

Making an entrance

Celebrate the festive season with natural style by using foraged berries, seeds and leaves to decorate your front door

WORDS AND STYLING KRISTY RAMAGE PHOTOGRAPHS BRITT WILLOUGHBY DYER



Seedhead wreath with nesting partridge

Materials and tools*

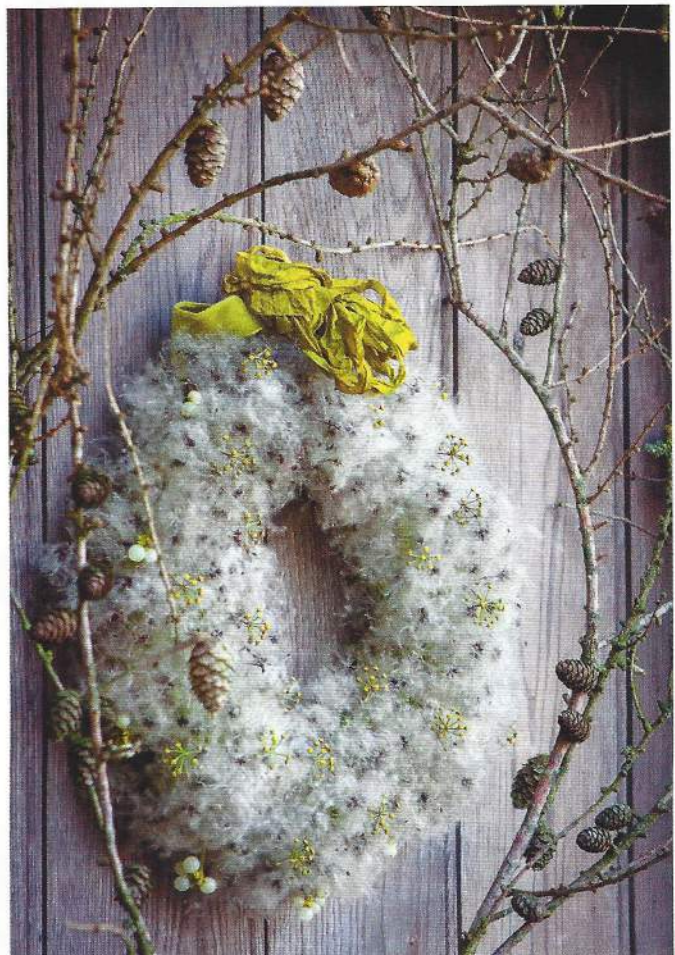
25cm wire wreath base, 20cm x 90cm chicken wire, moss, 120 *Clematis vitalba* (old man's beard) seedheads, 22 ivy flowers, 12 mistletoe berry clusters, 1.2m ribbon, 2 x 2m green jute twine, 240 x 20cm-lengths box, 40 x 12cm hazel twigs with catkins, 80 x 18cm stub wire, 13mm wide paper floristry tape, secateurs, 20 ash seedpods, 1 gladiolus seedhead, 2 ivy berries, twigs of various lengths, binding wire, glue stick and hot glue gun, 5-6 x 80cm-1m (plus 9 thinner) larch branches, rose hips, panel pins

