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Decorators' Top Favorite Instant Fabric Tricks for Unlit Fireplace Candelabra

By Susan Penney

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Who doesn't appreciate flickering flames in a fireplace? For those who don't have the inclination or time for burning firewood in their fireplace, fireplace candelabra are the obvious answer. They provide that special glow without the hassle or, in warm weather, the heat. But how do you keep those fireplace candelabra worthy of the visual focal point of your home even for those times when you haven't lit the candles?

Even without burning candles, decorators have their tricks for using fireplace candelabra as foundations for eye-appealing displays in the fireplace. Here are three of their super quick and inexpensive techniques using fabric that you can try:

1. Heavy Fabric

Use a full-bodied fabric, such as tapestry, brocade, or velvet, which coordinates with the colors and style of your room. Casually interweave the fabric among the "arms" of your fireplace candelabra, leaving dramatic folds of fabric spilling onto the inner hearth and over parts of the candelabra. Tuck in the ends, out of sight. Now, replace those candles, but don't, of course, light them as long as the fabric is in your hearth.

2. Lace or Sheer Fabric

For a different, but equally appealing look, use a sheer fabric, such as chiffon or lace. Give it the same treatment as above, with visually interesting draping and folds of the material. This lighter, airier treatment is more appropriate for some rooms.

3. Tassel Magic

At your local fabric store, find three to five inch long tassels in a color, or a mixture of colors, to highlight your room and the metal of your fireplace candelabra. Buy a tassel and a few inches of coordinating cording for each candle on your fireplace candelabra.

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Cut the cord into lengths a bit longer than the circumference of each candle. Either by sewing or by using your glue gun, make a circle of each piece of cording and attach a tassel where you join the ends of the cording. Each circle of cording should be big enough to easily slide onto a candle, down to its base.

Slip each cording-with-tassel circle over a different candle on your fireplace candelabra. Adjust the tassels so they are hanging over the edge of the candle cups, facing into the room.

These tassels so beautifully accessorize the candles of your fireplace candelabra, you may be tempted to leave them when you light the candles, but please don't. Remove them before lighting your candles and save them to put back on when you blow the candles out at the end of the evening.

A bit of fabric dramatically posed or some tassels elegantly dangling from your fireplace candelabra

can be so charming, your fireplace candelabra can rightfully maintain the place of honor in your room's natural focal point, the fireplace, even when its candles aren't aglow.

Susan Penney appreciates simple ways to make our homes renewing spaces for our families. She invites you to visit <http://www.FireplaceMall.com> for fireplace accessories to serve your fire-less or your fire-filled fireplace.

Fireplace Accessories – Bring Life To A Boring Fireplace

By Heather Berken

It used to be that the fireplace was the heart of the home. Not only was it the main source of heat in every home, the hearth was also a place to cook, to visit with family and friends, and a place to cuddle together on a particularly frigid day. Today, most do not use the fireplace as the main source of heat, but the fireplace continues to be one of the favorite spots of the home. It is around the hearth that many families celebrate holidays, take family photos, and gather near a gently crackling blaze to ward off the chill of brisk fall days and cold winter nights.

Since so many people continue to use the fireplace as the focal point of their home, it is no wonder that many are looking for ways to accessorize their fireplace to make it truly unique and reflective of their individual personalities and decorating styles.

With so many accessories to choose from and more than a few fireplace decorating options, it is not uncommon for the process of choosing the right accessories for your fireplace to become overwhelming, especially if you have no existing fireplace accessories to draw inspiration from.

Probably the easiest way that you can begin to accessorize your bare fireplace is by incorporating the use of a fireplace screen. There are two basic types of fireplace screens which include the flat screen and the folded screen. The flat fireplace screen consists of a solid, unbendable structure which sits directly in front of your fireplace opening. The folded screen is constructed using 3, 4, or 5 panels and

sits a little out from your fireplace.

Both flat and folding fireplace screens come in a variety of styles to compliment any home's décor including Antique, Traditional, Contemporary, and Country. There are also many materials to choose from such as steel, brass, wrought iron, copper, glass, stained glass and polished iron. Fireplace screens can range from practical and plain to elaborately crafted pieces of art which are not really practical for containing a fire but are a very exquisite addition to any décor.

Another practical way that you can accessorize your fireplace is to purchase fireplace tools which match or compliment your fireplace screen. The most common materials used to create fireplace tools are iron and brass, but there are also many other materials to be found including chrome, bronze, copper, nickel, wrought iron and pewter. Fireplace tools can range from being simplistic in design to being elegantly styled with gorgeous accents made of materials such as marble and cherry wood.

If you want to bring life to your fireplace without having to build a conventional wood fire, perhaps you should accessorize your fireplace with a candelabra. The fireplace candelabra is a candle holder designed specifically to sit inside your fireplace. When lit the fireplace candelabra creates the warm flickering glow that you would normally get from a wood fire but without the wood and hassle of building one.

So, if your fireplace could use a little sprucing up, don't despair. These are just a few of the ways that you can easily take your fireplace from ordinary to extraordinary.

Pamela Tice is the owner of home decor websites specializing in unique

and

. Visit

to get your hearth ready for the heating season and turn your ordinary fireplace into an extraordinary one.



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