

Kissing Ball Instructions

Supplies:

- Oasis ball 4 1/2 "
- Ribbon and scissors
- Florist pins, small piece of wire
- 1/2 # Mistletoe, cut greens and flowers if desired
- Clippers (or something to cut mistletoe).



Step 1.

- ❖ Soak your oasis ball for 5 seconds (5 minutes if you are using cut flowers). You want it to be moist, not dripping wet. While the oasis ball is soaking you can weigh and cut up 1# of mistletoe into 1" pieces. Be sure to leave enough bare stem on one end for inserting into the oasis.

Step 2.

- ❖ Cut two pieces of ribbon the same length (at least 12" long). This ribbon will hold the oasis ball. It can be tied in a bow at the top (or bottom) or be used to hang the ornament.
 - Cross the two pieces of ribbon over the oasis ball so there are equal lengths of ribbon on all sides. Secure the crossed ribbon to the oasis ball with a few florist pins.
 - Bring the ribbon to the other end of the ball, cross them again and secure with florist pins, and tie in a knot.

Step 3.

- ❖ Begin filling in a quadrant with your mistletoe pieces. Pack the mistletoe in tightly so there are no holes. This process is very similar to making pomanders. It takes a while.
 - For a creative flair, you can add a few rows of mums, eucalyptus pods, or greens. In general, ornament comes out with a cleaner look if everything is the same length.

Step 4.

- ❖ Once you have filled in the whole ball, create a way for it to hang. You can use the ribbon you put around the ball at the beginning, or add wire a wire loop around the ribbon. Generally the hanging ribbon functions best if it is tacked on to the bottom (this is very hard to do after you have put in the mistletoe) or tied into

your base ribbon at the top. Florist pins generally do not have enough strength to hold in the hanging ribbon from just the top.

Alternative materials & methods:

- You can use a round potato instead of an oasis ball. The moisture in the potato will help keep the greens fresh. However, do not save this one for next year (phew!). If you have difficulty inserting the greens in the potato, use a skewer to make a starter hole.
- Short sprigs of boxwood and other greens are also commonly used in kissing balls.
- Instead of wrapping the ribbon around the outside of the ball, you can use a straw through the center of the ball. First insert the straw through the center of the ball so 1/8" sticks out the bottom. Then cut a piece of thin wire 18" long and fold in half. Thread the wire through the straw so the loop end sticks out the bottom. Cut a piece of ribbon 2 yards long and thread through the wire loop. Pull the wire back out of the straw so the ribbon treads through the straw. Even the ribbon ends and remove the wire. Secure the ribbon in the straw by loosely tying the ribbon ends together near the oasis ball. Insert a small stick (tooth pick, paperclip etc) through the center of the knot and tighten. The stick will hold the ribbon in place, it should not be visible. With this method the ribbon is not visible around the outside of the ball, and you can make a continuous arrangement on the oasis.

Another arrangement idea:

Decorate 1/2 an oasis ball and set in a pot or cup. Then tightly fill the ball with short stemmed, uniform cut flowers. This creates a cushion-like arrangement.

These are excellent for table decorations or wreath adornments



Happy Holidays!

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Ribbon method B

Use one long (2' or more) piece of ribbon. Place the center of the ribbon on the oasis ball. Bring the ribbon around the ball, cross and twist so the ribbon comes up the other side creating four quadrants. Tie the ribbon in a bow or knot where you started. Secure the ribbon with florist pins