

## Silver-Plated Suncatcher

Project from *The Salvage Studio*, courtesy of Skipstone Press, an imprint of The Mountaineers Books

### Materials:

- Silver-plated casserole holder, a 9" x 13" rectangle or 9" round
- Silver-plated pieces, such as gravy boat, sugar, creamer, candlestick, salt and pepper shakers, or cutlery
- About 5 yards silver-colored 20-gauge wire
- Chandelier crystals

### Tools:

- Felt-tip pen
- Center punch or nail
- Hammer
- Drill press or hand-held drill with holder
- 1/8" drill bit
- Safety goggles
- Round-nose pliers
- Wire cutters



Photo by Kate Baldwin

# Country Sampler.com

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## Instructions:

1. Lay out your composition of pieces.
2. If you are using cutlery, such as spoons and forks, a drill press is your best friend for drilling holes. You want them to be about an inch down from the tip of the handle. For knives, drill the handle, not the blade of the knife, which is far denser and harder to drill. Mark your chosen drill spots with a felt-tip pen. Make a dimple in the item and each drilling spot with a center punch or a nail and hammer. Wearing safety goggles, drill with a hand-held drill or drill press.
3. Select your focal point piece to attach first. Estimate how much wire to cut by eyeballing how far down you would like this piece to hang from the casserole holder and adding 24 inches more. Leaving a 12-inch tail, wrap and twist the wire around the top edge of the casserole holder where your focal point will hang. If you want lots of wire loops, use round-nose pliers to create a loop, twist, create a loop, and repeat until you run out of wire. *(Note: It's a good idea to practice a few loops on another piece of wire first. Your first loops will be okay, and the more you do, the smoother they will look. After another few, you'll feel comfortable making even more artistic wire flourishes.)* For fewer loops, snip off some of the 12-inch tail. Attach the remaining straight piece of wire to your focal piece, wrap and twist. Repeat the process for creating the wire loops.
4. You can attach the chandelier crystals to the wire loops and call it good, or embellish your piece further by adding other small silver-plated pieces inside the casserole holder and/or suspended from your focal point piece. It's always a nice touch to add some wire and create lots of loops on the bottom end of the suspended casserole holder and suspend crystals there, as well.
5. To hang your sun catcher, cut a piece of wire to create a hanger for the top. Usually, the casserole holder still has its handles, and the top one is a handy place to attach your hanging wire.



This project is an excerpt from  
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