

## **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.



- 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.

- 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!!
- 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.
- 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.
- Finally, I put a hole in either side and threaded some fabric covered wire to hang the plant holder. This is how it looked!



