

Decorating with Dowels

Decorating with hearts lends itself to the use of dowels and stands to get the hearts raised up. Make your hearts out of wrapping paper, paper bags, or cardstock. Cut your hearts the size you want. Glue or sew (yes, on a machine, for added strength) two hearts together, leaving an opening in the bottom big enough to slip over your dowel. If you want the hearts to be puffy, insert a small wad of stuffing (anything will do).

Otherwise, the dowel will make the heart puff out a little. If you use paper bags, you can have fun painting or sponge painting them any way you want. To make your dowels stand up, make a wooden stand with a hole the same size as your dowel drilled into it. Or purchase wooden wheels (2 inches is a good size) from a craft store or catalog. The catalog store I use is Art and Woodcrafter's Supply. Phone - (800) 786-4818. Website -

www.artwoodcrafter.com. Make sure the dowel fits into the hole!

If you don't want to put your hearts into a stand, use a terra cotta pot. The pot can be used as is or you can paint it any color you want. Try painting it black, then sponge painting white checks on the rim. Fill the pot with foam and top with moss. If it's a small pot (2-3 inches), one heart looks good. If the pot is a little bigger, use three hearts. One five inch pot is good for a regular sized table. You may want to tie a bow on the dowel using curling ribbon or raffia. Nestle your pot into some ivy and you are good to go. Consider that once you've made your hearts, dowels, stands and/or pots, they can be saved and reused for a variety of other things. I have seen things set onto dowels such as musical notes, flowers, bees cut out of wall paper, hats, and this year hearts, road signs, and foam banners. Have fun!