

PDQ patterns.com e-news ol' man winter

I have been taking long walks around the neighborhood these last 5 weeks (forced perhaps into this because I found a little puppy (three months old or so) in September. I am walking a lot to keep my sanity (LOL), protect my furniture, and exercise some very little legs. It's a little hard to get myself "going" but after its over I have been invigorated. The good thing is that in doing so, I have enjoyed this fall immensely, maybe more than any other in my recent memory. There are leaves and designs in nature that I am seeing for the first time. As old as I am now, one would think that I could identify every leaf and tree in the midwest (or on the west coast where I grew up), but no!! I can identify very few-even of the leaves I have raked up for 25 years at my current house. I can't always identify the variety of tree from which they fell. I should be embarrassed to say so (and of course I am). I know there are elm, ash, maple, japanese red maple, oak, locust, red bud, dogwood, ginko, and buckeye leaves, but that doesn't come close to identifying the variety of leaves that fall in my yard.

The internet gives reasons for splendid fall reds and oranges to the lesser amounts of chlorophyll present in the leaves as the trees sense less and less daylight. The red pigments (carotenoid pigments) then can be seen.

We had a bit of cold weather in late September and early October, and then with a little bit warmer weather and lots of rain, the leaves were spectacular. Lawns are covered with carpets of solid yellow (ginko, and some maples) and reds (October glory maple) and heart shaped red bud leaves in a very pale orange or yellow. Even the oaks (which seem to only turn brown) offer a huge variety in shape and size. Fall is a good time to open one's eyes to the astounding beauty and rhythm of our planet.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ol' man winter...1
- Coupon.....1
- Tips'n FAQs.....2
- New Patterns.....3
- Free Pattern.....4



COUPON a product review
gets a free pattern

tips 'n FAQs

REINFORCING SUN-CATCHERS

by Carol Boyette

Did you ever wonder about the best ways to reinforce sun catchers? Have you ever had one simply begin to fall apart after hanging in the sun for a few years?

When I first started doing stained glass I enthusiastically made sun catchers for my friends and they loved them, but sometimes after several months a friend would show me that theirs was not holding together all that well. So then it was REPAIR TIME and who wants to do that when you could be working on a great NEW project?

Good reinforcement of the outside edge is important for stability of sun-catchers and also gives it a finished look.

Here are some reinforcement methods that work:

1. Flux and tin the edges front, back and sides with 60/40 solder. Then, holding the piece so the side is horizontal, apply 50/50 solder rotating the piece to keep working the edge on a level section. 50/50 solder is less runny than 60/40 solder and builds up a nice bead on the edge. This holds the foil to the glass more securely and you can fill in any places at joints that may not be smooth.

2. Along with the above you can embed thin wire along the edge. This holds the sun catcher together even better. Again this must be done with the edge on the level, snuggling the wire to the edge as you go.

3. Another great way of reinforcement is to solder thin U channel lead came completely around the edge of the sun catcher. It takes some patience to bend the came around all the bumps and turns but it is well worth the effort. 1/16 U channel came works great. If you don't have a lot of details to go around 1/8 U channel came gives it a great finished look. DO NOT attach your hooks or rings to the lead came (unless your piece is very small and light), but instead, attach them to a solder seam itself within the piece itself. Lead came gets hot in the sun and can stretch. See her samples (and her students works) below.



pattern for November



Snowmen suncatcher for winter.