

## Seasonal Crafts



**ABOVE:** Let a single, dramatic shell take center stage by placing it on a softly gathered napkin, and then wrapping the bundle with a contrasting ribbon. An additional shell at each place setting could be used to support a place card. PHOTO: Philip Clayton-Thompson

**LEFT:** Glue dancing circles of starfish to store-bought twig candle rings. And add shore appeal to a striped table runner by gluing shells along the edges. Just add lobster! PHOTO: Dan Meyers

By MICHELE FILON

**N**o matter how lazy a day at the shore is, most beachgoers can be coaxed out of the water or from under their umbrellas long enough to comb the surf's edge for treasures. Each wave deposits a new gift from the sea: a bit of colorful beach glass, chunks of coral, a starfish or two—and always a variety of shells. This year, instead of just tossing them in a jar, turn them into gorgeous decorations (give them a good soak in bleach and water first). And of course, if your own haul isn't impressive, craft stores sell a variety of sea treasures to supplement what you have harvested.

Let summer's souvenirs brighten your surroundings all year long.

# Shell Game



**ABOVE:** Arrange a bouquet in an iced tea glass, and then place the glass in the center of a large, low bowl. Fill the space between the two with a tumble of beach glass and shells, and then toss a handful more around the "vase" for good measure. PHOTO: Dan Meyers

**RIGHT:** A small wicker picnic basket or creel becomes a summer handbag when you glue starfish and shells onto the opening flap. Add some small pearl beads and dream about finding that lucky oyster...some day. PHOTO: Phil Clayton-Thompson



## Shell Shop



If you don't happen to live near a beach—or your local one produces pebbles and not much more—you can order the seas' spoils from Sea Shell City. Offering an incredible array of shells and other dried sea life decorations, it's the one-stop shop for all your beach-inspired projects and ideas. If you're not lucky enough to live near the shop in downtown Fenwick Island, Delaware, you can visit online at [seashellcity.com](http://seashellcity.com) or call 877-607-0348 for ordering information. ♣

## SHELL-COVERED VASE

### You need:

Small glass vase; assorted shells; waterproof craft adhesive; polyurethane sealer; brush

1. Sort your shells; the varieties and quantities will help you determine the pattern to use. We used five rounded shells for flower petals, a darker round shell for the flower center and other dark round shells along the upper rim. The rest of our shells were small, round and flat, making them perfect for this layered application. We sorted them by color so each row is slightly different from the ones near it.
2. Glue the flower shells to the side of the vase, poking them smooth-side up.
3. Starting at the lower edge of the vase, glue a row of flat shells, letting them overlap slightly.
4. Working toward top of vase, continue gluing rows of shells in same manner, starting and stopping rows near shell flower. Select shell sizes to fill in background as much as possible.
5. Glue a row of round shells along the upper rim of the vase.
6. Brush on several coats of sealer, letting dry thoroughly after each coat.

PHOTO: Phil Clayton-Thompson

