

Creating a festive environment...

## Some crystal clear suggestions for adorning your home at Christmas

Tinsel, twinkling lights, candles, tree ornaments — all are Christmas decorating staples. When combined with attractive crystal pieces, which may already be in your home, you can add new and unique touches to your holiday decor limited only by your imagination.

Princess House, Inc., a supplier of handcrafted crystal sold through home decorator consultants nationwide, suggests several creative ways to use crystal pieces at holiday time.

### Adding lustre

For example, colorful ball ornaments adorning the tree

look even more lustrous when placed inside crystal barware such as brandy snifters, tumblers, old-fashioned or champagne glasses, and then arranged near candles or Christmas lights.

This same selection of barware can team with small votive candles and tiny Christmas figurines such as a Santa Claus, snowman or religious figure.

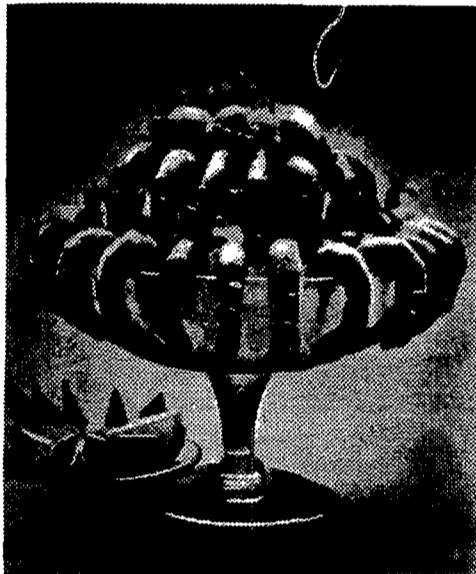
Turn the crystal upside down over the figurine and place the candle on top of the base. A grouping using different colored candles, various figurines and barware of varying heights is particularly charming.

Medium to large-sized crystal serving bowls are also versatile. In addition to their obvious uses for serving egg nog or snacks, they make brilliant display pieces.

Fill a large bowl with a garland and white Christmas lights. Top with ball ornaments, pine cones or other attractive seasonal decorations. The result — a sparkling play on textures and reflections, made all the more beautiful by the sparkling crystal.

### Hint of sparkle

A large crystal vase can create the same effect. The combinations are limited



HOLIDAY DECORATING, according to Princess House, can be simplified by making versatile use of those crystal pieces you may already have in your home. A "plain" compote can serve desserts or vegetables; combined with a small crystal bowl, it becomes an elegant tiered hors d'oeuvres server. The compote can also double as a centerpiece by filling it with fresh flowers, pine cones, greenery and colored bows.



### SOLVING HOLIDAY BLAHS

Uncle Charlie and 10 small toddlers will descend on your house for the holiday festivities. What to do to make it memorable?

Give a gift of sight and sound, according to John Dale of Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., Inc., a leading manufacturer of premium audio and videocassettes.

Make a film of the whole family a festive showpiece. Mount a special screening of a movie or a prerecorded program of children's cartoons to liven up the big day.

Amuse the pop generation — or any music lover — with a gift of fine audio cassettes. Perfect for stocking stuffers, perfect as last-minute gifts, a good audio or videocassette will make a gift that lasts and lasts — particularly if you have videotaped the family 'gobbling' up the Christmas turkey!

Just make sure you provide quality, name-brand tapes, says Fuji's Dale, to ensure those priceless memories don't fade in a videotape "snowstorm" of glitches, picture faults and dropouts.



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only by your imagination, and also the display can be quickly disassembled if you need the crystal piece for serving another purpose.

When entertaining, a crystal cake platter with pedestal base can double as a serving tray for cheese and crackers when turned upside down. Fill the platter with crackers and top the pedestal with a cheese ball.

### Layers of food

Large and small bowls can be tiered servers for serving hors d'oeuvres such as fresh jumbo shrimp or cut vegetables.

For the shrimp, pack crushed ice in the larger bowl and top with the smaller bowl filled with cocktail sauce; hang the shrimp from the edge of the bowl.

For cut vegetables, only a column of ice in the middle of the larger bowl is needed on which to place a bowl of herb dip.

During the Christmas season, when budgets may be tighter than ever, it's satisfying to be able to create a unique holiday setting in the home using the crystal pieces and Christmas decorations one most likely already has on hand.

### FIT FOR A KING

During biblical times, the gifts of frankincense and myrrh were as precious as gold. Once worn on the crowns of Persian kings to symbolize wealth, myrrh is an aromatic resin prized as a perfume, a spice and a medicine. Frankincense is also a resin used for embalming.

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