

WILLIAMSBURG PLAQUE “DOOR TOPPER” IDEAS

These plaque designs are sometimes referred to as door toppers because that is their primary use as shown below.

Ideas for Placement

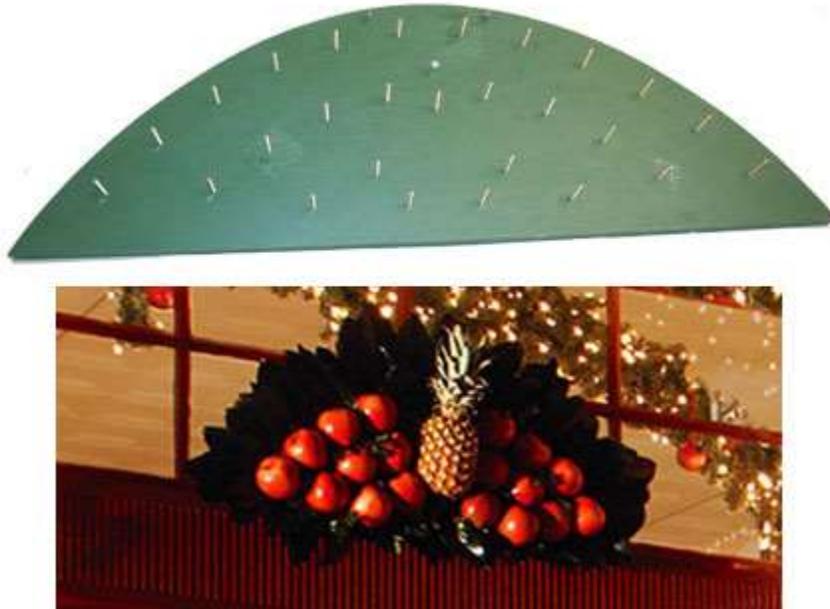


However you can use them in a variety of ways including on mantles, table tops and benches. The benches, while lovely may be problematic in our area, especially if you have deer as this is an open invitation to come dine on your porch.



Supplies

The frame is made out of ½ inch plywood and painted green. You will be placing nails to hold the fruit. For the workshop I will provide the painted wood and the nails.



You will need to bring the following tools.

- 1) Hammer
- 2) Staple gun – raid your husband’s or neighbor’s workshop – they usually have them. Bring spare staples as not all staples fit all guns.
- 3) A ruler – like most traditional arrangements these are very symmetrical. You can eyeball it or use your ruler to plan.

For decoration you will need to bring:

- 1) An assortment of fruit to go on your plaque – smaller size fruits, like those found in the bags are better than the large individual ones. Look at the pictures of sample plaques attached to this email to get an idea of what you might want to use. You will notice many feature a pineapple in the center. That is because the pineapple is a symbol of hospitality in colonial homes. If you use this, again go with a smaller size – in part because the larger fruit also weighs more and you want to be able to lift your finished board.
 - a) There will be greens there for the wreath making but you may wish to bring your own. Magnolia leaves typically run across the top, aucuba and rhododendron leaves also work. Whatever you select it should be somewhat large, and hold up well out of water.
 - b) Evergreens to place between the fruit to mask the board. Boxwood or needled pine work well.

Hanging:

We will drill a hole in the top of each plaque for hanging and give you heavy gauge wire. The finished plaque has some weight so a normal “dollar store” wreath hanger is not sufficient. I’ll give you some ideas, however in Williamsburg, many of the wreaths are affixed with the wire at the top and then holes drilled through the wood at the bottom into the sill of the door frame.



2)









At the end of the season

1. These are reusable forms and if you take care of them they will last many years.
2. Take a picture if you want to remember your design – it will also help you plan on how many and what to buy for next year.
3. When you take it down, remove and dispose of all the plant material and fruit. (our wildlife will love you for the fruit).
4. Remove the staples using a pliers or screwdriver.....better yet get your spouse to do it for you.
5. Rinse the board with a garden hose to remove any fruit or juice residue. This will prevent bugs and mold.
6. Let it dry and store it away till next year – I keep the picture with the frame....beats having to search for it on my computer!

Enjoy - Susan