

Bewitching Touches—Part Deux

I presented six or seven table setting ideas at the Wauwatosa Store & Donation Center Grand Opening. The ideas kept flowing as I shopped for items to use!

The beauty of setting a Halloween table is they appeal to adults as well as children. It brings out the kid in all of us (besides, who doesn't love to indulge in candy?).

Boo-tiful Bounty

Instead of the usual table cloth, I found a Halloween "throw". It's a perfect fit for a small table and is machine washable.



If you only invest in one set of dishes, I suggest getting white. Although a non-color, white plates go with everything and can be used for any occasion or holiday. It's the ultimate in mixing and matching.

Start with basic white plates, top with a basic black salad plate; finish with a square white bowl. Then you add the fun stuff. I found pumpkin shaped mugs that someone made in pottery class. You can add a bit of dry ice to your punch to create a spooky mist.



Napkin rings are plain old brass rings covered with black raffia. Just un-twist and wind around the ring. You could use fabric or ribbon. The napkin is a piece of orange scrap fabric I found in my stash. No sewing necessary if you leave the edges "raw".



Even if place cards aren't needed for the party, they are just so darn fun to create. When I picked up the bag of white paper clips, I knew they would be perfect for one of the tables. I cut an odd shape out of card stock and burned the edges with a candle lighter. Be very careful when working with an open flame. Then write the name and clip to the plate. You could always assign seats by costume or personality too.



Giving Thanks

Maybe this is the year to set an elegant Thanksgiving table. I used the same black cloth I used for The Edgar. Gold chargers look very sophisticated against the black. (I left the cob-wed on the table for the photo shoot, but wouldn't use it in November!)



If you have a formal dinner plate like this one with the gold rim, use it; otherwise bring out the basic white set. The clear glass leaf plates are perfect for salad or an appetizer. To make them really pop, I sandwiched silk leaves between the two plates. You can use the real thing, just head outdoors.

I love the number tents. I've used them for several dinner parties. They add a graphic and unexpected touch to the table.



The centerpiece is the same mini pumpkins and gourds left over from Halloween placed in a Hagar Pottery cornucopia (a real find at on \$2.99).



Over the Moon

Spookiness gives way to sophisticated spirits. Why not go all out for a holiday dinner party? The mini pumpkin is the only bit of Halloween ephemera I used on this table. The orange table cloth is an old curtain. I love the texture of the weave and the color is perfect for a real retro look.



The black dishes for six were a real find. It was complete set with dinner and salad plates, bowls and mugs. We also used this for the promotional give-away to one lucky shopper.



The table needed a punch of white, so I chose the oval restaurant quality plates for the salad course. But first, they are perfect for place cards. Simply write the name on the dish with a washable marker (don't forget to wash the plate before serving food!). Propped under the bowl, it stands at attention.



Wine glasses are like dishes, who says they have to match? Look for glasses in the same height and shape and you can accumulate a collection in no time at a fraction of the price for brand new. Tuck the napkin in the glass. Finish with curly-cues of ribbon or raffia. Looks like a festive drink.



Candlelight sets the mood and the variety of candles and holders adds to the spookiness. Add as many as space allows. You can never have too many candles. Try to find unscented tapers for the table. You don't want the candle scent to interfere with the yummy food aromas!

Have fun this holiday season. Invite friends over for lots of treats.

