

Make a Recycled Hanging Plant Holder from a Plastic Litre Bottle

With everyone having to stay at home, this is a fun project to do with children and uses things which are lying around the house!

You will need

- a 2-litre plastic milk bottle, or similar shaped plastic bottle with side handle.
- Paint, we used a mixture of chalk paint and children's acrylic/poster paints.
- Acrylic varnish/ any leftover varnish, preferably quick drying
- Potting compost or any soil from the garden.
- Your own choice of plants – here we used ivy which was left over from a Christmas basket.
- Something to use as a handle – string, or wire, or ribbon is fine.



Method

1. Remove the lid. Cut the bottom of the bottle off – I used pinking shears. If you use a heavy plastic bottle you may need to use a knife, but this must be done by an adult.



2. I used the base to make two ears as shown, these were glued to the side of the 'head' using a cheap contact adhesive and left to dry. The bottle was then painted with a base colour – I used a chalk paint as this is great to cover plastic, but as you will varnish when everything is dry, any paint will do.



You don't have to add ears, but I it makes the top stronger as you will make holes for the hanger.

3. This where the fun begins! You can start to paint your hanging basket in whatever style you wish. I wanted to make mine look like a woodland spirit, so used lots of different shades of green to give this impression. You can look on Pinterest to see other ways of painting, for example it could be a lion or a robot. Art has no limits!!
4. When I was happy with how it looked, I left it to dry thoroughly and then put two coats of quick dry varnish on protect the paint.
5. I then put a piece of a basket liner at the bottom to stop the soil running out of the hole whilst also allowing water to drain. I also filled the bottom half with bubble wrap – this meant I did not need so much soil and the plant holder would not be so heavy. The plant I used was Ivy, which was left over from a Christmas basket and would have ended up in the garden waste bin, this gave the impression of being in woodland. You can choose whatever plants you want to co-ordinate with your scheme.
6. Finally, I put a hole in either side and threaded some fabric covered wire to hang the plant holder. This is how it looked!



