excess water drain.

♥ **STEP NINE** Allow the paper pulp to settle and then place the mould with the pulp facing down on top of a felt sheet.

♥ **STEP TEN** Press the sponge onto the mould to remove any excess water.

♥ **STEP ELEVEN** Now start pulling the mould slowly from the felt sheet. It will come off easily if you removed all the excess water. Your paper should peel off completely from the screen.

♥ **STEP TWELVE** Allow it to dry on the felt sheet for about two days. (You can place some skeleton leaves on the homemade paper for extra texture.)

♥ **STEP THIRTEEN** Repeat this process for every sheet you want to make.

FOR THE DRY LEAF BOWL

♥ **STEP ONE** Cover the outside of the bowl with clingfilm, then turn it upside down over a bottle to raise it above your work surface.

♥ **STEP TWO** Tear the homemade paper into small pieces. By tearing the paper rather than cutting it, seams will be less visible when glued together.

♥ **STEP THREE** Pour some glue into a plate and dip the paper pieces into the glue. Stick them to your clingfilm-covered bowl until the entire outer surface is covered.

♥ **STEP FOUR** Start to glue the dry leaves all around the border of the paper pot.

♥ **STEP FIVE** Leave to dry overnight, then gently prise the paper bowl from the mould with a blunt knife.

♥ **STEP SIX** Seal the paper part of the bowl with varnish.