

Chasworth recommends cotton-stenciled linens for napkins or table liners, too. "Stenciling is such an

easy way to create pretty decorative prints," Hobbs said. "Using a paint for fabric, stencil directly onto white cotton napkins. Prints such as leaves, pumpkins or acorns are all great ideas."

If you have rope lying around the garage, put it to use by wrapping the interior of a jar with it for a rustic look, says Hobbs. "You can also make custom plate chargers and wrap thinner rope around candles for a beautiful and organic fall look."

Walnuts and twigs can add an elegant and a natural touch to your table, Hobbs says. She recommends using twigs tied with twine or a sprig of fresh cotton as napkin rings. Walnut nameplates will leave your guests feeling welcome, too. "Cut a slit on top of the walnut and slide the place card on top," she said. "Then place your walnut place-card holder on each napkin. Your guests will love the extra touch."

Elegance on a Budget

How to Pull Off an Elegant Celebration

By Shannon Philpott, Contributor

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Times are tough -- but just because a little tight, it doesn't mean you suffer. "Thanksgiving is about an abundance of holiday items makes a beautiful accent," said Jeanette Chasworth, interior designer and owner of Chasworth Abundant doesn't have to mean expensive. A few simple tricks and affordable decor tips, you can

prepare your home and meal without paying a hefty

A Worthy Solution

Budget-Friendly Decor



Bring indoors the colors of the season. (photo: Thinkstock/Comstock/Getty Images)

Thanksgiving is a time for family and entertaining. Achieving an affordable, elegant look for your dining room table takes a little creative thinking and careful planning. According to Cathy Hobbs, owner of Cathy Hobbs Design Recipes, creative centerpieces can set the tone for an elegant yet affordable celebration. "Centerpieces should celebrate the fruits of fall," she said. "Fall is a wonderful time to bring the outdoors in, and this certainly holds true for Thanksgiving."

Hobbs recommends placing long branches in tall cylinder-style

vases and using fall leaves to accent the table runner to spruce up the dining room table. Acorns in a simple glass jar also make for a festive Thanksgiving table. "One of my favorite design ideas is to fill a clear glass vessel with acorns and then add a pumpkin-colored candle on top," Hobbs said.

Pumpkins left over from the Halloween season can also make for festive table centerpieces. "They make perfect vases for adorning a table," Hobbs said. "Fill them with acorns, fall leaves or pine cones to create the perfect centerpiece."

Chasworth suggests arranging a few different sized pumpkins surrounded by smaller pumpkins on your table. "Use the little miniature pumpkins as nameplates by carving or writing the intended guest's name on the pumpkin," she suggested. For another elegant touch, "You may want to try using a large pumpkin as a soup tureen," Chasworth said. "Just empty it like you would for Halloween ... but don't carve the face."



There are a variety of things you can do to dress up the table with nuts. (photo: Photodisc/Getty Images)

Because Thanksgiving is a day filled with family and close friends, why not involve the entire family in decorating your home? If you have children, get them involved cutting out paper pumpkins as place mats or give them markers to draw pictures on paper place mats, suggests Chasworth. "It will be something unique, and it will give them something to do while you are cooking," she said. "Have them do cutouts of pilgrim hats or turkeys."

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