To make

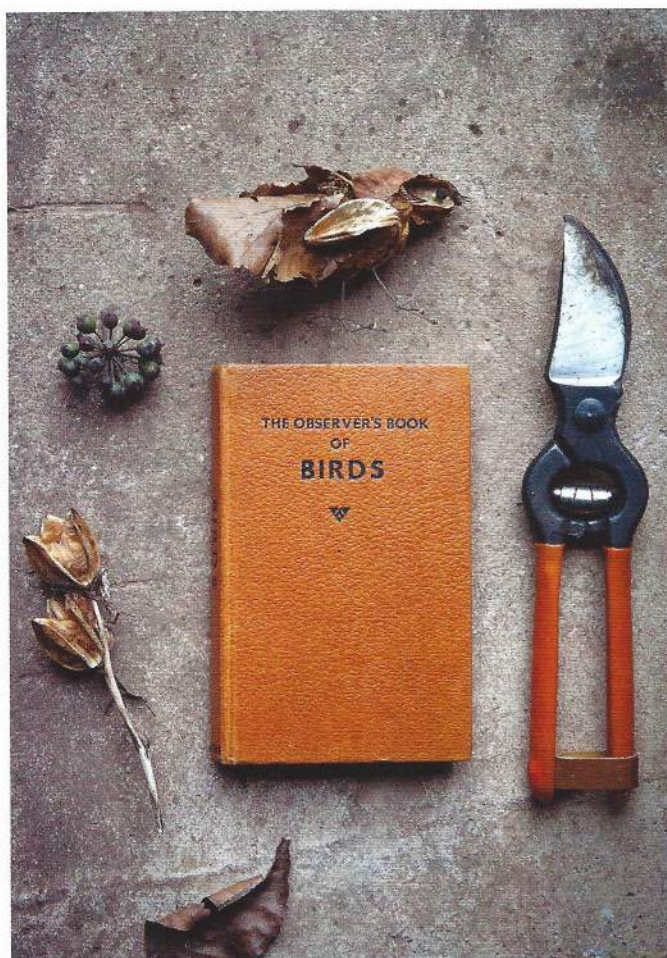
1 To make the wreath use the chicken wire to form a flat-backed doughnut shape around the wire base. Secure with stub wire. Tightly stuff the cavity with moss. Cut clematis seedheads off the main stem, leaving stalks as long as possible. Push stalks into the moss as densely as possible. Add ivy flowers and mistletoe berries and tie a ribbon on the metal loop at the top.

2 For the garland, use green paper floristry tape to secure bundles of box (3 stems per bundle) and include a hazel twig in half the bundles. Wire bundles on to the jute twine, alternating those with hazel, with those without, making sure to overlap to avoid gaps.

3 For the bird, start with a 30cm twig and use stub wire to attach two thin 12cm twigs with branched ends for legs. Attach more twigs with glue and wrap with binding wire to form body. Glue bunches of ash seeds on to the body for feathers. Use a gladiolus seedhead for the bird's head, glue an ivy berry on each side for the eyes and a sliver of rose hip for the beak. Wire larch branches together in a 'V' shape and attach to door with panel pins and wire. Weave smaller twigs at join to make a nest. Attach bird and dress with rose hips.



*Quantities for natural materials are approximate, and given as a guideline only.



Artichoke wreath with bird and twig stars

Materials and tools

30cm wire wreath base, 12-15 dried artichoke heads, 2-3 sprigs dried *Ruscus aculeatus* (butcher's broom), 20-30 *Iris foetidissima* berries, 18cm stub wire (22 gauge); dried beech leaves, 1 gladiolus seedhead, 2 ivy berries; 1 x 10cm twig, 2 thin twigs (approx 12cm long with branched ends); 6 butcher's broom sprigs, 3 x 20cm lichen-covered twigs, 30cm length of 3mm ribbon, glue stick and hot glue gun

To make

1 Arrange the dried artichokes in size order and attach (starting with the largest at the bottom) to the wreath base with stub wire. Twist wire around a pair of dried butcher's broom leaves, leaving a tip of wire between the leaves to pierce an iris berry, and a long length of wire at the other end which you should use to attach the leaf and berry to the wreath in between the artichoke heads.

