



You will need

To make a decoration with a diameter of 26 cm (10½ inches):

- 30 lengths of white willow, each measuring 92 cm (36½ inches)
- Damp tea towel
- Pair of sharp secateurs
- Bradawl, bodkin or knitting needle

Celebrate Christmas: The bumper book of festive food and craft

Christmas star

This simple star shape, propped up on a mantelpiece, window ledge or shelf, makes a lovely Christmas decoration. The project uses white willow tied with white willow rods, though it would also be effective made in other colours, or perhaps with contrasting ties. You could also spray paint the finished form in silver, bronze, copper or gold.



Soak 12 or 13 willow rods in a bath of cold water for 1 hour, then wrap them in a damp tea towel (dish towel) and set aside. With the secateurs, cut the dry willow into 35 lengths, each 26 cm (10½ inches) long. Divide these into five bundles, with seven sticks in each.



Take the first and second bundles, place the end of the first bundle on top of the end of the second bundle and hold at a 45-degree angle. Bind the bundles together by sliding the thin end (tip) of one of the wet willow rods through both bundles about 2 cm (¾ inch) from the top.



Wrap the wet rod three times around the two bundles and slide the thick end (butt) through the bind. It may help to use a bradawl to ease it through. Pull tightly to make it secure.



Trim the ends of the willow neatly with the secateurs, so that the points of the star are even. Make sure you do not trim too close to the binding or you could weaken the joints. Take a third bundle and place over the other end of the second bundle. Hold at a 45-degree angle. Bind the ends together as before and trim them.



Take a fourth bundle and place over the other end of the third bundle—it should be placed across, over the first bundle and under the second bundle. Bind and trim as before. Bind the fifth bundle to the ends of bundles one and four, running over two and under three.



Arrange the star so it looks even. Then bind each of the cross sections—take a wet willow rod and slide the tip through the cross section so that it holds. Bring the butt up through the hole in the middle of the star and continue to wrap three times. Slide the butt through the bind and pull tight. Trim off all ends neatly.



Celebrate Christmas: The bumper book of festive food and craft

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Murdoch Books

ISBN: 9781742663463

Text and photography © Murdoch Books 2011

Available in your local Waterstone's and online at Waterstones.com.

