

Houses, property, decorating, gardens, lifestyle

COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

Christmas crafts

MAKE PRETTY TABLE SETTINGS, WREATHS AND TRIMMINGS

KEEP WARM AND COSY
Snug solutions for every room

BEAUTIFUL LIGHTING
The best lamps, lanterns and chandeliers

PAMPERING BREAKS & RESTFUL RETREATS

MIDWINTER GARDENS
Snow white scenes and plan-ahead planting



Let's celebrate

51 pages of festive country homes, decorating and food

JANUARY 2008 £3.30



RECALL 04/01/08



Opposite Choose cheerful stripes and checks in red and white and add jugs full of fresh evergreens and sweet-scented Christmas roses for a touch of festive charm.

Fabrics bench cushion, Opus Check, ref M7747/475, col Raspberry, £25 a metre; curtain, Patagonia Stripe, ref M7674/480, col Red, £33 a metre, both Parkertex. (Border) Foxton, ref J475F, col Red, £29 a metre, Jane Churchill. **Furniture** table and bench, similar from Chic Shack; Karlsholm chest of drawers, col Dala Red, £825; Rustic Lakesand chair, col Dala Red, £220, both Nordic Style. **Accessories** tablecloth, 180cm by 280cm, col White/Natural, £115, Volga Linen Company; Vintage table runner, col Natural/Red, from a selection, Barbara Coupe. (Along edge of table) embroidered dove and heart Garland, £21.25, Birchcraft. Three-tier cake stand, £30, The Dining Room Shop. Reindeer crackers, from a selection, Paperchase. Red striped mug, £5, Laura Ashley. White Linen dessert plates, £4.25 each; cereal bowls, £4.95 each; dinner plates, £9.95 each; espresso cups and saucers, £5.95 each set; large jug, £40.75, all Divertimenti. Cutlery, £150 for a canteen, Mappin & Webb, red napkins, £2.50 each, all The Dining

Room Shop. Cranberry chandelier, from £89, Nordic Style. (On chair) knitted stocking, £8; cuddly reindeer, from £5, both John Lewis. (On chest of drawers) gift box, col Natural, from a selection, Paperchase. Tied with red gingham ribbon, £1.30 a metre, VV Rouleaux. Cherry and cream embossed jug, £10, Laura Ashley. *Wooden tree decoration*, £35, Birchcraft. (On wall) paintings, *The Gardener and Courting Couple*, oil on pine panels, Northern European circa 1860, £2,500 for the pair, Robert Young Antiques. (At window) felt fairy, £25, Birchcraft. Cut flowers and foliage, from a selection, The Flowers and Plants Association.

Above Give a plain dresser a festive look with a pretty braid trim, and store crocks and tins in red and white. Dresser, similar from Chic Shack. Braid, Carina, ref J472E-04, col Red, £17 a metre, Jane Churchill. (On shelf, from top left) Le Parfait storage jars, from £3.15, Divertimenti. Fabric lid covers, Strawberry Check, £24 a metre, Barbara Coupe. Cherry and cream embossed bucket, £5; red spot storage jars, £15 for three, all Laura Ashley. Ceramic jelly mould, £21.50, White Linen. Dessert plates, £4.25 each; ceramic pudding basins, from £3.28, all Divertimenti. Red

striped Conical mug, £5; egg cups, £3 each; small jug, £7, all Laura Ashley. Large ceramic pudding basin, £5.55; White Linen cereal bowls, £4.95 each; Rock tall tumblers, £1.95 each, all Divertimenti. (On door knob) Punched metal dove decoration, £8, Birchcraft. **Top left Add homely hand-stitched table decorations,** Felt gingerbread decoration, £3, House of Fraser. Cinnamon sticks, from £3; tied with wire-edged ribbon, from 45p a metre, both HobbyCraft. Old Hungarian tea cloth (folded), £24, The Dining Room Shop. White Linen dessert plate, £4.25; espresso cups and saucers, £5.95 a set; dinner plates, £9.95 each, all Divertimenti. Striped mug, £5, Laura Ashley. Tablecloth, col White/Natural, £115, Volga Linen Company. Vintage table runner, col Natural/Red, from a selection, Barbara Coupe.

Above left Try to resist this sweet gingerbread sleigh. Sleigh cake, from a selection, John Lewis. Three-tier cake stand, £30, The Dining Room Shop. White Linen dessert plates, £4.25 each, Divertimenti. Red linen napkin, £2.50; round bladed knives, £24 for six, all The Dining Room Shop. Churn jug, £40.75, Divertimenti.



