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Handcrafted celebrations

PROJECT SARAH HEERINGA. PHOTOGRAPHY AMANDA REELICK

Brown paper packages tied up with strings are a few of our favourite things – and using paper, paint and thread to create strings of cute Christmas bunting.

For more paint, colour ideas and inspiration, visit your Resene ColorShop or resene.co.nz.

Resene
the paint the professionals use

TOP TIP

Use Resene FX Metallic testpots in Resene Gold or Resene Silver Aluminium to add a little Xmas sparkle.

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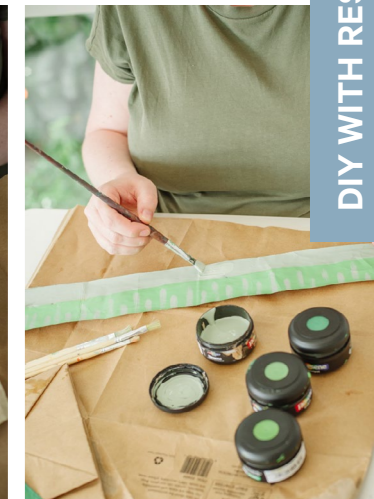
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There's nothing like charming friends and family with a homemade wreath and receiving compliments on your creative endeavours. Plus the process is super relaxing and very satisfying.

YOU NEED:

- Several stiff brown paper shopping bags
- Scissors
- Thick sewing needle and coloured cotton
- Pins or removable adhesive
- 3-4 detail paint brushes
- 3-4 Resene testpots in colours of your choice.
- I used Resene Peace, Resene Limeade, Resene Groovy and Resene Crusoe.

Step 1: Gather

Collect your materials together, including a selection of green Resene paint in a pleasing range of shades.

Step 2: Undo

Look inside the bag for the seam where the edges of the bag has been glued together. Use your fingers to gently separate this to create a flat sheet. If necessary, give the paper a gentle iron to flatten.

Step 3: Fold and Cut

Fold the paper into lengths, approximately 7cm high and 26cm (or 52cm) long, depending on the size of the bag. Cut along the folds using paper scissors.

Step 4: Paint

Paint the paper strips with stripes of alternating colour using your Resene testpots. Allow to dry and use a small paint brush to add dots, contrasting lines or other details. Allow to dry.

Step 5: Fold

Cut any of the longer paper strips in half, so they are all 26cm long. Fold each paper strip evenly into 4.

Step 6: Cut

Cut the folded paper into a simple geometric tree shape, including a trunk. This makes 4 trees. Repeat this process until you have at least 20-40 trees.

Step 7: Sew

Thread a strong needle with a doubled length of coloured cotton. Make a small stitch in and out at the top of each tree to connect them together in one string. Take care they don't get tangled as you do this.

Step 8: Hang

Lay the bunting on a tray or other flat surface. Use small pins or removable adhesive to hang up the bunting.