

DECORATIONS FOR HANUKKAH

A festive atmosphere during *Hanukkah* can be created in the home, religious school, synagogue by children together with the adults. We list here a few ideas that the family can create together. The color scheme may be orange and it's harmonizing colors. Large paper or cardboard cut-outs or *hanukkiot*, *dreidels*, hammers, Stars of David, cruses of oil, *latkes*, *gelt*, elephants, characters of the Hanukkah story can adorn the room. Murals depicting episodes of the Maccabean war can be drawn on shelving paper or large sheets of wrapping paper. A mosaic of color cut-outs of the Hanukkah objects in different sizes and shapes can be mounted on beaverboard. Posters can be designed with apt slogans such as Happy Hanukkah. "who is with the Lord, follow me" – Mattathias: Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, Saith the Lord of hosts - Zechariah 4:6, Theodor Herzl; A Great Miracle Happened There; Salute the New Maccabees in Israel.

PATTERNS FOR TWO HANUKKAH

1. Draw the outline of a *Hanukkah* lamp on gold or silver transparent paper. Cut it out. Mark spaces where candles will be pasted. Cut out strips of orange or yellow paper for candles and small pieces of paper for the flames. Hang in the window....
2. Draw the outline of a *hanukkiah* with candles on a sheet of heavy construction paper. Cut out (just the outline) with an x-acto knife or razor. On the back of the frame, past colored cellophane or tissue paper to cover the cut out spaces. A shadow box of wood can be included, with an electric socket at the bottom and the transparency placed over the open end.

HANUKKAH MOBILES

Cut pieces of cardboard or aluminum foil into shapes depicting a *hanukkiah*, *dreidel*, Star of David, hammers, shields, *latkes* or any other subject related to Hanukkah. Punch holes near the top center of each object and attach them with string or wire to a clothes hanger to form a mobile. Make sure that mobile is balanced and that each item hangs freely.

CLAY M'NORAH

MATERIALS

1 ½ self-hardening clay

Rolling pin

Pencil

Poster paint or enamel

Shellac

Knead and pound about one pound of the wet clay. Roll out clay until there are not cracks, until the clay is soft and malleable and about ¾" thick. If clay becomes dry, add water. Cut clay into an oblong, semicircle, or other shape for the base of the menorah. Punch holes, evenly spaced, in the base with a pencil or any round instrument so that the candles fit snugly; test the hole with the candle to be sure. If a back is desired, use another batch of clay and mold the shape about ¾" thick. Attach the base, filling in all seams with wet clay. The back and base should be one solid piece. Allow the clay to harden a bit and then, with a nail or any pointed tool, add a proper design or Hebrew letters. When the m'norah is dry, which may take a number of days, paint with poster paints or enamel. If poster paints are used, cover with a coat of shellac when paint is thoroughly dry.

SIMPLE DREIDEL

Cut 1 ½: square of cardboard. Draw two diagonal lines from corner to corner. Where those lines cross will be the center. Write a different *dreidel* letter in each triangle. Color with crayons. Push a round toothpick through the center.

CARDBOARD DREIDEL

Cut out of cardboard a design similar to figure A. Each of the six squares should be 1" x 1" with flaps about 3/8" wide. Print in Hebrew one of the four *dreidel* letters, on each of the four sides. These four sides can be colored with crayons or paints. Punch holes in the center of the top and bottom. Fold the four sides and paste the flaps on the inside. Sharpen a 3" dowel stick with a dull point with a pencil sharpener. Insert the dowel stick through the top and bottom holes so that it fits tightly. If necessary use tape to secure.

DECORATIVE DREIDEL

On heavy construction paper draw a pattern for a 2" x 2" cube, four 2" X 2" sides should be contiguous. Adjacent to both the top and bottom of the second 2" x 2 square, draw a 2" X 2" square for the top and another for the bottom of the dreidel. Add a ½" flap to the top and

bottom squares and to the sides of the first and fourth square. Print one of the four letters – *nun*, *gimel*, *hay*, *shin* on each side. With sharp scissors or knife cut out the letters and paste cellophane or crepe paper on the back to cover the spaces of the letters. Draw two diagonal lines from opposite ends of the top and bottom squares to find the center. Punch small holes through the two centers. Decorate the *dreidel* with crayons. Cut around the outside of the pattern. Fold into a cube and past the flaps in place with rubber cement. Sharpen a thin dowel stick 4" long to a dull point with a pencil sharpener. Insert the dowel through the top and bottom holes, with the pointed end below. If necessary, use transparent tape to hold the dowel in place. This dreidel can be made into a decorative lantern by making each square 5" x 5". Omit the top square and the dowel. Attach string or wire to each side and hang under an electric bulb or insert a small flashlight.

WOOD DREIDEL

Use a soft square pine stick, $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 12 or more inches in length. Sandpaper the stick to smooth. Draw two diagonal lines from corner to corner on the top of the stick: the lines will meet in the center (a) figure A. One inch below the top draw a line around the four sides (b). This top 1" will become the handle. $\frac{3}{4}$ " below line (b) draw another line around the four sides (c). This cube will be the body of the *dreidel*. About $\frac{3}{8}$ " below line (c) draw a third line around the four sides (d) this will be the point or bottom of the *dreidel*. With an x-acto knife, cut or whittle from line (b) to the center (a), leaving about $\frac{1}{9}$ " or $\frac{3}{16}$ " in diameter in top of handle; continue to cut until handle is carved (fig B). Cut or whittle down from line (c) to (d) to carve the point of the *dreidel*. It can be shaped like reverse pyramid. Continue cutting until the *dreidel* is separated from the balance of the stick, making certain that the point is the center (fig. C). Paint with ink a different one of the four Hebrew letters – *nun*, *gimel*, *hay*, *shin* – on each side. If the letters can be incised, it is more attractive. The handle can now be cut to about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in length.