Decorations made from natural materials, such as holly and cranberries, create a relaxed, easy-going feel



Curl up under a beautiful quilt on chilly winter nights

Opposite A traditional sleigh bed, with embroidered linens and vintage quilts, is irresistibly romantic.

Walls Venetian Red paint, £25 for 2.5 litres of flat emulsion, Zoffany Paints. **Furniture** Rubens bed in cherrywood finish, £2,450, And So To Bed. Central European folk art marriage cupboard, painted pine, dated 1835, £4,500, Robert Young Antiques. Side table with sponged top, £265, Tobias & The Angel. **Accessories** (on bed) drawn thread cross-stitch pillowcases, £36 each; kingsize duvet cover, £260; red cockerel pillowcases, £34 each, all Volga Linen Company. Red and white printed cushions, £55 each, Tobias & The Angel. Monogrammed linen cushion, £45, Nordic Style. Vintage red and white striped quilt, £250, mid 19th-century eastern European quilt, £950; (on table) painted lamp base, £155; red check lamp shade, £125, all Tobias & The Angel. Donkey Christmas card, from £4 for a pack of 10, Donkey World. Other Christmas cards, from a selection, John Lewis. (On wall) green wreath, £3.99; fir cones, £1.99 a pack, all HobbyCraft. Red angels, £7.50 a set, Birchcraft. Embroidered hearts, £38 each, Tobias & The Angel. (On windowsill) cuddly reindeer, from £5, John Lewis. Vintage embossed plate, from a selection, The Dining Room Shop. (On stove) small red striped churn jug, £16.95, Divertimenti. Log basket, similar from Chairworks (In front of bed) wooden sleigh, similar from A&L Decorative Antiques. (On sleigh) presents wrapped in Red Eastern Crane Yuzen Chinese paper, £5 a sheet; gold and natural stripe paper, £3 a sheet; gold metallic paper, £1.50 a sheet, all Paperchase. Tied with 4mm-wide red velvet ribbon, £2.64 a metre, VV Rouleaux. Boz rug, from £780, Katrin Cargill at The Rug Company

Right Make and decorate your own ice skate Christmas stocking for a personal touch.

Stocking, Foxton, ref J475F-03, £29 a metre; (trimming) Flower Bead braid, ref JM43E-02, £29 a metre; small Ribbon Rouche trim, ref JM437E-02, £17 a metre, all Jane Churchill. Skate blade, Global Silk, ref BL6631/2, £27 a metre, Sanderson. Narrow red ribbon, from 25p a metre; sheer red ribbon (on present), from 45p a metre, both HobbyCraft. Central European folk art marriage cupboard in painted pine, dated 1835, £4,500, Robert Young Antiques. The Armathwaite carver chair, £587.50, Julian Chichester. Printed red and white diamond cushion, £55; cat doorstep with red bow, £75, both Tobias & The Angel.

Right Fill colourful slippers and stockings with treats and decorative touches.

Red cockerel pillowcase, 50cm by 75cm, £34, Volga Linen Company. Nordic slippers, £18, The White Company. Cuddly reindeer, from £5, John Lewis. Printed cushion, £55, Tobias & The Angel.

Far right Give every present a unique and personal touch. Handmade paper, lustrous ribbons and pretty tree decorations all add Swedish charm.

Present wrapped in gold and natural stripe paper, £3 a sheet, Paperchase. Tied with 4mm-wide red velvet ribbon, £2.64 a metre, VV Rouleaux. Metal partridge and golden pears decoration, £5.80, Joanna Wood. Small red striped churn jug, £16.95, Divertimenti. Donkey Christmas card, from £4 for 10, Donkey World. Other Christmas cards, from a selection, Paperchase. Terracotta table with sponged top, £265, Tobias & The Angel.





How to create... Swedish style

Choose the fabrics

- Cheerful checks and stripes in strong primary colours create a warm, cosy and welcoming feel.
- Bring together embroidered linens and graceful striped fabrics for informal elegance.
- Combine crisp white bedlinen with warm, traditional embroidered quilts.

Find the furniture

- Plain painted country pieces work well with elegant dark wood furniture.
- Choose pieces with interesting paint finishes, such as distressing, sponging and bold figurative work, on cupboards and walls, reflecting the folk art style of Swedish farmhouses.
- Give simple wooden sofas and fireside chairs sophisticated loose covers in bright striped fabrics.

