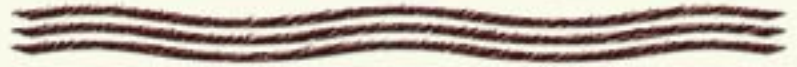


MAKING A POMANDER BALL



Pomander Balls are both beautiful and useful. For generations, clove covered oranges or apples have been wrapped in ribbon and hung in closets, placed in dresser drawers, or stored with out-of-season garments in a trunk, as the clove and citrus mix discourages the moths who prey on fabric. Fragrant and lovely, Pomander Balls make great hand crafted holiday gifts that will be treasured for years to come. Even children can make them. Older kids are fine with oranges. Younger children have an easier time using apples because they can slide the clove right in through the thin apple skin. If you do use apples, use small ones, and make sure the apple is fully covered with cloves so it will be preserved.

- 2 large oranges or 3 medium apples*
- 4 oz. WHOLE CEYLON CLOVES
- 1 darning or candle wicking needle (any large, thick, blunt needle)
- 3-4 ft. festive ribbon

Using the needle, poke 4 holes in a small circle on the very top of a clean, dry orange. Gently slide CLOVES in, being careful not to press on the heads and break them. Continue this way in ever-larger circles until the entire orange is tightly packed with cloves. Once the orange is halfway done, and you are holding a clove-covered ball instead of a bare orange, handle it very gently so as to not break the cloves. Inserting the CLOVES in the second half of the orange will take more time for this reason. Keep leftover cloves until the balls are completely done and wrapped, as broken-headed cloves can easily be plucked out and replaced. Again, handle gently. Your first ball will take approximately 3 hours, your second one about 2 hours. Store in a dry place for 1 month to allow the orange to shrink (the cloves will preserve the orange). Next, wrap the ribbon around the orange and tie a bow. Leave the ends long for hanging. Secure the ribbon at the bottom and top with a sturdy pin. A hot glue gun works even better if you want to secure and hang a large pomander ball.

***TIP:**

For apples, there is no need to poke a hole with a darning needle before inserting the clove since the skin is much thinner. This is why apples are nicer for young children. Just slide the cloves gently in, trying not to push directly on the head of the clove. You can tell this to children a million times and they will still gaily put their thumb on the head of the clove and give it a sturdy push. But that's okay, because broken cloves can easily be pulled out and replaced with new ones if you do it within a week or so.

