# HOW TO:  Recycled Tin Lantern

Celebrate *Trees in the Rigging: A Community Carol Sing and Boat Parade* with these homemade, punched-tin lanterns created from recycled cans. The tiny holes will create gorgeous scattered light patterns on the sidewalks of Main Street at this festive event.



# STEP 1: GATHER YOUR MATERIALS

- 2-4 cleaned, empty tin cans (you can use any size)
- a hammer
- an assortment of nails (for larger or smaller holes)
- colorful permanent markers
- paper, pencil, masking tape, scissors (if you plan to use a pattern)
- votive candles (LED work best)
- a towel



# STEP 2: CLEAN AND FREEZE

Remove labels from cans and clean thoroughly. Fill each can with **water** and freeze overnight until solid. The ice stabilizes the cans and prevents them from bending when holes are punched in them later.

# STEP 3: DESIGN YOUR PUNCH GRAPHIC

Decide on a design for your punched-tin decorations. You may draw the pattern ahead of time on a piece of graph paper and tape it to the can as a guide. You can also freehand a design without marking it ahead of time. **Knitting** patterns, wallpaper, textiles, and **folk art** are all great inspiration sources for patterns!



# STEP 4: PUNCH OUT YOUR PATTERN

Place the frozen **tin can** on a folded towel (to prevent the can from moving and to catch ice chips). Position a sharp, narrow nail above each mark on your pattern and gently tap it 3-4 times with the hammer until just the point has punched the tin can.  Repeat for each mark until you have completed your pattern.

## STEP 5: REMOVE THE ICE

Rinse the can under warm water until the ice pops out.  Let the can air dry.



## STEP 6: ADD SOME COLOR

If you want to add color to your new punched-tin **lantern**, you can create a variety of fun, shiny designs by simply using colorful permanent markers.

## STEP 7: LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Drop in some lighted votive **candles** and enjoy the fun, flickering patterns cast by your new handmade lanterns! Be sure to place the lanterns on a fire-safe surface as the candles can get hot.