Add the accessories

- Use an eclectic mix of decorations – baubles, snowflakes and icicles with garlands of berries.
- Entwine simple cream church candles with ivy or sparkling beaded wire for seasonal glamour.
- Give gifts an elegant but hand-made feel with gold leaf decorated white paper and sheer ribbon.

Left Simple twigs, sprayed white and laden with folk art tree toys, create an attractive alternative to the traditional Christmas tree.

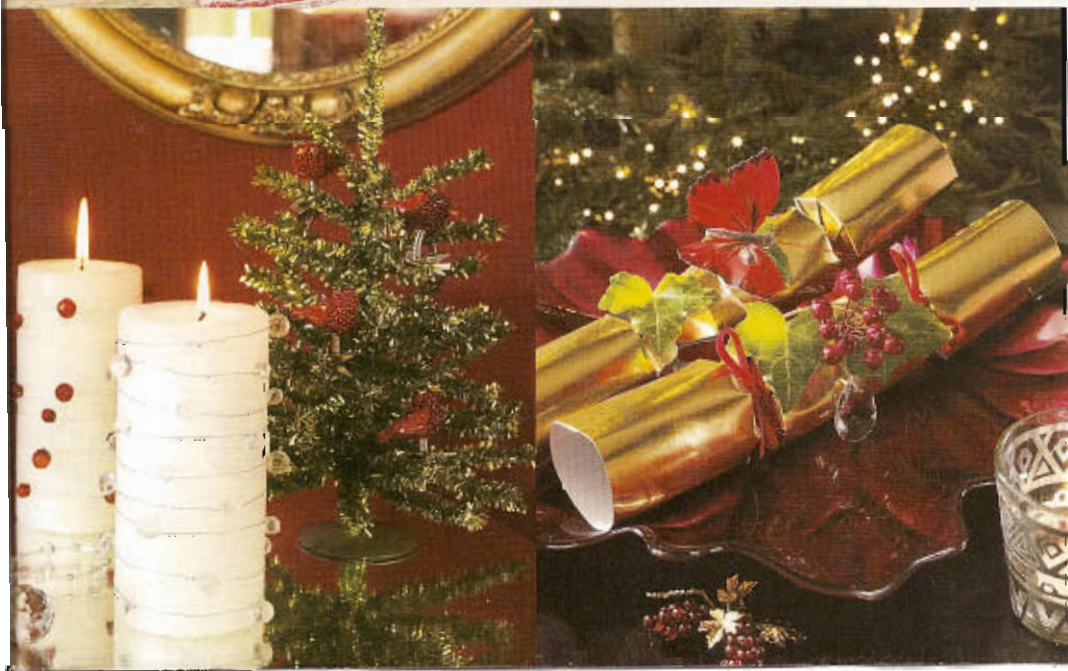
Nature-style pressed tin decorations, £25 for 12, The Dining Room Shop. Red metal doves, £2 each, House of Fraser. Hand-painted red striped jug, £18, Laura Ashley. Painted twigs, from a selection, The Flowers and Plants Association. Vintage table runner, col Natural/Red, from a selection, Barbara Coupe. White Linen dessert plate, £4.25; cereal bowls, £4.95 each, all Divertimenti. Karlsholm chest of drawers, col Dala Red, £825, Nordic Style. Footed bowl, similar from Divertimenti. (On wall) Glacier wreath, £40, The White Company. Curtain, Patagonia Stripe, ref M7674/480, col Red, £33 a metre, Parkertex (Border) Foxton, ref J475F, col Red, £29 a metre, Jane Churchill.

Top left Add a touch of sparkle to classic church candles by entwining them with pretty wired beads for a quick decorative effect.

Ivory pillar candles, from £4, The Dining Room Shop. Red and clear wired beads, £2.95 each, VV Rouleaux. Beaded garland (left, just seen), £8, The White Company. Mini tinsel tree, £4, John Lewis. Tiny red beaded birds, £2.50 each, The Dining Room Shop. Oscar tripod table, £378.50, Julian Chichester. Oval gilded mirror, £360, Green & Stone.

Left Homemade crackers are fun to make and add a uniquely personal touch to Christmas celebrations.

Make Your Own Crackers kit, £2.99, HobbyCraft. Red butterfly, £3.25, VV Rouleaux. Red berry bunch, from 49p, HobbyCraft. Red velvet ribbon, 4mm wide, £2.64 a metre; (front) red beaded grape corsage, £19.95, both VV Rouleaux. Casablanca tealight holder, £14, Nina Campbell.



NEXT MONTH Cozy farmhouse looks

See page 117 for phone numbers and websites