

Holiday Bottle Caddy

Supplies:

- * Distilled Water***
- * Glass Bottle***
- * Glowbys (Optional)***
- * Plastic Pitcher***
- * Duct Tape***
- * Silk Flowers***
- * Nuts***
- * Fruit***
- * Glitter***
- * Shallow decorative bowl***

There are so many ways to create a frozen caddy to chill any type of beverage ~ wine, seltzer, juice, Perrier, etc.

For this tutorial I created a frozen caddy for a bottle of white wine. Please read the instructions before you start your project. I guarantee you will find something special to add to your Holiday caddy. Perhaps ribbon, buttons, small ornaments, tiny holiday lights, photographs, vintage jewelry, fresh pine needles, cinnamon sticks, anything is possible !

Important: When you create a caddy for a specific bottle of wine you must purchase 2 identical bottles. One will be empty, labels removed and used to create the impression in the caddy. The other bottle will be placed in the cavity ready to be served. I suggest you create the caddy, allow it to freeze, remove caddy from pitcher and refreeze a day or two before the event.

Lets begin. Rinse silk flowers and slice the fruit.



*Remove labels from bottle. I placed the bottle in the dishwasher on full cycle. Most of the labels fell off. A few pieces remained so I soaked a paper towel with hot water and laid the towel over the label for 5 minutes or so. Scrub with a brillo pad until bottle is completely free of paper or glue.
Remove batteries and battery cover from the Globys.*



Mark the widest point of the bottle with a marker. The marked area (water line) shows me how much water to add when I fill the pitcher with distilled water. Place bottle into the pitcher. Note the distance between the bottle and pitcher. A one inch gap or more is best for strength and slows the melting process. Note the marked area on the bottle sits below the rim of the pitcher by a few inches.



I want to elevate the bottle a few inches from the bottom of the pitcher. This is important as the ice begins to melt PLUS I am creating a weighted bottom of solid ice so the caddy will hold a full bottle of wine without falling over.

Arrange a few nuts to create a solid/hard foundation. Follow with fruit and silk flowers creating a 2" deep soft bed for the bottle to rest on.



A thin slice of pomegranate is balanced over items creating a flat surface. Position the bottle in the center of the pitcher.



Remove batteries and battery cover from the Glowbys. Untangle the fiber optics. Trim Ends at an angle vs. a blunt cut. The angle cut causes the fiber optics to shine brighter and larger. Gently place the ends of the fibers optics near the base of the bottle. Slowly wrap the fiber optics around the bottle. Make sure the fiber optics are below the marked line. Remember ~ the marked line IS the water line.



Important: the fiber optics are below the marked line. Once filled with water the fiber optics will be encased in the frozen water. We do not want to encase the battery pack. Tape the battery pack slightly above the marked water line.



*Gently place fruit, nuts, silk flowers around the bottle **BELOW** the marked water line on the bottle. Occasionally I will reposition the fiber optics with a knife. As you add items be aware of the bottles position. For this project I make sure the bottle is perfectly vertical. Using a wider pitcher allows me to place the bottle at a slight angle without toppling over. Do not over fill the pitcher with items. You want the water to freeze hard and thick.*



As I get close to the marked water line on the bottle I place a silk leaf between the pitcher and the base of the fiber optics to hide all the strands from view.



Prepare to pour distilled water into the pitcher. Distilled water will freeze clear whereas tap water will freeze cloudy. Add a tsp. of glitter to the water.

Cut 2 pieces of duct tape approximately 16" long .

Place one hand on top of bottle applying slight downward pressure. Gently & SLOWLY pour water into pitcher. Continue to apply downward pressure. Failure to do so would result in the bottle popping out of its position. Continue to fill the pitcher to the marked line on the bottle. Keep an eye on the battery pack. You do NOT want water to touch the plastic casing. Once the water is poured items may shift and protrude above the water line. I prefer a smooth icy edge so I will guide them under the water line using a knife.



The items are in place. Bottle is vertical. Continue to hold the bottle down with one hand. Secure one strip of duct tape to the outside rim of the pitcher, over the top of the bottle and down to the other side of the pitcher. Repeat with second strip of duct tape. (See photo below) I want an air vent through the mouth of the bottle and the duct tape. Simply use a sharp knife and slice through the duct tape down into the bottle. A ½" slit is sufficient.





Place on flat surface in freezer. Allow to freeze completely. Approximately 24 hours. Personally I like to freeze the caddy for a few days to ensure a hard freeze. For this demo I took the caddy out in less than 24 hours. After which I placed the caddy back into the pitcher to refreeze for 4 more days.

*Remove from freezer. Wrap a paper towel over the battery pack and surrounding area. Please be real careful performing the next step. Keep your face and as much of your hands away from the bottle in case the bottle shatters. If you are concerned wear leather gloves. I have only had one bottle out of many slightly crack but want you to be aware of the possibilities. To avoid a shattered bottle do not fill with **HOT** water ! I start with a cup of room temperature water and slowly pour into the bottle. The next cup is warm water. Continue to fill bottle with alternating room temperature and warm water just above the marked water line. Allow to sit on counter for 5 - 10 minutes. To test if the bottle is ready to be removed gently wiggle the bottle forward and backwards and side to side. NEVER twist the bottle. If there is a crack and you twist the bottle it will not make you happy.*



You will begin to feel the bottle releasing itself from the grips of the frozen water. Continue to wiggle the bottle forwards and backwards and side to side with a slight upward pull. The bottom of the bottle I used has a “punt” dimple which traps air causing a suction. Be patient it will release. Have a decorative shallow dish nearby.



Turn the pitcher upside down. If your lucky the frozen caddy will slip right out. I've never had such luck. Place upside down pitcher under hot running water starting at the bottom of the pitcher working your way down the sides. You will be able to see the frozen caddy release itself from the sides of the pitcher.



Place your hand under the pitcher and gently tap the bottom of the pitcher. A vigorous shaking up and down motion helps too. If the caddy does not slide out, place under running water and try again.



Success ! Look how pretty !



Wipe battery pack gently with a soft dry paper towel. Place batteries and battery cover on battery pack. Test to make sure all is working. Photograph on the left was taken in a dark room. Photograph on the right was taken with very little light in the room. You can not tell by these pictures that the glitter frozen in the ice picks up the light from the fiber optics. So pretty!



Photograph below taken with full light in the room.



Guests are arriving and it time to add some embellishments and ENJOY!



The caddy will begin to melt slowly. Add fresh cut flowers to the shallow bowl to hide the melting ice while sustaining the flowers with fresh water. Check the bowl occasionally to make sure the water is not overflowing onto the table. If this is an issue create a wick out of tightly rolled up paper towels. Insert tip of paper towel into the water. Voila the wick absorbed the moisture. Easy as that!

*I pray you all have a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!
Love, Jean*

