



◀ ANDY WEYENBERG

Andy Weyenberg began welding at his father's business a few years before joining the Army. After going to school for Electro-Mechanical, he started working for Miller Electric Mfg. LLC as a technical service rep and training instructor. Andy has built and raced stock cars since he was a teenager — and now builds high-performance street vehicles while also managing the Miller motorsports program.

SKILL LEVEL: Beginner
TIME COMMITMENT: 2-3 hours

/ TOOLS AND MATERIALS



MIG Welder



Drill and 7/64" or other small drill bit



Wire brush



Metal cutting tool
(band saw, reciprocating saw, abrasive cutoff wheel or hacksaw)



Grinder, disk or belt sander



Marker



Tape measure



6 used or new horseshoes
(5 of one size and 1 larger for base)



.030" ER70S-6 MIG wire



Rust remover or white cleaning vinegar



Bucket to soak horseshoes in



Green spray paint and white textured spray paint



Assorted small ornaments

WARNING: READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABELS AND THE OWNER'S MANUAL.

HORSESHOE HOLIDAY TREE

Make a festive tree out of horseshoes.



STEP BY STEP



STEP 1

Lay out your horseshoes. Use a wire brush to remove any rust and dirt. Put them in a bucket with white vinegar and soak overnight to clean them. After soaking the horseshoes overnight, rinse them with water.



STEP 2

Take four or five horseshoes and cut them in half with a plasma cutter, bandsaw, reciprocating saw or air cut-off wheel. This provides the shapes for your pattern. You may need to make additional trim cuts to smooth them out.



STEP 3

Make sure to grind and deburr the sharp edges on the horseshoe pieces you've cut.



STEP 4

Lay out your cut pieces in the shape of a tree. Make your marks for any necessary trim cuts and then make those cuts.

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STEP
5

Before you weld the pieces together, drill a small hole on the end of each piece, which will allow you to hang ornaments on them. Be sure to deburr the back of each drilled hole.



STEP
6

Lay out your pieces in a tree shape and tack weld them together. I used Auto-Set for the 1/8-inch setting on my machine. To produce the best welds on horseshoes, be sure to grind the mill scale off the metal.



STEP
7

Decide what you want to use for the tree base. I used two of the half horseshoes and welded them together as legs to the bottom of the tree. Then I welded that to the larger horseshoe as the base.



STEP
8

As a last step, spray paint the tree green (or any festive color of your choosing), add some textured white spray paint to simulate snow and hang the ornaments!



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