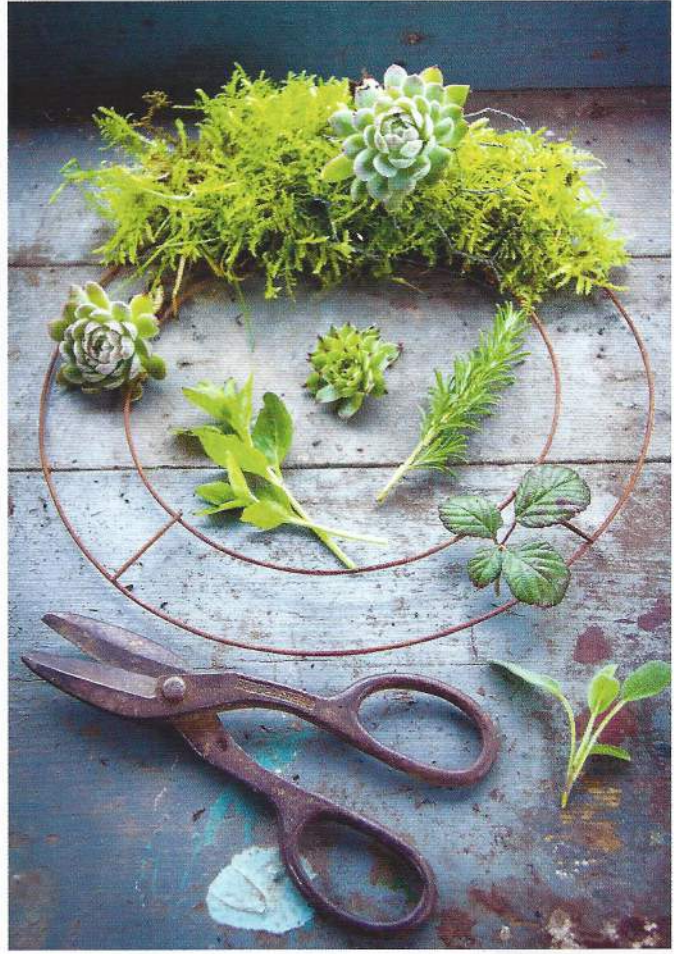
2 Make up the bird as before. Use a 10cm twig as the base, wire on thin twiggy legs, and build up the body with dried leaves. Use a gladiolus seedhead for the bird's head. With hot glue attach two butcher's broom leaves for wings and two ivy berries for eyes. Wire the completed bird on to the top of the wreath.

3 Place three lichen-covered twigs across each other to form a star. Tie together at the centre with wire, leaving a long end for a loop to hang the stars up with. Add a spot of hot glue to the centre, and stick six sprays of butcher's broom leaves to radiate out between the twigs. Bind the centre with thin ribbon.









Succulents and sprigs wreath

Materials and tools

30cm wire wreath base, 1m x 25cm chicken wire, moss, top soil, blackberry leaves (especially the purple tinged ones), sage leaves, *Vinca major* leaves, sprigs of rosemary, *Echeveria elegans* rosettes, *Sempervivum* 'Rubin' rosettes, florist's scissors or secateurs, 2 x 1.8m lengths tarred twine, florist's wire, stub wire (24 gauge) cut to 7cm, 26 x 20cm lengths yew, rosemary, ivy berries and leaves, 60cm x 9mm ribbon and 40cm x 15mm ribbon, 30cm length shredded raffia

To make

1 Make the moss wreath as per page 43, but this time pack soil in beneath the top layer of moss, to give the *Echeveria* and *Sempervivum* rosettes something to grow into. Cut the individual rosettes off the succulent plants, leaving as long a stem as possible. Arrange these around the wreath and tuck each stem firmly into the layer of soil and moss. Use a 7cm length of stub wire, bent in half, to pin around each stem and secure to the base. Fill in the gaps with sprigs of blackberry, sage, rosemary and *Vinca major* leaves, pushing the leaf stalks into the wreath and securing with florist's wire as necessary.

2 For the garland, prepare approx 26 bunches of yew, made up of two to three 20cm lengths. Wind florist's wire in a spiral down the length of each 1.8m tarred twine. Wire the bunches along the prepared twine (in one direction), overlapping them to avoid gaps. Wire together five longer bunches of yew, rosemary and ivy berries to form a fan shape. Fix to the door at the centre of the two long garlands, add ribbon and raffia then tweak the wired string into position. Spray wreath with water when dry.



For stockists see page 105.